

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING (HELD ELECTRONICALLY)
JUNE 17, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Deborah Lindley called the electronic (virtual) regular council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. EST.

Roll Call – In Attendance

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

ADOPT AGENDA

Lindley moved, seconded by O'Halloran to adopt the June 17, 2020 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.

Lindley stated that due to a workman's compensation claim in 2019, the Village's workman's compensation premium has increased by approximately \$16,000 per year and will continue for 3 1/2 years.

ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Village Council Minutes:
 - i. Special Council Meeting, May 20, 2020
 - ii. Regular Council Meeting, May 20, 2020
- b. Pay Bills with Written Additions

Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

None

COMMISSION REPORTS

BUILDING & ZONING: Bracewell said there are four parties interested in purchasing the unfinished house on Oak Avenue, and they are working on price negotiations. The building permit for this house has expired. He said the owner of the house under construction in Fifteen Acres has been working sporadically, and there is a plan in place that involves the Police Chief. They will keep an eye on the construction and maintenance of the property.

Bracewell said there are several properties in the Village that are having revetment work done. He said boulders are being placed at Walnut Avenue for the pump house project and the beach at the pump house is closed.

PARKS & BEACHES: Slater said he has been getting inquiries about the stairs at the beach on Walnut where they are doing revetment work. That beach is closed while they are doing revetment work there. He said the beach for this summer is at Whitewood. He added that it is nice to see all park facilities open again.

Superintendent Bob Dabbs told the Council that there are bright yellow signs with black lettering at accesses that are closed. At this time, due to erosion, all accesses other than Whitewood are closed.

STREETS & WATER: Leonard said potholes are being filled and yard waste is being picked up. He said some of the streets and especially the intersection of Lake Park and Robin are being damaged from all of the heavy construction equipment coming in and out for the revetment work being done.

POLICE: Lindley said the Village is very busy with walkers and bikers and she encouraged people to take extreme caution on the roads when doing these activities. Some of the people have headphones on and don't even hear vehicles approaching. Cars and trucks should be cautious when driving in Grand Beach with all of the pedestrians, bikes, golf carts, hills and curves.

Lindley said she has instructed the Police Department to pull over under aged drivers on golf carts and ticket them. Drivers of golf carts on the streets must be 16 years old and a licensed driver. Children should not be riding on laps, and hanging off the golf carts. All passengers must be seated.

Lindley requested that people check the Village website to find out when fireworks are allowed, as they are only allowed on specific days. The regulations can be found in ordinance number 2019-97.

PRO SHOP & GOLF COURSE

O'Halloran thanked Chief Layman and his team for watching over things that take place on the golf course and for correcting them. Someone recently hung a hammock out on the course to relax and others are using the 5th hole as their practice green. Practicing should be done on the practice range. He said that during the peak season, rangers will be collecting \$8.00 from golfers when the pro shop is closed. He said all in all, the golf course has done well considering the times and it might come out breaking even or even making a profit.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam was not in attendance. Lindley complimented everyone that is involved in the golf course maintenance and said the golf course looks great.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: In addition to his written report, Superintendent Bob Dabbs said that he listens to the concerns of all residents regardless of what subdivision they live in. He said the Village has been pumping water from Fifteen Acres over the golf course and under Royal for a long time and have stopped this year because of the new sidewalk and water was being pumped onto a private property owner's property. He would like to do a drainage project that would start at the Park II property in Fifteen Acres and run it for about 200 yards down Grand Beach Road and take off down the #4 hole and end up at Golf Road near the 7th tee and then tie it into the park drain that runs to the creek. He said he has one bid in the amount of \$63,000 to do the project to move the water out of Fifteen Acres. He said that the Village could do the work for about half the cost, although it would be a winter project and take a while.

After Council discussion about the standing water, mosquitos and pumping water from Fifteen Acres, Dabbs was asked to get additional bids on the project and Lindley said if we can afford to have it done, we'll have it done, and otherwise it will have to be a winter project as there is a lot of money being spent on revetment work. Bracewell said the Village has a responsibility to the residents in Golfmore Estates whose property the water is being pumped on to, and this will help solve that problem. O'Halloran added that the property owner in Golfmore Estates has two or three sump pumps that never stop running and this drainage project will take care of the water there.

Lindley said she wanted to discuss a millage increase or special assessment because it is to the point that we need to find out where money is going to come from for other projects, but because of the Covid-19 and the need to meet electronically, she put it off. Slater said that we need to step back and decide what projects need to be done and figure out how to fund them, adding that there is a list of projects on the wall in the Council meeting room.

POLICE CHIEF: In addition to his written report, Police Chief Ryan Layman reported that there were 58 calls for the month. He said parking is always difficult in both Villages and asked people to keep their cars off the streets and park in their driveways. Lindley thanked the Police Department for all they do to keep everyone safe.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Building Inspector Bill Lambert was not in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

PUMP HOUSE PROPOSAL

Lindley said that in April the Council agreed to have work done by Donkersloot and Sons in the amount of \$254,776 for phase 2 of the project at the pump house and Walnut beach, and Arie Donkersloot has since brought the cost down to \$311,500 for both phase 1 and 2 which is approximately an additional \$57,000. She thinks it is prudent to have all of the work done. She said that all of the neighbors in the area of the pump house are going to have revetment work done, so the whole section can be completed. She said Arie thinks that when he is finished, there will be a nice beach, but probably not for a long time.

Donkersloot addressed the Council and said when working with the engineers they bid everything, but after looking at the area after the spring, he thinks there is work that was planned to be done that is no longer needed. He doesn't think we need timber toe support because it's not a big dune that we are trying to hold back. He presented a proposal with some of the original proposed work removed and additional work for the other phase included. Originally the cost for both phases was \$418,163, but with his recommended changes, the cost for both phases is reduced to \$311,500.

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Leonard said if the Village waits, the amount of work needed will increase because of the damage the lake is doing and if we wait, the cost will increase.

Slater said that this is a unique opportunity and a lot of costs associated with the project are for mobilization and building ramps.

O'Halloran asked if Abonmarche Engineer Mike Morphey is in agreement with the changes. Arie Donkersloot said he hasn't talked to Morphey, but he didn't think the Village hired him as oversight management.

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to approve an additional expenditure not to exceed \$60,000 to complete both phase 1 and phase 2 of the pump house/Walnut Street access project from fund balance and to include a budget amendment in the amount of \$60,000 for 2019-2020 General Fund for capital expenditures for our beach project.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

Lindley said that the Village is required by the Governor's Executive Order 2020-114 to have a Covid-19 preparedness and response plan. She said much of this is covered by federal guidelines in respect to employee rights.

Clerk-Treasurer Mary Robertson explained the plan and the requirement that employees need to take a health screening questionnaire every day before they enter the workplace to find out if they are exhibiting any Covid-19 symptoms or have been in contact with anyone with Covid-19 to ensure the safety of others in the workplace.

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Lindley to adopt the Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan as presented with an added provision that rescinds the plan once Governor Whitmer rescinds the executive order(s) that required the plan.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PART-TIME HELP – MAINTENANCE

Lindley explained that the Council agreed to hire a part time worker this past winter and spring, but with Covid-19, things changed. Superintendent Bob Dabbs would still like to have the part time help. The part-timer worked 322 hours over the winter and spring months. Dabbs said that he would like to have him help with potholes, a new fence, drywells and anything else that needs to be done.

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Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve a temporary part-time employee in the maintenance department not to exceed 20 hours a week through August based on research regarding unemployment.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

ISO FIRE RATING

New Buffalo Township Fire Chief and Village employee Jamie Flick explained that homeowner's insurance premiums are based on the Insurance Safety Office (ISO) rating which is based on the water system, hydrants, fire department training and equipment maintenance. He said he worked with the Village of Grand Beach, Village of Michiana and Township Water Superintendents while working on the ISO rating. He said after spending several hours with the ISO, the rating went down from a 7 to a 4 and from a 9 to a 4y which is a huge decrease and could save residents money on their premiums. The rating goes into effect in August, so he suggested waiting until August to contact insurance agents to see if home owner's insurance premiums will be reduced.

LAKESHORE DRONE FOOTAGE

Lindley said she met with New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit, Jamie Flick and Ryan Layman to see drone footage that New Buffalo Township recently had done for the entire township lakefront which includes Grand Beach and Michiana. The Township paid for the drone footage and the Village will benefit from it. She said it will be very helpful in evaluating lakefront erosion, and you can even zoom in on certain areas and find out how many cubic yards of sand is needed to fill an area. The Township will have new footage done in the fall after the leaves are off the trees. Jamie Flick added that the Police Departments have to report about properties that are in danger on the lakefront to Berrien County Emergency Management and the drone footage will be helpful in doing so.

Lindley said that the Village will put it on the website once everything is ready.

2015 SQUAD CAR

Lindley said the Village of Michiana purchased a new squad car and New Buffalo Township would like to purchase Grand Beach's 2015 Ford Explorer which has over 90,000 miles on it. Layman said 90,000 miles is a lot of mileage for a police car. The trade in value of the car is \$5,000.

Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to sell the 2015 Ford Explorer for \$5,000 to New Buffalo Township.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

OFFICE ENTRYWAY

Lindley explained that a year or so ago, the Sheriff's department came out to do a security analysis of the office and made some suggestions to make it more secure. Now with the covid-19 safety, many municipalities and companies are making changes for their employee's health and safety. Mary Robertson has talked with Building Inspector Bill Lambert and our police officers to discuss plans for these needed changes and explained them to the Council. The plans include a counter area inside the front door with glass above it and a separate door to enter the office.

Lindley moved, seconded by Slater to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$6,000 from the Capital Projects contingency fund for the safety improvements to the Village office, with a budget amendment of \$6,000 in the Capital Projects fund 2019-2020 budget for this expenditure.

Robertson said there is \$1,500 budgeted this fiscal year for a buzzer on the door which is included in the plan and those funds can also be used if needed.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

CHILDREN'S TENNIS PROGRAM

Lindley said the Council received a request from Anne McFadden to run the children's tennis program since the Social Club is taking a hiatus during the Covid-19 situation.

Lindley moved, seconded by O'Halloran to approve Anne McFadden setting up a schedule for children's tennis and to allow children's tennis to be played on Saturdays in July beginning July 4, 2020 and to require that the Governor's Covid-19 procedures are followed.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

Village resident Kaye Moriarty told the Council that she would like to have Mass in the Village as in the past beginning July 4, 2020. They would practice social distancing unless people are from the same family, ask those in attendance to wear masks to be removed only when receiving communion. They will follow the Governor's Executive Orders. She said the Mass is not sanctioned by the Social Club. The Council agreed to allow Mass to be held beginning July 4, 2020. Lindley reminded people that if they are going to attend Mass on their golf carts, they must have the 2020 sticker on them.

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Lindley said that Thomas Suhs who has a home in Michigan Shores wrote a book about the old Golfmore Hotel and gifted a copy to each of the Council members. He will be donating several copies of the book to the Village to sell with the proceeds to be used for the 42 Acres. She thanked him for the wonderful book and his generosity.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer