

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2021**

Council President Deborah Lindley called the electronic (virtual) Zoom Special Council Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. EST.

Lindley read the following information regarding the remote meeting:

This meeting is being held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, and pursuant to the provisions of enrolled Senate Bill 1246, Public Act 254 of 2020 amending the Open Meetings Act to allow meeting remotely under Berrien County's Declared State of Emergency. All Council members should identify themselves prior to speaking so that everyone is aware of who is speaking. The President of the Council will read all of the agenda items as we go along for those that cannot see the agenda.

There will be two times when the public can speak.

- The first time will be during "comments on agenda items".
- The second time is during "public comments-general" where you can speak about any concerns.
- All audience members will be muted until it is time for them to speak.
- Please identify yourself before speaking.

**ROLL CALL – IN ATTENDANCE**

James Bracewell – Attending remotely from Grand Beach, Michigan  
Paul Leonard – Attending remotely from Grand Beach, Michigan  
Deborah Lindley – Attending remotely from Grand Beach, Michigan  
Blake O'Halloran – Attending remotely from Grand Beach, Michigan

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Lindley moved, seconded by Leonard to adopt the agenda as presented.

Roll Call

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

Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**STORM WATER MANAGEMENT**

Fred Cowles of Cowles Environmental told the Council that he retired from the State of Michigan where he helped develop the storm water management for the state. After retirement, he went to work for Fishbeck, Thompson, Huber & Carr and began working with the Village on their Stormwater Management Program.

He said in 1972, the federal government started to regulate all waters in the United States making all waters swimmable and fishable. After the EPA lost a lawsuit in 1990, they ordered a storm water regulatory program and

## Special Council Meeting – April 12, 2021

began regulating storm water in urbanized areas. Cowles helped develop the program while at the state.

He said that this is pretty complex regulatory program and Grand Beach doesn't really fit the regulations very well. He said the Village's drainage system is very small compared to most cities and Villages in Michigan and only has six outfalls to the lake and a few to White Creek.

The state has required the Village to develop a storm water management plan which describes what the Village will do to meet specific measures. He said the permit was approved in 2017 except for a small part of the illicit discharge ordinance that was adopted in 2004. They are requiring us to make a change to the ordinance.

He said the Village adopted a policy in the past that says all storm water must be managed onsite. This alerts residents that they cannot use the Village drainage system, and that they should collect all rain water on site and let it soak into the sand on their property.

Building Inspector Bill Lambert said there are no heavy soils in Grand Beach which is mostly sand, and he has not seen any issues with water, saying that the water percolates into the sand. He said he works diligently with homeowners to decide whether they need to put in a catch basin or whatever it takes to handle the water on site.

### **AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE #64 REGULATING ILLICIT DISCHARGES**

After discussion among the Council members with Fred Cowles regarding the need for a minimal change to the Illicit Discharge ordinance to satisfy the state, the Council directed him to make the changes to the language in sections 2.02 and 2.03 regarding illicit discharge. Water Commissioner Paul Leonard said he would work with Cowles to review the ordinance changes. Cowles said he will make the minimal changes required and will run it past the state to see if it satisfies their requirement prior to adoption of the ordinance by the Council.

Cowles told the Council that if there is a time that a developer comes in and wants to put in a development, and the Village allows them to tie into the Village storm drain system, we would have to amend the ordinance and get approval from the state, which could slow down the process.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS – GENERAL**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to adjourn the meeting.

#### Roll Call

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

Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m. EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Robertson  
Clerk-Treasurer