

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 20, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

Council president Paul Leonard Jr. called the regular council meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. EST. Present in addition to Leonard were James Bracewell, Frank Giglio, Deborah Lindley and Blake O'Halloran.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Bracewell moved, seconded by O'Halloran to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on June 15, 2016. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Building & Zoning: Bracewell reported that there are four new homes under construction and everything is going well. Parking on Whitewood is being monitored day by day.

Parks & Beaches: Giglio said the amount of sand on the beaches varies from place to place. Leonard complimented Giglio for the nice job that was done at the entrance with flowers, asphalt and curbing. The project was paid for with a generous grant from The Pokagon Fund.

Streets & Water: Leonard said that the Village continues to test water and patch the streets. Paving of several streets will begin later in the summer.

Police: Lindley said it was a busy month for the officers, and reminded everyone to lock their cars.

Leonard discussed complaints he is still receiving from people about the fireworks over the July 4th weekend. He stated that fireworks are not allowed on public areas, streets and beaches. Chief Schroeder said that state law allows certain types of fireworks on the day before, day of and day after a holiday.

Leonard is concerned with recent fires in the Village caused by fireworks and suggested increasing the fine for shooting off fireworks illegally from the current \$100 fine to a \$500 fine.

Pro-Shop and Course: O'Halloran reported that the golf course lost one of the biggest oak trees at the edge of the parking lot to a lightning strike last week. In addition, several of the irrigation system control boxes were struck by lightning and the damage to the system is still being analyzed. A cinder cart path was installed between holes three and four.

O'Halloran said rounds of golf are up in all categories. May and June were good months financially.

ServiScape: In addition to his written report, Clay Putnam thanked the maintenance crew for their help with the removal of a damaged tree near number five. There was discussion about the flowers and grass seed that were planted by ServiScape at the entrance. Putnam said the flowers will need to be divided in approximately 5-7 years as they grow larger.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

Superintendent: In addition to his written report, Bob Dabbs told the council that they are scraping and will be painting the arch next week.

Police Chief: In addition to his written report, Chief Dan Schroeder said that there have been several instances of cars being opened in the night and items taken from them. He reminded everyone to lock their cars and not to leave their keys and valuables in their cars.

Building Inspector: Bill Lambert was not in attendance.

PAY BILLS

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Leonard to approve the payment of the bills with the written additions as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LICENSE AGREEMENT – PLANTING ON END OF WEST MCKEAN

Leonard told the council that Barbara Glass has signed the license agreement to allow her to plant on West McKean near her home. She has agreed to indemnify the Village and the agreement can be terminated by her or by the Village at any time. Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve the license agreement with Glass as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

EXTEND DRAIN PIPE ON RIDGE ROAD

Leonard said that at the last meeting the council discussed extending a drain pipe on Ridge Road. O'Halloran said he thought, as reflected in the minutes that the Village was going to get bids for the project and he was surprised that the work had been done. He said that procedurally, he doesn't think this was done properly.

Lindley and Bracewell were surprised at the \$7,000 cost. Bracewell said the repair work has added great value, but the house on the west side has not done anything and the Village cannot continue further west.

Superintendent Dabbs said rock was added to the easement, and it is very expensive and the Village saved money by having the work done while Donkersloot was hauling that type of rock and still working in the area. Beach Commissioner Giglio said that if they didn't put rock in there would have been a gully running across the beach.

Leonard said the Village was protecting the integrity of the dune at the Village easement.

PAYROLL SERVICE

Leonard said that using a payroll service is more effective and will allow the employees to choose direct deposit which is something they have been asking about for a long time. He said using a payroll service will also protect the Village if there is a mistake made because the payroll service will be responsible.

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to engage ADP to take over the payroll responsibilities of the Village. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

SALARIED EMPLOYEES – CHANGE OF PAY PERIOD END DATE

Clerk Mary Robertson explained that the pay period ending date will need to be moved back one day in order to allow enough turnaround time when using a payroll service. She said with the change, the salaried full time employees will lose one day's pay. She and Leonard discussed this and suggested issuing a bonus check for the one day's pay so that the salaried employees are not short on the first check created by ADP.

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to change the pay period ending date to Tuesday upon signing up with ADP, and that salaried full time employees will be given a bonus check so that they will not lose any pay with the transition. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

2015 MERS ANNUAL ACTUARIAL VALUATION

Leonard said that he read the MERS Pension Annual Actuarial Valuation report and it gives a pretty clear picture that the contributions to the pension plan will have to be increased over the years in order to stay fully funded. The Village's MERS plan is currently in good shape, but beginning in 2017 the funded portion will begin to drop. O'Halloran thinks the employee contributions should also be discussed. Clerk Robertson will contact the MERS representative and invite him to attend one of the upcoming meetings to explain the changes to the plan and answer questions from the council.

REMOVAL OF STEEL BULKHEAD

Leonard said there is steel in the water near the Walnut Street pump house that is hazardous and could be a potential liability to the Village. On a calm day you can see the steel under the water. It was suggested by a Village resident that the Village have Donkersloot & Sons remove the steel while they are working in the area.

Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to have the steel pulled out at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 and if the cost exceeds \$5,000 the council will call a special meeting for discussion. Motion carried 4-1 with Bracewell, Giglio, Leonard and Lindley voting aye. O'Halloran voted nay.

CONTRIBUTION TO NEW BUFFALO SAND ALLIANCE

Leonard explained that beach nourishment has been a problem for all communities south of the breakwater in New Buffalo. He is part of a group that has met with state representatives, Senator Stabenow, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to discuss the need to pump sand to the areas south of the breakwater. The ACOE pumped sand to the south until 1994. They have been told by the ACOE that there is no funding available for beach nourishment.

Leonard said there is a group called the New Buffalo Sand Alliance that consists of homeowners' associations and individual property owners that are willing to contribute \$1,500 each to a fund in order to hire attorneys to do legal research to find out if the City of New Buffalo is responsible for pumping sand to the south of the breakwater. There was discussion regarding the results of a 2009 study paid for by donations and whether there was proof that the breakwater was the cause of the loss of beach.

Leonard moved, seconded by Giglio to contribute \$1,500 and no more to the New Buffalo Sand Alliance. Motion carried 3-2 with Bracewell, Giglio and Leonard voting aye and Lindley and O'Halloran voting nay.

Village resident Ed Trainor urged the council after the vote to reconsider saying there are problems in other communities and that another community sued their own planning commission and he applauds the Grand Beach Village Council for being above all of that. He does not think that the Grand Beach name should be associated with a possible lawsuit against the City of New Buffalo.

HALL RENTAL REQUESTS

Bracewell moved, seconded by O’Halloran o approve hall rental requests for Patrick Bennett on November 26, 2016, Ben Mercieri on May 28, 2017 and Dan Schroeder on October 22, 2016. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

None

CORRESPONDENCE

- LRSB – Request to turn in actual specific costs associated with the casino. The Village has no actual costs to turn in.
- Ray McCafferty – Notice to Grand Beach that a dangerous situation exists at the intersection of Grand Beach Road and Royal Avenue where drivers are running the stop sign.
- Ray McDonald – Appreciates work done to address drainage pipe and erosion at easement on Ridge Road.
- Diana Melicar – Requested council create a Village-wide comprehensive parking plan.
- John Rafkin – Concerned with noise created by neighbors using leaf blowers, power washers and hedge trimmers. Leonard has received several complaints recently about people using power equipment. Chief Schroeder told the council that there are no restrictions for people blowing leaves or doing lawn care on the weekends as long as it is done at a reasonable time of day.

CLOSED SESSION MCL 15.268 SECTION 8(A) – PERIODIC EVALUATION OF VILLAGE CLERK-TREASURER MARY ROBERTSON

Leonard moved, seconded by Lindley to go into a closed session at 9:10 p.m. EST as allowed under MCL 15.268 Section 8(A) for a periodic evaluation of Village Clerk-Treasurer Mary Robertson.

Roll Call Vote

James Bracewell	Aye
Frank Giglio	Aye
Paul Leonard Jr.	Aye
Deborah Lindley	Aye
Blake O’Halloran	Aye

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell at 9:33 p.m. EST to come back into the regular council meeting. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m. EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer