

Village of Michiana Council Meeting

August 11, 2023 at 1:00p.m. EST

The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom.

ATTENDEES

Council members: Tim McCarthy, Brian Cassidy, Mike Botelho, Nancy Thill and Mike Mumper. Also, present were Police Chief Ryan Layman, Water & Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Building Inspectors Bill Lambert and Chad Butler, Village Treasurer Tracey McCay, and Village Clerk Anne Heywood, 12 residents present, and 5 participated via Zoom.

Tim McCarthy introduced Mike Mumper our newest Council Member. Mike talked briefly about his background and desire to serve on the Village Council. He built his home in the Village 5 years.

Additions/Deletions – Addition – Grace Tsiang Pickleball Clinic

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Joann Fisher – Village Hall - Joann's concerns were a resident not able to use the hall, because the Woman's Club and Day Camp were using it during the summer and not being charged. It was stated by the Council that they do pay \$700 and use the hall if weather conditions are bad, plus a few evening activities which are listed in their contract. It was also mentioned if the Village had a potential renter for the hall the day camp would move their items out so it could be rented. There have never been any problems concerning this situation.

Kathleen Hogan Morrison – Hall Policy - Kathleen explained she rented the hall for a family wedding and was charged \$50 for cleaning. Kathleen claimed she left the hall clean and her contract didn't mention anything about a cleaning fee and she wants her \$50 reimbursed.

CONSENT - Nancy Thill made a motion to approve the Council Minutes of July 14, 2023, Special Meeting on July 25th and the Clerk Register/Treasurer Report; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; All approved.

REPORTS

Building Inspectors Report - Bill Lambert had Chad Butler report the permits. Chad said they had about 16 permits to date, some of these projects are almost complete. Bill and Chad are getting quotes to install new stairs at Stop 37. The cost will be partially offset by a generous donation from a resident.

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

Police Report - Police Chief Ryan Layman reported it was a very busy month a lot had to do with weather related issues. Ryan attended training called Med Flight; Ryan showed pictures from the training in front of the helicopter used. Ryan said at the Grand Beach Meeting it was announced that one of his Grand Beach Officers would be retiring soon and he needed to start looking to recruit another officer.

Beach Report - Brian Cassidy said the beaches looked great and the kayak issue had been addressed. Brian stated that kayak's can be left on private beaches belonging to a homeowners. The Lake has been rough and Brian reminded everyone to respect the Lake and never swim alone. Brian said the Village received a letter from EGLE in regards to removing the sand trap bags that were allowed to be placed on the beach at Stop 39 to help with erosion. Rick was in touch with John Bayha from EGLE, stating he was glad he came down to meet with Rick and inspect the progress of Stop 39. Rick pointed out to EGLE that the Village spent over \$90,000 to save the road (Lake Shore Dr.) from being washed away. The Village placed the sand bags along the bluff, and then brought in additional sand followed by dune grass plugs all to help prevent against future erosion. Rick asked EGLE if we could keep the bags until Spring of 2024. John Bayha from EGLE wrote a letter to the Village stating we can keep the bags to help prevent future erosion as a result of fall, winter and spring storms. John from EGLE will revisit in the Spring. Rick wanted the Council to be aware of the expensive cost ahead for the Village when the sand trap bags have to be removed. TJ expressed his concerns about Stop 43 looking for a solution for the water issue. Rick asked the Council permission to get a critical Dune Permit to help with Stop 43. Rick said the cost for the permit would cost between \$1,000 - \$1,500. Council agreed to move forward to apply for a permit.

Street Report -Rick & Josh had been working patching pot holes, trimming road edges, did some storm clean up, and street paving was taking place today.

Water Report - Rick has been finishing up EGLE reports, took lead and copper testing, pfas testing and worked on the public works water closet which was painted and reorganized. TJ announced there will a Water Meeting on Thursday, August 24th at 11am EST. Rick said Hydro will soon be sending out letters to all the residents requesting a date and time to perform mandatory inspection of plumbing systems – checking for possible backflow issues and installing preventative cross connection devices. Nancy asks Rick if he could put the lead & copper back in the monthly reports.

Tree Report - Nancy Thill thanked Tina Weaver, President of the Michiana Day Camp, for allowing Anne Blasko to do a project with the kids focused on taking care of trees properly by removing vines. Nancy said the tree committee met on August 7th with Steve Lane from Great Lakes Urban Forestry. Nancy said they went through the report to clean up the 95 document that related to the trees in the Village. Steve Lane was hoping to have the changes back to the committee as soon as possible. Nancy asked Anne and Rick to look at commercial prices around the area for tree removal. Pizzo came out and met with Rick and Nancy to talk about treating the hemlock again which was treated 2 years ago in the park. The fencing that is up around the hemlock was suggested that it stay up. Nancy said the tree meeting will be September 18th at 1:00 p.m. EST to look over the first draft of the report.

Clerk Report - Anne Heywood reminded everyone about the Village Party tomorrow on Saturday, August 12th along with the Village garage/rummage sale taking place in the morning. The houses participating were mentioned in local papers and the Beacher. Anne talked about a few more events taking place in the Village. The Village will be hosting another Concert in the Park on Saturday, September 2nd - Labor Day Weekend. The Pickleballer's asked about the upcoming Picklepalooza tournament taking place the weekend of September 8, 9 and 10th. This year the group was going to have music and pizza on the Friday night before the Tournament. All information and sign up can be found

on the Village web site. Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 7th. Oktoberfest tickets will be going on sale at the Village so watch for more details.

Old Business:

Village Hall Renovation – Justin Lucas from the renovation committee said they met with the contractor to pick from the 3 quotes they received for windows and doors. Present at the meeting was, Chris Boothe, Holly Duran, Brian Cassidy and TJ McCarthy who looked over the quotes. The Pella package the committee picked was under the \$40,000 that was approved by the council. The committee selected a Pella, top of the line, window because of a Special Monthly discount that was approximately a \$10,000.00 cost savings.

Justin said that they would have a table set up with mixers at the Village party and easels set up in the hall with pictures of the new look for the renovation for the hall. They would be there to answer questions and to get feedback from the residents. Justin reminded the residents, the idea is to keep the rustic feel of the hall but to make it more inviting.

New Business:

Investing - Mike Botelho worked with Brian Cassidy and Tracey Village Treasurer to talk about different ways of investing money in safe investments like CD's. Mike would like Tracey to call banks to find the best interest rates and then be able to implement them.

Mike Botelho made a motion to invest in 3 CD's using \$600,000 of the General Fund reserve. Each of the CD's will be in \$200,000.00 increments. In addition the motion would also include 2 - \$200,000.00 CD's from the Water Fund. All 6 CD's will be will under the \$250,000 FDIC insurance levels. Mike Botelho stated these CD's will have staggered maturity dates. All interest will go back into funds where the money is being taken from for the investments. Mike Mumper seconded the motion there was some discussion, roll call was taken motion passed 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Mike Botelho requested the Council review the draft of the invest policy template that Lori Nelson had worked on. He asked the Council to provide their feedback to the treasurer, Tracey. Once Tracey has updated the comment's she will email a clean copy for the council to review.

Day Camp Wrap Up – Tina Weaver, President of the Michiana Women's Club said they had 278 on-line registrations this year for Day Camp. They also had 14 full time and 6 part time staffers. The camp went very smoothly and only need to use the hall a couple of times due to air quality from forest fires from Canada. Tina said the Women's Club had 158 paid members this year. She thanked the Council for a being so easy and wonderful to work with this summer. Brian asked if they could get their calendar to the office with dates for next year's events. Tina said they already had their new calendar done and would pass it along to the office.

Hall Rental Policy - The Council explained that the cleaning cost for the hall after an event has always been \$50.00. Actually cost of cleaning to the Village is closer to \$150.00 and this will be adjusted in the near future. The Village has the hall, kitchen, and bathrooms cleaned so it is ready for the renter's event. TJ said there was a draft contract given to the pervious council by our Attorney Sara, which includes the cleaning fee. The contract is being rewritten to avoid any confusion in the future regarding cleaning expenses.

Pickleball Clinic – Grace Tsiang would like to host a pickleball clinic with Julie. They are both pickleball registered and certified instructors. Grace thought with the pickleball tournament coming up it would be helpful for those who might want to participate to help them with their game. Grace felt it would be a nice community service. She requested permission to use 2 courts during mid-day when there is low play and offer a 2-day session. First session would be for beginners/second session would be for intermediate players. Each session would only have 8 players. Mike Botelho made a motion to allow the 2-day clinic using 2 courts between the off hours 11:30 – 1:00pm. Brian seconded the motion; there was discussion; Mike Mumper asked about the fee; Mike Botelho amended the motion stating the fee being \$40 per person per day and \$30 going to the instructors Grace and Julie and \$10.00 to the Park Fund. Both instructors have insurance and the Village will allow them to use the courts for this clinic. All checks would be made out to the Village and the Village will pay the 2 instructors at the end of the clinic; Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maureen Shekleton wanted a copy of the investment plan to be placed online. The Council stated they would not post a draft of the plan online. This document, when completed, will set Village policy for investments, therefore the Council must create and approve. Maureen again asked when the council was going to move forward with the Master Plan. Maureen read a statement that she wanted part of the minutes. A vote was taken 3 ayes 2 nays.

Jurate Landwehr asked if the renovation group was going to be writing grants using the Pokagon money. Jurate read the letter about donations that only the VIP donors would be invited to the Grand Opening. She thought the whole Village should be invited.

Grace Tsiang just wanted the Council to know that there are a lot of deer running around in the Village so people should be careful.

Lucille Kulik asked about the Cross Connection coming into the Village. Rick explained that Hydro was hired to go to all the residents' homes to check drinking water inside the home. This inspection is being paid for by the Village. The other backflow inspections that were performed recently and mediated by EGLE had to do with homes that had irrigation systems and pools.

Anne Blasko asked if the Council would consider a handicap access at one of the Beach Stops and thought we needed to remind residents to clean up after they have fires on the beach.

Carl Landwehr stated the app for beach fires was not working. Ryan will look into it.

Nancy Thill made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mike Botelho seconded the motion; meeting adjourned at 3:07pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Heywood

Clerk