

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Clerk Mary Robertson called the regular council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. EST. Present at the meeting were James Bracewell, Edward Brandes, Peter Doerr and Harry Walder. Blake O’Halloran was not in attendance.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Clerk Mary Robertson announced that the Certification of Election Results have been received from the Board of Canvassers showing the following results:

Village Council Member Four-Year Term (3 winners)

Edward P. Brandes	123
Peter Doerr	131
Harry Walder	113

Elizabeth Grim Vaughan	92
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ADOPT AGENDA

Walder moved, seconded by Brandes to adopt the December 14, 2022 agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Village Council Minutes:
 - i. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2022
- b. Hall Rental Request
 - i. Winter Warriors – January 20, 2023
 - ii. New Buffalo High School
 - iii. Kristine Daley, Approved by Social Club
- c. Pay Bills with Written Additions

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Village resident Debbie Lindley spoke to the Council regarding trash can removal and stated that when the ordinance was adopted, the trash can removal was to be year-round, adding that in the winter, empty cans blow around.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

None

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Doerr moved, seconded by Brandes to nominate Walder as president. With no other nominations, Walder was named president 3-1 with Brandes, Doerr and Walder voting aye and Bracewell voting nay.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Brandes moved, seconded by Doerr to nominate O’Halloran to serve as president pro tem and with no other nominations, O’Halloran was named president pro tem 3-1 with Brandes, Doerr, and Walder voting aye and Bracewell voting nay.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS

Walder appointed the following officials:

- Mary Robertson – Clerk-Treasurer
- Harry Walder - Building & Zoning Commissioner
- Peter Doerr - Parks Commissioner and Beach Commissioner
- James Bracewell - Street Commissioner and Water Commissioner
- Edward Brandes - Police Commissioner
- Blake O’Halloran - Golf and Pro Shop Commissioner

Walder moved, seconded by Brandes to approve the appointment of officials. Motion carried 3-1 with Brandes, Doerr and Walder voting aye and Bracewell voting nay.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

In addition to his written report, Clay Putnam said that snow mold applications have been made to the greens for winter protection and stakes have been placed around the greens.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: In addition to his written report, Superintendent Bob Dabbs said they are getting caught up on the leaves, although people are still putting leaves out. He said that the guys are letting them know that the leaves won’t be picked up if put out past the deadline. He said when they put in a drywell along Grand Beach Road, the asphalt plants were closed, so they put down gravel. The gravel is sinking, so they are going to add cold patch for now.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Ryan Layman introduced Michiana’s Police Commissioner Tim McCarthy. In addition to his written report, Layman said there were 35 complaints in November which included one reported break in. He said they are still trying to figure out the break in since nothing was taken from the detached pool house.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Bill Lambert was not in attendance. Assistant building inspector Chad Butler said that they have been making their rounds and inspecting jobs as usual. He said there have been a couple of small permits issued since the last meeting, but no new permits for houses.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REQUEST TO PURCHASE A PORTION OF JENSEN COURT

Bob Vanecko of 50015 Calla Avenue addressed the Council regarding a driveway which is located on Village property on Jensen Court. He said the previous owner used the property as their driveway for many years, and he thought it was part of the property he bought. He said that he is interested in buying a portion of the Jensen Court property if the Council agrees to it. He told the Council he will pay for an appraiser of their choice, and will buy the property at that price as long as there is some flexibility in case the appraiser comes up with an astronomical number that he isn’t willing to pay.

After discussion, Walder said that Doerr will follow up with Vanecko regarding the property.

SIGNAGE

Bracewell said he would like to discuss with the Council members the current sign regulations which don't include time limitations, after seeing election signs up for 7 1/2 weeks. He is also concerned with the size and length of time that real estate signs are up, adding that in this digital age, the Village needs to look at the sign regulations. He would like the police department to remove signs that aren't allowed and measure real estate signs that might exceed the size regulations. Police Chief Ryan Layman stated that the sign regulations are contained in the Zoning Ordinance, so they should be handled by the building inspector/zoning administrator, and if citations are needed, the police department can issue citations.

NEW BUSINESS

ROB ANDREW, MERRITT MIDWEST – EGLE CORRESPONDENCE

Rob Andrew of Merritt Midwest told the Council that they have had the privilege of providing engineering services for the Village for years, and in this case, dealing with water. He said that every few years, Environmental Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) visits every water system in the state to do a water survey. They met with Superintendent Bob Dabbs earlier in the year to complete the water survey.

He said they found basic deficiencies in the system and made recommendations which were reported in a letter received by the Village. He said that none of the deficiencies are dangerous and there will no fines involved. He said that Dabbs is working on the list, and Merritt will be assisting with part of the work. He said he is comfortable that they can meet the June deadline.

ADD AUTHORIZED BANK ACCOUNT SIGNERS

Bracewell moved, seconded by Doerr to authorize bank account signers as Clerk-Treasurer Mary Robertson, Deputy Clerk Katharine Butler and Council members James Bracewell, Blake O'Halloran, Harry Walder and Edward Brandes. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

MEETING SCHEDULE 2023

Doerr moved, seconded by Brandes to approve the 2023 meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

RESOLUTION TO OPT OUT OF PA 152 OF 2011

Bracewell moved, seconded by Doerr to adopt a resolution to opt out of PA 152 of 2011 as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

BIDS FOR ROOF ON VILLAGE HALL AND MAINTENANCE BUILDING

Walder said that he reviewed both bids for replacing the roofs, and is not clear on whether they can compare apples to apples. He said he will sit down with Bob Dabbs to create a spreadsheet in order to see what each bidder has included. Walder tabled this item.

BID FOR TUCKPOINTING FIREPLACE

Walder said he would like to work with Bob Dabbs on the bid for tuckpointing the fireplace. Walder tabled this item.

BS&A SOFTWARE PURCHASE

Deputy Clerk Kathie Butler explained that the Council had previously approved the purchase of BS&A utility billing and receipting modules, and then found out that it would be 18 months before everything would be operational. She said since it is going to take so long, it makes sense to purchase all the modules of BS&A at one time which will also include the general ledger, accounts payable and payroll.

Walder moved, seconded by Brandes to amend the motion previously adopted to now read to approve the BS&A software purchase for the general ledger, accounts payable, cash receipting, utility billing, and payroll at a cost of \$48,945 as presented, with the General fund paying 50%, Water Fund 25%, Golf Fund 12.5% and the Building Inspection Fund 12.5% and to approve a budget amendment in the Building Inspection Fund in the amount of \$1,000 for the purchase. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Clerk Mary Robertson stated that the annual support fee is included in the first year, and will be allocated in the same manner in each year going forward.

TRASH CAN REMOVAL

Doerr said that trash cans have not been pulled back. The Council discussed the trash can issue and stated that the trash cans should be moved back year-round by the maintenance department.

REQUEST USE OF LAKE AVENUE BEACH ACCESS FOR REVETMENT WORK

Bracewell said that when he was working with Arie Donkersloot regarding use of the beach access to do work in Forest Beach, he set a price for work outside of the Village. He thought there would be a tier of fees created and residents of the Village might get relief. Village Attorney Sara Senica previously stated that if the Village charges for the use of the beach access, the fees should be consistent.

Brandes said that the roads are damaged by the heavy equipment and there should be a charge for use of the accesses.

Walder said Arie Donkersloot just fixed the Lake Avenue access and it will be torn up again, so we need to make sure there is documentation that says they will repair the access to the condition it was in when they got there, or better, and the Council needs to set a fee. He would like the contractor to attend the January meeting to talk to the Council about the request. He would also like to set fees for use of beach accesses at the next meeting, stating that he is considering \$10,000. Walder tabled this item.

TRANSFER FUNDS TO CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND PER FY 22-23 BUDGET

Walder moved, seconded by Bracewell to move \$15,000 for roof repairs and \$15,000 for the purchase of BS&A software from the General Fund to Capital Projects as budgeted for 2022-2023. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

- 1. GENERAL FUND FY 21-22**
- 2. WATER FUND FY 21-22**
- 3. LOCAL STREETS FUND FY 21-22**
- 4. GENERAL FUND FY 22-23**
- 5. WATER FUND FY 22-23**
- 6. GOLF FUND FY 22-23**
- 7. MAJOR STREET FUND FY 22-23**
- 8. LOCAL STREET FUND FY 22-23**

Bracewell moved, seconded by Doerr to approve budget amendments for the General Fund, Water Fund and Local Street Funds for fiscal year 2021-2022 and to approve budget amendments for the General Fund, Water Fund, Golf Fund, Major Street Fund and Local Street Fund for fiscal year 2022-2023 as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

FRANK GIGLIO'S RESIGNATION FROM PLANNING COMMISSION

Walder said that Frank Giglio submitted his resignation from the Planning Commission and thanked him for his work.

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Walder moved, seconded by Doerr to accept Frank Giglio’s resignation. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

HARRY WALDER’S RESIGNATION FROM PLANNING COMMISSION, PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE AND GOLF COMMITTEE

Brandes moved, seconded by Doerr to accept Harry Walders resignation from the planning commission, parks and recreation committee and golf committee. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

APPOINT PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER TO PARTIAL TERM ENDING AUGUST 31, 2025

Walder stated that Planning Commission Chair recommended that Paul Leonard be appointed to the Planning Commission for a partial term ending August 31, 2025.

APPOINT PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER TO PARTIAL TERM ENDING AUGUST 31, 2024

Walder stated that Planning Commission Chair recommended that Liz Grim Vaughan be appointed to the Planning Commission for a partial term ending August 31, 2024.

Walder said he would like to sit down and talk to Leonard and Grim. Walder tabled the appointments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Village resident Bob Barnes said that he looked at the property where the Lake Avenue beach access use is requested and noticed that they have revetment there, so this is not an emergency. He said he thinks they probably want to build up the revetment.

Village resident Paul Leonard said that on the issue of consistent application for use of the beach access for residents, he understood that what Attorney Sara Senica is saying is not about the amount of money, but the criteria for the use of the access. He would encourage the Council to think about criteria and come up with a fee schedule.

Village resident Tina Shanahan suggested that the Council create a daily use fee for beach access use instead of a dollar amount since the heavy equipment is tearing up the roads and costing the Village.

Village resident Laurie Roche thanked Bracewell for his many years on the Planning Commission. She said that about 10 years ago the Village was full of signs, and it looked like Grand Beach was for sale. She said at that time, they didn’t have political signs to consider, but this year there were many political signs. She suggested limiting the number of days signs are allowed.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Brandes moved, seconded by Bracewell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer