

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 21, 2007**

President Jim Bracewell called the regular council meeting to order at 7:30 PM EDT. Present in addition to Bracewell were Pete Carroll, Bob Grim and Debbie Lindley. Kaye Moriarty was not in attendance as she was in Florida.

Bob Grim moved, with support from Debbie Lindley to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 21, 2007. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Commission reports:

Building & Zoning: Kaye Moriarty was not in attendance.

Parks & Beaches: Pete Carroll reported that the basketball courts are nearing completion with Bob Dabbs picking up the baskets and posts on Thursday. He added that a Village resident has offered to make a donation to pay for a sand volleyball area at the location of the old basketball courts. This will be discussed at the April meeting.

He also reported that next year he would like to move the ice skating rink to the grassy area in front of the Village Hall. The new location will include improved parking, better supervision, close proximity to the sledding hills and the Village Hall. It will also be easier to maintain.

Streets & Water: Bob Grim stated that he anticipates that the contractor will be in the Village in early May to resurface Sun Valley Falls.

In regards to water, he told the council that he just received a new estimate from Merritt Engineering for the water project. One estimate of \$569,630 includes paving only one lane of streets that are affected by the new water main and the second estimate includes paving the entire affected street at a cost of \$623,090. The estimates do not include costs for the services of a financial advisor and a bonding attorney, which will be included in the bonding.

Bob Grim moved, with support from Pete Carroll to contract with bonding attorney Don Keim of Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone of Detroit to help with this water project. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Grim told the audience that there is a public hearing scheduled for 6:30 p.m. EDT on April 18th to meet bonding requirements.

Police: Nothing to report.

Pro Shop & Course: Pete Carroll told the council that the greens are uncovered and look great.

Bob Grim moved, with support from Pete Carroll to authorize the Village to join the Michigan Golf Association with a cost not to exceed \$500 per year. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Nick Sinnott of ServiScape told the council that the ServiScape crew will begin working on the golf course next week and will have the course ready prior to Easter weekend.

Superintendent Bob Dabbs and Building Inspector Bill Owens had nothing to add to their written report.

Police Chief Dan Schroeder showed the council stickers that will be added to the beach signs to note the times that dogs are not allowed on the beaches. Crismar, a business owned by Bill Owens made the stickers for no charge to the Village.

Chief Schroeder told the council that a resident's dog had recently bitten two dogs while it was on the beach unleashed. The dog owner was issued a ticket with a fine of \$90 for the first offense for having an unleashed dog on the beach.

Bob Grim moved, with support from Jim Bracewell to approve the bills as presented with written additions. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

The first item under new business was addressed during the commission reports.

Pete Carroll explained that the Village is in need of two pieces of equipment for use on the golf course. Nick Sinnott of ServiScape submitted bids for the lease/purchase of an articulator and a John Deere zero clearance mower. Village Superintendent Bob Dabbs spoke with one of his suppliers, Frontier Lawn who suggested that the Village consider a Gravely zero clearance mower, rather than the John Deere. According to Dabbs, this type of mower is used more often by professional landscapers and is more suitable for use on the golf course.

Sinnott told the council that he will be able to get along until the equipment is delivered by repairing the articulator while spending as little money as possible.

Carroll asked Sinnott to contact John Deere financing to find out if it would be possible to combine the articulator with the Gravely mower under one lease agreement. Carroll asked that the clerk include this under old business for the April meeting.

Pete Carroll moved, with support from Jim Bracewell to change the structure and fees for the adult golf punch cards with the new cards to include twelve rounds plus one free round for a cost of \$140. Motion carried unanimously 4-0. This new punch card will make it advantageous and convenient for the golfer as was the original intention of the golf committee.

Chief Schroeder told the council that the parking fines of \$3 should be revised. He suggested that the council change the fine structure to bring it more in line with other municipalities. These fines will be municipal fines and be paid to the Village. If the fine is not paid within 30 days it will be changed to a state citation, and if that fine is not paid the recipient's driver's license will be suspended.

Debbie Lindley read a prepared resolution and moved, with support from Jim Bracewell to adopt the resolution to change the parking fine structure to \$15 for the first violation, \$30 for the second violation within six months of the first violation and \$45 for the third violation within one year of the first violation. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

The council received a breakdown of the Village liability and automobile insurance for review. Bracewell stated that the premium increase over last year was \$81.

Pete Carroll told the council that two of their main priorities include public safety and fiscal responsibility. He said that as a matter of public safety he would like to turn over the supervision and hiring of lifeguards to the police department. In the past the lifeguards have not had constant supervision, which the police department will be able to provide. He told the Chief that he is willing to help him with anything he needs.

Chief Schroeder told the council that he has been working on a job description and job duties for the lifeguards. He added that he and the clerk have been discussing lifeguard wages and that the budgeted amount for the year is \$4,925 for lifeguards. He felt that it would be difficult to staff the beach with good lifeguards with only \$4,925 in the budget. He asked the council if he could hire a lifeguard at a higher rate of pay, in order to get a good, responsible person. Pete Carroll said that we might have to cut down the number of days that a lifeguard is on duty to three days a week in order to meet the budget constraints. Dan Schroeder will meet with Pete Carroll to work out the final details regarding the lifeguards.

Pete Carroll told the council that the Village is need of new buoys. Bob Dabbs added that there were four buoys lost in the lake last year and that there are several that no longer stand up. He said that the cost to replace the buoys is \$88 per buoy plus freight. The council directed him to order nine new buoys to replace the missing buoys and the water logged buoys. They will be placed 250 feet apart as directed by the DNR. Jim Bracewell added that the Village can not add any additional buoys to the beaches because of DNR regulations.

The funds necessary for the purchase of the buoys will come from funds budgeted for stain on the beach stairs in the amount of \$250 and \$750 budgeted for an overhaul of the merry-go-round. Pete Carroll asked Bob Dabbs to grease and take care of the merry-go-round.

Jim Bracewell moved, with support from Debbie Lindley to approve hall rental requests for Gary Ramberg on 5/26/07 and Angela Trainor for 9/8/07. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Larry Frankle explained to the council that there is a group of concerned citizens from different areas along the lake that have been meeting concerning the beaches south of the New Buffalo Harbor and the loss of sand over the last thirty years. He explained that since the breakwater was put in at New Buffalo over thirty years ago, the flow of sand has changed.

The group has held meetings with the Army Corps of Engineers and have discussed the flow of the sand and different options regarding a study by the Army Corps of Engineers. He said that in order to initiate a study to find out if the sand is actually flowing around the harbor as was originally intended, the Army Corps needs a municipality to submit a letter of request.

The study would be initiated without any cost to the Village. If costs exceed the Army Corps limitations, the Village will be responsible, but only if approved by the Village council. At that time the other groups and associations involved in the meetings might be willing to share the cost.

Jim Bracewell moved, with support from Pete Carroll to support Jim Bracewell signing and submitting the letter to the Army Corps of Engineers to explore what the Corps might be able to do with no cost to the Village. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Jim Bracewell moved, with support from Debbie Lindley to adjourn. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk/Treasurer