

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 19, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Council president Paul Leonard Jr. called the regular council meeting to order at 7:35 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 Bracewell to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

APPROVE MINUTES

Bracewell moved, seconded by Giglio to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of June 21, 2017 and Special Meeting - Resignation of June 27, 2017. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

STACEY LAROCCO CHIKAMING OPEN LANDS – HIKER'S EVENT

Stacey Larocco of Chikaming Open Lands presented the council with a parking plan for the Harbor Country Hikers event to be held at the Grand Beach Marsh on July 29 at 10:00 a.m. Ellen Frankle generously offered parking for their guests and hikers on private property along Grand Beach Road. They plan to lead a hike through the coastal plain marsh and normally see 10-15 people at their hikes. Leonard thanked Frankle for making their lots available for parking so there wouldn't be any issues along Deer Park and Robin Lane.

MARJORIE ROYCE – 18 YEARS OF SERVICE

Leonard stated that long time employee Marjorie Royce has resigned after 18 years of service to the Village. He showed a plaque of appreciation that will be given to her for her years of service to the Village and the residents.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Building & Zoning: Bracewell reported that through Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Bill Lambert's diligent efforts, they were able to get a property owner of a house under construction on Royal Avenue to put a more substantial fence around a pool. They have put up a better fence, cleaned up the property and have begun putting up the permanent fence. There are five new homes under construction.

O'Halloran thinks that the more permanent type of fences should be used around pools during construction. Lambert suggested a meeting with Planning Commission Chair Ray Kelley to discuss amending the zoning ordinance regarding pool fences during construction. He thinks the fence should go in before the pool. In the future he will require a fence to be put up before the pool goes in.

Parks & Beaches: Giglio reported that approval was given to Donkersloot to move to the Walnut beach access to complete the necessary work on the Denny property. They hope that they are finished in two weeks, but it depends on the weather and the wave action. If it's windy, they can't bring in the barge. Several people have asked him about extending the flowers and bushes all the way to the end of the white curb out at the highway where flowers were planted last year.

Streets & Water: Leonard said that a couple of weeks ago he got a call from Arie Donkersloot who had been given permission to use the Royal Avenue beach access to dump and move sand and large rocks for a project for the Dennys. Donkersloot was concerned with using the Royal access because there were so many people using the beach. He asked to use the Walnut beach access instead. Giglio as Beach

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Commissioner and Leonard as Street Commissioner agreed that they could use the Walnut access for the project.

Leonard went down to look at the Walnut access before the meeting. He said the owners on both sides of the access are frustrated that they are back at the Walnut beach access again.

Homeowner Jim Walsh said that they put a fence down on beach, and now they can't access the beach and that is unacceptable. He said the ramp to the beach is very dangerous and could be a liability to the Village. Leonard said that something is going to be done with the ramp when the work is complete.

Leonard told the audience that the Village is required to provide information to the public about the water quality in the Village as part of our stormwater management program. He encouraged everyone to look at the water quality display and take literature with them.

Leonard said in regards to the E. coli in White Creek, he has filed complaints with the United States EPA Region 5 in Chicago and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) in Indianapolis. The United States EPA told him to talk to IDEM, and IDEM said that it is up to the LaPorte County Board of Health. He received an email from Michelle Heit of New Buffalo Township stating that the LaPorte County Health Department has been testing and are narrowing things down to find out what the cause of the E. coli is. Grand Beach Tire was not hooked up to the sewer system which could have been a problem, but they intend to do so in the future. He hopes there will be a meeting in August and they can put a plan in place to address the problem. In the meantime, the water is still dirty, so stay out of the creek.

Police: Lindley said it has been a busy month for the police. She reminded everyone to lock their cars.

Pro Shop & Golf Course: O'Halloran reported that June was a really good month. We had 1,246 rounds played in June 2015, 1,336 in June 2016 and 1,360 this June. He thanked Norm and Alicia Cherrett for the nice family movie night that was held on Friday night. The family movie night will take place every Friday night in front of the Village Hall. There were approximately 50 kids and 50 parents at the event. O'Halloran said it's nice to see someone giving back to the community.

He said the brick program where you can honor your family or friends is taking place and the deadline to order bricks has been extended to August 15. All of the money from the sale of bricks will be used for improvements to the pro shop. The bricks will probably be installed in spring.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam reported that routine maintenance is occurring on the golf course and equipment. They have done minor pruning to a few trees to keep branches from hitting carts as they drive down cart paths and have removed a large dead limb on the right side of #9 and repaired irrigation leaks. He said there has been vandalism on the golf course and O'Halloran said the police department will be watching the golf course more closely with the use of their ATV. Lindley reminded everyone to contact the police if you see someone causing damage to the golf course.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

Superintendent: In addition to his written report, Bob Dabbs said that they will be painting lines on the streets.

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

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Building Inspector: Bill Lambert told the council that Chief Schroeder was a big help in getting the owner of the new house across from the tennis courts to comply with Village requirements.

PAY BILLS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RECYCLING

Leonard said that the Village will lose recycling service with Lakeshore Recycling after Labor Day because New Buffalo Township decided not to renew their contract. Lakeshore did agree to continue picking up recycling throughout the summer and the Township is paying for it, but because Grand Beach is the only place they are servicing, they had to change the pickup schedule to every other Thursday.

We received a proposal from Republic Services (Able Disposal) and they will add recycling to the rate schedule and it will cost the Village just 17 cents per customer to bundle it with the trash. We will continue to use the same recycle bins that we have that were purchased by The Pokagon Fund. Able Disposal has given us great service and they will pick up recycling every Monday from July 1 through Labor Day.

Lakeshore Recycling submitted a bid of \$2.85 per home for the first year and \$2.90 for the second year.

Leonard moved, seconded by Lindley to approve the proposal from Able Disposal to bundle the trash and recycling contract through August 31, 2022 as presented and to continue to use The Pokagon Fund recycle carts. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER

Leonard said that with Marjorie Royce's resignation, the clerk needs to find a replacement deputy clerk. Clerk-Treasurer Mary Robertson has circulated a job description to the council for the deputy clerk. There was discussion regarding the number of years of experience required. Leonard said that finding a replacement has to do with skill sets, and if someone can come in and do everything that Mary Robertson does, the number of years of experience does not matter to him.

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to offer salary based upon qualifications and would like to start at \$15 an hour and hold bank any benefits for the part-time position which will be up to 28 hours a week. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

WATER BOND PAY-OFF

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to pay off a water bond early that is set to mature in October 2019 in the amount of \$134,334 plus interest from the General Fund. The bond will be paid off in September 2017. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

RESOLUTION – HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT

Leonard spoke about the loss of beach from New Buffalo to Grand Beach and the efforts of New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance. He said that Congressman Upton's office informed them that FEMA has announced a \$250,000,000 grant and said that they need to get a grant request in so that we can get some of the money for

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beach nourishment. The plan is that New Buffalo Township will put together a grant proposal to submit to FEMA. Grand Beach, Michiana, New Buffalo City and Township were asked to adopt a resolution to cooperate and apply for a grant from FEMA to help pay for nourishment to the beaches.

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to adopt a resolution as amended regarding Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant with a change from *has reduced the natural buffer between Lake Michigan and "several properties"* to say *"numerous properties"*. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Roll Call Vote:

O'Halloran – aye

Lindley – aye

Leonard – aye

Giglio – aye

Bracewell – aye

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

2016 MERS ANNUAL ACTUARIAL VALUATION

Leonard said some of the assumptions with the MERS pension plan are changing and we can either phase in or pay the additional cost all at once. We have budgeted 6.5% for the MERS contribution for the next budget year.

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to contribute 6% to MERS effective November 1, 2017. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

HALL RENTAL REQUESTS

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Leonard to approve hall rental requests for Anne Durkin on July 15, 2017 (after the fact), Surprise Party on July 29, 2017, Frank Dolan on May 12, 2018 and Judie Deaner on May 19, 2018. Motion approved unanimously 5-0.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

CORRESPONDENCE

ANN SEBASTIAN – PICKLEBALL CLINIC REQUEST

Ann Sebastian requested the use of the tennis and basketball courts on the morning of July 29th to hold a pickleball clinic for anyone who is interested in the game. She asked if the company holding the clinic could sell their equipment at the clinic.

Leonard moved, seconded by Giglio that subject to the vendor filling out appropriate paperwork and paying the fee, the vendor can sell their equipment during the pickleball clinic on July 29, 2017. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

ARMY CORPS – NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Leonard said that the Army Corps of Engineers will hold a public meeting at the New Buffalo Library on July 27, 2017 to discuss coastal erosion. The meeting is by reservation only, and is already full. They are planning on holding another meeting since this one is full.

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PATRICK BLACKBURN – GYSPY MOTHS

Leonard was contacted by Patrick Blackburn about a problem with gypsy moths. Leonard and Blackburn contacted the DNR Forestry Division and were told that this is a cyclical thing and the moths won't kill the trees. If we get a harsh winter it will kill the moths, and then they might start over again. They suggested that if you are concerned with the moths, you should put fertilizer spikes around the trees and water them weekly. They do not suggest spraying.

Giglio said that several people asked about keeping Lake View as a one way street year around. He said the council will vote on the idea next month.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

Homeowners Kieran McHugh and Vicky McHugh talked to council about the barricade and the closing of the beach at Walnut by Donkersloot & Sons in the middle of summer. They said this is the third summer of work near their home which they claim has been damaged due to the dumping of the large rocks.

Leonard said their concerns are legitimate, and they are going to have a conversation with Donkersloot. He doesn't think the project can be delayed.

Homeowner Ed Trainor said he thinks the work should be pushed back past summer and the Village should require logistics and a safety plan before they begin.

Homeowner Bruce Nelson suggested they don't put another rock down there until they submit a \$200,000 construction bond.

ADJOURNMENT

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

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer