

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

Council president Paul Leonard Jr. called the regular council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. EST. Present in addition to Leonard were James Bracewell, Frank Giglio, Deborah Lindley and Blake O'Halloran.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to suspend the order of the agenda to allow Michael Overley to speak regarding the Michigan Employees' Retirement System. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

MICHAEL OVERLEY – MICHIGAN EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MERS)

MERS representative Mike Overley gave an overview of the employee's pension plan with MERS. He explained the calculation used in the lifetime pension provided to employees that meet certain criteria. He spoke about the 5-year study that was recently completed and explained changes to the plan including the reduction in the anticipated investment return from 8% to 7.75%.

He told the council that the Village's pension plan is currently funded at 101%, but in future years with the changes that were made the funded level will be reduced. He explained the difference between the phase-in and the full impact contributions by the Village. The goal is to be 100% funded so that the plan has the assets to cover the liabilities in future years.

APPROVE MINUTES

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on July 20, 2016. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Leonard will circulate the Closed Session Minutes of July 20, 2016 to council members for approval.

Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting on August 11, 2016. Motion carried 4-0 with Bracewell, Giglio, Leonard and Lindley voting aye. O'Halloran abstained as he was not present at the meeting.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Building & Zoning: Bracewell reported that everything is going well with no complaints.

Parks & Beaches: Giglio reported that there is currently a lot of beach from the pier to Oak Street although there is a lot of rock and stone on the beach. He spoke to Clay Putnam from ServiScape about the trees along Grand Beach Road that appear to be dying. Putnam told him that some of the trees might not survive, but the Village might be able to treat the trees that are diseased. The drain at the park has been routed out recently.

Leonard told the council that he received an email from a resident regarding tree preservation. He said we lost one very large oak tree to lightning recently and another old oak tree to Oak Blight, and if we continue to lose these magnificent trees, the character of the Village will be changed. The email said that other communities require property owners to replace trees when they are lost or cut down. Leonard will

send the email to Council Members so they can use the link included in the email to view an ordinance for the City of Lake Forest regarding tree preservation before the next council meeting.

Streets & Water: Leonard reported that he received a document regarding pipeline safety that he will pass along to Chief Schroeder regarding emergency situations and policies.

Leonard said he also received a communication from Michigan Department of Transportation that said we will get a 23.5% increase in our transportation funds, but with that increase we will be required to spend more money on non-motorized facilities. The Village is required to spend 1% of ACT 51 funds received annually on things such as sidewalks, bike and walking paths. With the increase in funding, the Village will be required to spend a larger amount of money on these types of projects. Leonard asked council members to think of projects that the Village can do in the future to help meet this requirement.

Leonard said that Grand Beach Land Development and Grand Beach Investors own a significant portion of Grand Beach Road, a portion of Robin Lane and Deer Park and are interested in deeding those sections of roadway to the Village. Village Attorney Sara Bell has been working with their attorney Sally Taylor on this matter. Taylor recently submitted surveys and title reports to Bell and she will discuss the matter with Leonard prior to the September council meeting.

Police: Lindley reminded everyone to lock their cars and not to leave valuables in the cars. Chief Schroeder reported on the street light outages that have been an ongoing issue in the old section of the Village. Indiana Michigan Power has installed larger fuses in hopes that this will take care of the problem.

Pro-Shop and Course: O'Halloran reported that we have had a wonderful year financially with the golf course. The weather has been great and all of the numbers show it. He reminded everyone that the golf course is self-sustaining and everyone needs to support it so that we can continue to have a great golf course, which is one of the Village's greatest assets, along with its beaches.

ServiScape: Clay Putnam was not in attendance.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

Superintendent: In addition to his written report, Bob Dabbs reported that he received a ballpark estimate for a generator for the Village Hall at a cost of approximately \$50,000. Leonard asked him to get three quotes on the generator. Dabbs also got a quote on running electricity to the arch at a cost of \$4,900. They could light up the flags, put up Christmas lights and the Police Department could install security cameras on the arch if there was electricity there.

Police Chief & Building Inspector: Nothing to add to their written reports.

Leonard said he received a request from a resident to send out an alert to residents regarding fireworks. He asked Chief Schroeder if he would put information on the website and send out an alert before the Fourth of July holiday next year regarding the use of fireworks in the Village.

PAY BILLS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

MICHAEL OVERLEY – MICHIGAN EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MERS)

This discussion took place at the start of the meeting.

REPORT ON NEW BUFFALO SAND ALLIANCE

Leonard said the loose organization of communities that has been meeting has decided on the name New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance and is in the process of organizing a 501(c)(3). They have been in contact with two law firms and the information received is considered attorney-client privilege and cannot be discussed at this time. The Village has not expended the \$1,500 that was approved, and will not do so until the 501(c)(3) is established or the Village will pay the funds to the law firms.

STEEL REMOVAL FROM BEACHES

Leonard said that Bob Dabbs received a quote from Donkersloot & Sons in the amount of \$13,500 to remove 30' of steel sheet wall located near the pump house. Leonard said there is not funding in the budget to cover this expense. There was much discussion between Village Resident Kieran McHugh and the council regarding the budget, expense, danger, responsibility and removal of the steel. The council will look at it again next year and will take this under advisement.

GENERATOR BID FOR VILLAGE HALL

This was discussed during the superintendent's report.

AT&T ANNUAL VIDEO REPORT

Leonard stated that the Village received the annual video report from AT&T.

ASSUMED BUSINESS NAMES RENEWAL

Leonard explained that in prior years Chief Schroeder filed assumed business names which are now expiring to protect those names from use by others. The assumed business names were filed when a developer considered putting in a development across the highway and the Village did not want the name of the development to include Grand Beach.

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to spend a total of \$100 to renew the 10 assumed business names. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

REAPPOINT GEORGE SOPER TO PLANNING COMMISSION–TERM ENDING AUGUST 31, 2019

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to reappoint George Soper to the Planning Commission with a term ending August 31, 2019. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

REAPPOINT JIM BRACEWELL EX OFFICIO MEMBER TO PLANNING COMMISSION – TERM ENDING AUGUST 31, 2017

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to reappoint Jim Bracewell as the ex officio member to the Planning Commission with a term ending August 31, 2017. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

HALL RENTAL REQUEST

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve a hall rental request for Lila Gavin on September 9, 2017. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

Leonard said that there are people in the audience because of the recent demonstration of the beach cleaning equipment. He said there is no money in the budget for the beach cleaner, and it would take years for the Village to accumulate enough money for the purchase of the equipment. He said the equipment that was demonstrated on the beach was the top of the line model. He reviewed the different sizes and types of equipment and their cost. He said that in talking with Bob Dabbs, the 600 series model would be the best and they hope that the Village tractor would be able to pull it up the beach easements. The cost of the 600HD model is \$52,767 with the 400HD costing approximately \$40,000. Our golf course tractor can pull the 400HD.

Village resident Brian Byrnes said he works with a grant writer who is willing to check on grants for the equipment. O'Halloran said that there are grants that the Village might be eligible for since we have adopted a 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan. O'Halloran said that right now we will try and get grants with Village residents donating the remaining funds, and the Village's responsibility being storage.

Resident Sunday Perry said that the community she grew up in had a 501(c)(3) to accept donations to help with projects that couldn't be funded by the municipality. She suggested the Village set up a 501(c)(3) so that people in the Village could make donations big and small to fund different projects.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Ed Burke – Ed Burke requested use of the Robin Lane easement for revetment work on his property. He was in attendance and said that he has talked with Sid Mathias about using part of his property to access the beach. The council will allow him to use the easement.
- Joe Farwell – Joe Farwell sent a letter regarding the use of golf carts in the Village. Leonard will contact Village Attorney Sara Bell and forward the letter to her so that she can review it and make recommendations. Two members of the Farwell family were in attendance and said that they spent approximately 30-40 hours researching the Michigan laws regarding golf carts. O'Halloran thanked them for their research.
- Marjorie Royce – The Council received a thank you note from Village employee Marjorie Royce for the nice plant that was sent to her when her daughter recently passed away.
- Nancy Schmidt - Nancy Schmidt requested permission to put up a "Little Library" on her property. The library box was made by her niece who asked if she could put the library on her property in Grand Beach. The "Little Library" will have books in it that anyone can borrow. Leonard will contact her and tell her that it is okay as long as the library is on her property and not on the easement.

ADJOURNMENT

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer