

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 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 stated that we are in the process of finding an IT person to update our website and hope to have more information in April. She said the fundraising goal thermometer that is posted in the council room will track funds raised towards the \$488,000 needed in matching funds for the purchase of the 42 Acres. To date we have received \$128,750 in donations and she asked that everyone send their checks in to help the Village reach its goal to purchase the property.

ADOPT AGENDA

Leonard moved, seconded by Slater to adopt the March 20, 2019 agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Village Council Minutes:
 - i. Special Council Meeting, February 20, 2019
 - ii. Regular Council Meeting, February 20, 2019
 - iii. Special Council Meeting March 2, 2019
- b. Pay Bills with Written Additions

Leonard moved, seconded by O'Halloran to adopt the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

Lindley recognized Police Chief Ryan Layman from Michiana who was is in the audience.

COMMISSION REPORTS

BUILDING & ZONING: Bracewell reported that the project on Oak Street is going slow, but that he and Bill Lambert are in constant communication about it. The council received a letter about a home under construction on Ridge Road regarding damage to property and he said there are commitments from the owner and builders to bring everything back into the original condition when the house is finished. There was discussion regarding a trailer that has been parked at a new home site on Rhode Court for more than two years. The council felt that this was too long to allow a trailer to be parked, and mentioned that it looks horrible from the golf course.

PARKS & BEACHES: Lindley said she sent a letter of inquiry to The Pokagon Fund requesting a \$58,000 grant out of municipal funds to be used towards the purchase of the 42 Acres. She plans to attend their April meeting.

Slater suggested a letter be drafted to the DEQ to redirect the mouth of White Creek which is now 30' south of the pier after a homeowner's association redirected it towards the pier. He said he talked to Arie Donkersloot to let him know that there are boulders on the beach at Royal and the ice is off the beach, so why can't they get rolling so they can get the work done and possibly avoid work in the summer. He didn't get an answer. There will be a kick off meeting on April 10 for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Lindley reminded Slater that only council members or the Village Clerk should be reaching out to contractors, and committee members should not.

Regular Council Meeting – March 20, 2019

Bracewell discussed how progress on the beach has been slowed down because a group of people didn't like the DEQ's decision to issue permits for rock on the beach, yet they want the equipment and rock moved off the beach before summer. He said that the action of this group has slowed progress. He said that there are now two people that have stopped the progress on the Village's project at the pump house.

O'Halloran said we have not been able to get a permit from the DEQ for the pump house work for a couple of reasons. He said there are homes that are not yet protected along the lakefront and he will absolutely not close the Royal access as long as there are people out there who need to protect their homes. He said there were rules last year that contactors followed during the summer that seemed to work. He said Brian Byrnes circulated a report that said the lake level is going to be up another foot by the middle of July. He said everyone has to work together.

Leonard said the longer it takes to get permits, the more likely it is going to be that the rocks are going to be down on the beach past Memorial Day and maybe even the Fourth of July. He said the Village has no control over this process and it is not something that the council is doing or planning. Hopefully we can get our permit in the next month or so and get the rocks off of Royal Avenue.

STREETS & WATER: Leonard reported that he received notification from the state that the ACT 51 funds we received last year was incorrect. The state disbursed money based on projections and the projections were incorrect and as a result, the next couple of payments will be reduced to account for the error. The overpayment to Grand Beach was approximately \$1,000, but much higher in larger cities. He is working on a grant for road construction through the State of Michigan and when he submits it there needs to be an authorization letter included. The council felt that as Street Commission, Leonard is authorized to write the letter.

POLICE: Lindley said that Chief Dan Schroeder is back in the hospital and will be going back into the assisted care facility soon. She said he would love to hear from everyone and asked people to send cards. If contacted, Clerk Mary Robertson will provide the address for cards.

She said that she was on a conference call Thursday with Michiana Police Commissioner Rusty Bruesch, Michiana Police Chief Layman, Interim Police Chief Flick, Swartz Creek, Mundy Township and the Chief for the Police Authority Board and discussed how they combined their forces into a Police Authority. They will report on the conversations and feasibility of a Police Authority in April.

PRO SHOP & GOLF COURSE: O'Halloran reported that there has been some vandalism done to a clock outside of the pro shop. He said they need to come up with a more secure plan for the cart chargers as they are very expensive. They have ordered merchandise for the pro shop for the new season.

He said he is unable to attend the budget workshop on Saturday, but wanted to let the council know that he and Clay Putnam have been trying to update equipment over the past few years and the Village is to the point where it needs to get a finish mower. The upcoming golf budget is currently \$44,000 over budget, but the Village needs the finish mower and a used golf cart for rental at a cost of \$3,000. He said even though nobody wants to increase the tax millage, he thinks it is unavoidable with the expenses associated with the problem with the golf course irrigation pump house, and all of the costs to protect the beach and many other expenses.

SERVISCAPE REPORT

Clay Putnam reported that winter maintenance is complete. They began painting and rehabilitating tee and green supplies. They are doing spring clean-up as weather and time permits.

PERSONNEL REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: In addition to his written report, Superintendent Bob Dabbs said leaf pick up will begin on April 1. They are going to paint the fence along Grand Beach Road although it needs to be replaced. They are going down to the beach to do some work. He said the only good access to the beach is on Whitewood, but there is a 6’ drop off at the bottom of the stairs so they will try to put sand in at the bottom of the stairs. They need to do something so that they can get their equipment up and down, and reminded the council that the Village might need to purchase a piece of equipment with tracks in order to climb up from the beach.

Lindley said that she, Dabbs, Ben Zimont of the DEQ, Rebecca Hartman, and two engineers from Abonmarche had a two hour phone conversation on Thursday. She said when the Village started the permitting project to protect the golf course irrigation pump house and beach access last summer, they thought it would be done in October yet the Village is still waiting for the permits. Zimont did get back to her yesterday and said the Village will get a permit of some kind, but they’re not sure yet what the permit will allow. She said the DEQ will probably need to do a site visit.

INTERIM POLICE CHIEF: Interim Police Chief Jamie Flick reported that things have been going very well, and the schedule has been working. On March 5 all employees in Michiana and Grand Beach took part in AED and CPR training and are now certified.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Building Inspector Bill Lambert was not in attendance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TABLES, CHAIRS AND TABLE RACK FOR COUNCIL ROOM

Bracewell moved, seconded by Leonard to purchase 28 chairs from Quill at a cost of \$19.99 each for the council meeting room with funds coming from Capital Projects. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

O’Halloran said that the council room is used once a month by the council unless there are other meetings held. He said residents have expressed an interest in using the room for different events. He said it is a nice room and he thinks it’s a good idea to use the room for multiple events.

NEW BUSINESS

PROPERTY, LIABILITY & AUTO INSURANCE

Lindley moved, seconded by Bracewell to approve the property, liability and auto insurance renewal from the Michigan Municipal League at a cost of \$28,784. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

SOCIAL CLUB CONTRACT

SOCIAL CLUB USE OF HALL & GROUNDS FOR FAMILY FEST - JUNE 29, 2019

Lindley moved, seconded by O’Halloran to approve the Social Club contract for 2019 and the use of the hall and grounds for Family Fest on June 29, 2019 as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

TASER TRAINING

Lindley explained that department heads can spend up to \$500 without council approval. Interim Chief Flick explained that the Village receives training funds from PA 302 for each officer each year and the funds should be used for training. Lindley moved, seconded by O’Halloran to spend \$495 for Officer Patrick Myers to attend training to become certified as a Taser trainer. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Regular Council Meeting – March 20, 2019

TREE REMOVAL BIDS

Bracewell moved, seconded by O’Halloran to approve the proposal from The Tree Mann for the removal of two trees at a cost of \$1,140. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. There was a second proposal from Maple City Tree in the amount of \$1,600.

LANDOWNER CONSENT LETTER TO ALLOW SURVEY WORK FOR HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID

Lindley explained that there is a group that has asked for permission to do survey work on Village owned property to look for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid which is causing damage to Hemlock trees. Clay Putnam said that he is not positive that there are any Hemlocks on the golf course, but he is going to ride the edge of the woods to see if there are any. He explained that this is a small insect that will inject its stingers into the base of the hemlock needles, and over a long time it can be detrimental to the tree. There is an insecticide drench that can be used around the trees.

Leonard moved, seconded by Slater to approve the landowner consent agreement to do the survey work for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on Village owned property. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Residents can contact the Clerk’s office if they are interested in having the survey work done on their private property.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

John Deaner addressed the council about the golf carts that have been driving in the 42 Acres even though they are prohibited. He suggested issuing citations to the drivers to stop them and others from driving carts in the 42 Acres.

Frank Giglio addressed the council about the large expenditure that is planned for revetment work to protect the pump house. He has been here since 1973 and has seen the high water levels, and the pumphouse has withstood the storms. He suggested spending some of that money to construct a walking path along Royal Avenue to Station Road and replacing the drain that runs from the park and onto private property along Crescent Road.

O’Halloran told Giglio that the plan not only protects the pump house, but also protects the beach. The Village had a structural engineer design the project. He said the DEQ will not allow any rock to be added to the groins.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lindley mentioned the following correspondence that the council received.

FRANK GIGLIO – LETTER TO GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER REGARDING US 12 ROAD CONDITION AND TRUCK TRAFFIC

MARK NYSTUEN – 42 ACRES

MARY KATE & MARK BERTANE – 42 ACRES

ADJOURNMENT

Leonard moved, seconded by Bracewell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk-Treasurer