

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 17, 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, James Bracewell, and Blake O'Halloran.

ADOPT AGENDA

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Brandes to adopt the May 17, 2023 agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Village Council Minutes:
 - i. Regular Council Meeting – April 19, 2023
- b. Pay Bills with Written Additions

Brandes moved, seconded by Doerr to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

COMMISSION REPORTS

REPORT ON NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP MEETING

Brandes said he attended the New Buffalo Township meeting, and that the Village Council will try to monitor the township meetings more closely.

BUILDING & ZONING: Walder said the issue with the property on Rohde Court is close to being resolved after a judge ordered the owner to demolish the structures and clean up the property. He said if the owner does not comply with the order, the Village will be able to clean up the property and place the costs of clean up on the tax bill. Walder said that Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Chad Butler is doing a good job enforcing the regulations and meeting with builders to keep everyone on task.

PARKS & BEACHES: Doerr said the rocks that washed out at the pump house should be put back in within the next week or two. He said the beaches at Whitewood and Lake will be cleaned prior to Memorial Day.

STREETS & WATER: Bracewell said a street paving grant request will be submitted, but if the Village isn't awarded the grant, there is not funding set aside for street paving and they will have to continue patching streets. He said Superintendent Bob Dabbs is working on water taps.

POLICE: Brandes said that the Village is in the third year of a five-year contract with Michiana and he and Debbie Lindley recently met with the representatives of Michiana on the police board. He said Police Chief Ryan Layman is doing an

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excellent job, and he will hold the second annual Coffee with a Cop on July 1 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. He announced that there is a Neighborhood Watch meeting on May 21 at 2:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

PRO SHOP & COURSE: O'Halloran said that the pro shop should have all of its merchandise in by Memorial Day. He said the ice cream freezer went out and they are trying to get it repaired.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam said the transfer pump was installed and is working well. He said they will seed the left side of the #4 rough where the Village had drainage work done.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: In addition to his written report, Superintendent Bob Dabbs said that over the last several weeks, they have planted 46 new trees. He said he is waiting for the gas company to install the new gas line for the generator. He said they will be busy hooking up water services to the new homes that are at the stage where they are ready for water.

POLICE CHIEF: In addition to his written report, Police Chief Ryan Layman said that the license plate reader should arrive in 4-6 weeks. He said Memorial Day is coming, and with that, car thefts usually increase. He told those in attendance to remove their valuables from their cars and keep their cars locked. He sent letters out concerning the height of the grass to three property owners in the Village. He has approximately 50 short-term rental properties he's been registering and thinks there are another 10 or 12 that he is tracking down.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: In addition to his written report, Building Inspector Chad Butler said there are 53 building permits to date. He said there is a demolition permit for a house on Cedar. He reported on two homeowners that he has been talking to about repairs to their homes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Adopt Millage Rate Factor for 2023

O'Halloran explained that the millage rate continues to decrease due to the Headlee Rollback, and that this is not only a problem in Grand Beach, but across the state of Michigan. He said at some point the Council will need to address this.

Doerr moved, seconded by Brandes to adopt the millage rate factor of 5.8278 for 2023. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Resolution #2023-05 to Adopt All Budgets for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Doerr moved, seconded by Brandes to adopt resolution #2023-05 to adopt all budgets for fiscal year 2023-2024 as presented.

Roll Call Vote

James Bracewell	Aye
Ed Brandes	Aye
Blake O'Halloran	Aye
Peter Doerr	Aye
Harry Walder	Aye

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Resolution #2023-04 to Apply for Grant Funding for Streets

There was discussion regarding how the streets were chosen for the grant, and Walder said they were the worst streets in the Village and the same as what was included in the grant request last year, along with a couple of additional streets. Bracewell said if the Village is not awarded the grant, it will be in the same position as in the past, and will only be able to patch streets.

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Bracewell to adopt resolution #2023-04 as presented to apply for grant funding for the streets. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Transfer Funds from Class Action Lawsuit to Major Streets

Bracewell said when he heard about funds the Village received from a class action lawsuit in the amount of \$39,000, he sent an email to Walder suggesting that the funds be earmarked for streets.

Bracewell moved, seconded by O'Halloran to transfer funds that the Village received from a class action lawsuit to the Major Street fund. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Swimming Pool Inspections Discussion

Walder said that a Village ordinance says that swimming pools are to be inspected periodically and it has never been done. He said the Council should consider whether they want to do pool inspections, and if not, the language should be removed from the ordinance. If the Council decides to start doing inspections, they will need to determine how often periodically is and if there should be a fee involved. Building Inspector Chad Butler said some of the things that could be considered during an inspection would be checking the latching gate, checking to make sure the auto cover works properly if there is one, checking for trip hazards, receptacles near pools and other things.

Proposed Zoning Review Fees

Doerr moved, seconded by Brandes to approve zoning review fees as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Proposed Policy for Building Permit Refunds

Walder said there is not a written policy regarding building permits that are approved, but the construction never starts. He said in those cases that the Village traditionally refunds 100% of the permit fee, but when the permit is reviewed, the Village incurs costs.

Brandes moved, seconded by Doerr to refund 70% of all building permit fees when the work has not started within 180 days of the permit approval date. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pay

Brandes moved, seconded by O'Halloran to pay Chad Butler \$3,500 per month from the Building Inspection Fund for his building inspection services and \$1,000 a month from the General Fund for his duties as the zoning administrator. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Proposed Updates to Exterior of Village Hall and Maintenance Garage

Walder said there is a document that shows proposed exterior updates to the buildings. He said that nothing will be done until fall, but he wants the Council to review the proposed updates, and discuss it in a couple of months.

Proposal for Demolition and Removal of Home and Garage Located at 48305 Rohde Court

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Brandes to approve a bid from Versaw Earthworks Excavating & Trucking in the amount of \$6,450 as presented, contingent on the owner of the property at 48305 Rohde Court not complying with the court order to remove the structures and clean up the property by May 25. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

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A second bid was received from L&S Metal Recycling in the amount of \$12,600.

Donation from Fox Family for Upkeep of the Fox Memorial Garden

Walder thanked the Fox family for a \$500 donation for the upkeep of the Fox Memorial Garden which is located next to the pro shop.

Police Training for Officer Creo Brewster

Doerr moved, seconded by Brandes to approve the expenditure of \$1,235 for police training and hotel for Officer Creo Brewster as requested by Police Chief Ryan Layman. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Request from Ed Arnold to Display E-Bikes and Golf Carts on Village Property

Walder said that Ed Arnold who owns the golf cart company across the highway would like to display e-Bikes at the Village Hall on June 23 and 24 or July 1 and 2. After discussion, the Council felt that approving his request could bring similar requests, and they are not interested in allowing this type of request.

Budget Amendments for FY 2022-2023 - Building Inspection Fund, Capital Projects Fund and Major Street Fund

Brandes moved, seconded by O'Halloran to approve budget amendments for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the Building Inspection Fund, Capital Projects Fund and Major Street Fund as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Village resident Lynn Bolanowski asked if the Council will be taking input from the residents regarding Village Hall updates.

Village resident Barb Rooney told the Council that Grand Beach is private and she does not think the Council should rent the hall out to the public, without a Grand Beach sponsor.

Village resident Kaye Moriarty questioned the millage rate and reduction.

Village resident Debbie Lindley asked if the millage rate included the Headlee rollback.

Village resident Sara Miniati Huels thanked everyone for their patience regarding the construction project that has been ongoing for two years at their home.

CORRESPONDENCE

FRANK GIGLIO – TRUCKS ON US 12

Walder said Frank Giglio sent a letter asking if the Council can do something regarding the overweight trucks on Highway 12 that are avoiding the scales.

MARY & TIM LYNE – POOL FENCE

Walder said the letter from the Lynes regarding pool fencing was a direct result of something he brought up about inspections. He said this is in regards to pools on the bluff, and he has asked the Planning Commission to look at it.

CHUCK & LINDA MARONEY – RENTAL PROPERTY ON LAKE PARK DRIVE

Walder said the Maroneys are questioning whether a rental property in the Village is being used as a business. Chief Layman said that the owners of the home in question have registered it as a short-term rental and are advertising for less occupants than what is allowed.

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MIKE STOKES – USE OF POND IN NATURE PRESERVE

Doerr said he received this letter from Mike Stokes that suggested he has gone swimming in the pond in the Grand Beach Nature Preserve, and that the Village should pump water into it to allow for swimming and fishing. Doerr said this will be addressed in the master plan. The Council agreed that due to liability issues, the Village should install “no swimming” signs.

ADJOURNMENT

Brandes moved, seconded by Doerr to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer