

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 14, 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 and Blake O'Halloran. Leonard explained that the certification of election results has not yet been received, so newly elected council members cannot sit on the Council for this meeting. Leonard recognized Steve Slater who was recently elected to a 4-year term on the Council.

Leonard thanked Council Member Frank Giglio for all of the time and effort he's put in over the past four years on all the business that has come before the Council, thanking him in particular for improvements to the parks and beaches. He presented Giglio with a certificate and letter commemorating his years of service to the Village. Leonard stated that Planning Commissioner George Soper has moved to New Mexico and his position is now open. He thanked Soper for his years of service on the Planning Commission.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Leonard to adopt the November 14, 2018 agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Giglio to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of October 17, 2018 as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

**PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION**

**NEW BUFFALO SHORELINE ALLIANCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Brian Byrnes, one of Grand Beach's representatives to the New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance reported that they continue to pursue every potential opportunity for a grant. He said Brigadier General Toy is scheduled to visit New Buffalo on December 12 to see the damage along the shoreline. Toy has stated that he is aware of the problem and said he has every intention to fix it.

He said that in the past the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has said that everything is fine with the harbor in New Buffalo, but they are now doing research based on the Great Lakes Fish Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) grant proposal submitted by the Alliance. He said they want more information on the type of materials being proposed because they want a natural habitat with rocks. He thinks that in March they will probably send the grant back through.

Byrnes asked the Council to consider making a donation to the Alliance on behalf of the Village of Grand Beach. He said he is available by phone or email to answer anyone's questions.

O'Halloran asked about other grants that County Commissioner Ezra Scott mentioned were available and Byrnes said there are others available, and he will forward the list once he obtains it. O'Halloran said if the grants are out there, the Village would be interested in pursuing them and he hopes that the Alliance will also.

Bracewell referred to Byrnes' written report and the reference to the percentage of people in Grand Beach that have contributed to the Shoreline Alliance. He questioned Byrnes on whether he thinks that the petition/law suit that is in effect against eight property owners and the DNR could have an effect on the support coming from the people in Grand Beach. He asked Byrnes to remind the Alliance that the Village of Grand Beach and its residents have contributed a lot to the shoreline effort by funding a large portion of the 2009 ACOE study in which the

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ACOE finally admitted that the loss of beach south of New Buffalo is attributed to the ACOE putting in the breakwater in New Buffalo.

Leonard told the history of the New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance from its startup and the involvement of Grand Beach as well as the funding that Grand Beach provided to start the 501(c)3. He said there was a time that other members of the Alliance wanted to sue the City of New Buffalo, and at that time he said the Village became uninvolved with the Alliance because it didn't make sense to sue our neighbors. He said when they took a different approach to try and find a solution using political involvement, the Council appointed two representatives to serve on the Alliance. He said we have a pretty significant group and a way into the White House now and the ACOE is taking a look at us, without litigation and maybe in a few years we will see a solution. He commended Grand Beach representatives Brian Byrnes and Cindy Denning for the time they put into the Shoreline Alliance and said he hopes they will continue to report to the Council.

Lindley said that misinformation got out that the Council doesn't know anything about what has taken place with the Shoreline Alliance, but the Council has been involved since the beginning as Leonard explained.

### **COMMISSION REPORTS**

**BUILDING & ZONING:** Bracewell reported that the Planning Commission had a lengthy meeting last night and reviewed many issues to be amended in the zoning ordinance. Building Inspector Bill Lambert said they will hire a process server for \$72 to serve the owner of a house under construction on Oak Street a letter stating what our ordinance says regarding not completing his project in a timely manner. Bracewell said there are seven homes under construction and other projects including additions and decks.

**PARKS & BEACHES:** Giglio reported that with the weather since the last meeting, the easements have eroded a little more.

**STREETS & WATER:** Leonard reported that leaves are being picked up.

**POLICE:** Lindley reported that the Police Department had an audit and it went well.

**PRO SHOP & GOLF COURSE:** O'Halloran reported that the golf course income is really based on the year's weather. In 2016 and 2017 we've had the highest revenue we've ever had. This year we were down almost 600 rounds and the year ended \$8,000 below last year's revenue, which was a little down, but was a pretty good year overall. He added that the golf course has financially held its own with none of the general funds going to the golf course in recent years, but there have been years when the weather was bad and we did have to use some of the general funds. He said he is happy that we have been able to hold on to the traditions of men's, ladies and children's golf and closing the golf course during those times.

Leonard asked if we are going to repair some of the irrigation lines over the winter as was discussed at previous meetings. O'Halloran said we are battling to try and get the permits for the work at the beach access and pump house from the ACOE and the DEQ, but have not been able to get them so far. He doesn't know if the pump house will make it through the winter weather and that's why they've started the irrigation committee who will report to the Council.

### **SERVISCAPE REPORT**

Clay Putnam reported that they ended the year \$7,800 under budget. The irrigation system has been winterized and stakes will go up in the next week or two.

**PERSONNEL REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT:** In addition to his written report, Superintendent Bob Dabbs said that the alarm system was installed at the pump house yesterday to report flooding to him or the police department.

**POLICE CHIEF:** Police Chief Dan Schroeder said that they have a direct connection with the State Police and FBI and for that reason they have to be audited every 3 years to make sure that all of the security policies are in place. He said they just finished the LIEN audit and everything went well.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:** Building Inspector Bill Lambert had nothing to add to his written report.

**BILLS TO BE PAID**

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**IRRIGATION STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Chair John Deaner updated the council on the irrigation study that he, Bob Dabbs and Clay Putnam have been working on for the past three weeks. He said the study is dynamic and changes every time they have a meeting. They are going to add an additional plan to their study to look at a horizontal well because they are concerned with whether they will get enough water with the other plans they have. O'Halloran listed the different plans as Plan A. Well only, Plan B. Well & pond, Plan C. New irrigation system, Plan D. Use municipal water and Plan E. Horizontal well.

O'Halloran said that out of the six courses the committee has looked at, most of them are using wells. He said we have no idea of the longevity of the pump house which has put the Village into a situation that it needs a secondary source of water no matter what happens.

John Deaner said they will give the Council everything they need in a packet and a flash drive once they've completed their study. Leonard said they are expecting a recommendation from the committee to say what will be the most optimal solution.

**FINAL SCORES FOR GRANT APPLICATION**

Leonard stated that he is pleased to report that in September McKenna representative Mario Ortega reported that because of who we are as a Village; too rural, too small and too wealthy, there are points that we could not get. The most points we could get was 550 even though we knew we couldn't get all of them, and we were given a preliminary score of 330 and Mario said we could get 70 additional points. Leonard reached out to Chikaming Open Lands to ask for their help with the maintenance and management of the property to help nurture the fragile eco system. He also reached out to Marcy Hamilton at the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and asked if the 42 Acres would be included in the green space project and she put the 42 Acres into their plan. Mario put together a marketing plan and all of these things were sent to the DNR, and we were notified that we received all 70 of the additional available points. We will find out in December if the grant is approved. Leonard thanked everyone that has worked on the grant application.

**RESOLUTION TO OPT OUT OF PA 152 OF 2011**

Leonard read a resolution that will opt the employee's out of the minimum requirement for contributions to their health insurance. Leonard said that audits have always shown that the Village is in good shape with its pension

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plan and the Village provides the best health insurance it can for its employees.

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to adopt resolution #2018-08 to opt out of Public Act 152 of 2011 as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

### **2019 MEETING SCHEDULE**

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve the 2019 meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. 2019 Council meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 EST.

### **ANNUAL SALARY ADJUSTMENTS**

Bracewell moved, seconded by Lindley to approve the annual salary adjustments as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER GEORGE SOPER RESIGNATION**

Leonard stated that with George Soper's resignation from the Planning Commission there is an open seat and the new Council can appoint someone at the next meeting to fill that position. Leonard thanked Soper for his 10 years of service, his help with the creation of the first master plan, the rewrite of the Zoning Ordinance and multiple amendments. If anyone is interested in serving on the Planning Commission, contact Clerk Mary Robertson.

### **HALL RENTAL REQUEST – KEVIN O'NEILL, OCTOBER 12, 2019**

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to approve a hall rental request for Kevin O'Neill on October 12, 2019. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Village resident Steve Slater said that a couple of full-time residents are trying to plan a pot luck dinner for all full time residents on December 14, 2018. They would like to use the Council room for the event, but if they find out there are too many people for the room, they might need to move upstairs. O'Halloran said that cleaning in the Council room might be an issue. He also suggested keeping four rectangular tables downstairs for use as it is very difficult to move the tables up and down the stairs. After discussion, it was decided that the group could use the Council room for the potluck and will need to clean the room and the restrooms after use. If the hall is needed for a larger group, they will be responsible for the \$200 cleaning fee.

Steve Slater said he looks forward to working with the board, and he thinks we have far more that unites us than divides us.

Bracewell moved, seconded by Leonard to purchase five 6' x 30" tables and a rolling rack for use in the Council room. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

### **AUDIENCE RECOGNITION**

None

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **MARK SCOTT – THANK YOU CARD**

Leonard said that the Council received a thank you card from Mark Scott after sending a sympathy letter to him after the death of his mother Shirley Scott.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson  
Clerk-Treasurer