

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 19, 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**

Bracewell moved, seconded by O'Halloran to adopt the September 19, 2018 agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Bracewell moved, seconded by Lindley to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of August 15, 2018 as presented, approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting – Pumphouse and Drainage Pipe of August 20, 2018 as corrected on page 2, second paragraph to add to the last sentence "*and to protect the beach access*" and to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting – Permits for Pumphouse and Drainage Pipe of August 29, 2018. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

**PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION**

**MARIO ORTEGA, MCKENNA – GRANT REQUEST 42 ACRES**

Mario Ortega was unable to attend the meeting and in his place, Chris Khorey, McKenna's West Michigan manager addressed the council concerning the preliminary scores on the Village's grant request for the 42 Acres. He explained that the Village received 330 points out of a possible 550 and noted that there are 150 points that the Village is not eligible for, but there is a potential 70 points that could be added to the score.

He said if there was a more formal collaboration with Chikaming Open Lands (COL) for maintenance of the property, the Village could earn up to an additional 30 points. Leonard will send a letter to Ryan Postema of COL to request collaboration from them in regards to protecting and preserving the property. He said the state likes to see community involvement, and Sheila McGinnis said that she will send a letter to the Village on behalf of the Friends of Grand Beach Nature Preserve stating that they will help with the maintenance of the property. He said the collaboration doesn't have to be finalized, but we will need to send something that says the Village will have an arrangement with COL which includes a response from them.

Khorey said they reached out to Southwest Michigan Planning Commission regarding their regional goals to find out if the plan for green infrastructure improvements is in place, but they have not heard back from them. The green infrastructure refers to open spaces and permeable spaces and would score a possible 20 additional.

There is a possibility of up to 20 additional points for programming and marketing. He said that the state wants to make the public aware of the property and the grant request and suggested a press release to the papers, a link on the Village website and a ribbon cutting ceremony as possible things to do.

He thinks we should work to get closer to a score of 400. Every grant applicant is going to have points that they aren't eligible to receive. He said there are 100 points that we can't earn because of the high income level in the community. He thinks if we do the things discussed, we will have a very good score. The Village will need to submit all of the additional information to the state by October 1, 2018.

Lindley asked if there are other grants available that the Village could apply for and he mentioned the Land and Water Conservation Fund as a possibility.

### **COMMISSION REPORTS**

**BUILDING & ZONING:** Bracewell reported that there are seven new homes under construction with some moving along quickly and some dragging along. Building Inspector Bill Lambert reported that the footings are going in for the new house on Rohde Court and he will meet with Chief Dan Schroeder to write a letter to the owner of the house going up on Oak to encourage them to submit a schedule and clean up the site.

Village resident Robert Milano suggested the Village needs language regarding a requirement to complete a house in a specified period of time.

**PARKS & BEACHES:** Giglio reported that there is beach at the pier, Walnut and also in front of some of the houses near Cedar. He said at the recent public meeting with Shoreline Alliance it was noted that back in the 60's the water was about 5' above the normal lake level, and as of now it is at 3 1/2' above the normal level. Shoreline Alliance is working with County Commissioner Ezra Scott to try and bring sand in to replenish the beaches. Lindley suggested inviting Grand Beach's representatives on the Shoreline Alliance to attend the next council meeting to report on how things are going.

Lindley said that the Shoreline Alliance mentioned concern that putting the reefs in the lake to direct the sand onto the shorelines could cause a problem for the beaches in Indiana, and Mike Lindley asked at the meeting if they stopped the reefs at Forest Beach as was discussed, will Grand Beach be affected in the same way as they mentioned Indiana could be affected. She wants to be sure that the Shoreline Alliance understands the Village's concerns.

**STREETS & WATER:** Leonard reported that the railroad closed the railroad crossing to work on it without any advance warning. They did give information about when it was going to be completed and reopened. The Village maintenance department will paint stop blocks there and will also paint a center line to help those that want to turn right onto the highway.

**POLICE:** Lindley thanked Chief Dan Schroeder for sending out the alerts regarding the railroad crossing closing and Clerk Mary Robertson for keeping in touch with them in regards to the need for signage and the reopening of the crossing. Lindley also contacted them to find out when the work was going to be finished. She suggested that those that aren't on Chief Schroeder's list to receive alert messages sign up to receive them.

**PRO SHOP & GOLF COURSE:** O'Halloran reported that revenue in August matched August of 2016 which was a good year. He said the Village held a special meeting in regards to protecting the beach and pumphouse and voted to place armor stone down there. He said there has always been a plan A and plan B in place to protect the pumphouse. The short term plan is to protect the pumphouse and the long term plan is to put wells in for irrigation. The cost to put in one well is approximately \$13,500. There has been a preliminary study done regarding wells and there is water available. The Village has no idea what the pressure is, and needs to find out what type of water it is, if it requires filtering and how much water is available. The current system uses 180,000 gallons of water per night. They are not sure how many wells are needed.

Village resident John Deaner told the Council that he and his father had the largest fruit farm in Berrien County so he has experience in wells. He thinks that the golf course might need one 10" or 12" well and a pond. He asked the Council to allow him to form a committee that he would chair to study the issue. If approved, they will report to the Council.

### **SERVISCAPE REPORT**

Clay Putnam reported that they replaced a backup pump battery and a dehumidifier in the pumphouse.

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O'Halloran said the Village needs some type of communicator to alert the Village if the pumphouse is flooding. Bob Dabbs said he found something that will alert the Village if the water is 3" above the floor. The cost is \$450 to install everything and \$50 a month for the security system and phone line. The system will call Dabbs' telephone, and if he doesn't answer, it will call Berrien County dispatch and they will contact our police department. The LED keypad on the alarm that is in place now needs to be replaced because it is corroded.

### **PERSONNEL REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT:** Superintendent Bob Dabbs had nothing in addition to his written report.

**POLICE CHIEF:** In addition to his written report, Police Chief Dan Schroeder reminded residents to keep their cars locked as the thieves are still active. If someone in Grand Beach calls 9-1-1 from a cell phone, they should let the operator know immediately that they are located in Berrien County.

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

### **BILLS TO BE PAID**

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**

#### **RESOLUTION – GRANT REQUEST**

Leonard read a resolution to be submitted to the MDNR Trust Fund regarding the Village's grant request that includes the generous offer from Grand Beach Land Development (GBLD) of 10% of property value as part of the grant match. This resolution rescinds a resolution adopted in March 2018 that was submitted to MDNR.

Leonard moved, seconded by Giglio to adopt resolution #2018-07 for the MDNR Trust Fund Grant with a correction to the resolution to change the word "comment" to "commitment".

#### Roll Call Vote

James Bracewell           Aye

Frank Giglio               Aye

Paul Leonard Jr.         Aye

Deborah Lindley         Aye

Blake O'Halloran        Aye

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Village resident Sheila McGinnis said that since talking to others in the Village several months ago, she has collected 77 signatures of people that support purchasing the 42 Acres, but would ask the Council to float a bond, pass a special assessment or pass a millage so that all of the people in the Village can participate in the purchase.

Bracewell moved, seconded by O'Halloran to give Paul Leonard authorization to write a letter to Ryan Postema of Chikaming Open Lands and propose a consultancy arrangement where the Village would rely on their advice and guidance in terms of the protection and nurturing of the 42 acres which we can send to Mario Ortega to help us with collaboration points, and write a letter to the Friends of Grand Beach Nature Preserve so that they can be the conduit through which suggestions are made to the council for how to best utilize the 42 Acres for enjoyment, mobility issues, walkways and things of that nature. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. Leonard will

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also send an email to Marcy Hamilton to see if she can suggest how the 42 acres can fit into the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission's green space.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **GRAND BEACH LAND DEVELOPMENT – DONATION OF LAND VALUE**

Leonard announced that Grand Beach Land Development recently offered to donate 10% of the DNR fair market value of the 42 Acres which will help the Village out tremendously. He thanked Ellen Frankle and GBLD for the offer of the donation.

### **GRANT REQUEST – PRELIMINARY SCORES**

Chris Khorey of McKenna reported earlier in the meeting that the preliminary scores for the grant request for the 42 Acres was 330 points out of a possible 550 points.

### **PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Leonard said the Village adopted a Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2014 that expires next year and in order to qualify for future grants, the Village must have a current master plan. The Village needs to get started on an update and he suggested that the Parks and Recreation Committee talk about this at their upcoming October meeting.

### **GOLF COURSE CHILDREN'S USE POLICY – WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS DURING SUMMER MONTHS**

O'Halloran told the Council that there was a problem over the holiday weekend with play. He suggested having the ranger watch over the play, and Pro Shop Manager Don Butler told him that the ranger is actually acting as a starter during those busy times. Butler suggested a policy that would not allow kids to play until after 3 p.m. on holidays and weekends during the summer. O'Halloran thinks that might be a challenge. Lindley said this is a family community and we've cut down the use of the basketball court with the pickleball there and beaches are closing, and we need things for the kids to do. She suggested that golf etiquette be taught to kids and others that might not know how it works. No action was taken on the policy.

### **BERRIEN COUNTY 9-1-1 CALL ROUTING**

Chief Dan Schroeder said he received a letter from Dave Agens of Berrien County regarding the way that 9-1-1 calls made from cell phones in Grand Beach are handled. Schroeder said whatever cell tower is the closest will pick up the call, and it could be LaPorte County, Berrien County and he's even been told that Cook County has picked it up. He suggested that people immediately tell the dispatcher that they are in Berrien County. Berrien County and LaPorte County are working on a system where 9-1-1 cell phone calls will be picked up by GPS, but it is going to take some time to put it in place.

### **SMART 9-1-1**

Chief Dan Schroeder said that while waiting for the 9-1-1 fix, the county has suggested that everyone sign up for Smart 9-1-1. This is a system that all of the local dispatch centers have and users can sign up and input useful information such as medical history, medication, how to obtain access to your home and other important information to be used when someone calls 9-1-1. Berrien County and LaPorte County suggests that everyone sign up for Smart 9-1-1 at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com).

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2018-95 – INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER**

Leonard explained that the Village has a draft agreement between Indiana Michigan Power that was created by Village Attorney Sara Senica and has been used by other municipalities. He read the ordinance.

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Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to adopt ordinance #2018-95 as presented granting to Indiana Michigan Power Company a franchise to deliver power and maintain its infrastructure in the Village of Grand Beach subject to the terms and conditions of this franchise.

### Roll Call Vote

James Bracewell	Aye
Frank Giglio	Aye
Paul Leonard Jr.	Aye
Deborah Lindley	Aye
Blake O'Halloran	Aye

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

### **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ACT 51 CLASSIFICATION RESPONSE**

Leonard reported that the Village received a response from the Department of Transportation regarding a request for reclassification of certain roads from local streets to major streets. They agreed to add Erich Lane as a local street and reclassified a section of Grand Beach Road from the entrance off of US 12 to Deer Park as a major street and a new section of Grand Beach Road from Deer Park to Robin Lane as a major street.

They did not agree to change a section of Perkins or a section of Golfview from local to major because the roads are very narrow, residential, have no road striping and have "slow, children playing" signs. Changes resulted in an addition of 1.01 miles of major and a deduction of .75 miles out of local. Certified mileage as of July 1, 2018 is 3.41 major and 8.32 local streets.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Leonard reported that the health insurance renewal for Village employees includes a premium increase of 4.97% which is a great deal for the Village. Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to approve a rate renewal change for the health insurance. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

### **DONKERSLOOT INVOICE FOR LAKE PARK & STRAUSS**

Leonard explained that the Donkersloot invoice for revetment work at High Point and Robin Lane were under budget and Lake Park and Strauss came in \$2,111.55 over the proposal resulting in a savings to the Village of \$515.75.

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to approve the payment of the three invoices resulting in a savings of \$515.75 to the Village. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

### **HALL RENTAL REQUESTS – BLAKE O'HALLORAN SEPTEMBER 8, 2018**

Leonard said he approved a hall rental request from Blake O'Halloran to hold a funeral luncheon on September 8, 2018 as the request came in after the last council meeting.

Bracewell moved, seconded by Leonard to approve the use of the hall for Angela Trainor for a breakfast on September 30, 2018 following a rental on September 29, 2018 for a wedding if the weather doesn't allow for the breakfast to be held at her home. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

### **AUDIENCE RECOGNITION**

Jamie Frankle asked if text messages to 9-1-1 are allowed in Berrien County. Chief Dan Schroeder wasn't sure, but said there is a way to send an email to 9-1-1.

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Sheila McGinnis was happy that the Council went ahead with the resolution and hopes it adds points to the scores. She asked for everyone's support to acquire the land. They are asking that the Village continue to work with GBLD if the grant falls through and negotiate with them to buy the property in whatever means can be used as provided for in the charter.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Leonard said that there was correspondence received regarding the 42 acres, a letter from Friends of the Grand Beach Nature Preserve and many people requested striping of the basketball court for pickleball. The striping has been completed.

Anne Durkin – Marquette Greenway  
Friends of Grand Beach Nature Preserve- 42 Acres  
Mark & Susan Nystuen – 42 Acres  
Joseph Farwell – Pickleball  
Andy & Mary Jo Frydl – Pickleball  
Robert Kurinsky – Pickleball

Don & Terri Liebenritt – Pickleball  
Nancy Majerek – Pickleball  
Ed Trainor – Pickleball  
Len & Toni Votava – Pickleball  
Tim Woods - Pickleball

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson  
Clerk-Treasurer