

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 21, 2018**

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 Giglio to adopt the March 21, 2018 agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

APPROVE MINUTES

Giglio moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 21, 2018 as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

2016/2017 AUDIT

Brian Hake of Kruggel, Lawton & Company LLC presented the Village's audit report for fiscal year 2016/2017. Hake said that as in the past years, they have issued a clean opinion which is the highest level they can give. The General Fund ended with a fund balance of \$ 861,000 which is a decrease of about \$207,000 resulting from transfers out of the General Fund with one for the purpose of paying in full a \$135,000 bond in the Water Fund. The Fund Balance as stated in months of expenditures is now 13 months, down from 16 months last year. This is still a relatively healthy and reasonable fund balance.

The Water Fund generated a profit of \$184,000 which included the transfer from the General Fund of \$135,000. The actual profit is the difference between the two. The Golf Fund ended with a profit of \$17,000 which is consistent with last year.

Leonard thanked Hake for his work on the audit and recognized Clerk-Treasurer Mary Robertson for the hard work and excellent record keeping.

Leonard said he recently spoke with Janet Cocciarelli of The Pokagon Fund and was told that the Four Winds Casino has experienced a decrease in revenue of 15% with the opening of the new casino in South Bend which will affect the funds the Village receives from the LRSB and Pokagon Fund.

MARQUETTE GREENWAY UPDATE – MARCY HAMILTON

Marcy Hamilton of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission updated the Council on the proposed Marquette Greenway Bicycle Trail that will run from Chicago to downtown New Buffalo. Half of the trail has already been built or funded to the Indiana state line, and she is working on getting the 3.8 miles from the Indiana state line into down town New Buffalo. She said they normally like to put in a 10' wide paved path with 2' on each side for a total of 14'. She stated planning is going extremely well and community support has been amazing.

There were concerns from Council members regarding the location of the trail at Grand Beach Road and Deer Park, and Hamilton said she will find a way to cross over Grand Beach Road before getting to Deer Park. Council members asked why the trail doesn't run between US 12 and the railroad tracks and she said it is very difficult to obtain easements from Amtrak, although it might be doable. She said is not as

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 21, 2018

safe and pretty as riding along Grand Beach Road. She is also concerned with the entrance into Grand Beach off of Highway 12.

She said funding is going well and she will be applying for grants in April and May. They have a \$150,000 commitment from New Buffalo Township and \$37,500 commitment from New Buffalo City.

Carolyn Ramsey of the Marquette Greenway support group presented 332 letters of support to the Council which were collected in a little over a week. She talked about the safety issues of riding along US 12, and said that property values have been shown to increase when there is a bike path in the community.

Hamilton will continue to work with the council to find what is pleasing and the safest route. She said this will be an incredible resource for the community.

COMMISSION REPORTS

BUILDING & ZONING: Bracewell had nothing to report.

PARKS & BEACHES: Giglio reported that the waves have taken a toll on a lot of the properties along the lake and even on some of the rock that was recently put in.

STREETS & WATER: Leonard reported that we continue to fill potholes.

POLICE: Lindley reported that we are now sharing scheduling with Michiana and it is going well. She said if you need an officer, call the sheriff's dispatch number (866-630-7679) and they will get in touch with an officer. If it is an emergency, call 9-1-1.

PRO-SHOP & COURSE: O'Halloran said the course will open April 1 dependent on weather. He said the installation of the engraved bricks will begin during the first week of May.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam reported that they are prepping the golf course to open on April 1st. They received a second proposal for a diver to inspect the water intake and Peerless Midwest has started their study.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT & POLICE CHIEF: Superintendent Bob Dabbs and Police Chief Dan Schroeder had nothing additional to add to their written reports.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Bill Lambert reported that there have been permits issued for two new homes in Golfmore Estates and one on Station Road.

BILLS TO BE PAID

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CHARTER REVISION

Leonard said that at the last meeting the Council was given information regarding a Charter Revision to compensate Council members for their work. Bracewell said that for the last three years he has been trying to change the charter so that future Council members will be compensated for all of the time and hard work they put into serving the Village. He said the way the language is written, no one currently on the Council will benefit unless they lose an election and run again. He believes that people that serve on the Council should be compensated. The public will vote on the charter revision at an upcoming election.

BALLOT PROPOSAL LANGUAGE – PER MEETING COMPENSATION

Bracewell moved, seconded by Giglio to accept the language suggested by Attorney Sara Senica with the additional language regarding when compensation begins for Council members and striking the word “salary” and inserting the word “compensation”. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

REVTMENT/DRAINAGE WORK AT PUMP HOUSE

Leonard said that we will need to put revetment in to protect the pump house and the drain tile and to prevent any further erosion of that dune. Superintendent Bob Dabbs said the pump house is protected with jetties and steel, but neighbors have poured more cement around there and we are getting a lot of water behind the pump house because of that.

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to contact Abonmarche and set in motion the engineering design to protect our pump house and the drainage tile. Once there is a proposal, it can be approved at a subsequent meeting and authorization can be given to them to submit a permit application to the DEQ. Motion carried 5-0. Leonard and Dabbs think that it could cost the Village \$75,000.

REVTMENT WORK - LAKE PARK AND STRAUSS

Leonard said there is a 50’ Village access point with no rock protecting it near Lake Park and Strauss. It hasn’t been used in a long time. Water is getting behind the revetment at the Heakin house located next door and they have hired Abonmarche to prepare drawings for them and submit a permit application to the DEQ. The Heakins will have Donkersloot set the rock in the spring and Leonard believes that if the Village purchases the rock, they will pay to have it set like has been done previously along Lake View.

PROPOSAL TO INSPECT WATER INTAKE FOR GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION

O’Halloran said that there is a second proposal for a diver to inspect and take photos of the water intake although he is disappointed with the high cost. The Council has been talking about finding an alternate source of water so that the Village is prepared if something ever happens to the water intake. The Council will also get a report from Peerless Midwest to show where water might be available for a well on the golf course. The next step is to evaluate what it would cost to drill a well and hook up to the current system. This will be added to the April agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

ENGINEERING DESIGN & PERMITTING FOR REVTMENT WORK ON VILLAGE ACCESS & PUMP HOUSE PROTECTION

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

NAME 42 ACRE PARCEL FOR GRANT APPLICATION

Giglio said that at the recent Parks and Recreation Committee meeting there were a few names suggested for the 42 acre parcel for grant purposes and the name they came up with was the Grand Beach Nature Preserve. Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell that for grant application purposes, the name of the 42 acres will be the Grand Beach Nature Preserve. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR GRANT APPLICATION

Leonard said that the Village must submit the grant application to purchase the 42 acres of land by April 1 and one of the requirements is a resolution from the Council. Leonard has tried contacting appraiser Ernie Demba several times because he was to give him an appraisal number prior to this meeting to be used in the resolution for the grant application, but he has not heard from him. As soon as he hears from Mr. Demba, he will send an email out to the Council for information purposes. He suggested filling in the blanks on the resolution once the Council gets the appraisal figure from Demba.

Leonard moved, seconded by Giglio to approve the resolution with the understanding that the amount of matching funds for the resolution and grant application comes from a verbal report from Ernie Demba and to include \$150,500 Committed Cash Donations to come from interested participant residents and the remaining \$650,000 to come from Village funds. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Sheila McGinnis gave a letter to Leonard that stated that she has \$150,500 in committed funds to be used towards the matching funds. McGinnis will update the Council as she continues to raise funds.

ACCEPT GEORGE KEELER'S RESIGNATION

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to accept Officer George Keeler's retirement as of March 16, 2018 with many thanks for his service over the years. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

POLICE OFFICER WAGES

Lindley said that Michiana set their part-time officer wages at \$17.50 per hour, so she would like to set our part-time officers at the same pay rate. Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to increase all part-time police officer wages to \$17.50 per hour effective March 29, 2018. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

POLICE RADIOS

Police Chief Dan Schroeder said that at the recent budget meeting, he asked the Council to put in a line item to set funds aside to replace the 800 MHz radios that are now 16 years old. Parts are no longer available for them, and now that the officers will be patrolling in Michiana they will need dual band radios to be in contact with departments in LaPorte County in addition to Berrien County. The most recent bid is approximately \$5,000 per radio and the police department needs three portables and three mobiles.

Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to purchase three portable police radios from Telerad at a cost of \$15,904.50. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

BRICK INSTALLATION BIDS

O'Halloran said that we will be getting our blank bricks for the brick project from Rose Brick and will be buying the engraved bricks from Bricks R Us, and are looking at bids for installation of the bricks.

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Giglio to approve a bid from ServiScape in the amount of \$3,100 for installation of the bricks. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. Lindley thanked O'Halloran for hard work and good ideas for improvements to the pro shop to be done with the funds that were raised.

Other bids were received from Beachside Gardens at \$3,200 and New Frontier Landscaping at \$3,936.

APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM BRICK FUNDS

Funds will be paid for from the \$19,000 funds raised from the sale of engraved bricks.

PURCHASE SECOND IPAD AND SOFTWARE SERVICE FOR PRO SHOP

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Leonard to purchase a second iPad for the NCR Silver software for the pro shop with the cost not to exceed \$500. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR VILLAGE HALL

Leonard said that there are serious issues outside of the clubhouse with concrete falling apart from the upper deck. We have to figure out a way to protect the cement from the freeze/frost cycle on the upper deck. The water from the deck flows towards the building instead of away from the building. Bob Dabbs has talked to three architects about the problem and has received information from architect Bill McCollum, with different options included. His pricing will depend on which option the Council decides on. Architects have suggested a structural engineer look at it. Leonard suggested the Council take home the information from McCollum and study it and decide what options they want to do at the April meeting.

REPLACE SEPTIC TANK – MAINTENANCE/POLICE BUILDING

Bob Dabbs told the Council that the septic tank located near the maintenance building needs to be replaced, and he needs to apply for a permit with Berrien County Health Department who will design the system. This will be added to the April agenda.

UTILITY BATHROOM FOR MAINTENANCE BUILDING

Dabbs explained that they want to install a bathroom with a utility sink and toilet. ServiScape will provide part of the funding for the estimated \$2,500 bathroom. This will be discussed in April.

ENGINEERING AND PERMITS FOR DRAIN PROJECT

Dabbs told the Council that he received three bids to move the drain that runs from the park onto private property with the low bid at \$36,000 plus the cost of road paving. The Village cannot move the drain without a permit from the DEQ since moving it will disturb the creek. He contacted Merritt Engineering and they said it will cost \$3,000 to \$4,000 to prepare the design drawings, prepare the permit application and pay the fees.

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to hire Merritt Engineering to do engineering and permitting for the drain project. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PROPERTY, LIABILITY & AUTO INSURANCE

Leonard moved, seconded by Giglio to approve the property, liability and auto insurance proposal for the Village as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

REMOVAL OF COYOTES

Leonard said the Clerk has received complaints concerning coyotes in the Village, with one homeowner's small dog taken from their yard by a coyote. He said several years ago while walking his dog on Deer Park, three coyotes came out of the bushes and tracked him and his large dog. An audience member said when there was deep snow, there were at least 12 coyotes in the road in front of Subway in New Buffalo.

Leonard suggested homeowners keep their properties clean without leaving food out to attract them. A resident said that she has noticed fruits and vegetables in the area of the preserve that were probably left for deer, but this food attracts the animals that the coyotes feed on. She said that it is not wise to bait them, because that will bring in more from other areas. Leonard said it is open season in the State of Michigan and property owners are allowed to trap and kill the coyotes although shooting is not allowed in the Village by ordinance. Residents should consider clearing brush from their property so that they don't have a place to hide. If you have small animals, keep a close eye on them. If a homeowner feels it necessary because of a threat or damage to their property, they can hire someone to put a trap on their private property. Leonard said the coyotes have become more urbanized and if it gets to a point where they don't respect our boundaries, we are going to have to do something about it because we have to protect the small children and pets.

PICKLEBALL COURT

Leonard said there are many people in the Village that play pickleball and the council was thinking about putting a pickleball court next to the tennis court. He said there could be a GoFund Me campaign so that people who are interested in putting in a court can help fund it. Another alternative would be to use some of the funds that have been set aside for beach stairs since we don't have any beaches this year. Bob Dabbs received a bid from Arnt Asphalt to install a pickleball court with a fence at a cost of \$22,620. Giglio said he will talk to someone that he thinks is willing to donate funds toward the pickleball court.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION:

Village employee Dale Powell suggested that carrying a CO2 air horn might help if approached by coyotes because they do not like the noise.

CORRESPONDENCE:

JACK STEWART - BEACH ACCESSES

Jack Stewart sent a letter asking the Village to do what they can to protect the beach accesses where there is beach. The council assured him that the Village will take care of them before the summer season.

ADJOURNMENT:

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer