

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER, 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**

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

**APPROVE MINUTES**

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on August 17, 2016. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Bracewell moved, seconded by O'Halloran to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting on August 31, 2016. Motion carried 4-0 with Bracewell, Giglio, Leonard and O'Halloran voting aye. Lindley abstained as she was not present at the meeting.

**PRESENTATION – LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE**

Doug Schaffer of Lake Michigan College (LMC) spoke about an upcoming millage proposal for capital improvements which will support safety and security improvements, modernize classrooms, teaching equipment, student success centers and include other facility upgrades. He discussed improvements that will be made to the 50 year old building, as well as updates for the safety and security of the students, staff and visitors.

The millage proposal is .48 mills which is equivalent to \$24 per year for a home with a market value of \$100,000. The current millage of 1.78 mills is the 24<sup>th</sup> lowest millage of 28 Michigan community colleges.

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Building & Zoning:** Bracewell reported that he received a letter from an attorney about a complaint from a neighbor regarding a tear down and rebuild. The Village Attorney has been informed.

**Parks & Beaches:** Giglio reported that there is still beach from Oak to the pier although there is a lot of rock. He reported that the diseased trees along Grand Beach Road are located 55' from Amtrak's right of way so Amtrak will not have to be contacted regarding the trees. Clay Putnam of ServiScape said that the trees have a pathogen referred to as Needle Shed which is fairly common for that type of tree. He said that they can be treated and will require multiple years of treatment and after multiple years of treatment there is no guarantee that the trees will be in good shape. Leonard asked Putnam to put the information into a letter that he will pass along to Grand Beach Land Development (GBLD). O'Halloran said that if GBLD dedicates Grand Beach Road to the Village the trees will be the Village's responsibility.

**Streets & Water:** Leonard reported that the street paving has been completed. He said that Village Clerk-Treasurer Mary Robertson was recently attended a clerk's meeting at the Village of Michiana where she met Michiana's council president. He informed her that Michiana will be increasing their water rates to the Village from \$3.20 to \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons because their recent rate increase was not high enough.

Leonard spoke about the importance of water testing and said that the Department of Environmental Quality is looking at areas where animal waste from farms is getting into the waterways.

Leonard said he was hoping to have a final version of a resolution to accept the private streets from Grand Beach Land Development (GBLD) and Grand Beach Investments for the meeting, but Village Attorney Sara Bell and Attorney Sally Taylor are still working out details on a draft agreement. He said everything should be ready in order to complete the process at the October meeting.

Police: Lindley reported that there were questions on August 29<sup>th</sup> about solicitors in the Village and while she was looking into the resident's complaint, she found that ordinance number 5 which was adopted in 1934 is very antiquated and predates all of the Supreme Court judgements in the past. There was discussion among council members regarding the need to have our ordinance revised to include proper language regarding soliciting and the first amendment rights regarding political and religious solicitation.

Lindley said New Buffalo Township has an ordinance that was adopted in 1981 covering door-to-door salesman, but it doesn't cover political or religious groups. Village Attorney Sara Bell has said that the Village can create a "Do Not Knock List" that could be used when a group comes into the Village to let them know who does not want solicitors. The council agreed that ordinance number 5 should be revised.

Pro-Shop and Course: O'Halloran reported that the golf course is doing well and will probably make a profit of \$15,000 to \$20,000. He outlined things that he is interested in doing for the next year.

- They would like to get a couple more rental carts because there were times this summer when there weren't any carts available and rental carts are a good source of income.
- He would like to run electric to the edge of the Fox Memorial Garden where the carts could be stored and charged. He estimated the cost for electric at \$3,500 and the cost for a small wall for the chargers at \$500-\$800.
- He would like to put three cement tables in front of the pro shop that will be paid for by residents.
- He said that Pro Shop Manager Don Butler has not had a raise in five years. Bracewell asked him to check into that and to provide firm numbers for the council.

O'Halloran told the council he had a meeting with an outside party who is a videographer with a lot of good ideas and after meeting with him O'Halloran thinks an upgrade to our link for the golf course is a good idea. He would like to advertising on the golf website as another way to bring in additional income.

O'Halloran said the golf course is losing money because some of the people who rent golf carts from outside vendor are not buying registration stickers. He is working with Don Butler to require the vendors to purchase stickers for their carts to ensure that all carts are registered.

ServiScape: Clay Putnam said that they are currently \$3,481 under budget and he believes they might be able to work the repairs to the irrigation system after lightning strikes into their budget. He said there were three irrigation leaks in August and they need to replace an automatic starter switch at the pump house.

## **PERSONNEL REPORTS**

Superintendent: In addition to his written report, Bob Dabbs reported that there was a problem with the master water meter in Michiana it had to be replaced at a cost of \$2,000. He said that Donkersloot & Sons' barge has been moved and will return on approximately October 10<sup>th</sup> to pull the steel sheeting out of the water and to repair the easement. O'Halloran was concerned that the golf water intake valve might

be close to where the steel is being removed from and Dabbs said it is near there, but it will not be affected by the removal of the steel. The steel sheets are located on the west side of the jetties.

Building Inspector Bill Lambert said that a resident approached him prior to the meeting about the large rocks that were left on the beach by one of the contractors working on the beach along Ridge Road. Leonard asked Dabbs to contact Oselka Construction and let them know that they need to clean it up. If they don't, the Village will not allow them access to the beach in the future.

Police Chief: In addition to his written report, Chief Dan Schroeder said that the police department recently received a complaint of five or six young kids jumping off the jetties near the pump house. He suggested making a change to the language in ordinance number 2005-66 and placing signs on the jetties warning that jumping and/or diving from the jetties is not allowed. Clerk Robertson will contact Sara Bell concerning a change to the ordinance.

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to order two signs to be installed on the side of the jetties with the language suggested by Chief Schroeder at a cost not to exceed \$300. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

#### **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**

#### **MICHIGAN EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MERS) CONTRIBUTION**

Leonard said that last month Mike Overley talked to the council about assets and future liabilities for the employee pension plan (MERS). The Village will need to increase contributions in the future, but Leonard said that the 5.87% that the Village will be contributing beginning November 1, 2016 will be okay, but the council should think about an increase in contributions at our next budget meeting.

#### **HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Leonard said that the council budgeted a 20% increase in health insurance premiums for the next year and the Village got really good news that the health insurance premium will only increase by 5.7%. Since our increase is much less than anticipated, he said the Village might be able to transfer funds for other programs or to increase the contribution to MERS.

#### **RESOLUTION – STREET DEDICATION**

This was addressed during Leonard's Street Commission report.

#### **TREE PRESERVATION DISCUSSION**

Leonard said he thinks we can discuss this in the spring. He said if the street dedication is completed and the diseased trees have to come down, the Council can talk about putting in replacement trees.

#### **MOSQUITO SPRAYING**

Leonard said he had two residents contact him regarding mosquito spraying and he told them that if they felt strongly about it they should round up their neighbors and attend the meeting.

He said we have talked about this in the past, and there are more people against the spraying than in favor. The residents were concerned about the spread of Lyme disease and the Zika virus. He said he researched Zika and there are two types of mosquitoes that carry the virus, and they are both cold weather intolerant and their range is far south of here. There are no reported instances of those mosquitoes in our immediate area, so he thinks the risk of Zika is very, very low here and he doesn't think it justifies the expense. He said it is a Village decision, and if there are enough people interested in it, the council will consider it.

Lindley said the machine is broken, and Superintendent Dabbs said a new machine is \$7,000 - \$8,000 and the chemicals are very costly at about \$2,000 each delivery.

#### **REVTMENT REPLACEMENT PROJECT –ACCESS REQUEST**

Leonard said there was a request to use the Robin Lane beach easement for revetment work for property owners on Lake Park Drive and to replace the revetment across the Lee Point easement. The owners are going to wait until there is enough beach for them to work from. Sid Mathias has agreed to allow the use of the corner of his lot to get equipment down to the beach. Leonard said he doesn't have a problem with them using Robin Lane right now because it is just sand.

He said the residents in that area are asking about emergency access to the beach. He previously met with the DEQ concerning a permit for beach access at Robin Lane for emergencies and they agreed that they would issue a permit. Leonard said it will be difficult to put in access because of the grade at Robin Lane.

#### **GRAND BEACH COMMUNITY BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Leonard said that at last month's meeting, Village resident Brian Byrnes suggested establishing a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to raise funds to be used to do things that the Village would like to do, but might not have funding to do it.

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran that the Village approve the use of the name of Grand Beach Community Betterment Association, Inc. as requested by Byrnes for the establishment of a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that would assist the Village in improving the Village infrastructure and the quality of life for all the residents. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

#### **AUDIENCE RECOGNITION**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

O'Halloran moved to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Robertson  
Clerk-Treasurer