

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the July 16, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Village Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Kay Hines at the Grand Ridge Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance. Trustees present: Jim Stricklin, Anne Hinterlong, Kim Olney, Dennis Rockey and John Hettel. Cindi Koetz was absent. Village Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Clerk Christy McGuire and Jim Pozzi were also present.

Minutes. Trustee Olney made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2024 Board meeting and the May 23, 2024 Long Range Planning Committee meeting; second by Trustee Hettel. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; second by Trustee Rockey. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills. Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve payment of the monthly bills; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Public Comment. None.

Travel Request(s). None.

Old Business.

- A. **Purchase of Welcome to Grand Ridge Sign.** Trustee Rockey noted he continues to work on finding a company to customize a sign and provide the Village with a cost estimate.
- B. **Drainage in McBride Subdivision.** Attorney Churney noted the Village has an easement with Grand Ridge Grade School which was executed in 2016 and covers all necessary easement requirements for the drainage project. Trustee Rockey will contact Lemrise Tile Repair to lock in a final estimate for the work to be completed. Attorney Churney noted a need for a commitment from the property owners stating they are in agreement with the project. She will draft an agreement for property owners for their payment or portion of the bill. She hopes to have all necessary documents completed and placed on the agenda so we are ready to go by October. The drainage work could not be completed until after harvest.
- C. **Appropriation Ordinance.** Trustee Olney made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Appropriation Ordinance; second by Trustee Stricklin. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

New Business.

- A. **Special Event Non-Highway Vehicle Registration for Community Fest.** Trustee Hettel made a motion to approve Special Event Non-Highway Vehicle Registrations for the Grand Ridge Community Fest to be held August 16-18th; second by Trustee Olney. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. Approve and Place on File 2024 Village Audit.** Trustee Hinterlong noted that going forward, she would like to receive a list of the monthly bills to review a day or two prior to monthly board meetings. Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve and place the Village Audit for fiscal year end 2024 on file; second by Trustee Olney. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Rockey and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- C. Proposal for one garbage hauler.** Trustee Olney reported she contacted garbage carriers who currently serve Grand Ridge residents with questions about inconsistent pricing throughout the village, as well as costs involved for recycling and yard waste pick-up. Jim Pozzi, a representative from Republic Services, was on hand to answer questions and discuss processes for the village to consider should the Board decide to go a single hauler. Mayor Hines noted that the subject will be placed on next month's agenda for further discussion.

Engineer's Report. None.

Committee Reports.

Finance. Trustee Hettel suggested considering raises for the next term of elected and appointed officials for the positions of Mayor, Village Clerk, Treasurer and Water Clerk. It was noted it has been 12 years since raises were issued for these positions. Trustee Olney will schedule a finance committee meeting to discuss the matter further and make its recommendations to the Village Board.

Insurance. Mayor Hines reported an insurance packet has been submitted to the insurance company.

Streets and Alleys. Trustee Rockey noted he has contacted CMJ Tree Services and is in the process of scheduling the company to trim trees in alleyways and on north and south streets. He also reported an issue has been resolved with a resident on Liberty Street who improperly removed a sidewalk. Trustee Rockey noted Connexus was notified that one of their cable lines fell on the north side of Main Street during a recent storm and the cable line had to be cut so it could be removed from the roadway. Miscellaneous projects are being completed as Nick, Mike, and Trustee Rockey are available. Concerns were expressed by board members regarding the illegal use of 4 wheelers on roadways and children not being properly restrained while riding in golf carts.

Building Permits. Trustee Hettel reported a permit was issued to build a house and he turned in the payment received for the permit at the meeting. He noted he received a permit for solar panels. Attorney Churney noted the Village does not currently have an ordinance in place for solar panels. She suggested having the Planning Commission meet to discuss the subject and have them make recommendations to the Village Board. Trustee Hettel noted links for building permits are now available on the Village website. He would also like to include additional information with the regulations for building permits. Attorney Churney suggested adding a section consisting of FAQs for permits.

Water. Trustee Hettel reported a leak was found at the water treatment plant in the pits to the south of the building. He noted 2 valves need to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$7,000. Grand Rapids Enterprises estimated the total cost including installation to be approximately \$20,000. It was also reported a water valve at 215 Poundstone Ave. had to be shut off at the road due to a resident experiencing

an interior water issue in the basement of the home. It was noted at the time that the Village would need to replace the outside valve once the resident had the interior water leak fixed. Trustee Hettel also noted a water line will need to be run and a shut-off valve put in at a home on East Main Street that was recently sold by Kathleen Geiger. Ms. Geiger is currently building a new home at 400 E. Main Street and a separate water shut off will be necessary for each home.

Police. Trustee Rockey read the monthly police report which noted the following:

- Main Street cameras were recently offline for a short period of time. Jason Calloway responded and fixed the cameras.
- We are still waiting for ILEAS to announce recipients for the taser grant.
- On 6/30/2024, the State shut down its statewide Iwin program. The program was how the Village obtained information on license statuses, license plate statuses, warrants, and much more (LEADS information). Like most agencies who were using this system, the Village is now trying to locate a solution to the problem.
- Chief Jabczynski will be testing software and getting quotes from various vendors for a new LEADS data system.

Health and Storm. None.

Park. Mayor Hines reported that fundraising letters for the park are almost ready to be sent. Starved Rock Country Community Foundation President Reed Wilson and CEO Fran Brolley joined Mayor Hines and Trustees Olney and Hettel at Grand Ridge Park for a photo to be used for fundraising efforts.

History. Trustee Hettel reported the Historical Committee is working on organizing a Veteran's Memorial monument to be tentatively placed at the Grand Ridge Grade School. A Picture of the statue for the monument was presented and is currently available for purchase on-line at a cost of \$5,800. The Historical Committee asked if the Village would consider fronting the cost of the statue while the Committee conducts fundraising efforts to pay for the statue. Attorney Churney noted the cost of the statue was not included in the July Agenda and therefore will need to be voted on next month unless a special meeting is called in order to take a vote. The Historical Committee will hold a pancake breakfast fundraiser on the Sunday before Veteran's Day and a booth will be set up during Grand Ridge Community Fest for donations.

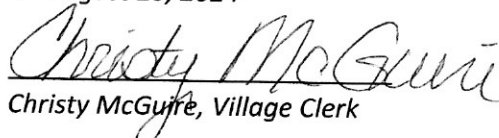
Ad hoc Long-Range Planning. Trustee Hettel noted a resident who recently received a letter from the Village asking them to consider annexing property into the Village has declined.

Adjournment. Trustee Rockey made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Olney. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

*Approved by the Board of Trustees
on August 20, 2024*


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk