

Village of Michiana Council Meeting
October 13, 2023 at 1:00p.m. EST

The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom.

ATTENDEES

Council members: Tim McCarthy, Brian Cassidy, Nancy Thill and Mike Mumper. Mike Botelho was excused from the meeting. Also, present were Police Chief Ryan Layman, Water & Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Building Inspectors Bill Lambert, Village Treasurer Tracey McCay, Village Clerk Anne Heywood, 5 residents present, and 7 participated via Zoom.

Tim McCarthy opened by stating what a great time everyone had at the Oktoberfest. This year only 100 tickets were sold in case the weather did not cooperate. The weather turned out to be a perfect cool fall night and were enjoyed mingling inside and outside.

Additions/Deletions – N/A

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only - N/A

Consent – Brian Cassidy made a motion to approve the Council Minutes September 8, 2023, Tree Board Minutes September 18, 2023 and the Clerk Register/Treasurer Report; Mike Mumper seconded the motion; motion was approved by all.

REPORTS

Building Inspectors Report - Bill Lambert gave his report.

Fire Chief Report – Chief Bendix was absent (report on file)

Police Report - Police Chief Ryan Layman reported 48 calls. The Chief talked about his car being rear ended with damages over \$15,000 and was at the body shop being fixed. Ryan explained in July 2024 the 2018 vehicle will be 6 years old and time to for new. Ryan would like to council to consider purchasing the car sooner since he has found one that may be available. The council had some discussion. Ryan will be needing a fulltime officer July 1st, 2024. He has someone in mind who will be attending the police academy in January. Ryan said the grant for the academy is about \$24,000 which will cover lodging and school. Ryan would like the new hire to work part-time and shadow with another officer. Tim McCarthy made a motion not exceed \$3,000; Nancy Thill seconded the motion; motion was approved by all.

Beach Report - Brian Cassidy reported the stairs at 38, 39 and 42 were going to be removed around October 27th. He reminded everyone over the winter to stay off the ice shelves created at the beaches; they are very dangerous. Brian talked with Bill Lambert about Stop 37 stairs and the quote from John Yanz came back high. Bill was going look at getting another quote in Spring.

Public Works Report - Rick Reitz reported the butterfly garden was cleaned up, Pizzo treated the park area, speed bumps were picked up for the season, cleaning out storm drains, worked on water map with Merritt Engineering. Starting November 1st thru

December 3rd the Village will be picking up leaves. Rick and TJ met with Fire Inspector to determine the occupancy of the Village Hall. They gave us a guideline to follow; holding a meeting with chairs the room would hold 260 people, if the room was going to be used for a banquet with table and chairs around 125.

Water Report – Rick worked on his EGLE monthly reports, read the meters for water bills, did water quality parameter testing, and worked on water map for the water mains with Merritt Engineering. Rick would like change the billing cycle in 2024 to 6 bills a year instead of 4 bills. This would help catch water leaks faster during the winter months.

Tim talked with Lee Belding from Congressman Walberg office who attended as our guest speaker at the Arbor Day event, told Lee the Village hired Merritt Engineering to do an updated stigmatic of the water project on Creek. Lee thought it was a good idea so if the Clean Water grant was approved, The Village would be able to get started on the project right away.

Tree Report - Nancy Thill talked about AEP coming to Michiana to work on cutting back branches along the Village right of way. Brian from AEP will be notifying all the residence in November with their plan and work should begin sometime in February. Nancy said the Arbor Day Event turn out was great, Lee Belding a 12th District Representative from Congressman Walberg office read the proclamation. The Boy & Girl Scout Troop 802 & 8022 did the color guard and a 5ft Hemlock was planted near the zipline in the park. Nancy would like to apply for a grant for \$11,500. This would be a matching grant used for tree pruning, removal, replanting and education. Nancy made a motion to apply for the grant along with the matching funds of \$11,500; Tim seconded the motion; there was some discussion; motion was approved by all.

Clerk Report - Anne Heywood thanked everyone for making the Oktoberfest a huge success. If anyone is interested in Michiana swag for holiday gifts or birthday gifts, we still have some sizes available.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Tracey the Village Treasurer has opened all 5 CDs per the council's request. Tracey would like to move forward approving the investment policy at the November meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Rental Properties – Starting January 2024 the Rental Ordinance fee of \$300 per house, will be increased to \$300 per bedroom. Tim McCarthy made a motion to increase the fee as of January 2024 to \$300 per bedroom; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; All were in favor motion passed. Tim said between Michiana and Grand Beach there are about 75 or more rental homes which require more attention for the police force and administrative office work. The office will let the residents know about the change by email blast and website.
2. Refuse Bill – Tim McCarthy again talked about the cost of the refuse service, and we are one of the only Villages that still pays for this service with our income from the taxes. This service takes up about \$100,000 of the Village budget. By releasing this expenditure, it helps the Village to be able to take care of more improvements like beaches, roads instead of using reserves. Council discussed that the increase would be about \$45 every 2 months which is 6 times a year. Tim

explained this fee would appear on your water bill. Tim made a motion to add the refuse on the resident's water/refuse bill; Brian seconded the motion roll call vote taken 4 -0. Tim amended the motion to add that the water/refuse bill would change from 4 times a year to 6 times a year; roll call vote was taken; motion was approved by all. This will also be added to the email blast and website making residence aware of the changes.

Correspondence – N/A

Public Comment – There was comments about adding a surcharge for the rental properties. There was question about the tree flyer and when the tree inventory study would be available. It was suggested that a legal fund for litigations should be created. A resident thanked the council for placing the speed bump over by Apache.

Tim made a motion to adjourn Nancy seconded; meeting adjourned at 2:15p.m.

Respectful submitted,

Anne Heywood/Clerk