

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Deborah Lindley called the regular council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. EST. Present in addition to Lindley were James Bracewell, Paul Leonard Jr., Blake O'Halloran and Steve Slater.

Lindley stated that she asked Clerk Mary Robertson not to include the personal information for the rental requests on the agenda since we are now including it online. The Council will still receive the application in their packets.

Lindley was sorry to announce that Dick Trafas who served on the Council for several years passed away.

ADOPT AGENDA

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to adopt the December 18, 2019 agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Village Council Minutes:
 - i. Regular Council Meeting, November 20, 2019
 - ii. Council Public Hearing, Parks & Recreation Master Plan, November 20, 2019
- b. Hall Rental Request
 - i. September 12, 2020
- c. Pay Bills with Written Additions

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

Year-End Report 2019

Council President Debbie Lindley gave a year-end report on the accomplishments of 2019 in building and zoning, parks and beaches, streets and water, police and golf.

2019 Year-End Report

Building and Zoning:

- The Planning Commission completed their zoning revisions.
- There was continuation of working with homeowners to get projects done within zoning guidelines

Parks and Beaches:

- Received a state grant for 3.2 million and raised the 25% match to purchase the 42 Acres of Grand Beach Preserve. That process is in the works and the land closing should be completed soon.
- Worked diligently to complete a 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan, which was accepted by the council last month and will make it possible to apply for future state grants.
- Parks committee visited all designated parks and available park property.
- Donation to replace the white fencing along Grand Beach Road and the golf course that should be completed by Memorial day.

Streets and Water:

- Dolly Trainor drainage project completed with paving to be done in the spring.
- Royal Ave. sidewalk completed using state granted monies for walkways and trails. The continuation of white posts will be completed at a later date weather permitting.

Police:

- Completed an almost 2-year investigation and trial of combined services with Michiana. Grand Beach signed an agreement with Michiana to provide combined services between the 2 communities. All state paperwork is on track to be completed in January of 2020.
- We say goodbye to our former chief Dan Schroeder and thank him for his many years of dedication to our village. A get together will be planned in the summer when residents are here to participate.
- We are happy to welcome our new chief Ryan Layman and assistant chief Jamie Flick.

Golf:

- The golf course continues to operate in the black with expanded merchandise for purchase.
- Walnut/Pump house permit approvals were given after a year and a half approval process by EGLE. Work will be started this winter from the bluff and completed by barge weather permitting. We will be making those decisions later on the agenda.
- There was an evaluation of tree health on the golf course with the removal of 15 of the most dangerous trees. Others will be considered on a monetary ability to remove.
- The maintenance department removed the bottom branches of the pine trees and will take down other smaller trees, weather permitting.
- Alternative plans were and are being considered for watering the golf course if there is a failure of the pump house.
- We continue to work with ServiScape to provide the best possible golfing experience.

COMMISSION REPORTS

BUILDING & ZONING: Bracewell reported that it has been a relatively quiet month. The container is gone from the Hunter property on Rohde Court. The owner of an unfinished home on Oak Street has signed a real estate contract to put the property up for sale.

PARKS & BEACHES: Slater reported that the council will wrap up the 5-year parks and recreation master plan tonight. He said he checked the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) water level projection report and it shows that the lower line is maybe 6" less, but the higher projection could go up to a foot higher. Leonard said water levels in Michigan are at an all-time record high. Lindley said she received an email from Jason Chrumka of the ACOE and they are going to be doing a study in regards to the shoreline erosion.

STREETS & WATER: Leonard reported that the weather has presented some real challenges in getting the leaves cleaned up. The end of year water testing required by the state has been completed.

POLICE: Lindley reminded everyone to keep their homes locked and to call the police if you see something that doesn't look right. She also said if you want your house checked by the police, you should get your information to Chief Ryan Layman.

PRO SHOP & COURSE: O'Halloran reported that the Village allows snowmobiles on the course, but there must be at least four inches of snow or more to ride snowmobiles on the golf course. He said if you ride on the course when there

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isn't enough snow, the grass will be damaged. Superintendent Bob Dabbs has put signs up on the golf course with the snowmobile rules.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam reported that leaf cleanup is completed and all equipment has been serviced. Stakes have been put up around the greens, tees and bunkers. O'Halloran said that when he and Putnam begin working on the budget, they will look at addressing the sand traps.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: In addition to his written report, Superintendent Bob Dabbs reported that they are buried in leaves and working to get them picked up. He said in the past, there have been people driving snowmobiles through the flower gardens out on US 12 even though they have put stakes around the gardens.

POLICE CHIEF: In addition to his written report, Police Chief Ryan Layman reported there were 34 total complaints with 13 in Grand Beach and 21 in Michiana. They've had great feedback from Grand Beach homeowners who have asked for house checks with about 35 in Grand Beach for a total of 100. He said the I.T. work that was approved last month will be finished by the end of the month. There was a break in at a home in Grand Beach during the first week in December when the owners weren't home. He reminded everyone to lock their doors, and report any suspicious activity to the police department.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Building Inspector Bill Lambert said that Clerk Mary Robertson has revised the building permit with the issues we have talked about regarding the length of permits. He said he will definitely enforce the 180-day permit and will request a schedule of timing with the permit application. He said that the Village can enforce the property maintenance ordinance and other ordinances regarding the condition of the property.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Village Parties

Leonard moved, seconded by Slater to allow one monthly Village party to be held each month from October through April with the following guidelines - The fees will be collected for the rental, cleaning and deposit. The hall rental requests will be approved by the Council or Village President if not able to approve at a Council meeting due to timing. The entire Village must be invited to the party and information should be included to say what the activity is, any fees involved and if people need to bring anything to the party. The Village Clerk will place the party on the Village calendar on the website. The person hosting the party can choose to have the hall cleaned or can clean it themselves. If the person does their own cleaning and leaves it in immaculate condition to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk's standards with no damage and returns the key, the cleaning fee and deposit will be returned to them. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Pumphouse and Walnut Beach Access Revetment

Lindley said Michael Morphey of Abonmarche is off work for the next several weeks with a family illness. Arie Donkersloot was unable to attend the meeting because he has the flu. Superintendent Bob Dabbs told the Council that

Donkersloot is almost finished and will have a couple of options regarding the pumphouse and Walnut Beach access. Donkersloot would like to get together with Morphey's assistant and Village representatives after Christmas.

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Resolution #2019-09 – Adopt Parks & Recreation 5-Year Master Plan

Slater moved, seconded by Lindley to adopt resolution #2019-09 accepting the Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. There was discussion regarding who responded to the survey for this plan and the prior 5-year plan and representation on the surveys from different areas of the Village.

Clerk - Fireproof Filing Cabinet Purchase

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to approve the purchase of a fireproof filing cabinet for the clerk’s office at a cost not to exceed \$4,300. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. There was discussion regarding purchasing a used filing cabinet.

Clerk – Computer Purchase

Lindley moved, seconded by Slater to approve the purchase of a computer and software for the clerk’s office at a cost not to exceed \$1,200. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Budget Amendment – Capital Projects FY 19/20

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to approve the budget amendment for Capital Projects for fiscal year 2019/2020 as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Part-Time Help

Superintendent Bob Dabbs told the Council that he has a temporary part-time employee that has been helping with leaf pickup. He said they are behind on leaves and need to make posts, build a fence and work on trees throughout the Village. He is concerned that if we get a lot of snow, they will be plowing snow and won’t be able to accomplish what they need to. He would like to keep him working through the winter.

O’Halloran moved, seconded by Slater to keep the part-timer who is helping with leaf pick up through the first quarter of 2020 with the intention of finishing the fence, leaves and the posts. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Posts on Royal Avenue

Steve moved, seconded by O’Halloran to make as many cement posts as needed to go to the end of the new sidewalk at Royal. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Rules of Procedure

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to add to the “Rules of Procedure” a place for public hearings on the agenda. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Planning Commission Annual Report

Lindley thanked the Planning Commission for their valuable assistance to the Council and for the annual report.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

Frank Giglio asked if the money donated for the 42 Acres is earning interest and if so, what it will be used for. Lindley said it is in a separate account for the 42 Acres and the interest earned is for the 42 Acres and wouldn’t be used for anything else.

Giglio asked what the status is of the bike trail. Lindley said that Marcie Hamilton met with her and told her that the plans are that the bike trail will come up Grand Beach Road from Indiana and stop at Oak Street and then the bikers will continue down Grand Beach Road. She said that both her and O’Halloran said at the public hearing for the bike path that if the Village doesn’t have a plan, the bikes will just continue on Grand Beach Road and go up over the tracks onto US 12. Giglio said his opinion is for the bikes to cross over the tracks in Michiana Shores, Indiana and take it all the way into New Buffalo along the highway. Leonard said that the problem is that they are dealing with two different states.

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CORRESPONDENCE

John Deaner – Marketing Council Activities

Lindley said that the Council received a letter from John Deaner.

ADJOURNMENT

Leonard moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer