

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Harry Walder called the regular council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. EST. Present in addition to Walder were Edward Brandes, Peter Doerr, and Blake O'Halloran. James Bracewell was absent.

ADOPT AGENDA

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Brandes to adopt the August 16, 2023 as presented with the addition of item *10(m)* "Review Lake Intake Pipe to Understand Increase of Rock Going into System". Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Village Council Minutes:
 - i. Regular Council Meeting – July 19, 2023
 - ii. Special Council Meeting – August 1, 2023
- b. Hall Rental Request – Jamie Flick (Employee)
- c. Pay Bills with Written Additions

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Brandes to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The Council heard comments from the following Village property owners regarding agenda items:

Ed Sebastian – Pine Avenue beach viewing platform.

Marilee Nelson – Pine Avenue beach viewing platform.

Meg Piper – Golf carts in the Grand Beach Nature Preserve and Grand Beach Historical Materials.

John Larkin – Pine Avenue beach viewing platform.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

COMMISSION REPORTS

REPORT ON NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP MEETING

Nothing to report since the August meeting will be held on August 21, 2023.

BUILDING & ZONING: Walder told the audience that the Master Plan Task Force town hall meeting has been moved from September 16 to September 30. He said that he has been working with Village resident Nancy Wendling on a tree ordinance, and had an idea that the Village could hire an arborist to come in once a year to make recommendations.

PARKS & BEACHES: Doerr said they have been looking into the pollution in White Creek. He said he, Walder, Police Chief Layman and Assistant Chief Flick met with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Road Commission and the engineers in charge of the Marquette Greenway regarding how the bicycles will cross over the tracks safely. He said they understand the Village's concern, although the Village does not own the property. Doerr is waiting for revised drawings regarding this matter.

STREETS & WATER: Bracewell was not in attendance.

POLICE: Brandes said the joint Police Board met on July 31. He said the short-term rentals are going well with 52 owners in compliance and two others in the process. He said the equipment for the license plate reader is working out well, and they might consider adding more readers in the future.

PRO SHOP & COURSE: O'Halloran said the rounds of golf are close to what they were in 2021 which was a historical year. He said food and clothing sales are up.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam said that cicada killer wasps are active this time of year, but they are docile, and won't normally sting you.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: In addition to his written report, Superintendent Bob Dabbs said the generator should be installed in two weeks. He said they are ready to fill the water tank for the golf course irrigation, they have been installing the new street signs and continue working on water taps. He stated that after the Flint, Michigan water crisis, the state has been requiring municipalities to check for cross connections on residential property, so the Council will adopt an ordinance next month and the Village will hire someone to check swimming pool and irrigation systems in the Village for cross connections.

POLICE CHIEF: In addition to his written report, Police Chief Ryan Layman said there were 79 complaints last month, with several being weather related. He told the Council that he and Officer Creo Brewster attended training with Med Flight who brought a helicopter to the New Buffalo Township Public Safety building.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: In addition to his written report, Building Inspector Chad Butler said there are 47 open building permits on his report which includes permits for 21 homes. He said he has asked a couple of builders to clean up their building sites and the roads in front of their job sites. He said a house on Whitewood is scheduled to be removed on August 17, and there were letters sent to two property owners regarding the condition of their property.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PROPOSAL FOR BEACH VIEWING PLATFORM AT PINE AVENUE

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Brandes to approve a proposal from ELD Construction Company to build an ADA compliant beach viewing platform at the Pine Avenue beach access at a cost of \$33,288 with an additional expenditure not to exceed \$5,000 for a ramp, and that the platform will be built down lower so it is not seen from the street, and to include a bump out to allow for stairs to be installed when the beach comes back. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

COORDINATE WITH NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY TO MOVE GRAND BEACH HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS, PICTURES, AND OTHER MEMORABILIA TO LIBRARY

Walder said that he was very happy to receive an outstanding letter from Meg Piper about the Grand Beach memorabilia and she should be in charge of the project.

NEW BUSINESS

EMPLOYEE PAY INCREASES

Walder stated that costs have gone up, and there is a real press on to hire people away from their current jobs, and the Village experienced it with Kathie Butler leaving, and one or two employees have been approached about other jobs, so he is proposing employee pay raises two months early.

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O'Halloran moved, seconded by Brandes to increase wages now by \$5 an hour for Mary Robertson, \$3 an hour for Dale Powell, \$2 an hour for Keith Kehoe, \$2 an hour for Jayson Powell, \$2 an hour for Creo Brewster and to increase Bob Dabbs' salary by \$5,000 annually. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

PAID VACATION - DEPUTY CLERK

Brandes moved, seconded by Doerr to approve a one-week paid vacation for Deputy Clerk Kimberly Wolnik during her first year of employment. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

EMERGENCY WATER MAIN RELOCATION

Walder said there is a home being built at the end of Walnut Avenue, and Superintendent Bob Dabbs said a 4" water main was installed in the 1960's and a new 8" main placed next to it in 2008. Walder said the owners dug down to build a retaining wall and now the water main is only 1 1/2 feet below ground instead of 4'. He said Rob Andrew of Merritt Midwest is working on a plan to move the main and it could cost \$80,000. He said the Village does not think there is an easement for the line in that location, but Village Attorney Sara Senica is verifying that, and if not, the Village may not be able to recoup the cost to move the main.

IRRIGATION DESIGN PROPOSAL

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Brandes to accept a proposal from Automatic Supply in the amount of \$3,000 to design a new irrigation system for the golf course and to provide consulting services during construction. Motion carried Unanimously 4-0.

LEASE TWO ADDITIONAL GOLF CARTS

O'Halloran told the Council that Pro Shop Manager Don Butler approached him and said that the pro shop is running out of carts on many days, so he would like to get two more carts. O'Halloran said that the carts generate \$1,500 a year in revenue.

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Brandes to approve the lease of two additional golf carts starting next year at a cost of \$1,240.08 per year. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

ALLOW GOLF CARTS IN THE GRAND BEACH NATURE PRESERVE

Due to the lack of a motion, no action was taken.

APPROVE ADDITIONAL \$500 EXPENSE FOR REMOVAL OF TREE ON ROYAL AVENUE

Clerk Mary Robertson told the Council that there is no need to approve the additional \$500 cost as the bill for tree removal was reduced.

APPOINT TWO PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS WITH TERMS ENDING AUGUST 31, 2026

Walder said that Laurie Roche and Robert Kegan, whose terms on the Planning Commission end on August 31, have not applied to be reappointed. He said there were six very good applicants, and he thanked all of them for their interest.

Brandes moved, seconded by Doerr to appoint Ross Kerr and Ed Sebastian to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term ending August 31, 2026. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

APPOINT EX-OFFICIO MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION WITH TERM ENDING AUGUST 31, 2024

Doerr moved, seconded by Brandes to appoint Harry Walder as the ex-officio member of the Planning Commission with a term ending August 31, 2024. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FOR ROBERT KEGAN

Walder read a certificate of appreciation for Robert Kegan's service on the Planning Commission.

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CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FOR LAURIE ROCHE

Walder read a certificate of appreciation for Laurie Roche’s service on the Planning Commission.

HARBOR COUNTRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP

The Council was in agreement not to renew the Chamber of Commerce membership.

REVIEW LAKE INTAKE PIPE TO UNDERSTAND INCREASE OF ROCK GOING INTO SYSTEM

Clay Putnam of ServiScape said that the pump at the pumphouse can no longer push water from the lake to the holding tank for golf course irrigation. He said Peerless Midwest’s opinion is that there is sand and gravel being introduced into the pump damaging the impeller, and not giving enough pressure to pump the water up to the tank. He said there is a proposal from Lindahl Marine to send divers into the lake to inspect the intake line, part of which is under the bottom of the lake, and to identify where the sand and gravel is coming in.

O’Halloran moved, seconded by Brandes to approve a proposal from Lindahl Marine in the amount of \$5,150 to inspect the intake pipe and give results. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Putnam said Peerless Midwest will supply proposals to:

1. Replace the pump entirely.
2. Replace multiple components in the pump.
3. Replace fewer components in the pump.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Council heard comments from the following Village property owners:

Mike Kenny – Existing infrastructure, Planning Commission members appointed and Capital Improvement Plan.

Larry Acker – Meeting with MDOT and meeting with public to discuss results.

Frank Dolan – Drawings for bicycle crossing at tracks, limits of liability from others and Village liability.

Victoria McHugh – Limit on building permits, water tower concerns and tree removal.

CORRESPONDENCE

GRAND BEACH PRESERVATION COUNCIL– MARQUETTE GREENWAY

GRAND BEACH PRESERVATION COUNCIL – MASTER PLAN TASK FORCE SURVEY TWO

MEG PIPER – GRAND BEACH HISTORICAL MATERIALS

NEW BUFFALO SHORELINE ALLIANCE - UPDATE

Walder read an update from Ted Grzywacz of the New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance which was obtained by a Village resident.

ADJOURNMENT

O’Halloran moved, seconded by Brandes to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer