

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 18, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

Council president Paul Leonard Jr. called the regular council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. EST. Present in addition to Leonard were James Bracewell, Frank Giglio, Deborah Lindley. Blake O'Halloran arrived at the meeting at 7:37 p.m. EST.

ADOPT AGENDA

Bracewell moved, seconded by Giglio to adopt the July 18, 2018 agenda with the addition under new business of a Resolution for Proposed Charter Amendment, Section 11 and a Resolution for Proposed Charter Amendment, Section 19. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

APPROVE MINUTES

Giglio moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of June 20, 2018 as presented. Motion carried unanimously 4-0. Giglio moved, seconded by Lindley to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing – Marquette Greenway of June 23, 2018. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

MARCY HAMILTON – MARQUETTE GREENWAY

Marcy Hamilton of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) said it was a great turnout and meeting with a lot of comments recently in Grand Beach.

O'Halloran arrived at the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Hamilton said they have a community support team that is working with home owner's association from here to New Buffalo and are actively meeting with them to work through any issues. She listed all of the grants that have been applied for and said that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) submitted a BUILD grant yesterday for funding to fill in all of the gaps from Chicago to New Buffalo at a cost of approximately \$25,000,000.

She said New Buffalo Township applied for a DNR grant on April 1st and will get a preliminary score and will be able to provide additional information. At that time, they will need a commitment from Grand Beach on if they will give an easement to go through Grand Beach and past Robin Lane. She said the DNR was here and said the project is going to score extremely well.

Leonard said according to the chart provided by Hamilton, the Village will not bare any cost for the project. Marcy said New Buffalo Township has committed to the maintenance of the path on the grant application.

She said the route is not set in stone; they have put together concepts and if the grants are awarded and we get into the engineering portion, they can still work with the Village on the design.

COMMISSION REPORTS

BUILDING & ZONING: Bracewell reported there are five homes under construction.

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PARKS & BEACHES: Giglio reported that there is a little beach by the pier with a larger beach at Walnut. He said the Council should talk about a fence around the pier because he has noticed children jumping from the pier. He mentioned an article that appeared in the Chicago Tribune recently on why Lake Michigan floods and has posted a copy of it in the Council meeting room. The article stated that Lake Michigan receives the water when they open up the locks at Lake Superior because their water levels are too high. He attended a meeting yesterday with Lindley and Bob Dabbs regarding pollution in the lake and E.coli in the tributaries leading to the lake. The lake water in Grand Beach is tested on Monday mornings to make sure that it is safe for swimming.

Leonard added that at the end of June he and Giglio met with representatives of the DNR as part of the process for the review of the grant submittal for the 42 Acres. He thought the tour went well and both representatives were impressed with the grounds and the unique environmental features of the coastal marsh plain.

Leonard said he called the EPA in Chicago and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and made complaints to them in regards to E.coli in White Creek. Marcy Hamilton said that she continues to work on the source of E.coli in White Creek and been working with New Buffalo Township in regards to properties on the other side of Highway 12 that are not hooked up to the sewer.

Leonard asked if the test results of White Creek are any better now than in the past and she said that the full body contact limit is 300 and over the July 4th week, the results from the creek were at 5,000. She said this problem isn't only here in White Creek; it is all along the lakeshore and nationwide.

STREETS & WATER: Leonard had nothing to report.

POLICE: Lindley thanked Chief Dan Schroeder and Superintendent Bob Dabbs for putting the signs up and sending alerts out to notify people that golf carts are not allowed in the 42 Acres. She reminded residents that if they are not receiving the Chief's alerts, they should contact him to receive them in the future. She thanked the officers for their work during Family Fest.

PRO SHOP & GOLF COURSE: O'Halloran reported that June was better this year than last year on the golf course, and last year was a very good year. He said there have been serious breaks in the irrigation system and ServiScape has been keeping up with it for the last couple of years, but the Council might have to look at using Village employees to repair one hole at a time.

O'Halloran said there are issues with protecting the pump house, and if we ever lose the pump house, a backup plan for the irrigation could be wells. Leonard said the lake has done a job on the bluff from one end of the Village to the other and the area around the pump house hasn't been spared. There is significant erosion near the pump house and there are concerns that water could get in behind the pump house and destabilize the infrastructure. A little further north there is a drainage pipe on Ridge Road and that area has been eroding significantly. The Village asked Abonmarche to take a look at the pump house and drainage pipe. Abonmarche prepared drawings and a spread sheet with a breakdown of what they suggested and costs for each project. The bottom line is that if the Village did everything that Abonmarche suggested, it would cost \$487,760.

He asked the Council to review the information and the Council will discuss it at the next meeting to see what we are going to do, if anything on these projects. Leonard said that the Council might have to consider putting in wells for irrigation, and might want to have Abonmarche prioritize the projects.

Leonard said the bluff at the end of Robin Lane is now sliding down towards the lake and the stairs have pulled away from the observation deck. The Village is having armor stone put in at the unused access at Strauss, and probably needs to look at protecting the bluff at Robin Lane. If it isn't repaired it will cause damage to the properties on both sides and there will be a much bigger problem down the road.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam reported there have been numerous irrigation breaks this month and they are also experiencing issues with the controllers which have been damaged by lightning over the years. He said the area around the #2 tee is very shady and grass does not grow well there. He suggests removing some of the trees in order to allow sun onto the grass and will meet with O'Halloran to look at the trees. He would like to encourage all golfers to use the divot mix to help repair the grass on the tees and especially on #2. Lindley suggested having someone talk to the kids about golf etiquette and how to use the divot mix to repair the grass.

Peter Shirk of Cedar Avenue said he is a member of the Chicago Golf Club and the Dunes Club and said they have taken many trees down to help with grass growth and more importantly for safety reasons. He said that it doesn't take a very good eye to walk around the Village to see dangerous limbs along the streets and golf course. Leonard asked that if anyone sees a dangerous situation with a tree, they contact Bob Dabbs so that he can take a look at the tree. O'Halloran added that there are a lot of trees on private property that should be addressed by owners and will be a tremendous help.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: Bob Dabbs said that he had emergency tree work done to remove the tree in front of the maintenance building that lost a large limb and had tree work done in three other areas in the Village that were pointed out to him as dangerous. He said there is a problem with getting equipment down to the beach and back up. It is very dangerous and someone might get hurt with the way they are chaining the equipment up to pull it up the accesses. He said they need something with tracks on it in order to get up and down from the beach. The tractor has over 7,000 hours on it and the transmission is ready to fall out. The cost for a brand new piece of equipment with tracks is about \$45,000. O'Halloran suggested looking at a used piece of equipment with low hours on it.

POLICE CHIEF & BUILDING INSPECTOR: Police Chief Dan Schroeder and Building Inspector Bill Lambert had nothing additional to report at this time.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Bracewell moved, seconded by Leonard to approve the payment of the bills with the written additions as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION - PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT, SECTION 11

Leonard said a resolution has been prepared for a ballot proposal to amend the Village charter to allow the Council to receive compensation for meetings attended. He said this would bring the Village in line with all other municipalities in southwest Michigan to allow council members to receive compensation for attending meetings. The same is true for the second resolution to provide a per meeting fee for the

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Planning Commission and zoning board. He said they work just as hard, although they may not have as many meetings.

Bracewell moved, seconded by Leonard to adopt resolution 2018-05 as presented to approve ballot language for the November 6th election to amend section 11 of the charter to allow the council to establish compensation by Village Council resolution.

Roll Call

James Bracewell	Aye
Frank Giglio	Aye
Paul Leonard Jr.	Aye
Deborah Lindley	Aye
Blake O'Halloran	Aye

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

RESOLUTION - PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT, SECTION 19.

Bracewell moved, seconded by Giglio to adopt resolution 2018-06 as presented to approve ballot language for the November 6th election to amend section 19 of the charter to allow the council to establish a per-meeting fee for Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals members by Village Council resolution.

Roll Call

James Bracewell	Aye
Frank Giglio	Aye
Paul Leonard Jr.	Aye
Deborah Lindley	Aye
Blake O'Halloran	Aye

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

MARQUETTE GREENWAY SURVEY

Leonard said that he received great feedback from people that had attended the public meeting regarding the Marquette Greenway. All of the people that attended the meeting from outside the Village told him that this was the best public hearing that they have attended.

Leonard said that since this is such an important issue to the Village that everyone that pays taxes here should be able to have a say so. He would like to send a survey out in August with an August 30 deadline for the return so that in September they can give their position to Marcy Hamilton so they can move forward with plans for the project. He said the issue is not whether we want the path or not, but where to put it. He read the proposed survey that will be sent out. It includes options regarding the location of the Marquette Greenway or doing nothing and allowing the bikes to continue to ride on Grand Beach Road. We will collect the surveys, review them and announce the results at the September Council meeting.

O'Halloran asked Marcy Hamilton if some of the trees removed can be replaced with other trees and she said there will be a landscaping budget in the project so they will be able to replace some of the trees. O'Halloran said that they could put different types of trees in that will beautify the path and not grow as large.

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Giglio asked what the chances are of putting the entire path along Highway 12 and Marcy said that they've looked at that, but there is not enough room and the utilities get in the way. She said they are looking for something that is family friendly, and they don't think Highway 12 is a family friendly option.

The Council heard comments from:

John Deaner, Hicks Avenue
Frank Dolan, Arnold Avenue
David Krogh, Knob Hill
Sheila McGinnis, Howard Avenue
Vicki McHugh, Lake View Avenue
Peter and Joanne Shirk, Cedar Avenue
Amy Slater, Reitz Place
Susan Sonderby, East Arnold Avenue
Jack Stewart, Royal Avenue

Comments included:

A request of the Council to provide information to property owners regarding things such as property values, crime, resting areas, and expenses for the upkeep of the trail prior to sending out a survey.

Agrees with the survey, and thinks it's a good decision even though the Council could make the decision without the public's input.

There is a rumor going around that it may cost the Village money for the path and with all of the expenses that the Village is currently facing, somebody needs to stop the rumor that this might cost the Village \$4,000,000. Leonard said the Village has not been asked to pay anything to put the path in and \$4,000,000 is the cost for the entire Marquette Greenway from the state line to New Buffalo.

Other communities are saying no to the project. Leonard responded that much of what happens in Grand Beach will be determined by what the others communities do.

Concern about removing trees and the buffer on the railroad track side that the trees provide. Leonard said that the trees are thin on the railroad side near Deer Park and Robin Lane.

There is a tremendous opportunity here to put in a bike path. Has a friend that works with a department at Michigan State and has built 100's of miles of bike paths. Marcy Hamilton said they have talked with Michigan State and they have done a lot of studies on property values and other things in regards to these types of projects.

It's hard to compare apples to apples because Grand Beach is a community that is already beautifully endowed with natural features.

O'Halloran said the world is dynamic and from what he can tell Indiana doesn't really care what Grand Beach is doing, so they are probably going to bring the path right to the border and the Village's big concern is that if we do nothing, some of the things people are concerned with are going to happen. We are going to have three times more bikers riding on Grand Beach Road.

Bracewell said he appreciates that people want to put in a bike path and he embraces it, but he doesn't

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agree that it would be unsafe to put a bike path next to Highway 12. He thinks we need to explore more ideas.

2017 MERS ANNUAL ACTUARIAL VALUATION

Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to contribute 6.41% to the employee's MERS pension plan effective November 1, 2019. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

ACH AND ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS POLICY REVISION

Council members agreed to the revision to the ACH and electronic transactions policy.

BUDGET AMENDMENT – GENERAL FUND 2017-2018

Leonard moved, seconded by Lindley to approve the budget amendment for the General Fund 2017-2018 as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

HALL RENTAL REQUESTS - CHRIS KOZICKI, JUNE 19, 2018 and NORM CHERRETT, OCTOBER 27, 2018

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to approve hall rentals for Chris Kozicki after the fact on June 19, 2018 and Norm Cherrett, October 27, 2018. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Leonard reported that the Council received a thank you letter and a couple of letters regarding the Marquette Greenway.

BERRIEN COUNTY RESOLUTION – SENATE BILL 1031

Leonard explained that Berrien County sent a resolution stating their opposition to senate bill 1031 regarding personal property taxes. Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to support the Berrien County resolution regarding Senate Bill 1031. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

JOHN DEANER – THANK YOU

LAURIE WIESEMANN – MARQUETTE GREENWAY

LINDA PUVOGEL & MICHAEL O'HALLORAN – MARQUETTE GREENWAY

ADJOURNMENT

Bracewell moved, seconded by Lindley to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer