

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
RESCHEDULED REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 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, Frank Giglio, and Blake O'Halloran. Deborah Lindley was not in attendance.

ADOPT AGENDA

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Giglio to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

APPROVE MINUTES

Giglio moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve the minutes of the Rescheduled Regular Council Meeting of October 24, 2017. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

MARCY HAMILTON, SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION RE: MARQUETTE GREENWAY AND FUNDING REQUEST FOR SURVEY

Marcy Hamilton spoke about the 58-mile Marquette Greenway bicycle trail that is planned and partially built that will run from Chicago to New Buffalo. She said that the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) applied for a grant through the federal government and if they receive the grant, the funds will help fund the unbuilt sections of the trail including the section from the state line to New Buffalo. She said there will be matching funds required, so the SWMPC will be applying for a Michigan DNR grant and another state grant on behalf of the local communities.

Leonard spoke about the difficulties in crossing the intersection at Grand Beach Road and the railroad tracks on a bicycle. Bracewell asked about the safety at the intersection and why they were not considering putting the trail on other side of tracks. Hamilton said they are not sure where the trail will be placed, but they will make sure it is safe for the cyclists or they will use another option.

In order to engineer the trail they need a property survey along Grand Beach Road and into New Buffalo at a cost \$14,050 which will be done by Abonmarche. The Friends of Harbor Country (fundraising group) is going to cover \$6,750 of the cost and SWMPC will ask for \$2,800 from the city, \$2,800 from the township and \$1,200 from Grand Beach. The survey along Grand Beach Road will belong to the Village, and will show where the right-of-ways are along Grand Beach Road and will be helpful to the Village for future needs.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Giglio moved, seconded by Bracewell to nominate Leonard as Council President and O'Halloran as Council President Pro Tem. With no other nominations, Leonard was named president and O'Halloran Pro Tem. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to make the following appointments:

James Bracewell - Building & Zoning Commissioner

Frank Giglio - Parks Commissioner and Beach Commissioner

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Paul Leonard - Street Commissioner and Water Commissioner
Debbie Lindley - Police Commissioner
Blake O'Halloran - Golf and Pro Shop Commissioner
Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to reappoint Mary Robertson as Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam told the Council that normal routine maintenance and leaf pick up is ongoing. The irrigation system will be winterized soon.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: Superintendent Bob Dabbs had nothing to add to his written report.

POLICE CHIEF: In addition to his written report, Police Chief Dan Schroeder told the Council that last Wednesday they held a meeting in Michiana with him, Michiana Chief Layman, Michiana's Police Commissioner Bruesch and all full-time officers. They introduced the new schedule and had a question and answer session and they are all on board with the new schedule beginning March 1. Until then, they will cover for each other. Bracewell said that Police Commissioner Lindley did a terrific job in handling the meetings, making progress and achieving what the Council wanted by saving money, maintaining coverage and keeping our own identity. He said Lindley, Chief Schroeder and Michiana officials all did a great job.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Building Inspector Bill Lambert said there have been 25 permits issued to date in 2017 and there are currently four houses under construction.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Bracewell moved, seconded by Leonard to approve the payment of the bills with the written additions as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TRANSFER FUNDS TO CAPITAL PROJECTS PER 2016/2017 BUDGET

Leonard said the Council asked him to make the decision on how much money to transfer to the Capital Projects Fund for the 2016/2017 budget year at the last meeting and he decided to transfer \$35,000 with the allocation as follows: \$3,000 for street sign replacement, \$13,000 for police car, \$3,000 for backhoe, \$4,000 for pick-up truck, \$6,000 for plow truck, \$5,000 for park drain, \$800 for leaf unit liner and \$200 for golf course irrigation. Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve the allocation. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF RICK MILLER TO DO AN APPRAISAL OF THE 42 ACRES FOR THE VILLAGE

Leonard explained that he spoke with Rick Miller regarding an appraisal and Miller told him he is not certified by the DNR which is a requirement when applying for a grant, and he is not interested in taking the class for

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the certification at this point in his career. Leonard then spoke with Ernest Demba who was recommended by the group that is considering forming an LLC to purchase the property. They talked about his credentials and he is not certified at the present time with the current Yellow Book certification and intends to take the class, but doesn't know when he'll be able to fit it into his schedule due to prior commitments and will get back to Leonard to let him know if the timeline works out for him to take the class.

They also talked about the Village using an appraiser that the LLC will use a year later and was told that as long as it is very clear that one appraisal is for the fair market value for the Village and the other is an investment appraisal it will not be a problem. He said there are risks involved which means that the investors of the LLC might not realize any gain in value and they might not recoup their money without selling the property to a third party.

Leonard contacted Ryan Postema of Chikaming Open Lands and got a list of appraisers that are certified by the DNR with those that do work in this area highlighted. He will contact three of the appraisers to find out what their availability and cost is so that he has them available if Demba calls and says the timeline doesn't work for the certification.

NEW BUSINESS

BEACH ACCESS REVETMENT REPAIR COSTS

Leonard said he received two invoices for approximately \$50,000 for the cost of revetment work for Ely and Pine and Clerk-Treasurer Mary Robertson gave them information regarding the Oak access that will cost approximately \$75,000. He said the Council wants to help the property owners to protect their property and the bluff. He said there are people at Lake Avenue that are going to be putting in rock and there is a property in the Eiffel Towers that has a seawall that is lying over and that property is next to Village owned property.

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell that the council recognizes the responsibility to protect its property and will pay up to \$50,000 to protect property in front of the beach accesses with \$12,500 to Pine, \$12,500 to Ely and \$25,000 to Oak pursuant to permits issued by DEQ. The invoices for the access points can be billed to the Village with the homeowners paying the remainder of the costs for the accesses by donating the funds to the Village. Once the Village has received the donated funds from homeowners to cover the remaining costs for the access repairs, the Village will pay the contractor and the homeowner will receive a tax write off for making a donation to the Village. (Homeowners should talk to their tax advisor). Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

O'Halloran said he believes this is the most equitable solution and should not set a precedent; the accesses will have to be discussed on a case by case issue.

RESOLUTION TO OPT OUT OF PA 152 OF 2011

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to adopt a resolution to opt out of PA 152 of 2011 regarding caps on employee health insurance premiums. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Leonard said that he and Mary Robertson have been exchanging emails regarding the employee portion of the premiums. At the last Council meeting the council said that the increase of 8.4% in premiums would be split

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between the Village and the employees. He said that he understands that the employees will pay 5% of last year's premium and half of the increase on each individual's premium. The Council was in agreement and Robertson thanked them for the clarification.

2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

Leonard said meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of every month except November in 2018 when the meeting will be held on the second Wednesday due to Thanksgiving.

DRYWELL – MAPLE & HOLIDAY HILLS

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve an expenditure of up to \$1,000 to purchase a drywall to be installed by the Village at Maple and Holiday Hills. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

KOSTYO DONATION OF SECURITY DEPOSIT REFUND

Leonard told the Council that the Kostyos who own a home in Grand Beach donated their \$100 security deposit back to the Village after their daughter's wedding that was held in the hall. Leonard said the council deeply appreciates the Kostyo's generous donation to the Village. Mary Robertson said that New Buffalo City and New Buffalo Township give the renter the option of donating the security deposit, and the Council agreed to add it to the rental agreement as an option.

HALL RENTAL REQUEST- ED & ANGELA TRAINOR – DATE CHANGE FROM SEPTEMBER 22, 2018 TO SEPTEMBER 29, 2018

Leonard moved to approve the hall rental date change for Ed and Angela Trainor from September 22, 2018 to September 29, 2018. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

None

CORRESPONDENCE

ANGELA TRAINOR – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Leonard said the Council received correspondence regarding the police department from Angela Trainor.

They also received a letter from Michael Stokes regarding the possible LLC being formed, a string of emails from Jim Fox regarding the Oak access and an email from Doug Blauw reminding the council that they need a decision regarding the Village's contribution to the beach access work.

ADJOURNMENT

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m. EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer