

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Deborah Lindley called the regular council meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. EST in the upper level of the Village Hall. Present in addition to Lindley were James Bracewell, Paul Leonard Jr. and Blake O'Halloran. Peter Doerr was not in attendance, but was in attendance via Zoom.

ADOPT AGENDA

Lindley moved, seconded by O'Halloran to adopt the November 17, 2021 agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Village Council Minutes:
 - i. Regular Council Meeting October 20, 2021
- b. Hall Rental Request – Colleen Healy
- c. Pay Bills with Written Additions

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

COMMISSION REPORTS

BUILDING & ZONING: Bracewell said that there was a computer glitch so the building inspector will add new permits to the next building permit report. He said everything is moving along and complaints have slowed down. He said there has been constant communications between the building inspector, architect and owner of the land off of SkyHi where the trees were removed. He said he doesn't expect anything to happen along SkyHi until next spring and added that the owners have not submitted plans and do not have a building permit from the Village.

PARKS & BEACHES: Lindley said she had great news and announced that the Village closed on the purchase of 45.8 Acres that afternoon. She said the Village has been working on the purchase of the property for a long time and added that it is hard to get things done when working with the state.

Lindley said if you knew Larry Frankle, he was very ecological, and noted that the Village has been able to use this land for many years. She thanked Ellen Frankle for starting the project, Sid Mathias for closing it out, Clerk Mary Robertson for all of her help in following up and getting clarifications from Mario Ortega and the state, and the Council for sticking with the project. She also thanked the residents that donated for the purchase of the property. She thinks this will be a lasting legacy for this Council and the community.

Doerr said that the next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee will be held on December 21, 2021.

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STREETS & WATER: Leonard said that he, Superintendent Bob Dabbs, Harry Walder, Joe Farwell, and engineer Rob Andrew met at the lot on Wildwood and Ely and came up with a plan that met everyone's approval regarding moving the water lines. He said they will be moving the lines to the east end of the lot. Rob Andrew is redoing the drawings to show the change and once the drawings are complete, Leonard will suggest the Council approve it and send it to Village Attorney for review. They will have to ask the utility company to move a utility pole. He said in the long term, the Village will be able to service the water line if needed and the new plan has improved the buildability of the lot.

He said he and Superintendent Bob Dabbs are disappointed with Versaw Earthworks regarding the drainage project along Grand Beach Road. He said the Village had two trees removed as directed by Versaw, but nothing has been done since the trees were removed. They are concerned that he might not get to the project until spring, so Bob Dabbs will make a few calls and come back to the Council with a recommendation in December.

Leonard said he is very worried about SkyHi through the winter after many trees were removed along the road by a property owner.

POLICE: Lindley reminded residents to keep their cars locked and not to leave valuables in the car. She also warned of many scams that are going around.

PRO SHOP & COURSE: O'Halloran said that the golf course revenue was up by \$300 over 2020. He said that ServiScape does a very good job on the golf course, and it wouldn't look so nice without them. He has met with Pro Shop Manager Don Butler to talk about pricing for next year. He said they will be raising the price of rental carts, and a few other prices while trying to remain competitive in the area.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam reported that they ended the year \$20,489 under budget. He said the irrigation system was winterized and winter equipment maintenance will begin at the end of the month.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: In addition to his written report, Superintendent Bob Dabbs said that the guys have been picking up leaves for the last week and are very busy. He said New Buffalo Electric will be coming out to give an estimate to run electric for four more wall plugs for additional golf cart chargers. He told the Council that the down payment of \$35,000 has been sent out for the purchase of a generator for Village Hall.

POLICE CHIEF: In addition to his written report, Police Chief Ryan Layman reported that there were 34 complaints in October. He told the Council that there is a bill that was approved by the house and will move on to the senate for their approval regarding short-term rentals, adding that the timing is bad with the Village working on an ordinance related to short-term rentals. He said the bill will require that the municipality allow a minimum of 30% of homes to be used as short-term rentals, with any one owner only allowed to own two rental homes. He said the bill does allow for inspections of the homes. He recommended that everyone contact Senator Kim LaSata regarding the bill.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SET TERMS FOR PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

APPOINT PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Leonard moved, seconded by Lindley to appoint Judith Blackburn, Doug Blauw, and Ed Trainor to the Parks & Recreation

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Committee for two year terms and to appoint Ed Brandes and Harry Walder to the Parks & Recreation Committee for three year terms. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

SET TERMS FOR GOLF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

APPOINT GOLF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Leonard moved, seconded by Lindley to appoint Brendan Duffner, Don Butler, Clay Putnam and Harry Walder to the Golf Committee for two year terms and Peter Doerr, Jack Grace and Mike Moore to the Golf Committee for three year terms. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

MERRITT MIDWEST INC. – WILDWOOD – ELY AVENUE LOOP

Leonard stated that the Village is waiting to get information back from Rob Andrew of Merritt Midwest about moving the water lines and will forward it to Attorney Sara Senica and the Village Council to move forward with the plans.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to accept the 2022 meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

GOLF COURSE TREE TRIMMING & TREE REMOVAL

O'Halloran said that they went out and looked at trees on the golf course to determine what trees needed to be trimmed or removed. He said the proposal included removing trees from a resident's property off of the second hole to allow more sun to hit the golf course. He said the resident has given permission for the Village to have three trees removed from his property. Bracewell suggested that there be a signed agreement from the property owner to allow the Village permission to remove and/or trim the trees that are marked with an "x" as a designation of trees and to allow the tree contractor access to his property. O'Halloran said he will have something prepared for the property owner to sign.

Lindley said that she has a problem with cutting trees on private property and a serious problem with cutting a limb that is hanging over a house. She would like the trees marked.

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Leonard to contract with Cardenas Trees to cut down and remove trees as presented at a cost of \$23,000, excluding cutting the limb that is hanging over the property owner's house until Lindley looks at it. Motion carried 4-0.

BUDGET AMENDMENT – GOLF FUND FY 2021-2022

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Leonard to approve the Golf Fund budget amendment for fiscal year 2021-2022 as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

PRO SHOP EMPLOYEES PAY INCREASE

O'Halloran said that there is a good group of people working in the pro shop and with all of the opportunities with other businesses offering higher pay; he would like to increase their pay by \$2 an hour so that we don't lose them. He said the increase for the year will be approximately \$6,000 and based on revenue, he believes the golf course will be able to support the pay increases.

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Leonard to increase the wage for all hourly employees in the pro shop by \$2 an hour. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

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RESOLUTION TO OPT OUT OF PA 152 OF 2011

Lindley said if the Village does not opt out of PA 152 of 2011, the Village will have to require employees to contribute 20% of their health insurance premium. She said the Council has adopted the resolution in the past which allows them to make decisions regarding employees.

Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to adopt a resolution to Opt Out of PA 152 of 2011. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

Lindley said the Council never knows what to expect when the health insurance renewal comes up each year. The Council budgeted for a 20% increase for next year, and the renewal came in at an increase of 8.88%.

Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to renew the employee's health insurance plan with Priority Health as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

HEALTH INSURANCE – MEDICARE ADVANTAGE COPAY

Lindley said that when an employee or spouse reaches Medicare age, the Village can no longer contribute to the health savings account to help with deductible and co-pays. She said in the past the Village has paid a stipend of \$2,000 to two employees to help with copays.

Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to pay a \$2,000 stipend to the employee whose spouse is on Medicare to cover copays. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - GENERAL

Frank Giglio asked if the property across the street from his home on Lake View Avenue where lots were cleared of trees is going to be cleaned up, adding that it looks terrible. Bracewell said there is an ordinance that addresses this. Giglio also raised concerns about semi-trucks that travel along US Highway 12 to avoid the scales on I-94 in both directions and cause damage to US 12. Lindley said that the Village can try writing a letter to MDOT expressing our concerns about the trucks.

Joe Farwell addressed the letter under correspondence regarding water lines on his family's property. He thanked Paul Leonard for working with his family and the possible purchaser of their lot and said he is looking forward to working on this with the Village. He asked if the Village has the funding for the project, and Lindley said that the Village has approximately \$50,000. Leonard said we'll have to wait until bids come in to be able to answer that question. Farwell stated that his family will not rescind their letter.

Lindley said when the Village engineer says that you need a 15' easement for water lines because it is too close to the house, the Village can't go against the engineer.

CORRESPONDENCE

MARY JOAN DOBSON & JOSEPH FARWELL – ELY WATER LINE

KAYE MORIARTY – SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Lindley said it is prudent to put things on hold with the short-term rentals, but the Council takes all of Moriarty's comments to heart.

HARRY WALDER – TREE REMOVAL

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Lindley said the Village had two trees removed along Grand Beach Road and they were dead or dying inside. She said she has been a proponent of the 42 Acres so the trees will be enjoyed by future generations. She said according to Building Inspector Bill Lambert, the property owner in the SkyHi area has beautiful plans for landscaping.

ADJOURNMENT

Lindley moved, seconded by O'Halloran to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer