

**Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the May 19, 2026
Regular Meeting of the Village Board**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Jared Simons at the Grand Ridge Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance. Trustees present: Kim Olney, Dennis Rockey, Cindi Koetz, and John Hettel. Trustee Hinterlong was absent. Also present: Village Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Clerk Amanda Jaegle, Police Chief Josh Jabczynski, Martha and Mike Harden.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Trustee Steven Fulkerson. Although Trustee Fulkerson's time on the board was brief the village board members expressed their appreciation of his contributions to the village both as a citizen and a trustee.

Minutes. Trustee Rockey made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026 Village Board meeting; second by Trustee Koetz; the motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

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

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

Public Comment. None.

Travel Request(s). None.

Old Business.

- A. **Appraisal of Property for Potential Sanitary Sewer Collection System and Treatment Facility.** The exact spot of the facility needs to be mapped out before proceeding with the appraisal. The proposed site of the facility will be staked out by Engineer Jack Kusek then the appraisal can be ordered.
- B. **Utility Permit for Helena Water Line.** Attorney Churney drafted a Water Connection Utility Permit to be executed by the Village and Helena. The contracted plumber will need to provide a letter of intent. There will be a sketch of the project attached to the permit. Helena is responsible for all costs including a four-inch water meter. Construction will be complete within two weeks from the start of the project. There will be a permit fee of \$1,092 and a construction bond of \$10,000. Trustee Rockey made a motion to authorize the Village President to approve the permit upon a receipt of a completed permit form; seconded by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Absent: Hinterlong. Motion carried.
- C. **Discuss and Act on Resolution No. 05-19-2026A in Support of Municipal Housing Authority.** Trustee Olney made a motion to Approve Resolution No. 05-19-202A; seconded by Trustee Kotetz. Ayes: Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Absent: Hinterlong. Motion carried.

New Business.

- A. **Board Vacancy.** There will be an appointment made by Mayor Simons to fill the vacancy; at the next municipal election, the seat will be open for the remaining two years on the term.
- B. **Storm Sewer Work on Prospect Street.** Grand Rapids has made the repairs and is waiting on the board to decide if there will be a manhole put in or if the area will be patched for now pending the upcoming waste water treatment plant. It was the consensus of the board to patch the area without adding a manhole at this time.
- C. **Resolution No. 05-19-2026B Authorizing Destruction of Attorney's Files.** Attorney Churney explained that generally client files are destroyed after ten years. Currently the Village of Grand Ridge does not have an agreement in place with Thorpe, Klein & Jenkins, Ltd regarding the destruction of records. Trustee Olney made a motion to allow Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins to destroy any and all village records that are over ten years old; seconded by Trustee Koetz. Ayes: Olney, Rockey, Koetz, and Hettel. Nays: None. Absent: Hinterlong. Motion carried.
- D. **Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village and the Grand Ridge School District.** Mayor Simons presented a copy of the intergovernmental agreement between the Grand Ridge Grade School District # 95 and the Village regarding the Veterans Memorial. Attorney Churney will make some adjustments to the contract and return it to the school for final approval. Trustee Koetz made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement pending the changes from Attorney Churney; seconded by Trustee Hettel. Ayes: Olney, Rockey, Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Absent: Hinterlong. Motion carried.
- E. **Ordinance No. 2026-01 Amending the Village Code to Add Chapter 134 Prohibiting the Sale and Distribution of Kratom, Kratom Extract, 7-Hydroxymitragynine, Nitrous Oxide, Tianeptine, or Novel Psychoactive Substances.** Trustee Hettel made a motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-01 as amended to add hemp derived THC to the list and also the possession of these products is prohibited; seconded by Trustee Rockey. Ayes: Olney, Rockey, Koetz, and Hettel. Nays: None. Absent: Hinterlong. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Engineer's Report. There are ongoing communications regarding the waste water treatment facility but nothing official to report at this time.

Finance. The appropriation ordinance for 2026-2027 will be drafted and presented at the June meeting.

Insurance. No report.

Streets and Alleys. Trustee Rockey thanked Mike Harden for removing the snow plow and salt spreader from the village truck.

Building Permits. A building permit was issued for a shed on Myrtle Ave and a fence on Finley Circle. Chief Jabczynski asked if a permit was obtained for a deck/porch project on Burlington Ave. Clerk Jaegle will draft a letter to send to the home owner.

Water. Mike Harden flushed all hydrants. Kyle Dumke from TEST contacted Mike about high iron content in water samples on Clover Court. Mike then flushed the end cap hydrants to eliminate the problem. A buffalo box on Burlington will be looked at for possible replacement.

Police. Chief Jabczynski announced that Officer Pearce is no longer with the department. A new officer, Shane Schuler, has been hired.

Health/Storm Drains. Trustee Koetz reported Grand Rapids will be in town soon to suck out the storm drains. Mike Harden will be taking an online class to get his certification for mosquito abatement treatment.

Park. Grand Ridge Community Fest will be holding an event in the park on Saturday June 6th and all are invited.

History. Trustee Hettel reported the company needs a thirty day notice for the monument to be set. The platform needs to be poured and the agreement with the school signed. The committee is aiming for a dedication on Veterans Day 2026.

Long-Range Planning Committee. Trustee Hettel suggested scheduling a committee meeting in the near future.

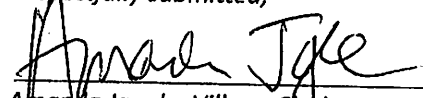
Attorney's Report. Attorney Churney's office will be relocating from Streator to Peru. Office supplies and furniture are available for donation.

Mayor's Report. Mayor Simons would like to note he is aware of concerns about a personal building being constructed on his property. The building was constructed following all building codes and regulations for the village.

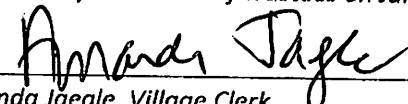
Correspondence. None.

Adjournment. Trustee Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Trustee Rockey. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Amanda Jaegle, Village Clerk

Approved by the Board of Trustees on June 16, 2026


Amanda Jaegle, Village Clerk