

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
BUDGET WORK SESSION (HELD ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM)
MARCH 26, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Deborah Lindley called the electronic (virtual) Zoom Budget Work Session to order at 10:03 a.m. EST.

Lindley read the following information regarding the remote meeting:

This meeting is being held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic enrolled under Senate Bill 1246, Public Act 254 of 2020 amending the Open Meetings Act. All Council members should identify themselves prior to speaking so that everyone is aware of who is speaking. The President of the Council will read all of the agenda items as we go along for those that can't see the agenda.

There will be two times when the public can speak.

- The first time will be during “comments on agenda items”.
- The second time is during “public comments - general” where you can speak about any concerns.
- All audience members will be muted until it is time for them to speak.
- Please identify yourself before speaking.

ROLL CALL – IN ATTENDANCE

James Bracewell – Attending remotely from Grand Beach, Michigan

Paul Leonard – Attending remotely from Jupiter, Florida

Deborah Lindley – Attending remotely from Grand Beach, Michigan

Blake O'Halloran - Attending remotely from Grand Beach, Michigan

Steve Slater - Attending remotely from Burns Harbor, Indiana

ADOPT AGENDA

Lindley moved, seconded by O'Halloran to adopt the March 26, 2021 agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Paul Leonard Aye

Deborah Lindley Aye

Blake O'Halloran Aye

Steve Slater Aye

James Bracewell Aye

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

WORK SESSION – BUDGETING DISCUSSION DRAFT BUDGETS 2021-2022

Clerk-Treasurer Mary Robertson reviewed the proposed budgets with the Council.

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General Fund- There was discussion regarding the legal fees in the budget which included additional legal fees for the lawsuit regarding New Buffalo Township’s Special Assessment District (SAD). Robertson included \$20,000 for legal fees which would include the regular legal fees for the year in addition to fees for the lawsuit.

There was discussion regarding funds to repair or replace beach stairs and funds for removal of steel pilings. Robertson moved the funds that were initially included in the beach budget to “Transfer to Capital Projects” so that the funds will be available when needed if the Council approves the transfer of funds next year to Capital Projects.

Robertson said that Beach Commissioner Steve Slater had added \$10,000 to beaches for additional beach clean-up and Superintendent Bob Dabbs had increased the part-time wages for leaf pick up from \$2,000 to \$3,600.

Chief Layman asked Robertson to add in an expenditure of \$1,500 for the annual payment for the Police Policy and Procedure Manual and updates which are provided through Lexipol. The \$1,500 was added to “Legal Services” in the Police budget.

After discussion, a payment of \$11,500 was added to the budget to help reduce the pension liability for the Village pension plan with MERS.

After changes, the General Fund ended up with revenue of \$65,632 over expenses in this budget. The budget includes “Transfers to Capital Projects” for future purchases and projects in the amount of \$165,650.

Water Fund – The water fund shows a deficit of \$17,000, but includes \$16,000 in funds set aside for specific projects.

With the pandemic this past year, the water usage was much higher since more people are able to stay in the Village and work from home. It’s possible that the water usage could be increased again this year with more people working from the Village and if so, we will probably end up with a balanced budget in the Water Fund.

Golf Fund – The golf fund shows a deficit of \$57,630 which includes the purchase of a finish mower and a heavy utility vehicle for use by ServiScape. The budget also includes an increase in ServiScape’s fees and the purchase of two golf carts which bring in revenue for the golf course.

Local Street Fund – The local street fund shows revenue over expenditures of \$5,746 and does not include any paving. There was discussion regarding street paving, and it was suggested that the Village wait until all of the heavy rock hauling trucks are finished with their work before the Village considers any paving so that any new paving isn’t damaged by the heavy rock haulers.

Major Street Fund – The major street fund shows \$6,548 over budget. The proposed budget includes \$30,000 to put in a sidewalk connecting the new sidewalk on Royal to the beach. There is no paving included in the proposed budget.

Building Inspection Fund – The building inspection fund shows \$3,000 over budget.

Robertson explained that she had given Council members a list of employee wages for the upcoming budget year as suggested by Village Attorney Sara Senica to be used in place of the Wage Ordinance that was adopted in the past. She said that Superintendent Bob Dabbs requested a pay raise for Dale Powell and Tim Pendergast in this budget year of 5% rather than the 3% normal raise. Robertson said she only included the 3% raise in all of the budgets, but will change them to the 5% increase which will still need to be approved with the other pay raises in October.

LONG TERM STRATEGIC FINANCIAL PLANNING

Lindley went through a list of projects that have been done in the Village between 2000 and 2020 to show where money has been spent. The approximate total of those projects was \$2,628,000. Some of the projects were paid for by The Pokagon Fund.

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She said that if the Village wins the lawsuit regarding the New Buffalo Township Special Assessment District (SAD), the Village might need to pass a public safety millage to pay for police, fire and ambulance. If that were the case, the funding for the police will no longer come out of the general fund budget; it would be covered under the public safety millage.

There was discussion about the possibility of a millage increase or a SAD to allow the Village to do additional projects and/or make purchases of needed equipment. It is very important to be very concise, to go to the public and get public input and to keep the public educated on the procedure by holding public meetings. It is important to talk to the residents that are registered voters about the possibility of a millage since it needs to be voted on by the public.

It was mentioned that with all that the Village has encountered with the New Buffalo Township SAD, there is concern about how the people will view a SAD by the Village.

The Village millage rate is much lower than the other Villages in the county. Grand Beach’s millage rate is a little over 6 mills, and the average for other Villages in the county is about 10 mills.

The Council will consider holding public meetings once the restrictions are loosened up due to Covid to get input from the public and to keep them informed of what the Council plans to do.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – GENERAL

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Bracewell moved, seconded by Lindley to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote

Deborah Lindley	Aye
Blake O’Halloran	Aye
Steve Slater	Aye
James Bracewell	Aye
Paul Leonard	Aye

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer