

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 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, Deborah Lindley and Blake O'Halloran.

ADOPT AGENDA

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to amend the agenda to add *County Commissioner Ezra Scott* under *Presentations/Recognition* and to approve the December 20, 2017 agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

APPROVE MINUTES

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

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

County Commissioner Ezra Scott discussed his recent trip to Washington DC to discuss the loss of beaches south of New Buffalo since the breakwater was put in. He will return to Washington DC on January 8th through 12th with New Buffalo Mayor Lou O'Donnell, Township Supervisor Michelle Heit, Ed Oldis and Ted Grzywacz of New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance and an engineer from Edgewater to meet with the Army Corps.

COMMISSION REPORTS

BUILDING & ZONING: Bracewell said all permits are listed on Bill Lambert's report. He stated that O'Halloran had concerns with tree removal and said some trees are removed once a building permit has been issued. Building Inspector Bill Lambert said that you have to look at tree removal on a case by case basis because some of the lots are small and the trees need to be removed in order to build on the lot. He said some trees are not healthy and homeowners don't want unhealthy trees hanging over their houses.

PARKS & BEACHES: Giglio said most of the rocks have been put in along the lake front, but they are still working on the Oak access. There will probably be work done at a property at the Cedar access because of damage caused during storms this past week.

STREETS & WATER: Leonard said leaf pick-up has been ongoing. He said there is a lot located on SkyHi that has not yet been sold and the buyer wants to use part of SkyHi as his driveway and wants to put a retaining wall on part of the road. Attorneys are working on a licensing agreement to allow him to use the road as his driveway. There was discussion regarding the buyer including language in the agreement that the Village will install a French drain. Leonard said the Village will not install the French drain. Bob Dabbs said the buyer's concern is that water might come gushing out of a pipe onto his property if the water tower or golf course irrigation tank overflows. Dabbs will install something similar to a drywell to handle the water if it does overflow due to an altitude valve problem or a stuck float.

Leonard said he participated in a meeting regarding the Marquette Greenway bicycle trail with New Buffalo Township Supervisor, Clerk and Marcy Hamilton of Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. They want to run the bike path from the state line to Mechanic Street in New Buffalo. They discussed where the path should be located, and safety concerns at the entrance to Grand Beach at Highway 12 and the intersection at Grand Beach Road. Leonard let them know that this is dangerous and the engineers need to be careful on how they plan this. They discussed funding and grants that are available and feel that they have a good

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 20, 2017

chance of getting a grant from the State of Michigan for a percentage of the project. There was a give-back dinner held in New Buffalo that raised \$9,000 showing that there is much interest in the bike trail.

POLICE: Lindley welcomed New Buffalo Township Fire Chief Ed Lijewski and said that Grand Beach has three officers that are cross trained as fire fighters. Sergeant Jamie Flick will replace Lijewski as Fire Chief when he retires. Lijewski said it is very valuable to the Village and the Fire Department to have people from Grand Beach serve on the Fire Department because it is very difficult to find addresses in Grand Beach. He said it is nice to have someone that is familiar with the roads and knows where the hydrants are located. He said they have a great fire department with 20 fire fighters. Lindley congratulated Flick on his new position.

PRO-SHOP & COURSE: O'Halloran said this was a good year for the golf course and we have to start putting funds away for a new irrigation system. He discussed the bricks that can be purchased to be placed in front of the pro shop entrance and said he wants them to be in place by Memorial Day.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam told the Council that the golf course maintenance has come to an end for the year and they are focusing on equipment maintenance. They trimmed eight or nine trees on the golf course in October and will trim another eight or nine trees in January.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: In addition to his written report, Superintendent Bob Dabbs said they should have the Village leaves cleaned up in time for the holidays, and then they will install the drywell at Maple and Holiday Hills. He said with all of the storms lately, he continues to watch the pump house for the golf course irrigation and it is not doing too well. He is worried about the jetties and the bluff. Lindley is concerned with the leaves that people put out on the roads and said we need to start thinking about how to stop people from putting them on the roads.

POLICE CHIEF: Police Chief Dan Schroeder had nothing to add to his written report.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Building Inspector Bill Lambert had nothing to add to his written report.

BILLS TO BE PAID

O'Halloran 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

END OF YEAR SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Leonard to approve the end of year salary adjustments as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

OUTSIDE LIGHTING BID – VILLAGE HALL

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Lindley to approve the bid for outside lighting at the pro shop and Village Hall from Current Electric at a cost of \$3,380. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. A bid was also received from New Buffalo Electric in the amount of \$5,450.

DISTRIBUTION OF DONATIONS FOR REVETMENT WORK AT PINE, ELY & OAK

Leonard said that at the last meeting the Council appropriated \$50,000 for revetment work at the Pine, Ely and Oak beach accesses and then Village homeowner Hugh Wade set up a GoFundMe account that raised \$48,000 for the revetment work with a net after fees of \$46,035.

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to allocate the GoFundMe donations with 50% used for Oak, 25% for Ely and 25% for Pine access. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. O'Halloran said this was a great way for the Village to come together with a GoFundMe account created by residents to make it less of a burden for the people next to the beach accesses. On behalf of the Council, Leonard thanked Hugh Wade for putting together the fundraiser and Chief Dan Schroeder for getting the emails out to help get things going quickly to protect the bluff.

REQUEST FROM SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TO SURVEY FOR MARQUETTE GREENWAY

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to contribute \$1,200 to SWMPC for the survey work for the Marquette Greenway. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. Leonard said the Village will have the survey to use in the future if needed.

SQUAD CAR BIDS

Lindley moved, seconded by O'Halloran to accept a bid for from Three Oaks Ford for a 2018 squad car with equipment transfer to be done by Tele-rad at a total cost not to exceed \$28,000 after trade-in. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Additional bids including equipment transfer were received from Lakeshore Ford at \$29,662 after trade-in and Sieman Ford \$28,048 after trade-in.

COMPENSATION/STIPENDS RE: HEALTH INSURANCE CO-PAYS AND PRESCRIPTION CO-PAYS FOR EMPLOYEES AND SPOUSES WITH MEDICARE AND SPOUSES OF EMPLOYEES WITH MEDICARE

COMPENSATION/STIPENDS RE: HEALTH INSURANCE CO-PAYS AND PRESCRIPTION CO-PAYS– KEELER AND SCHROEDER

Lindley has had discussions with the insurance agent and said legally once a person is eligible for Medicare, you are not allowed to put funds into an HSA for the employee or their spouse. She is not sure what the reasoning is for that and said that it is mandated by the government. The only way to get around this is to give a stipend to the employee, although she's not sure why we are doing that. She said the Village needs to have a set policy so that we don't have to decide what to do every year. As far as treating everyone equally by paying into an HSA for other spouses, the Village pays into the HSA for spouse's deductibles when the employee is not on Medicare. Leonard said he does not know how the new tax law that was just put into effect will affect HSA's. He wants to talk to CPA's to see what this does for an HSA and what can be done

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 20, 2017

when an employee transitions from regular health insurance to Medicare. O'Halloran said he thinks the Village should parallel with what the government says, and once an employee meets Medicare age and the government doesn't allow you to put into an HSA, then the Village shouldn't do that either. Leonard said in many businesses, once you get on Medicare, the employer no longer provides insurance. Bracewell said many employers will then fund the Medigap coverage.

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to pay a stipend of \$2,050 to Dan Schroeder and this will be the last time it is paid until we find some other route that is consistent with our budget constraints. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT ORDINANCE

Council members received a copy of the Michiana tree ordinance and O'Halloran said that the ordinance regarding tree removal is a little strict. Lambert said that they have had major disagreements about tree removal in Michiana. O'Halloran said his main concern is that if you take 10 trees away, you should plant trees to replace them. Leonard asked everyone to go through the ordinance over the next month and pick out the things that they like about the ordinance so that the Council can try to create its own ordinance. O'Halloran would like to put language in the ordinance that says if the Village sees an unhealthy tree, we have the right to contact an arborist to evaluate the tree and the expense will be on the homeowner.

2017 PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Leonard said the Council received the Planning Commission's annual report for 2017. Bracewell said the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on January 10th to deal with zoning on lots on Station Road.

HALL RENTAL REQUEST- LION'S CLUB (FRANK GIGLIO) – FEBRUARY 3, 2018

Bracewell moved, seconded by Leonard to approve a hall rental request for the Lion's Club on February 3, 2018. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Leonard said that James Ready passed away in November and he responded with a letter of sympathy and the family sent a very gracious note of appreciation.

The Council acknowledged and thanked the staff for their gift baskets and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

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

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer