

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the September 17, 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, Dennis Rockey and Cindi Koetz. Trustees Kim Olney and John Hettel were absent. Village Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Clerk Christy McGuire, Police Chief Josh Jabczynski were also present. A sign-in sheet was provided for all others present and a copy of the sign-in sheet is attached.

Minutes. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2024 Board meeting, and the August 7, 2024 Historical Committee Meeting; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Rockey and Koetz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

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

Public Comment.

1. A woman stated concerns about a single garbage hauler, including billing for the service, the cost, and the selection to be made by the board for the residents.
2. A man stated concerns about the garbage service and the township building.
3. A woman stated the residents should vote to select the garbage carrier.
4. Pete Sutton spoke against moving to a single garbage hauler and expressed his beliefs that the question does not need to be on a ballot, there would still be an issue with garbage trucks due to dumpsters, it is not up to him to lower the cost of garbage service for other residents, and garbage truck do not cause that much damage to the streets and moving the truck out of the alleys was a great idea.
5. A woman stated her agreement with Mr. Sutton's remarks and that she wanted to negotiate on her own behalf with the garbage carrier.
6. Holly Koster stated she has several services and that services are more expensive for commercial accounts. She suggested a community forum on issues would be useful.
7. A man asked about what happened to a \$5 cost.
8. A man agreed with the statements made and asked if 1 large item would still be collected. He also spoke against extending the water line on east Main Street.
9. A woman asked about the estimated cost and getting a good price would be something as people need to be able to afford garbage service.
10. A man asked if the board would be voting on these matters tonight.
11. Steve Fulkerson stated he respects the opinions expressed but did not want the Village officials to negotiate and decide the garbage service as he should have the freedom to decide on his service. He noted competition allows for lower prices. Regarding the water main extension, he stated the line should just go to the house.
12. A man spoke in favor of people deciding matters; he noted it could be cost effective for the Village to get a group rate, but it would be bad if the price fluctuated.

Travel Request(s). None.

Old Business.

- A. **Purchase of Welcome to Grand Ridge Sign.** The Village Clerk presented information and a sample of a sign submitted by Midwest Signworks. Trustee Rockey will contact Midwest Signworks for further information and give an update at the October Village Board meeting.
- B. **Drainage in McBride Subdivision.** Attorney Churney presented and discussed a draft storm water drainage line connection agreement for property owners. She suggested giving the agreement to property owners to be signed so the Village can take next steps to move forward. Trustee Rockey spoke with Lemrise Tile Repair who agreed to honor the bid they submitted in March. Lemrise will also move a manhole located on Jack Tidaback's property for no additional charge and connect sump pumps. Trustee Rockey reported that, even with the dry weather, it could take time to lower the water table.
- C. **Concerns regarding vacant homes on Poundstone Ave.** Attorney Churney presented a letter which she drafted to send to two property owners on Poundstone Ave. due to the properties having broken windows and structural issues which are considered to pose safety concerns. It was the consensus of the board to proceed with the letter.
- D. **Discuss request for proposals for Garbage Service to be sent to service providers.** Attorney Churney gave a general overview of what a residential solid waste collection request for proposals consisted of and how it worked.
- E. **Discussion to amend Village Code to provide for a single garbage hauler.** Mayor Hines discussed concerns and misconceptions brought up by residents during public comment regarding a single garbage hauler. Trustee Rockey discussed concerns over multiple garbage carriers in town throughout the week causing wear and tear to Village roadways. Trustee Rockey made a motion to table the discussion to amend the Village Code to provide for a single garbage hauler; second by Trustee Stricklin. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Rockey and Koetz. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- F. **Water Rate Ordinance.** Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2024-05 an ordinance to amend the Village Code to update the Village's water rate charges stated in Section 33.32; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Rockey and Koetz. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- G. **Ordinance Concerning Compensation of Village Officials.** Trustee Koetz made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2024-06 An Ordinance amending the Village Code concerning the compensation of elected and appointed officials; second by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Rockey and Koetz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

New Business.

- A. **Approve Halloween Trick or Treat Hours.** A motion for Halloween Trick or Treat Hours to be on October 31st from 6pm – 8pm was made by Trustee Koetz; second by Trustee Rockey. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Engineers Report. None.

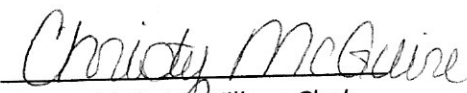
Committee Reports.

- A. **Finance.** None.
- B. **Insurance.** None.
- C. **Streets and Alleys.** Trustee Rockey reported that a storm drain on West Liberty Street had collapsed. A replacement has been ordered at an approximate cost of \$600, however he needs to confirm the fit. He also reported that Nick Hettel has been working on a list of berms in need of gravel and commented on what a great resource both Nick Hettel and Mike Harden have been for the Village. Mike Harden will address a request to have a low hanging tree located in a Village right-of-way off of Parkway Avenue trimmed. Trustee Rockey expressed disappointment in a resident who was disrespectful to CMJ Tree Service while they were in town trimming trees in the alleys.
- D. **Building Permits.** None.
- E. **Water.** None.
- F. **Police.** The Village Board reviewed the monthly Police Report submitted by Chief Jabczynski.
- G. **Health and Storm.** Trustee Koetz reported that Trustee Hettel contacted Grand Rapids Enterprises to clean out a storm drain on Parkway Avenue that was clogged by tree roots. She also reported she received a request from the Grand Ridge Booster Club to purchase advertising space on their sports program. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to donate \$50 to the Grand Ridge Booster Club; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Rockey and Koetz. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- H. **Park.** Trustee Rockey discussed private donations and noted that the meeting minutes from the last park committee meeting will be submitted at the October Village Board meeting.
- I. **History.** Trustee Hinterlong discussed plans for a pancake breakfast with baskets for a fundraiser on November 10th and a Christmas House Walk on December 7th. The committee may also consider a biscuits and gravy fundraiser in the future. She noted the committee is still discussing ideas for the Veteran's Monument and a final decision has not been made.
- J. **Ad hoc Long-Range Planning.** None.

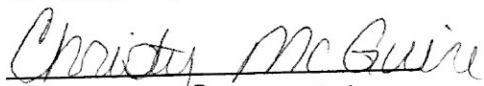
Mayor's Report. Mayor Hines reported that Shug Grosenbach and Duane Calbow from NCICG were both retiring at the end of September. It was noted that they currently have a person working as an intern. She also reported that the park grant application has been turned in and we hope to hear something by February. No response has been received on federal grants applications for the park or building projects.

Adjournment. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Rockey. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

*Approved by the Board of Trustees
on October 15, 2024*


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

Village of Grand Ridge Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Sign-in Sheet

First Name	Last Name
Pete	SUTTON
Joyce	BALDWIN
Stewart	Tipton
Kenneth (Mike)	Harden
Martha	Harden
Jeffrey	Graham
Cathy	Cole
Josh	Subczynski
Steven	Fulkerson
ASIA	HARVEY
ZACK	HARVEY
DAVE	BOLDT
Cindy	Boldt
Marcia	Craig
Sharon	STICKLER
Billy	KASHER
Pat	Novotney
Bill	Novotney
Jim	ROUX