

**Grand Ridge Village Board
Minutes of the August 18, 2026
Regular Meeting of the Village Board**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor *Pro Tem* Dennis Rockey at the Farm Ridge Township Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance. Trustees present: Buck Hill, Anne Hinterlong, Kim Koetz, Dennis Rockey, Cindi Koetz, and John Hettel. Also present: Village Attorney Sheryl Churney, Village Clerk Amanda Jaegle, Police Chief Josh Jabczynski, Village Engineer Jack Kusek and several community members (see sign in sheet attached).

Minutes. Trustee Hettel made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2026 regular Village Board meeting and August 11, 2026 Special Meeting; second by Trustee Cindi Koetz. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

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

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

Public Comment. Several village residents were in attendance to express concerns regarding flooding that occurred following the recent heavy rainfall. Residents shared information regarding water entering their yards, basements, and other areas of their properties. The residents discussed the extent of the flooding and expressed concerns about potential future flooding events. It was noted that the Village has a shallow water table. Some residents discussed actions they had taken to prevent water damage at their homes. There was discussion of jetting of the water lines by the Village. Residents who spoke during this time include: Matt Seibert, Melissa Steward, Connie Soulsby, Laurel Bruns, Vickie Redman, Allen Randall, Jim Harsted, Craig Vogel, Pete Johnston, Marcia Gray, Tim Koster and Sam Holtzman.

The Board acknowledged the residents' concerns and will discuss possible causes of the flooding, as well as steps that may be taken to help prevent or reduce future water issues. The Board noted that the recent rainfall was unusually heavy and that additional information and investigation may be necessary to determine what measures, if any, the Village can take to address the concerns. The Village Engineer's suggestions for residents are noted in the Engineer's Report section of these minutes.

Travel Request(s). None.

Old Business.

- A. **Resolution 08-18-2026 Approving a License Agreement for a Veterans' Memorial with Grand Ridge Consolidated School District #95.** Trustee Cindi Koetz made a motion to approve Resolution 08-18-2026; seconded by Kim Koetz. Ayes: Hill, Hinterlong, K. Koetz, Rockey, C. Koetz, and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- B. **Update on Bulk Water Regulations.** The Water Committee will hold a meeting and report back at the September board meeting.

New Business.

- A. **Ordinance 2026-03 Amending Section 33.32 of the Village Code to Update the Village's Operation and Maintenance Water Rate Charge.** Trustee Hettel made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2026-03; seconded by Trustee Hinterlong. Ayes: Hill, Hinterlong, K. Koetz, Rockey, C. Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- B. **Discussion of Village Revenue Options.** Attorney Churney explained electric and gas utility options that were available to the Village, as well as sales tax revenue options. The consensus of the Board was to proceed with final preparation of the ordinances at the maximum statutory rates allowed.
- C. **Discussion of Dumpsters.** Trustee Rockey stated the yard waste dumpster will be removed this week and at this time will not be replaced with another one. The Board would like to remind residents of the regulations for burning. The Board discussed providing additional dumpsters for Village residents to dispose of household items ruined from the recent flooding. Trustee Hettel made a motion to provide two dumpsters to be used by residents for flood damaged items only; seconded by Trustee Hill. Ayes: Hill, Hinterlong, K. Koetz, Rockey, C. Koetz and Hettel. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- D. **Consultant to Assist the Village President Pro Tem.** Former Village President Kay Hines has offered to advise and assist Village President *Pro Tem* Rockey as needed on a volunteer basis.

Engineer's Report. Engineer Kusek suggested that residents consider replacing or improving gutters and downspouts to direct stormwater farther away from their homes. He also noted that many sump pumps currently discharge into the sewer system which can contribute additional water to the system and exacerbate the problem. He suggested that, where permitted and feasible, disconnecting sump pumps from the sewer system and discharging the water aboveground may be helpful. Engineer Kusek also stated that a properly installed check valve may help prevent water from backing up into homes. During periods of heavy rainfall, he recommended that residents use common sense to reduce the amount of water entering the sewer system and, when possible, avoid using household appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines as the additional water places greater stress on the overall system. Engineer Kusek noted that the Village has a preliminary engineering report for a proposed sewer collection system. The Village is currently working with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to pursue funding for the project. He stated that funding may be available for unsewered communities, including from the Illinois Rural Water Association of which the Village is a member.

Committee Reports.

Finance. Trustee Kim Koetz stated that she would like more information about the sewer collection system and how we can get more information on grants to help fund the project. Attorney Churney and Kay Hines are actively searching for grant opportunities.

Insurance. No report.

Streets and Alleys. Trustee Rockey reported Nick Hettel has been working on some of the alleys in town. Grand Rapids will be patching the area on Main Street where there was a water main break.

Building Permits. There was one building permit issued for a sidewalk and another application is pending for a garage.

Water. Trustee Hettel brought up the three filters at the water treatment plant that need to be replaced at a cost of \$10,000 each. Engineer Jack Kusek suggested replacing all three filters at the same time. Trustee Hettel will contact Joe at TEST and get the filters ordered.

Police. Several Trustees expressed concerns about underage individuals operating golf carts within the Village. Attorney Churney advised residents to notify Chief Jabczynski if they observe an individual operating a golf cart who does not meet the applicable age or other requirements so the matter can be addressed appropriately. Attorney Churney also informed the Board that the state legislature recently passed legislation concerning the regulation of e-bikes and scooters. She will report more next month.

Health/Storm Drains. Trustee Cindi Koetz stated that there will be a Health/Storm Drains committee meeting scheduled in the near future.

Park. Trustee Hinterlong will contact Michael Jaegle to drag the baseball diamond as it is showing a lot of weeds. There was no tree or limb damage at the park during the recent storms.

History. Trustee Hettel reported the committee has a meeting coming up on August 20, 2026. They would like to have the monument installed and completed by Veterans' Day -- November 11, 2026. A pancake breakfast fundraiser is planned for November and they will have a booth at Community Fest.

Long-Range Planning Committee. No report.

Attorney's Report. Attorney Churney reported she has drafted a letter to Waste Management rejecting their proposal for a fuel surcharge for residents. She will forward it to Village President *Pro Tem* Rockey for signature and delivery.

Mayor's Report. Village President *Pro Tem* Rockey expressed his gratitude to the Grand Ridge Volunteer Fire Department and their quick response during the recent house fire of Village President Simons. He also thanked Kelly Harsted, Hannah Holtzman and Rick Bacon for the work they recently did on the landscaping at Village Hall.

The Trustees noted that social media can be a valuable tool for communication and community discussion; however, it can also lead to misunderstandings and misinformation. The Trustees expressed that they welcome residents' questions, concerns, and input and want to ensure that residents' concerns are heard and addressed in a timely manner.

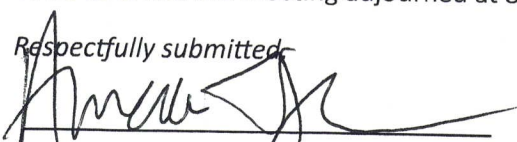
It was further noted that while Facebook and other social media platforms can be useful for community discussion, the Village Board and its representatives have no affiliation with or connection to the Grand Ridge Community Facebook page.

Residents are encouraged to communicate directly with the Village regarding questions, concerns, or other matters. The preferred methods of communication are attending Village Board meetings, contacting Village Hall, or submitting comments or concerns in writing to the Village Clerk.

Correspondence. None.

Adjournment. Trustee Cindi Koetz made a motion to adjourn; second by Kim Koetz. The motion was carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Amanda Jaegle, Village Clerk

Approved by the Board of Trustees on September 15, 2026


Amanda Jaegle, Village Clerk

Village of Grand Ridge

Board Meeting August 18, 2026

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