

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
BUDGET HEARING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2007**

President Jim Bracewell called the budget hearing to order at 7:15 PM EDT. Present in addition to Bracewell were Pete Carroll, Bob Grim, Debbie Lindley and Kaye Moriarty.

Jim Bracewell announced that the meeting to adopt the budgets and millage for 2007/2008 will be held on May 30th at 7:15.

Kaye Moriarty discussed the possibility of the council forming a planning commission to create a master plan. She suggested that the council consider the expense of creating a master plan and setting money aside in the 07/08 budgets for this expense. Councilman Bob Grim stated that he didn't think that things would move along that quickly. Jim Bracewell added that the budget is currently showing a \$27,000 deficit without the addition of funds to create a master plan.

Next the council discussed the lifeguard wages and the need to increase the budgeted amount for lifeguards in order to allow for a higher wage, which would make this a more desirable position. Jim Bracewell stated that he was concerned that increasing the lifeguard wages would affect the delicate balance of wages among other employees.

Chief Schroeder told the council that he had created a work schedule to include two lifeguards to be paid \$9.00 per hour, but in order to meet budget constraints there will only be one lifeguard on duty at any given time.

Jim Bracewell told the council that he thinks that they should seriously consider a special millage to help pay for street and water improvements in the future.

Bracewell asked Superintendent Bob Dabbs about the progress with the ditch that fills with water on the golf course. Dabbs stated that the original plan he came up with to install drywells will not work. He recently spoke with the former Superintendent, Ron Schroeder who informed him that there is a natural spring located beneath the ditch.

Bracewell asked Dabbs to continue seeking other ideas. He also asked him to have Merritt Engineering take another look at the problem.

Bracewell told the council that the former Village Auditor stated that it is a good idea to have one year's income in fund balance and that the council is working in that direction.

Pete Carroll commended everyone that was involved in the budgeting process.

The audience had no questions concerning the proposed budgets.

There being no further business, the hearing was closed at 7:40 P.M. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk/Treasurer

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 16, 2007**

President Jim Bracewell called the regular council meeting to order at 7:45 PM EDT. Present in addition to Bracewell were Pete Carroll, Bob Grim, Debbie Lindley and Kaye Moriarty.

Bob Grim moved, with support from Pete Carroll to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing-Water of April 18, 2007 and the Regular Council Meeting of April 18, 2007. Motion carried 4-0 with Jim Bracewell abstaining, as he was not in attendance on April 18, 2007.

Commission reports:

Building & Zoning, Parks & Beaches and Police: Nothing to report.

Streets & Water: Bob Grim was pleased to announce that the paving project in Sun Valley Falls had been completed and he was satisfied with the job.

He added that the water project is proceeding with applications submitted as necessary.

Pro Shop & Course: Pete Carroll told the council that the new rough mower will be delivered on Thursday.

Kevin Dolson of ServiScape told the council that they have been experiencing problems with the irrigation system. There have been numerous leaks in the system and they are having a difficult time identifying the problem. The leaks are occurring during the night, so they plan to simulate the night cycle during the day in order to watch and see what is happening at night.

The Superintendent, Police Chief and Building Inspector had nothing to add to their written reports.

Bob Grim moved, with support from Jim Bracewell to approve the bills as presented with written additions. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Listed under old business was the discussion regarding the planning commission. One of the jobs of the planning commission will be to create a master plan. Jim Bracewell explained that the council has been in the process of reviewing master plans from nearby communities.

Kaye Moriarty told the council that she is not sure that everything contained in the proposed ordinance to establish a planning commission is necessary. She will contact Village Attorney Sara Bell to discuss the ordinance. Kay added that from what she has read that a master plan is not a law, but an idea of the way the people would like the Village to proceed and look in the future.

Kaye will find out what the approximate costs involved in creating a master plan will be. Bob Grim told the council to be cautious when choosing a professional to help with the project, stating that even though they may claim to be a professional in a certain area, they are not always as good as they claim to be.

Amy Brinker of SMC Communications presented a proposal for wireless internet service to the council. She told the council that her company is planning on installing the wireless system in the City of New Buffalo. She stated that her company is very competitive and if the council does decide to pursue wireless internet that they should take bids on it.

In her presentation she told the council that the cost to start up the program would be approximately \$42,000 plus a charge of \$3,600 per year to pay for the band width. If the Village is interested in selling the service on their own, we would need 100 residents to pay a monthly fee of \$39.95 for twelve months

to recoup the initial outlay of money. There is also an option for SMR Communications to sell the service to the residents.

Brinker told the council that the equipment necessary for this system would not interfere with the 800 MHz radios that the police departments currently use, nor would it interfere with the 900 MHz service.

She told the council that she did not realize how many trees were located in the Village, so she would have to reevaluate the equipment needed to supply the service to the Village. She added that because of all of the foliage in Grand Beach, all residents interested in the service would need to install an antenna on their home that is approximately 18" X 12".

The council thanked her for the presentation, but took no action on this matter.

Jim Bracewell stated that the council received a letter from Richard Farina claiming that a homeowner placed a bridge on the Village right-of-way and that he wanted the Village to instruct the homeowner to remove the bridge.

Building Inspector Bill Owens told the council that he had met with the homeowners to discuss this matter and had suggested that they put a drainage pipe in the ditch. They agreed to install the pipe, but when Owens informed Mr. Farina of this idea he stated that he would have to approve that.

Owens told the council that he spoke with Bob Dabbs regarding the issue of the bridge concerning possible problems for the snowplow, and Dabbs said that he does not see a problem with the bridge.

Bracewell stated that the council had spent a lot of time and money with the Village Attorney regarding a letter from Mr. Farina concerning the type of plants in the yard at this same location. The council took no action on this matter.

Bill Owens told the council that he has spoken with Mr. Farina concerning a sign located just inside the arch, but Mr. Farina believes that the sign should be allowed to be left in place because it was grandfathered in. After discussion concerning the sign, Jim Bracewell asked Owens and Police Chief Dan Schroeder to take a look at the ordinance and the sign.

Bracewell stated that the council had received an agreement from the Village Attorney concerning the Armstrong property at the end of Walnut Street. The Armstrongs asked that the Village issue a building permit for their property prior to the completion of the vacation of a section of Walnut Street, adjacent to their property. The Village Attorney drew up an agreement to be signed by both parties, but the Armstrongs have decided not to sign the agreement.

Bracewell told the council that the Armstrongs are now considering applying for a variance. He told the council that the Village Attorney has started the procedure to file a lawsuit to vacate a portion of the street. The council took no action on this matter.

Pete Carroll told the council that the fence at the basketball court had been settled at the last meeting. He asked that the clerk include an item on the agenda for this meeting regarding the fence at the volleyball court and at the park.

He said that he has looked at the volleyball court and it is located far enough away from the road that it will not be necessary to put in a fence along the volleyball court.

Pete Carroll moved, with support from Kaye Moriarty to pay the 2008 and 2009 dues to the Golf Association of Michigan at a cost of \$300 per year for a total of \$600. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Jim Bracewell moved, with support from Debbie Lindley to approve the Social Club contract for 2007 at a cost of \$1,500 plus \$500 for insurance. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. The council is considering a modest increase for the Social Club rent beginning next year.

Kaye Moriarty moved, with support from Pete Carroll to authorize to pay the rental fee for a scissor lift to paint the arch. Bob Dabbs will also investigate the lattice work that was a part of the arch in the past. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Pete Carroll moved, with support from Jim Bracewell to approve the bid of \$2,499 to clean the exterior of the water tower. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Bob Dabbs told the council that as a requirement of the DEQ the interior of the water tower must be inspected every three to five years. It was inspected four years ago and he is ready to have it inspected again. He stated that the company will be in the area during the first part of June and they should be able to inspect the tower at that time.

Jim Bracewell moved, with support from Bob Grim to accept a bid from Liquid Engineering for the inspection and cleaning of the inside of the water tower with the community discount for a cost of \$2,895. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Jim Bracewell moved, with support from Bob Grim to approve the hall rental requests for Robert Kill on 6/2/07, Liz Campanella on 6/23/07, Gary Ramberg on 7/7/07, Molly Wallace on 9/15/07 and Sidney Hoover on 9/20/08. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Bracewell stated that the council had received a letter from resident Paul Fisher. Mr. Fisher is pointing out that the Village might be negligent in allowing people to leave items at the beach. Bracewell said that there is a big difference between leaving a catamaran on the beach and leaving beach chairs on the easement. Chief Schroeder told the council that the Police Department normally asks residents to pull their boats and catamarans onto their own property. Bracewell asked Chief Schroeder to follow up on this issue.

Bob Grim moved, with support from Jim Bracewell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk/Treasurer