



**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH  
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES  
APRIL 6, 2024**

**Call to Order**

Council President Harry Walder called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. In attendance in addition to Walder were Bracewell, Brandes and Doerr-O'Halloran was absent. Superintendent Bob Dabbs was in attendance as well as Dale Powell from the maintenance department, Police Chief Ryan Layman and Kim Wolnik, Village Clerk.

**Adopt Agenda**

Brandes moved to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Doerr and passed unanimously 4-0.

**Comments on Agenda Items**

Patrick Shannon commented that many of the roads are in need of repair.

**Unfinished Business**

**New Business**

**Work Session-2024-2025 Budgets**

Walder explained that, in general, all the budgets we will review today have been developed based on the input from each of the Council members. He also stated that he met with Blake O'Halloran and went over all his comments and requests prior to this meeting. He also reviewed the overall budget with O'Halloran and all of those comments are incorporated into this draft of the budget.

The first Budget reviewed was the Major Street Fund. Walder stated this budget has two significant entries. One is the Contractual Street Paving line carrying \$125K in costs and the Transfer from Capital Projects Fund of \$90,000. This results in this Fund having a positive balance of \$580. Bracewell asked about the \$250K request he had made and Walder stated this would be addressed in the Local Street Fund.

The second Budget reviewed was the Local Street Fund. Walder stated this budget has one significant entry. The Contractual Street Paving line carrying \$250K in costs. This results in the Local Street Fund having a negative balance of \$261K. Walder stated the Council would review how this overrun would be addressed once we finish reviewing all the individual Funds.

The third Budget reviewed was the Water Fund. This fund had no significant changes from years past and it currently shows a minor negative balance of \$74K which based on past years, will be addressed throughout the year next year and will end up balanced or slightly positive.

The fourth Budget reviewed was the Building Inspection Fund. This Budget has no significant deviations from years past and is reflecting a negative balance of \$24K. This was to be expected as building activity in the Village has decreased as compared to the last three years and there is enough of a reserve in this fund to absorb this small overrun.

The fifth Budget reviewed was the Golf Fund. This Budget has no significant deviations from years past but there are several significant cost issues which will need to be addressed both this year and next year. The golf course irrigation system needs to be replaced with a new installation and the water intake used for this irrigation system is currently blocked and in need of repair. Both of these items are six figure costs. The budget as drafted reflects a small loss of \$16K which is manageable.

The sixth Budget reviewed was the General Fund. The significant entry in this budget was the line to Transfer to Capital Projects the amount of \$200K. This Fund shows a positive balance of \$46K.

The seventh Budget reviewed was the Capital Project Fund. This fund currently carries a positive balance of \$195K.

Walder presented a Budget Recap which identified the ups and downs of each individual budget as well as the significant causes of these variations. Overall the budgets taken as a whole reflect a negative balance of about \$200K. Walder requested each Council member to go thru all these draft budgets thoroughly and identify any issues. He asked that everyone have their review completed within two weeks and to submit those comments to Walder.

He suggested that the solution to this year's overrun could be to take \$200K from our reserves. Bracewell requested that before we take any monies from our reserves Walder should review this with our Auditor to make certain this would not create a problem for the audit. Walder stated he would do so.

The general consensus was that this draft Budget is reasonable and the proposed approach is reasonable depending upon the auditor's response. It was also acknowledged that the Council still needs to find a solution to the two golf course issues.

Doerr reported that the beaches are coming back and getting new stairs to those with beaches is critical. He also said viewing platforms and walkways for those beach access locations that do not have beaches yet are also badly needed. He has been putting money aside each year in his budget for various projects that he is anxious to start implementing.

Walder also distributed a draft Capital Improvement Plan for review and input from the Council Members. He asked that this input be provided within two weeks.

### **Long Term Strategic Financial Planning**

Bracewell stated that the Village will need to look to the future soon and start considering connecting to a sanitation system. Discussion was held about cost and the potential to do a special assessment to each homeowner to cover the cost. Walder stated this is something to be added to the Capital Improvement Plan.

Superintendent Dabbs said we will have to look at adding another water tower in the future as well and whether we will hook up to New Buffalo's water supply or Michiana. Walder stated this is something to be added to the Capital Improvement Plan.

### **Water Meters**

Aaron from Hydro Corp based out of Grand Rapids, Michigan did a brief presentation to the Council about his proposal for \$318,000 to replace all of the meters in Grand Beach and switch them over to smart meters. He said these are Poly Body Ultrasonic Meters that are manufactured in Auburn Hills Michigan and come highly recommended. They have a potential life span of 20 years as well as the batteries. He expected an installation time of 3 months total, depending on easy access to homes with meters in their basement. He provided the council with references upon request and the council agreed to look into those and get back to him.

Walder asked the council to make any changes they felt necessary to their budgets and get them back to the Clerk in two weeks.

### **Public Comment**

Patrick Shannon commented on the missing stop sign at Cedar, golf fees and the Village selling property.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the council, Doerr moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Brandes and passed unanimously 4-0.

Kimberly Wolnik  
Clerk-Treasurer