

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING (HELD ELECTRONICALLY)
SEPTEMBER 16, 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
Paul Leonard
Deborah Lindley
Blake O’Halloran
Steve Slater

ADOPT AGENDA

Lindley moved, seconded by O’Halloran to adopt the September 16, 2020 agenda as presented with an addition to *Item A. to include “and Resolution” and to add Item G. “EGLE Special Exception – 49001 E. McKean Drive”.*

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Village Council Minutes:
Regular Council Meeting, August 19, 2020
- b. Pay Bills with Written Additions

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard 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

VILLAGE COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Candidates for the upcoming Village Council election to elect two Council members to four-year terms to be held on

Regular Council Meeting – September 16, 2020

November 3, 2020 spoke to those in attendance. Incumbents James Bracewell and Blake O'Halloran spoke as well as candidate Harry Walder.

COMMISSION REPORTS

BUILDING & ZONING: Bracewell said the title search has been filed for the unfinished house on Oak Street and the sale should close any day. The house under construction in Fifteen Acres now has the roof on and side paneling on it, but the owner continues to progress slowly. The Village has served summons' on several different problem addresses; although the courts are slow to take action at this time due to Covid.

PARKS & BEACHES: Slater said there is a lot of work being done on the pump house beach and there was an approval given last month for work at Royal. He continues to get bids for the new budget year that begins on November 1 for tennis courts and a possible pickleball court.

STREETS & WATER: Leonard said that the heavy trucks continue to damage Village streets. He said there is an issue on Ely Avenue regarding an 8" water main that goes down the middle of the lot and will need to be moved by the Village. He hopes to talk to the homeowner to see if a plan can be worked out concerning the costs of the project that will be acceptable to both the property owner and the Village.

POLICE: Lindley said the Village has worked very hard for the safety of everyone and asked that everyone continues to remain diligent in stopping the spread of Covid. She said the summer season is winding down and reminded everyone to lock their cars and homes.

PRO SHOP & GOLF COURSE: O'Halloran said that the golf course and pro shop did very well this season even though it started out slow with Covid, it finished strong. He said that the Council hopes to utilize some of the money made to offset expenses to the General Fund to help with a drainage project near #4 which will benefit the Fifteen Acres and Golfmore Estates and will also help alleviate water from the course. He appreciates everyone's support of the course and pro shop, and said that is the only way the course can operate.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam said they repaired leaks in the irrigation system on #5 tee and #9 fairway. Aerification will begin on September 22. Lindley said there has been damage done to the golf course and asked anyone who sees anything to contact the police department. O'Halloran thanked Putnam for the great job they have done and for ServiScape's commitment.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: In addition to his written report, Superintendent Bob Dabbs said that the new fence is almost complete. He said they are in the process of making cement posts to replace those that have been broken or damaged and will make additional posts.

POLICE CHIEF: In addition to his written report, Police Chief Ryan Layman reported that there were 71 complaints. He said they found suspects that were involved in thefts a couple of months ago in the Village and they recovered stolen property from Chikaming Township, but none from Grand Beach. He reminded everyone to know who you have working for you and to be careful of whom you give your alarm codes and house keys out to.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

PROPERTY FORECLOSURE PURCHASE OPTION AND RESOLUTION

Lindley said there is a wooded lot that is being sold by Berrien County for delinquent taxes going back to 2017 and the Village has been given the first option to buy it at a cost of \$8,070 for public use. If the Village does not buy it, the property will go up for auction by the county. She said if the Village buys it and later decides to sell it; all money over the purchase price would have to go back to Berrien County. She said there is funding available in the Capital Projects Fund from the Local Revenue Sharing Board funds that were set aside which could be used for the purchase of the property.

Parks Commissioner Slater said that there are parks that are called pocket parks and that he thinks the Village should consider this. He thinks it is an opportunity that the Village should take advantage of.

Lindley moved, seconded by Slater to approve the resolution as presented to purchase the property from Berrien County at a cost of \$8,070.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS - GOLF FUND 2020-2021 AND CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND 2020-2021

Lindley said that the Council had agreed to do a drainage project to help the Fifteen Acres and the golf course, and tasked Clerk Mary Robertson with finding the funding. Robertson suggested that funds set aside in the Capital Projects Fund from Local Revenue Sharing Board funds could pay for half of the cost with the other half could come from the Golf Fund since the General Fund has spent a lot of money on the pump house revetment and the golf course had a great year this year.

Lindley moved, seconded by O'Halloran to approve budget amendments for the Golf Fund FY 2020-2021 and Capital Projects Fund FY 2020-2021 as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

HSA CONTRIBUTION – COURTNEY SEVERN

Lindley explained that at the last meeting the Council agreed to allow new Police Officer Courtney Severn to receive insurance based on her part-time start date if the insurance company allowed it, and they have agreed to allow it. In addition, the Village will contribute \$525 to Severn’s Health Savings Account (HSA) on a pro-rated basis for 2020.

APPOINT PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER TO FILL TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 31, 2021

Lindley said that the Council announced that they needed to appoint two people to the Planning Commission, and she was very happy to see that there were six or seven people that expressed interest. She, along with Planning Commission member Laurie Roche and ex-officio member Bracewell interviewed four or five of the applicants, and it was a very difficult decision.

APPOINT PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER TO TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 31, 2023

Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to appoint Harry Walder to the Planning Commission to fill a term ending on August 31, 2021 and to appoint Robert Kegan to the Planning Commission to a term ending on August 31, 2023.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

REAPPOINT JIM BRACEWELL AS REPRESENTATIVE TO LOCAL REVENUE SHARING BOARD

Lindley said that Jim Bracewell serves as the representative on the Local Revenue Sharing Board for Grand Beach and also represents the interests of Chikaming Township, the Village of Three Oaks and the Village of Michiana.

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to reappoint Jim Bracewell as representative to the Local Revenue Sharing Board.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

EGLE SPECIAL EXCEPTION – 49001 E. MCKEAN DRIVE

Lindley said there is a special exception necessary for a revetment project at 49001 E. McKean Drive to install a steel sheet wall. She thanked Superintendent Bob Dabbs for checking with all of the parties involved to make sure that there weren’t any problems. Lindley said the Village does not have to decide on the engineering plans that the owner said might be changed, but needs to give them permission for the special exception. She said after that, it is between the property owner, EGLE and the project engineer. Lindley told the owner that the Village doesn’t have anything to say about the project after this unless they need to use a Village beach access or are doing work outside of the normal time perimeter.

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Lindley moved, seconded by O'Halloran to allow them the special exception for the project at 49001 E. McKean Drive.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

Lindley wanted to clear up misinformation that is going around and stated that any money that the Village collects for a millage or a special assessment remains in the Village and does not go to any other entity. She said that the email that went out was incorrect and she thinks the misinformation is still going around the Village. She said each public entity has a millage and that's how they operate, and that money goes to that entity.

CORRESPONDENCE

JOHN DEANER – TRASH CAN REMOVAL

Lindley said that she knows trash can removal is a concern of residents, but it is also a very difficult task for the part-time residents to set out and remove trash cans. She said the Council has had discussions in the past about this and did not come to a definite conclusion. She has assigned the task to the Planning Commission to coincide with rental policies.

ADJOURNMENT

Lindley moved, seconded by O'Halloran to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer