

**VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Friday, April 14, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. EST**

The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom.

**ATTENDEES**

Council members: Tim McCarthy, Michael Tolentino, Brian Cassidy and Nancy Thill. Also, present were Police Chief Ryan Layman, Water & Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Village Clerk Anne Heywood, 15 residents present, and 25 participated via Zoom.

- First order of business was the appointment of Mike Botelho as the new council member to replace Joann Fisher who resigned from the Council in mid-March. Anne Heywood swore in Mike Botelho.
- Second order of business nomination of Council President. Nancy Thill made a motion to nominate Tim McCarthy as President, Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; no discussion Tim McCarthy accepted the position. Roll call vote was taken 4 ayes and 1 nay; motion passed.
- Third order of business Tim McCarthy President made a motion to have Brian Cassidy as the Pro Tem; Brian Cassidy accepted the position; a roll call vote was taken 5 ayes; motion passed.

Michael Tolentino then read his statement on why he wanted to be president. After Michael's statement the Village Attorney Sara Senica responded to Michael's comments.

**Additions/Deletions** – Amend the budget for final payment to the contractor for the new retention wall on Michiana Drive.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items Only** - Residents asked questions on how the council member is picked. It was explained when a vacancy opens during the year, council can pick the person for the vacant position. The Attorney Sara Senica explained the law of a full-time resident.

**Consent**

Nancy Thill made a motion to approve the following; Tree Board Minutes March 9, 2023, Planning Commission Meeting March 10, 2023 Council Meeting March 10, 2023, Check Register/Treasurer report; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; motion was approved by all.

**REPORTS:**

- Building Inspector – Bill Lambert reported 7 permits for 2023. Chad Butler, Building Inspector reported the shelter at Stop 37 was progressing. The contractor's goal is to be finished 2 weeks before Memorial Day. The contractor asked if residents could use another Stop during construction so that he doesn't have to keep moving the barriers to allow for access.
- Michiana Shores Volunteer Fire Depart. – Chief Gary Bendix report on file (absent)
- Police/Commission Report – Chief Layman read his report.
- Beach Commissioner- Brian Cassidy said the following beaches were opened: Stops 38, 39, 41.5 and 42. Stop 43 will still remain as the sunset lookout point. Brian asked the residents not to use the dune area at Stop 40 to access the beach

and to walk to another Stop. Council is looking at Stop 40 to see if it's feasible and affordable to open this summer. Brian said some of the other items they are looking at around the beach stops were power washing the stops, cleaning up around all the drinking/shower bases and maybe installing a new drywell for Stop 43.

- Public Works, Rick Reitz said they have been working on the following: installed water access point in the park by the new pavilion for irrigation, contacting paving companies for quotes for street paving this summer, contacted the electrician to have the AED exterior unit installed by the entrance to the police department office, flushing hydrants around the Village and working on having some of the drywells cleaned out. He told Holly Duran he would have her drained cleaned. Pam Schutt wanted the council to look at getting the creek cleared with all the fallen trees in the creek. Grace on Ponchartrain asked the council to look at the speedbump by her which is very high.
- Water - Rick said per EGLE he will only have to do testing for lead on 5 homes in the village instead of 20 homes. EGLE approved the 750 gpm pump installation at the pumphouse. The new alarm for pump house has been ordered, just waiting on parts.
- Tree Commission Nancy Thill reported the tree survey had been done on all the Village trees that our on the village right-ways. Nancy was hoping by the May meeting to report on the tree inventory but they had to come back because they forgot to include in their inventory list of the trees in the power lines.
- Planning Commission – Michael Tolentino received 2 proposals back for the Master Plan for the Village. He will view them with Maureen and Kathleen and report back to Council.
- Clerk - Anne Heywood said with the help of Rick Reitz, Tim McCarthy and Brian Cassidy they applied for FY24 Safe Drinking Water Grant. Anne said they recently found out that the Village was one of the 15 projects picked in the first round.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Tim McCarthy gave an update on some Village Projects: Security entrance in office has been completed, the dirt and grass seed has been spread in the park. Rick and Josh added fresh mulch around the playground. The contractor Eudave has finished installing the wall on Michiana Drive and he added solar lights at his expense. Stop 37 contractor has the new cement poured and pillars installed. Working on the roof and was waiting on the correct metal for the roof and coverings for the posts.
- Tim made a motion to amend the budget \$2,000 for the wall on Michiana Drive to protect the hill from erosion. Eudave added another row of brick, stone and sand; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; all approved motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Redoing the stairs at Stop 37 was tabled. The existing stairs were still in good condition to access the beach.
- The Council revisited the watercraft stickers again. The new charge at the last meeting was \$150. The Council decided to reduce the cost again to \$75. Tim McCarthy made a motion to reduce the fee to \$75 stating this is not a money maker for the Village but the money will be used to help buy new racks as beaches open up. Nancy Thill seconded the motion, some discussion motion passed. Tim said if anyone is still interested, to call the office and enter your name in the lottery.

- Village Hall Project - Michael Tolentino introduced the sub-committee Holly Duran, Chris Booth and Justin Lucas who have been working with David from Kono Design. They talked about giving the Hall a facelift making it a nice fresher venue. They talked about moving the HAVC, new fans and lighting. Putting some type of door by the police stairwell, some additional plumbing in the kitchen, new floors and maybe removing the stage. The walls and rafters would stay the same. They mentioned the total cost would be approximately \$185,000 not including cost for new furniture. The committee discussed fundraising as a means of minimizing costs to the Village and maybe launch an event to help with the renovation. They would like to start with windows and doors. David from Kono would contact the windows and door companies and will get 3 bids for the council if approved to move forward. Michael Tolentino made a motion to approve \$50,000 in Capital Outlay in Hall and Grounds in the new budget 2023/2024 and to start in the fall the renovation of just doors and window; Brain Cassidy seconded the motion; there was discussion; after discussion the Nancy Thill asked for the motion to be amended to \$40,000 to move ahead on the doors and windows as seed money; motion was seconded by Tim a roll call vote was taken; motion passed.
- Review and Duties of the finance committee were given to the council to look at. Michael made a motion to have a finance committee; Tim seconded the motion; discussion Nancy Thill said she didn't agree with having another committee for finance when this should be the roll of the council. A roll call vote was taken. 4 ayes and 1 nay motion passed for a finance committee.
- Creating an investment component for the Village. Lori Nelson talked briefly and would like to have a speaker from MI Class come to talk to the council about different investments that are available. This item was tabled.
- Rick Reitz was asked to look into access to Stop 40. Rick said he already reached out to a contractor to see about access and cost and will report back.
- Tim McCarthy said the dedication of Stop 37 and Park have been postponed because these projects are not completed at this time.

### **Public Comment:**

Karen Harty asked for some type of shading fixture for the park. Pam Schutt asked if lines could be painted on the Bocci Ball court. Kathleen Hogan Morrison asked about the Treasurer position. Roxanne Martino asked if we could do highlights of minutes. Jurate Landwehr said she walked the beaches and found them to be dirty. Brian Cassidy reminding residents that it is disrespect and against the law to throw garbage on the beaches but he did state that some of this garbage gets washed up from storms. Megan a resident from the Stop 42 area asked if another railing could be installed as it is a little dangerous when going down to the beach.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Heywood-Clerk