

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 15, 2017**

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, Deborah Lindley, Frank Giglio and Blake O'Halloran.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Giglio moved, seconded by O'Halloran to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 15, 2017. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

2015/2016 AUDIT PRESENTATION BY KRUGGEL, LAWTON & COMPANY

Leonard stated that the audit presentation will be moved to the April council meeting.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Building & Zoning: Bracewell reported that construction will soon begin on Oak Street where a foundation was left standing after a home was demolished.

Parks & Beaches: Giglio reported that the erosion is getting worse from all of the winds since the last meeting.

Streets & Water: Leonard told the Council that he recently attended a meeting with many entities regarding an investigation being done by dogs to locate human waste or other waste flowing into the surface waters. The study was done regarding E.coli pollution from Stevensville all the way down to the state line.

It turns out there are several hot spots in Grand Beach with one where White Creek comes under U.S. Highway 12 and reaches Grand Beach and both dogs being used alerted to E. coli at that location. Both dogs alerted them of another hot spot located where White Creek comes from Michiana and joins Grand Beach at Crescent Road. LaPorte County said they will work with Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) on addressing the issue in Indiana near Michiana.

The State of Michigan has jurisdiction over White Creek because it is considered a state waterway, and they will mandate that the problems be taken care of at our cost. White Creek is on the list of the most polluted waterways in Michigan. Grand Beach and New Buffalo Township will be looking into where the problem is coming from and take care of it. Leonard said there is a high concentration of E. coli where White Creek empties out in to Lake Michigan.

He said that all of the homes in the Village have septic systems with the exception of the homes on Putters Lane which are hooked up to the Galien River Sanitary Sewer System. There is a lift station for the sewer system which could possibly have a leak, allowing it to flow into the creek. Leonard said we will probably end up having die tests done in Grand Beach and on the other side of US Highway 12 to find out where the problem is coming from.

Police: Lindley stated that our officers are highly trained, and go through training throughout the year. With this day and age, our officers all have body cameras and record, and footage can be reviewed if needed.

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Pro-Shop and Course: O'Halloran had nothing to report.

ServiScape: Clay Putnam said winter equipment maintenance is almost complete. He toured the golf course with Bob Dabbs to identify trees that need to be trimmed or removed.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

Superintendent: In addition to his written report, Bob Dabbs told the Council that they will start replacing trees that were removed due to disease along Grand Beach Road.

Police Chief: Chief Dan Schroeder had nothing in addition to his written report.

Building Inspector: Bill Lambert said there are no issues with building projects. He will meet with the contractors on Oak Street prior to them building to go over the foundation to make sure there are no issues that could come up later with the foundation.

PAY BILLS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REQUEST USE OF ROYAL AVENUE BEACH EASEMENT FOR REVETMENT WORK

Leonard said that Arie Donkersloot was at last month's meeting to discuss the revetment work that is going to be done on the Denny property. Donkersloot asked the Village to grant a waiver to allow them to continue to work past Memorial Day if needed because they did not have their permits as of last month's meeting.

Donkersloot was in attendance and said that he has been in contact with the engineer, and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is backlogged with permits and they have not given any indication of when the permit will be issued. The Army Corps of Engineers permit is ready. He said if the weather holds out, the project is probably a five week process. They will need to offload material at the beach easement and take it down to the Denny site. The area where they dump the material will be grated and cleaned up quickly for safety reasons. He said that they will not accept any material after noon on Fridays and will not accept any material on the weekends.

They will use the large armor stone and reinforce the existing lot with armor stone. Both walls, including the neighboring property will need to be repaired. They will probably bring in 5-8 truckloads of rock a day and will stock pile it in the water in front of the site to help protect their equipment. The rock will probably be on site within the first 10 days. The mattress stone is brought in later as they use it. They have 3-4 weeks before they wrap up the project that they are currently working on, and if they have the permit, they will be able to start work on the Denny's property.

Several members of the audience talked to the council about the trucks coming in to the Village during the summer months, the danger involved and the possibility of not having a beach to use. Leonard said they are trying to accommodate people that want to use the beach, but the Village has to be sensitive to the landowners who are having problems with their seawalls. The council has decided that they have to protect the homeowners. He said this summer may be difficult for some people, but once the revetment is finished,

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he hopes that it won't have to be repaired again. The council recognizes the difficult situation and that is why they asked Donkersloot to come back to tell them if permits have been issued yet. Leonard also stated that there is revetment work being done on four lots in the other section of the Village, and if the work continues past Memorial Day, it has to be done.

Donkersloot said that the Dennys have the potential of losing the retaining walls behind the wall, part of their property and their home, and they have stressed that to the DEQ but still have not received the permit.

Bracewell said he dealt with the trucks last summer going up to Holiday Hills as they did work on seven homes, but it had to be done to protect the properties. He said we are trying to help our neighbors save their homes. He thinks the homeowners who pay the taxes here should be supported. He asked residents to support their neighbors and to support the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

TASER INTERNATIONAL 5-YEAR CONTRACT – EVIDENCE.COM FOR BODY CAMERAS

Chief Schroeder explained that the Village purchased body cameras last year and they upload the videos to a service called evidence.com. He said last year we purchased a partial year from evidence.com because we bought the cameras mid-year. Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to approve the 5-year contract with evidence.com at a cost of \$978 per year. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PROCEDURES FOR USE OF WEAPONS AND RESTRAINTS

Chief Schroeder told the Council that this is a policy that we've had for years, but it has been updated for electronic control devices (Tasers). Lindley thinks the procedure lays it all out for the officers and the public. Schroeder said the department will have training on the use of Tasers on March 21st to learn when to use them and when not to use them, etc. Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to approve the Village of Grand Beach "procedures for use of weapons and restraints" as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

VILLAGE HALL WI-FI AND FIREWALL

Chief Schroeder told the Council that we get a lot of complaints from residents because there is not Wi-Fi in the building and they want to tap into the Clerk's Wi-Fi, but we are not going to let them because it contains all of the Village's records. A new router can be installed with a wire running upstairs and an access point upstairs. Schroeder said that Kevin Kramp with Double K Enterprises will have to do the programming at a cost of \$100 per hour with the job estimated to take six to seven hours. Leonard asked Schroeder to shop around to find a less expensive person for the job.

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Leonard to purchase TZ300 wireless equipment and to hire someone to install a wireless network upstairs and a firewall for the clerk's office at a maximum cost of \$2,000. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. Audience member and Village homeowner Norm Cherrett offered to pay for the labor for the wireless hook-up.

PROPERTY, LIABILITY AND AUTO INSURANCE RENEWAL

Leonard said the insurance bill has increased by 2.8% over last year at a cost of \$26,394, and the Village will receive a dividend check back this year in the amount of \$2,794. Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve the insurance renewal invoice. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

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LAKE MICHIGAN TRIBUTARIES PROJECT – POINT OF SALE ORDINANCE

Leonard spoke about a fund that the DEQ has that will pay up to 50% of the cost of remediating a failed system, whether septic, sewer, individual owner or a community. In order for the property owner to be eligible for the funding, the municipality must have a point of sale ordinance in place. A point of sale ordinance says that if you are selling your house, you have to obtain a certification before the closing that shows your septic system or sanitation system is working properly. He will recommend approval by the council once the Village receives a copy of the draft ordinance.

ORDINANCE – TO REGULATE USE OF PIERS, DOCKS, PILINGS, BREAKWATERS AND RELATED STRUCTURES

Leonard read the ordinance. Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to adopt an ordinance to regulate the use of piers, docks, pilings, breakwaters and related structures as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

ORDINANCE – REGULATE THE LICENSING, KEEPING, AND OWNER’S CONTROL OVER DOGS AND CATS IN THE VILLAGE

Leonard read the ordinance. Lindley felt the ordinance should not limit the number of dogs that people are allowed to keep. Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to adopt an ordinance to regulate the licensing, keeping, and owner’s control over dogs and cats in the Village as presented. Motion carried 4-1 with Bracewell, Giglio, Leonard and O’Halloran voting aye and Lindley voting nay.

ORDINANCE – TO AMEND ORDINANCE 63 TO MODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS CONCERNING PARKING OF GOLF CARTS IN THE VILLAGE

Leonard read the ordinance. Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve an ordinance to amend ordinance 63 to modify certain provisions concerning parking of golf carts in the Village as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZE USE OF GOLF CARTS ON VILLAGE STREETS PURSUANT TO MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE

Leonard read the resolution. Leonard moved, seconded by O’Halloran to approve a resolution to authorize the limited use of golf carts on Village streets pursuant to the Michigan Vehicle Code with an amendment to item 4) to say that “golf carts may not be operated from 1/2 hour before sunset to 1/2 hour after sunrise *on the golf course*”. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

GOLF CART PARKING STICKER FEES

O’Halloran said fees for the golf cart parking will remain the same. Lindley moved, seconded by O’Halloran to approve the resident golf cart form and fees as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Clerk Mary Robertson told the Council that non-resident golf cart stickers were different from the resident stickers last year. The Council instructed her to use the same stickers this year for everyone, allowing them to park in the Village and at the beach. Leonard moved, seconded by Lindley to approve the golf cart parking fee form for non-residents. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT PURCHASE- 4 JACOBSEN GREEN/TEE MOWERS, JACOBSEN FAIRWAY MOWER AND TORRENT 2 MAGNA POINT BLOWER

O’Halloran said the golf course has not purchased new equipment in quite some time. Clay Putnam of ServiScape said the fairway mower they currently use has over 7,200 hours on it which is the equivalent of over 540,000 miles.

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The green/tee mowers being used are so outdated that he can't buy parts for them. The mowers he proposes purchasing are used, but have relatively low hours on them. The Magna point blower will be new. The equipment purchase is a budgeted item.

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Bracewell to purchase four green/tee mowers, a fairway mower and a point blower at a cost not to exceed \$40,500 as per the equipment purchase request submitted by ServiScape. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PICNIC TABLES IN FRONT OF PRO SHOP

Leonard said since the golf carts are going to be parked away from the pro shop, O'Halloran has suggested putting picnic tables in front of the pro shop. O'Halloran said he has reached out to families that have been in the Village for a long time and asked if they would like to donate the money to purchase the tables. The Village won't purchase the tables until we have the money in hand. They are all post concrete tables that are all one piece, very heavy and will last a long time. O'Halloran moved, seconded by Bracewell to purchase three cement picnic tables from The Park and Facilities catalog at a cost of \$3897.72 to be paid for with donations from Village residents. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

ENGRAVED COBBLESTONE DONATIONS

O'Halloran told the Council that we have unfortunately had a lot of people that have passed away and he thinks there are families that would like to memorialize their family members, and the three picnic tables are the start of that. They will place a plaque on each table memorializing the person that the table was donated for.

He thought it would be nice to start a program similar to what was done at the New Buffalo Library by The Friends of the Library where people purchased bricks in honor or in memory of a loved one. He said there are four squares of concrete in front of the clubhouse that can be removed and replaced with engraved bricks. He said it will be nice for people to walk in the pro shop and look down and see names of people they have known all of their lives, and the families that were the backbone of Grand Beach. He would like to hire the company that the library hired and have them do all of the work.

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran for approval of the creation of a memorial brick walkway in front of the pro shop subject to financing through donations with funds going to the renovation of the pro shop. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

WOODEN WALL FOR GOLF CART ELECTRIC CHARGERS

O'Halloran said that when the electric was installed for the new golf cart parking area, there were plans to install a wooden wall that would hold and protect the battery charger, but that has not been completed. Clerk Robertson told the Council that the funding for the wall was not budgeted, so they would have to find funding for the materials. The subject will be discussed at the April meeting.

WALKWAY ALONG ROYAL AVENUE

Leonard said we have discussed for some time now the danger of people walking along Royal Avenue from the arch in to and out of the Village. We have talked about using ACT 51 funds to lay down a walkway on the other side of the posts for the enjoyment of our walkers and kids. Bob Dabbs will get bids to see what the cost will be to install the base and the asphalt walkway.

LONG TERM PLAN FOR GOLF COURSE

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O'Halloran said as commissioner of golf, he wants to make sure that whoever the commissioner of golf is in the future will have a clear path of where we are going to go with the golf course. Clay Putnam said the purpose of a strategic plan (master plan) provides a road map and continuity for the next 15-20 years.

The person that would prepare the plan is a golf course architect. The primary benefit is that it allows the committee now and the committee 15 years from now to follow the same plan. It brings in an architect who has an eye for golf course architecture and he can go around the golf course and make recommendations of where we can make changes. The master plan would include an architectural design, infrastructure and it lays out a road map of when we can complete these things. Completion is 100% predicated on "want to" and "ability to pay for it". The architect would include pricing for each project on the drawings so we would have an idea of what the cost would be, what we are going to get out of it, and what the cost would be 20 years from now. If the council is interested, the next step is to solicit proposals.

Putnam and O'Halloran also looked into a feasibility study for the pro shop. This would be done by a different entity and they would do a study of golf courses in a geographical area and tell us if our rates are in line, what they could be, and what our return on investment would be if we chose to invest a certain amount of money.

There was discussion about replacing the irrigation system on the golf course. At the February meeting it was stated that the maintenance department would be able to replace the irrigation system by doing a couple of fairways each year in the off season. Before anything is done, O'Halloran wants to make sure that we have a good plan, and know where everything is because we are going to do this once. Putnam's recommendation is that we don't do a thing until we get a plan.

HALL RENTAL REQUESTS

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve hall rental requests for Alicia Lee – February 13, 2017 (after the use), Frank Giglio – April 29, 2017 (date change), Don Butler – June 3, 2017, and Sherri Waddle – June 24, 2017. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m. EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer