

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

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

Lindley apologized that the Council packets were not on the website because Police Chief Dan Schroeder fell and broke his leg and he takes care of the website. She said we will try and get this rectified in the future.

ADOPT AGENDA

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to adopt the February 20, 2019 agenda with the addition of item *9(n) Golf Course Use Request -New Buffalo High School*. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

APPROVE MINUTES

Slater moved, seconded by O'Halloran to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 16, 2019 as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

None

COMMISSION REPORTS

BUILDING & ZONING: Bracewell read a letter that was received from an Attorney representing the Collins' regarding landscaping, ceilings and trim that they claim was damaged due to the construction of a new home. Bracewell said that they will take this under consideration and he will speak with Bill Lambert about it. Lambert has talked to the contractor about the landscaping that was damaged. Bracewell said they won't make a commitment to withhold an occupancy permit.

PARKS & BEACHES: Slater reported that there is a lot of rock on the beach at Royal for the Daley property and next to the Whitewood access. The Parks and Recreation Committee is trying to find out when the contractors will be working on the beach and when the access will be available.

Lindley said that former Council Member Frank Giglio sent out a flyer to residents about how they are releasing water from Lake Superior into Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. She thinks it might be a good idea for people to send letters to those in charge of releasing the water with their concerns about the water that is being dumped into Lake Michigan.

Slater said he asked Dave Wolf of Oselka Constructors if they could replenish the sand and how long it would last. He did a quick calculation and estimated the cost to be \$20,000 to place about two feet of sand just at the Royal beach. Both Arie Donkersloot and Dave Wolf said with one big storm, it could all be gone. He said as frustrated as we all are about the lack of sand on the beaches, we will have to focus on keeping them clean and riding this out.

Bracewell asked about the appeal by a group of residents to the DEQ to allow work to go forward on lakefront properties. Slater said there is concern about some of the rock work that has been done and residents have appealed the decision to let it go forward. He said there are discussions between parties to release the appeals. There are discussions about if someone is going to put rock on the beach; do they have a responsibility to maintain it? There are beach maintenance and beach access issues, and basically lakefront owners have to do the work in front of their property, but other residents have beach rights and they want to use the beach and if there are excavators and dozers on the beach all summer, those are legitimate concerns.

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Bracewell asked about the information contained in Slater's report about the pollution to the creek, and said that there have been studies done in the past and maybe this could be a New Buffalo Township crusade to take care of the creek. Slater said there is concern with the creek because kids play in it. O'Halloran said that they want to keep moving forward and keep the pressure on which is why the creek is listed under next steps on the Parks and Recreation Committee reports.

Leonard said most of the pollution in White Creek is originating in LaPorte County and he has called the EPA in Chicago and filed a formal complaint and also filed a complaint with Indiana Department of Environmental Quality and LaPorte County Department of Health. Marcy Hamilton of Southwest Michigan Planning Commission has been working with LaPorte County on it and they want to take care of it, but budgeting is a problem.

Lindley said that she admires the job that is being done by the committees, and stated that the committees are fact finding committees and she would be concerned with who is making calls to different agencies. O'Halloran said the calls would be made by either he or Slater.

STREETS & WATER: Leonard reported that on February 15 he received an email from the Michigan Municipal League which said there is a new state transportation grant that targets cities and villages with less than 10,000 people. The act will provide \$3,000,000 per year thru 2023 to be allocated to cities and villages. He said the maximum annual grant is \$250,000 with a minimum 50/50 match. He will fill out the application and sit down with Superintendent Bob Dabbs to come up with a plan for the request.

POLICE: Lindley said that Chief Dan Schroeder fell and broke his leg in two places and is currently in the hospital. She said that the Village is still protected and covered 100%.

PRO SHOP & GOLF COURSE: O'Halloran reported that he and Clay Putnam of ServiScape put together a budget for the golf course maintenance for the next fiscal year. Over the last few years they have created a list of equipment and are looking at what equipment needs to be replaced. Much of it has been updated, but they still need a finishing mower and a maintenance cart.

He said the Village is still waiting for permits for the armor stone at the pump house. He said we desperately need to protect our beach access point there, as well as the pump house. The Village applied for permits in September and still does not have the permits needed. We can't get on Donkersloot's schedule for the work until we get the permits.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam reported that winter equipment maintenance is continuing. They have submitted their budget for next year and are seeking bids for materials, tools and equipment for the coming season.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: In addition to his written report, Superintendent Bob Dabbs said that they have been plowing snow and pumping water from the park because the drain is plugged again. They will take care of it when the creek level goes down, but are currently pumping water across the 6th fairway.

POLICE CHIEF: Police Chief Dan Schroeder was not in attendance.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Building Inspector Bill Lambert had nothing additional to report.

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BILLS TO BE PAID

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TABLES, CHAIRS AND TABLE RACK FOR COUNCIL ROOM

Lindley said Clerk-Treasurer Mary Robertson doesn't have any suggestions on tables and chairs, but would like to order new chairs for the council room and council members. Lindley thinks that we should consider having a monthly get together during the winter. Robertson will get prices for additional folding chairs and council member chairs for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

Lindley told the Council that using a consent agenda can save a little time by allowing the Council to approve several things in one motion. If there are questions that need to be addressed, the item can be removed from the consent agenda and discussed. Bracewell moved, seconded by O'Halloran to use a consent agenda in the future. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to adopt the Rules of Procedures as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

LETTER OF SUPPORT TO MAJOR GENERAL MARK TOY

Lindley thanked resident Brian Byrnes of New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance for writing a letter of support to Major General Mark Toy. Leonard moved, seconded by Slater to send the letter. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

APPOINT PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBER - TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

Slater said that Sheila McGinnis is very passionate about the 42 Acres and asked to serve on the Parks and Recreation Committee, and she will be on point for the 42 Acres and has already started working with Lindley to compose a letter and will be arranging a Q & A session and communicating to the residents to get donations.

Slater moved, seconded by Lindley to appoint Sheila McGinnis to the Parks & Recreation Committee with a term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE PROPOSALS

Slater said that the Village cannot apply for grants without a Parks & Recreation Master Plan. This is a document that gives us leverage to apply for state and federal grants. The plan needs to be updated by the end of the year to stay in compliance.

He contacted Fleiss & VandenBrink for a proposal, but never heard from them. He received proposals from Abonmarche of \$6,500 and McKenna proposed 3 different plans with the one that aligns best with Abonmarche's proposal at \$5,750. Abonmarche will also assemble a 2020 DNR grant application for projects that we want to do in 2020. He said when looking at the 2 proposals, they are pretty much the same, but based on the proposal and timeliness of the proposal, Slater moved, seconded by Leonard to approve a proposal from Abonmarche in the amount of \$6,500 subject to tweaks in their schedule. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

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POKAGON FUND GRANT – 42 ACRES

Lindley said that Clerk-Treasurer Mary Robertson had recently communicated with Janet Cocciarelli of the Pokagon Fund and the Village has \$58,000 that we can apply for in matching funds with a two to one match requirement. Lindley said that we have the match from donations received for the 42 Acres. We have to write a letter of intent and then apply for the grant funds. She would like to use those funds for the purchase of the 42 Acres, and by doing so we can show the residents that we are trying to find money elsewhere for the 42 Acres.

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to authorize Lindley to write the letter to apply for a grant from the Pokagon Fund to be used for the purchase of the 42 Acres. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

AUTHORIZATION TO SEND OUT LETTER REGARDING MATCHING FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF 42 ACRES

Lindley said that she and Sheila McGinnis would like to get a letter out to every resident asking for donations to help with the purchase of the 42 Acres. She wants the residents to know that the 42 Acres includes the driving range and other land. They also want to do a follow up with phone calls after everyone gets here for the summer, a summer fundraiser and a GoFundMe page for people that live outside of the Village. Residents would make their donations directly to the Village. She suggests that everyone tell their neighbors and spread the word about the 42 Acres. Other ideas include naming rights for the trails or donation tiers with your name on a leaf. If you have other fundraising ideas or questions, send emails to Lindley at dlindley@grandbeach.org.

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran that the Council delegate Lindley as President of the Council and Sheila McGinnis as the point person for the Parks & Recreation Committee the discretion to write letters to residents and second homeowners as frequently as they deem appropriate, to schedule and organize Q & A sessions, to write newspaper articles and create any type of communication and fundraising efforts as needed. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

GALIEN RIVER SANITARY DISTRICT VACUUM TRUCK – CLEAN STORM DRAINS

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to have the Galien River Sanitary District or Berrien County truck vacuum out the larger drywells in the Village at a cost not to exceed \$1,000 to be paid from Major and Local Street funds. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

DRIVING RANGE & RECREATIONAL LEASE

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Leonard to approve the 1-year lease from Grand Beach Land Development for the driving range and recreational area from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 at a cost of \$1.00. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

GOLF CART FEES

O'Halloran said that the golf cart fees will remain the same as last year.

GOLF FEES

O'Halloran said golf fees will remain the same as in 2018. He said that we have to compete with a lot of public golf courses and our fees are competitive and he wants to keep them competitive.

MOVE FUNDS IN CAPITAL PROJECTS FROM GARDENING AT 8TH HOLE TO GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION

O'Halloran explained that the Village has \$8,700 set aside in the Capital Projects fund for the irrigation system and another \$8,000 set aside in 2010, 2011 and 2012 for gardening near the 8th hole. He would like to move the \$8,000 to the irrigation fund so that there will be \$16,700 available which will cover the cost of a test well.

O'Halloran moved, seconded by Leonard to move \$8,000 in Capital Projects set aside for Gardening at 8th hole to Capital Projects set aside for Golf Course Irrigation. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

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HALL RENTAL REQUEST - AMY HANLEY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to approve a hall rental request from Amy Hanley for February 23, 2019. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

GOLF COUSE USE REQUEST – NEW BUFFALO HIGH SCHOOL

Lindley said that in the past New Buffalo High School used the golf course for cross country and golf and paid the Village \$600, but they no longer need to use the course for cross country and they have offered to pay \$400 for use by the golf team. O’Halloran moved, seconded by Lindley to allow the use of the golf course by New Buffalo High School at a cost of \$400. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

Jack Stewart asked if the council could request that all equipment be removed from beach for the summer. Slater said this is under discussion and the Parks & Recreation Committee will bring beach rules and regulations to the Council next month.

O’Halloran told the Council that he asked Arie Donkersloot if we got our permits by March 15th for the pumphouse/beach project where that would put us, and he said starting the work sometime in April.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lindley mentioned the following correspondence was received.

Dennis Grether & Catherine Kelly – 42 Acres

New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance Report

Pokagon Fund – 10th Anniversary – O’Halloran said they have given out \$25M in grants which is incredible.

Leonard said that the amount of water coming into the Village during the polar vortex was much higher than what it is historically. He expects that at some point in the spring, he will get a call or email from someone asking for relief from their water bill. He said his answer will be no because taxpayers are not subsidizing the cost of water for people that aren’t turning their water off when they are gone in the winter. If you are leaving during the winter months, please turn your water off.

Bracewell told those in attendance that John Kelly on Glenwood passed away last week, and asked that they please keep him in their memories.

ADJOURNMENT

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

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer