

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 15, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Pro Tem Blake O'Halloran called the regular council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. EST. Present in addition to O'Halloran were James Bracewell and Steve Slater. Deborah Lindley and Paul Leonard were not in attendance as they were both out of town.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Slater to adopt the January 15, 2020 agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

**ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve Village Council Minutes:
  - i. Regular Council Meeting, December 18, 2019
  - ii. Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting, December 18, 2019
- b. Hall Rental Request
  - i. January 10, 2020
- c. Pay Bills with Written Additions

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Slater to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

**PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION**

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

**BUILDING & ZONING:** Bracewell reported that he attended a meeting for the road diet and they plan to pave and mark US Highway 12 for a trial period and will do an analysis after the trial period. Chief Ryan Layman said the state is still thinking about a traffic light at Grand Beach and will put what he will call an escape lane for westbound traffic off to the shoulder in case there is a train and the crossing arms are down at Grand Beach.

Bracewell said that he and Building Inspector Bill Lambert attended a FEMA meeting regarding flood zones and there is only one area near the creek that is included in the flood zone. Lambert said that in his opinion, the area would never flood because it is located where the new drain is that takes the water down to the lake.

Bracewell said he spoke with Mr. Kostiner who requested a variance for a pool, and he has revised his plans and the ZBA will take that up in March.

**PARKS & BEACHES:** Slater reported that with the current storms there are small beaches at Royal and Walnut.

Slater submitted a plan to show what they hope to accomplish in their 2020 initiative regarding parks and beaches which includes:

1. Focusing on beach protection and preservation. Slater being appointed directly to the New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance (NBSA). He said Cynthia Denning resigned from the NBSA after serving for 2 ½ years. He wants to explore additional efforts on how to supplement our beaches.

2. Work towards keeping the beaches clean and removing the exposed sheeting on the beach.

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3. Improve the viewing platforms in the Village. Would like to submit a grant for Whitewood and Walnut improvements with help from Abonmarche as part of their 5-year plan contract.

**STREETS & WATER:** Leonard was not in attendance.

**POLICE:** Lindley was not in attendance.

**PRO SHOP & COURSE:** O'Halloran reported that they have taken down many of the trees on the golf course and the evergreens were cut up. He said it was necessary to remove or trim the trees that had serious problems on the golf course and they were mostly on #2 and #9. He reminded residents that there has to be 4" or more of snow on the golf course to ride a snowmobile on it.

### **SERVISCAPE REPORT**

Clay Putnam reported that winter equipment maintenance and repairs are ongoing. They are currently sharpening all of the mower reels.

### **PERSONNEL REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT:** In addition to his written report, Superintendent Bob Dabbs reported that they cut down some of the trees on the golf course and he would like to rent a stump grinder to grind all of the stumps. He estimated the cost to be \$375 for a day for the grinder.

**POLICE CHIEF:** In addition to his written report, Police Chief Ryan Layman reported that there were 38 total complaints in December. He said the departments have met all of the state's requirements for reporting. They are trying to keep their presence up in the Village since many people aren't here during the winter months.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:** Building Inspector Bill Lambert had nothing additional to add to his written report.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **ADA Compliant Parking**

O'Halloran said there were questions on that came up on whether the golf course is ADA compliant. He said the Village has a handicap parking spot located near the office which is pretty small. There has been discussion about moving the parking spot to a different location and he would like to move the spot closer to the stairs which would serve dual purposes for the pro shop and the clubhouse. He would like the spot to have the blue markings necessary to make it an actual ADA compliant spot. He said he is looking into putting an ADA compliant picnic table outside of the pro shop similar to the two that are there.

#### **Appoint Steve Slater to New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance**

Brian Byrnes who is one of Grand Beach's representatives on the NBSA said that every community has two representatives, and the community has to appoint those representatives. He said that the process is that the Council would appoint Steve Slater and then he would be interviewed by the New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance. Slater said the NBSA is making some progress, and it is going to take quite some time. He said he wants to be engaged with them and have a good working relationship with them and get something done. Bracewell would like the opinion of the full council, so this will be added to the March agenda.

**Develop Plans for Whitewood, Walnut and Other Access Points**

Slater said the proposal from Abonmarche to do the Parks and Recreation Plan included completing a grant application for a project that was identified in the plan. They thought that it would be reasonable to apply for a grant for Whitewood and Walnut. He said he will bring a presentation to the Council in March with what they came up with and with budgets showing what the state would fund and what the Village would have to come up with.

**Grant for Whitewood and Walnut Access Points**

Slater said the plans and grant are a package deal and he will bring the information back to the Council in March.

**AUDIENCE RECOGNITION**

Kathy Byrnes told the Council that she noticed three homes that have been abandoned in the Village and are falling apart and wondered what the procedure was to deal with this matter. Bracewell asked her to give the Village addresses as there is a process in place.

Barb Rooney told the Council that she has noticed that coming from Michigan City at night you can't find the Grand Beach entrance because the light is so dim. Her and her neighbors have contacted MDOT and AEP and nothing has been done. Clerk-Treasurer Mary Robertson will contact AEP about the street light.

Brian Byrnes wanted to clarify that he was not appointed by the Village of Grand Beach to represent them on the NBSA, but volunteered after Paul Leonard asked at council meetings for volunteers. He said he contacted Mary Robertson to see if anyone had volunteered, and after 5 or 6 weeks of hearing that no one had, he volunteered. He said the mailing that Robertson sent out with water bills brought in a lot of response. Bracewell said that Brian Byrnes volunteered and he should be thanked by the community for the work that he is doing on the NBSA.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Bracewell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson  
Clerk-Treasurer