

Village of Michiana Council Meeting
September 8, 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, 7 residents present, and 12 participated via Zoom.

Tim McCarthy opened the meeting talking about the last two events in the Village. The Village party in August had an outstanding attendance. Thanked everyone for calling in with their number of guests which ended up at 236 WOW!! The music by St. Jams was great we hope to get them back again. The September 2nd Labor Day weekend the last event in pavilion we had another great turnout around 200 showed up with friends and family. The band St. James opened up playing a few of Jimmy Buffet hits in his honor. Please check out the website we have added the rendering of the Village Hall. Reminder: these are just renderings. Nothing has been approved except for the replacement of windows and doors. Tim also reminded everyone the last Village Event of the year will be our Fall Party with an Oktoberfest theme.

Additions/Deletions – N/A

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only - N/A

Consent – Brian Cassidy made a motion to approve the Council Minutes August 11, 2023, Tree Board Minutes Meeting August 7, 2023 and Water Board Minutes August 24, 2023 and the Clerk Register/Treasurer Report; Mike Mumper seconded the motion; Motion was approved by all.

REPORTS

Building Inspectors Report - Bill Lambert has talked with the owner of the house going up on Pontchartrain who stated he would be hiring a local contractor to help him finish. Bill let the council know that Chad Butler has decided to step down from working in Michiana due to lack of work and he is now full time at Grand Beach.

Fire Chief Report – Chief Bendix was absent (report on file). Tim reminded everyone to attend the Fall Pancake Breakfast at the fire station on Sunday, October 7th.

Police Report - Police Chief Ryan Layman reported 63 calls. Ryan and Brian Cassidy attended a meeting regarding a State Bill about Rentals. Ryan said that Representative Andrew talked about passing a 6% percent rental fee. For example, the Village would get 4% that would go into the General Fund and the Village could then apply for an additional 2% that would have to be used for tourism. This law would not affect any rental policies the Village currently has in place. If passed, this law would not stop or restrict a residents right to rent their property. Ryan stated there have been 7 amendments made to the Bill and the possibility of it passing appears strong.

Beach Report - Brian Cassidy has been working this past summer with Rick, Josh and Ryan about beach stop number posted on the lake side in case of emergency. There was discussion to purchase more buoys for next summer. Brian said that Bill Lambert will follow up with John Yanz about providing a bid to finish Stop 37 with new stairs in the spring.

Street Report - Rick Reitz reported that street paving on Avalon, East Court and Hillside has been completed.

Water Report – Tim McCarthy said we are working to finalize our long-term water contract with Michigan City. The grant from Congressman Walberg’s office is still pending. Met with Merritte-Midwest Engineer to provide a bid for drafting architectural schematics for the proposed water project for streets East of Creek Drive. Motion was made by Tim for the purchase of a new fire hydrant at Michiana and Pontiac not to exceed \$10,000. Nancy seconded the motion; Motion was approved by all.

Tree Report - Nancy Thill said that Anne reached out to our Government Rep at AEP and was able to set up a meeting with them. Nancy and Rick met with Brian from (AEP) Indiana & Michigan Power Utility Forester. Brian (AEP) indicated they are planning on coming to Michiana for trimming tree branches back 10ft from the power lines running along the Village right of ways. AEP will notify residents by mail sometime in November about the trimming. Trimming will start, weather permitting, sometime in February or March. Nancy met with Pizzo who planted the trees in the park and talked about the failed oak trees and asked for recommendations for replacements. Nancy was planning Arbor Day in the Park on October 7th. Once we meet this requirement, we will be able to apply for Tree USA Grants. The next Tree meeting will be Monday, September 18th at 1:00p.m. (EST)

Clerk Report - Anne Heywood reminded everyone that Picklepalooza tournament was taking place this weekend September 8, 9 and 10. Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 7th Arbor Day at 4:00p.m. (EST) in the park followed by Oktoberfest from 5-8pm EST. Tickets for Oktoberfest will be available at the Village Office.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Tracey the Village Treasurer has been opening CDs per the council’s request. As of today, Tracey had 3 CD’s opened and is working on the last 2 which will be done within the next 2 weeks. Tracey also presented the Council with a draft of an investment policy that was created by Lori Nelson. There were a few changes made, Tracey asked the council to review, in hopes to approve at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tim made a motion to purchase 2 new kayak racks with the money taken in this year for next season in hopes of placing them at Stop 40, Nancy seconded the motion; Tim amended motion not to order until after January 1, 2024, motion was approved by all.
2. Tim made a motion that the pickleball courts remain open but, after October 31 thru April 1st the courts will no longer be maintained by the Village; Brian seconded; A roll call vote was taken 3 ayes 1 nay; motion was approved. Tim stated the Village would reevaluate the condition of the nets after the winter season.

Correspondence

Tim read a letter from Ellen Gross who was present and had some issues regarding clarity on the Village hall renovation. Brian Cassidy stated that the renovation has been talked about at every meeting since November 2022 and the council understands the concerns of some of our residents. The Council has not approved anything at this point except for doors and windows. The pictures on the web site are just renderings. Holly Duran, who has worked on this project, stated the project is more of a facelift and that the committee's intentions are to keep the rustic feel of the hall. Replacing short lived components such as windows, doors, floors, etc. will hopefully make the space more desirable and increase the use of this great resource for more community social events as well as rental use for our residents.

Public Comment

Megan thought a few more buoys should be purchased for next year. There were questions about our tree removal process. Nancy urged residents to apply for a permit in the office showing the location of the tree being removed and the species of tree you will be replanting. There is no charge. We would like a record to keep the tree inventory the Village just completed current.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30p.m.

Respectful submitted,

Anne Heywood/Clerk