

Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the March 18, 2025, 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 Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance. Trustees present: Jim Stricklin, Anne Hinterlong, Kim Olney, Cindi Koetz and John Hettel. Trustee Rockey was absent. Also present: Village Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Clerk Christy McGuire, Police Chief Josh Jabczynski, and Deputy Chief Jim Bell. 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 February 18, 2025 Village Board Meeting, the February 4, 2025 Historical Committee Meeting (correction to show Kay Hines not present) and the February 26, 2025 Long Range Planning Committee Meeting; second by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Trustee Hinterlong made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; second by Trustee Stricklin. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried. The board noted the format of the report is better.

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

Public Comment. Mike Harden asked when the Village Park restrooms would open. It was noted the restrooms will be open starting May 1st.

Travel Request(s). None.

Old Business.

A. **Discuss and Act on Purchase of Welcome to Grand Ridge Sign.** Mayor Hines reported the new welcome signs have been installed and the board agreed the signs looked good. It was noted that this item can officially come off of the next agenda.

B. **Action on Garbage Service Opt-Out Requests.**

- (1) Request by Jr's Bar and Grill. As this is a commercial business outside of the Village limits, the property is not subject to the Waste Management contract and no action was needed.
- (2) Request by Roger Miller, 410 Railroad Ave. As this is a commercial garage, not a residential property, the property is not subject to the Waste Management contract and no action was needed.

New Business.

- A. Resolution #2025-03-18A: A Resolution in Appreciation of Public Service to the Village of Grand Ridge from K9 Gus.** Chief Jabczynski proudly recognized K9 Gus for his outstanding accomplishments and unwavering dedication over the past 10 years. A plaque was presented in honor of Gus's loyal service to the Village, the Police Department, and his trusted partner and trainer, Deputy Chief Bell. Gus's service will always be remembered with gratitude and respect. Deputy Chief Bell thanked the Village Board for its support of Gus over the years and noted the positive impact Gus has had in the community. Trustee Hettel made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-03-18A; second by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- B. Resolution #2025-03-18B A Resolution Approving an Agreement for Transfer of Ownership of Canine to James Bell.** Trustee Koetz made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-03-18B; second by Trustee Olney. Ayes: Stricklin, Hinterlong, Olney, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Engineers Report. None.

Committee Reports.

Finance. Attorney Churney reported a meeting has been scheduled to begin work on the 2025-2026 appropriations ordinance. Trustee Hettel asked questions about the annexation of Jr's Bar and Grill. The Village Attorney noted that the Village is unable to annex the property because it is not contiguous to the Village. Trustee Hettel may speak with the owners of adjacent property about rebating Village taxes as an incentive to annex so that the Jr's property would then be contiguous to the Village.

Insurance. Trustee Stricklin noted K9 Gus will need to be removed from the Villages insurance policy.

Streets and Alleys. Trustee Rockey submitted information from his inspection of the Village Hall roof. The roof is approximately 15 years old and appears to be in good shape, however, there is a leak. He obtained an estimate from Bolash Roofing (Divernon, IL) in the amount of \$9,041. Bolash Roofing noted an additional \$3,500 would be added to this cost if a man lift is required to gain access to the roof. A suggestion was made to contact both TomKat and Mayou Roofing for estimates and to place the item on the April Agenda for further discussion.

Building Permits. Trustee Hettel reported no permits were issued. He noted a resident has asked about raising rabbits within village limits. Attorney Churney will review the village code and provide an update.

Water. No report.

Police. A written report was provided. Chief Jabczynski also reported an additional camera has been installed at the park to view the locations of the water fountain and outside restroom doors.

Health/Storm Drains. No report.

Park. Mayor Hines provided an update on the status of the OSLAD Grant following a recent meeting with NCICG. She reported that, according to NCICG, the Village would need to pay \$600,000 upfront with \$300,000 to be reimbursed later from the grant. It was also noted the cost estimates originally submitted with the grant application are now approximately two and a half years old, and prices have since increased. Due to these changes and financial constraints, including the possibility that the Village may not currently have the capacity to borrow funds, it was decided to defer the decision on whether to proceed with or decline the grant to the incoming board. Trustee Koetz requested to have herself and Emma Koetz added to the Ace Hardware account to purchase supplies for park maintenance.

History. Trustee Hettel reported the Historical Committee continues to work on fundraising efforts for a Veteran's Memorial. The committee is considering forming a separate not-for-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) exempt status.


Attorney's Report. No report.

Mayor's Report. Mayor Hines reported the Village received a request from North Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation to contribute \$777 for regional marketing efforts. After consideration, the board determined that participation was not necessary at this time and declined the request.

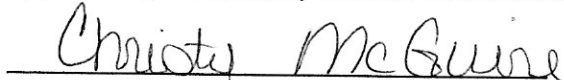
Correspondence. Mayor Hines reported thank you cards were received from Grand Ridge PTO for the Village's donation to the Trivia Night fundraiser and from the family of former Mayor Jim Brown for the funeral plant sent in his honor.

Adjournment. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Olney. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk

Approved by the Board of Trustees on March 18, 2025


Christy McGuire, Village Clerk