

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 17, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Harry Walder called the regular council meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. EST. Present in addition to Walder were James Bracewell, Ed Brandes, Blake O'Halloran, and Peter Doerr.

Village President Harry Walder asked the council to add an item inadvertently left off the agenda, a proposal from Hydro Corp regarding the testing of cross-connection inspections. The council had previously passed an Ordinance on this same issue. O'Halloran moved to add the item to the agenda; seconded by Brandes and passed unanimously 5-0.

ADOPT AGENDA

Doerr moved to approve the regular agenda, seconded by O'Halloran, motion carried unanimously 5-0.

ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Village Council Minutes from March 20, 2024
- b. Pay Bills with written additions.

O'Halloran moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Brandes and passed unanimously 5-0.

BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES

Brandes moved to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2024, Budget Workshop; seconded by O'Halloran and passed unanimously 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Meg Piper spoke about license plate readers, social media marketing contract and water meters and the proposed light fixtures for the banquet hall.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

COMMISSION REPORTS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Harry provided the council with updates he would suggest to the Village Charter and has forwarded them to the Village Attorney for her review as well.

Walder asked Bob Dabbs, Superintendent, if he had looked into adding sand to Royal Street access as previously discussed. Dabbs said it's too much for his department to do, they would have to hire a trucking company when the time is right.

Council Meeting-April 17, 2024- continued

The Village Hall Committee met again over the weekend and made several recommendations for improvements to the banquet hall and grounds, and they are reflected on the agenda tonight.

No updates yet on the lawsuit with New Buffalo township.

Patio donations are underway and Walder said a four or five donations have been made and he encouraged residents to continue to help.

Walder asked Mike Elliot, the Chairperson of the Village Hall Committee, to speak to the improvements they are suggesting in greater depth so the council and public will have a better understanding of what they are voting on tonight. Mike also noted that the Committee was recommending replacing the Overhead Doors at the Maintenance Building.

Harry showed the council a drawing of new landscaping ideas for the area surrounding the new retaining wall and asked for any feedback before they start work in May.

REPORT ON NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP MEETING

Harry reported that New Buffalo Township passed a Resolution regarding their concern for the safety of bike riders and motorists at the railroad crossing at Grand Beach Road and requested the State install a traffic signal at US-12 and Grand Beach Road. At next month's Council Meeting, Walder would like the Council to consider passing a similar resolution.

BUILDING & ZONING

Walder had nothing to report on building and zoning.

PARK & RECREATION: Doerr reported the committee met last week and has suggested the safer stairs at the Whitewood beach access which is on the agenda tonight as well as stairs for the Ely Beach Access. He added he has reached out to MDOT to try and get a representative to attend a future town hall meeting to address the bike path and troublesome railroad crossing design and is waiting to hear back. The Merry-go-Round and Teeter-Totter have been ordered and should be delivered in the next few weeks. The summer helper who will mainly work on the beaches has been hired.

STREETS & WATER

Bracewell said there was nothing new to report since the Budget Workshop.

POLICE

Brandes said negotiations with Michiana over the new Police Contract are going well, both Villages want to continue the shared contract. So far 32 address signs have been installed with more to come. Short-term rentals are halfway complete and about the same as last year. He supports the purchase of the additional license plate readers as the first one seems to be doing what it's needed to do, so they'd like to expand on that. Codification is underway and he has a good group of people assisting him.

PRO SHOP & COURSE

Blake said the Golf Course is open, just waiting for the weather to cooperate to have a steady stream of golfers each day. He's hopeful the council will agree to purchase new rental golf clubs as they are badly

needed. There are two big purchases on the agenda tonight for equipment purchases and one for repairs. The equipment purchases are budgeted.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam reported currently they are \$3296 under budget, seasonal maintenance is underway, crab grass applications have been put down.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: In addition to his written report, Superintendent Bob Dabbs stated his crew is picking up leaves again until May 1st. The parts for the pump house intake line are in so they will be working on that next week and Merritt will be videoing the intake line to determine the cause of the blockage in that line. This will hopefully lead us to the solution to remove/repair the blockage.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Layman reported his department is getting ready for a busy season, new recruit Heather Crook graduates from the academy in about 3 weeks. She will train here through July on various shifts. A retirement party for George Keeler is scheduled for May 10th and invitations will be emailed out. Regarding the purchase of the new license readers, he has used them on 10 different occasions so far leading to 2 arrests. The new marijuana facilities going up across the tracks are of concern to him and the cameras will help cover the coming and going throughout the Village.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: In addition to his written report, Building Inspector Chad Butler stated he found 3 different jobs working without a permit, so he is staying on top of things in the Village to keep people compliant. He's had 1 CO since the last meeting and expects another one next week. There are 17 open building permits and 11 pool permits. O'Halloran commended Butler for putting together such a detailed report and it is informative and appreciated.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Award road survey to Wightman in the amount of \$3,520 to be funded from account 265.818.

Brandes moved to approve the proposal from Wightman; seconded by Doerr and passed unanimously 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Furnish and install adjustable aluminum stairs at the Whitewood Beach Access at the last set of the steps to the beach for a not-to-exceed amount of \$6,000 to be funded from account 390.065.

Brandes moved to approve the purchase of the new stairs; seconded by Doerr and passed unanimously 5-0.

2. Build stairs from Viewing Platform at Ely Beach Access to the revetment and furnish and install an adjustable aluminum stair section to the beach for a not-to-exceed amount of \$40,000 to be funded from account 390.065.

Walder pointed out there are two bids, one is based on the stairs treads and handrail top rail being made of composite material and the other bid is based on everything being made from treated lumber.

After discussion the council agreed they liked the composite material better even though the bid was higher. Walder volunteered to try and negotiate a lower price. Doerr moved to authorize Walder to negotiate a bid not to exceed \$33,270; seconded by Bracewell and passed unanimously 5-0.

3. Make amendments to the Village Charter regarding budget deadlines and signature deadlines for elections, to comply with requirements of the State of Michigan.

This matter was discussed by the council, and it was determined to be something they were interested in, yet they didn't want to rush through and they would address it again at the meeting next month.

4. Purchase 7 sets of new golf clubs as rental clubs for Pro Shop for the-not to exceed amount of \$3,500 to be funded from account 000.985.

O'Halloran moved to purchase the new golf clubs for the course; seconded by Doerr and passed unanimously 5-0.

5. Purchase a new B&B Sprayer from Spartan for use on the Golf Course in the amount of \$18,345.26 to be funded from account 000.985.

O'Halloran moved to approve the purchase of the new sprayer for the Course; seconded by Doerr and passed unanimously 5-0.

6. Purchase a new Articulator Rough Mower for Golf Course from Revels Turf & Tractor for \$28,999 to be funded from account 000.985.

Brandes moved to approve the purchase of the mower for the Golf Course; seconded by Doerr and passed unanimously 5-0.

7. Award contract to JK Handyman to power wash and stain soffit at Village Hall in the amount of \$2,600 to be funded from account 390.056.

O'Halloran moved to award the contract to JK Handyman as presented; seconded by Brandes and passed unanimously 5-0.

8. Purchase a one-year contract with Lexipol for their Grant Finder User subscription which will be shared with Michiana at a cost of \$997.50 to be funded from account 105.801.

Doerr moved to approve the one-year contract with Lexipol as presented; seconded by O'Halloran and passed unanimously 5-0.

9. Purchase 100 new chairs for the Village Hall from Superior Seating in the not-to-exceed amount of \$20,570 to be funded from account 390.056.

Before the vote, Bracewell asked if the Village Hall Committee had considered asking for input from the Social Club who uses the banquet room more than anyone. Mike Elliot answered that yes, they were included in the meeting and even suggested the change from cloth to vinyl which was heeded by the committee and resulted in the change before the council tonight. Bracewell also asked if they had considered how to store those new chairs which will be heavy and need to be moved around on

carts. Harry said they are pricing those carts currently as well. Bracewell moved to approve the purchase of the chairs as presented; seconded by Doerr and passed unanimously 5-0.

10. Purchase from Flock Safety two additional license reading cameras for a one-time cost of \$1,300 plus an annual fee of \$3,000 per camera for a total first year cost of \$7,300 and a second-year cost of \$6,000. This results in a total contract cost for two years of \$13,300 to be funded from account 300.820.

There was discussion as to where these new cameras would be placed. Chief Layman says the installation company will make their recommendations, but they will more than likely be placed between Anna Livia and Fox Trail, and on Grand Beach Road between Royal and Fairway.

Branded moved to approve the purchase of additional cameras as presented; seconded by Doerr and passed unanimously 5-0.

11. Consider lease buyout for Rental Golf Carts-Discussion was held regarding buying out our lease on the golf carts by saving the extra money generated by excess cart stickers funds. We are in our 3rd year of a 6-year contract.

12. Award a Social Media Marketing contract for the Golf Course to Ody'X for the sum of \$6,000 for April through September to be funded from an account TBD.

Bracewell moved to approve the contract for social media as presented; seconded by Doerr. Bracewell and Doerr voted aye and Brandes and Walder voted nay and O'Halloran abstained. Motion failed.

13. Install "speed humps" in lieu of "speed bumps", which are very wide speed bumps for the not-to-exceed sum of \$2,000 to be funded from Major Street fund.

Doerr moved to approve the purchase of one speed hump for now to test it's efficiency; seconded by Brandes and passed unanimously 5-0.

14. Purchase from Michigan Cat a replacement backhoe for the Water Department at a cost of \$78,000 to be funded partially from account 390.089.

Brandes moved to approve the purchase of the new backhoe after trading in our old one; motion seconded by O'Halloran and passed unanimously 5-0.

15. Ed Brandes is seeking preliminary council approval for a Village-sponsored fireworks display at or near Whitewood Pier on the night of Friday, July 5th. If the Council is supportive, preliminary approval of the concept would be very helpful to allow for advance planning, recruitment of volunteers and procurement of materials.

Discussion was in favor of allowing Brandes to proceed with gathering information for a potential fireworks display in July.

16. Purchase new water meters, Beacon management system, Badger Cellular controls, Badger E series meters for a total cost of \$318,681.47 to be funded from the Water Fund, account 645.000.

Doerr moved to approve the purchase of the new water meters as presented; seconded by O'Halloran and passed unanimously. Walder reported that the references for this company all came back positive and towns reported a 20% increase in revenue due to the increased efficiency of the meters.

17. Purchase new light fixture shields for the upstairs Hall and new LED soft white filament bulbs for a cost not-to-exceed \$800 funded from account 390.050.

Brandes moved to approve the light fixture shields as presented; seconded by Doerr and passed unanimously 5-0.

18. Repair Kioti Tractor used for the Golf Course. Replace the turbo on the motor, the entire muffler assembly, and the seals. Not-to-exceed cost of \$7,000 funded from and account TBD.

O'Halloran moved to approve the repairs to be paid from the General Fund as presented; motion seconded by Bracewell and passed unanimously 5-0.

19. Install Screen fencing around the new emergency generator and A/C condenser as well as replace and expand the fencing around the A/C equipment and garbage containers at the first floor adjacent to the Pro Shop for a cost not-to-exceed \$7,000 to be installed by staff and to be funded from account 390.050.

Doerr moved to approve the screening of garbage cans as presented; seconded by Brandes and passed unanimously 5-0.

20. Miscellaneous electrical repairs around the exterior of the Village Hall, including replacing existing outlets with ground fault exterior outlets, and add new light fixtures as recommended by the Village Hall Committee for a not-to-exceed price of \$5,000 funded from account 390.050.

Brandes moved to approve the external electrical repairs of the hall building as presented; seconded by Doerr and passed unanimously 5-0.

21. Install "string bistro lights" at the patio of the Village Hall for a cost not-to-exceed \$600 to be installed by staff and to be funded from account 390.050.

Doerr moved to approve the purchase of bistro light strings that can be taken down as needed; seconded by O'Halloran and passed unanimously 5-0.

22. Hydro Corp-Inspect for cross-connection issues.

Doerr moved to approve the contract with Hydro Corp for \$9226 per year as instructed by the State; seconded by Bracewell and passed unanimously 5-0.

Public Comment

Council Meeting-April 17, 2024- continued

Rebecca Morrisey asked the council to halt the construction that is north of her property as she believes: the new work is encroaching on her property; she believes they are in a critical dune area; and they do not have permit as required. Walder informed her that after receiving her email earlier today it was determined that all of the proper permits have indeed been pulled for that property and there is nothing the council can do about this issue.

Frank Giglio- spoke about the bike path, the vacant property across the street from his home and decreasing truck traffic on US 12.

Vickie McHugh-spoke about the bistro lights.

Correspondence – None

Adjournment-There being no further business before the council, O'Halloran moved to adjourn at 6:46 pm; seconded by Bracewell and passed unanimously 5-0.

Kimberly Wolnik
Clerk-Treasurer