

## **Village of Michiana Council Meeting**

**October 11, 2024 at 12:00 pm. EST**

The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom.

**Roll Call** - Council members: Tim McCarthy, Brian Cassidy, Mike Botelho, Nancy Thill and Mike Mumper were present. Also, present were Police Chief Ryan Layman, Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Building Inspector Bill Lambert, Treasurer Tracey McCay, and Clerk Anne Heywood. Present were 7 residents and 8 participated via Zoom.

**Additions/Deletions** – added Park update to old business

**Public Comment on Agenda Items Only** – Kathleen Hogan Morrison wanted to know if there would be additional cost to up keep to the new lawn in the park. Council said no additional cost. We would continue do the mowing and leaf clean up as we already do and watering of the new trees like we have done in the past.

Tim McCarthy introduced Al DiBrito who is running for County Sheriff. Al introduced himself and talked a little about why he was running for Sheriff.

**Minutes** – Nancy Thill made a motion to approve the following minutes: Council Meeting Minutes September 6, 2024, Planning Minutes of September 13th, 2024, Tree Board minutes from September 12th, 2024; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; discussion, Nancy Thill stated there was spelling correction on Tree minutes; Mike Botelho amended the motion to approve the minutes with the correction; motion passed.

### **Reports**

**Building Inspector Report** - Bill Lambert read his reported.

**Fire Chief Report** – Chief Bendix - Absent – Report on file

**Police Report** - Police Chief Ryan Layman had to step out for a police call. Tim read report for Ryan. There were 38 calls combined with Gran Beach. Ryan will be sending out an alert in the next 3 weeks for any residents that would like to sign up for house checks this winter. This service is provided for homeowners that are not here for extended periods of time. This is a good way to have extra eyes on your property in the event there is a break in or water leak that go undetected.

**Beach Report** – Brian reminded everyone the beach stairs at Stop 38, 39 and 42 will be removed at the end of the month. Beach Stops 37 and 41.5 will remain opened. Also, October 15<sup>th</sup> all kayak and paddle boards needed to be removed from the beach. All the garbage cans will be removed from the beach stops at the end of the month.

**Public Works Report** - Rick Reitz reported 2 more new drywells were installed on long Lake Shore Drive over by Stop 38 and Stop 39, this will make a total of 4 new drywells that were budgeted this year. Josh has been cleaning the courts the best he could considering all the falling acorns. Rick said they cleared tree branches over by Hillside and Mohawk s. Rick and Josh are installing cable wiring in the building from the street garage to the police side for better Wi-Fi connection. This will allow vendors for any of our events, or residents

to be able to connect to the Wi-Fi all the way to the basketball area and the pavilion near the courts. Leaf pick-up will start at the end of the month.

**Water Report** – Mike Mumper said he is working with Down to Earth with the new water irrigation system that is going in the park. Mike said all the monthly reports have been sent into EGLE and daily water testing is being done by Rick. Mike also announced that the guys would be flushing hydrants for the next couple of weeks. Merritt is working the Project Plan which will have to go over to the EPA for approval. The second part will be the putting together the bids for the EPA approval. The new pump is ready and waiting to be installed, Rick said he would like to install in November with less residents using water because he will take the system down to one pump while the new pump is being installed. Mike will announce another water meeting sometime in November.

**Tree Board** – Nancy Thill read her minutes from the Garden Club meeting which talked about 33% of the membership volunteered to help with any planting the Village might need in the Spring and will work in some numbers for the next budget to be approved for planting in the park. Nancy said the MDNR grant financial report: 5 trees were planted in the park, a Black Gum, 2 Ironwood, 1 Dogwood and 1 Sugar Maple on September 25 by Sawyer Garden. The first part of the financial report was completed and turned in. Josh and Rick have placed metal fencing to protect the new planted trees from the deer. Nancy wanted it noted that she met with Mike Mumper and Beth from Pizzo Gardens to talk about the butterfly garden. There was discussion on the border placement between the turf and native plants for the butterfly garden. Nancy showed Mike the area that has been cleared through herbicide treatment according to contract and was last treated in August 2024 and agreed the area will be ready for seeding by traditional broadcast method by hand. Nancy said the estimated dates for planting will be mid -November. This contract with Pizzo for the garden was originally signed in January of 2021. Arbor Day was held on October 5 Anne Blasko officiated and Tim McCarthy read the dedication Proclamation and Rima Binder President of the Board of the Botanical Gardens joined as the dignitary. Nancy thanked the boy scout Troop 802 and Girls Scout Troop 8022 for presenting the flag of the United States of American Honor and Color Guard. Nancy had approached the Michiana Women's Club about a proposal to implement a Monarch Watch registration and certification for the village butterfly garden in a program to involve the Day Camp, they were enthusiastic and supported the idea. Nancy had an idea of seeing a pergola constructed at the entrance of the park with seating as funding came available.

**Planning Commission** – Mike Botelho read Julie Bonello update report from the Planning Commission since Julie could not be present. Update as follows:

1. Master Planning Work Group was formed within the Planning Commission with a goal to work with the Village Council to complete the Master Plan in 12 months.
2. A letter of intent to initiating the development of the Master Plan was sent to neighboring communities and utilities.
3. Efforts were on their way to select a consultant to assist in Master Plan development:
  - a. Four consultants identified.
  - b. One hour information sharing session held with each consultant.
  - c. Request of Proposal was sent and excepted by Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. The Work-Group meet on October 21<sup>st</sup> to select the consultant.
  - e. Recommendation and next steps discussed with the Planning Commission.

4. Next steps after consultant are selected:
  - a. Scheduling of a Master Planning Kick-off meeting with the Village Council, Department Head and Planning Commission.
  - b. Finalizing workplan and schedule with consultant.
  - c. Drafting plan to create and distribute first survey.

**Treasurer Report** – Tracey McCay gave the treasurer report along with the Pokagon Fund still at \$43,329. Tracey said 2 CD's will be expiring in December and is watching the rates. Tim McCarthy approved the treasurers report. Tracey, mentioned a letter will be going out from the Treasurer explaining the renewed 5-year Operating Millage that was voted on in August and how it will be appearing on the winter taxes. The police department will also have a letter along with an emergency form that needs to be filled out and returned.

**Clerk Report** - Anne Heywood asked the council for approval of the Check Register in the amount of \$157,983.26. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the check register as submitted; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed. Anne said the Octoberfest was a great success all 100 tickets were sold. The food, music and weather couldn't have been better. Anne thanked her team for all their help pulling this together. Anyone interested in purchasing a little history of the Village Hall can purchase one of the wagon wheels light fixtures for \$150. Anne said 6 have been sold already and has 6 left to sell. The poster sale will continue through the year. For September 22 posters were purchased and will be placing another order at the end of October if anyone is interested.

### **Old Business**

1. **Update on Village Hall Renovation** – Tim said the committee has staged the area by the fireplace for seating. All the new lighting and fans have been installed. The renovation committee contacted the Beacher to do a story about the Hall. Ed Lawler from the Beacher and is also one of our own Michiana residents sat down to interview Holly Duran, Chris Boothe, Justin Lucas and himself to talk about the hall. Copies of the article are available if anyone was interested.
2. **Update Police Contract** – Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the Police Contract between Michiana/Grand Beach; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken 5 ayes and 0 nays; motion passed. Tim said that the new contract would take effect starting January 1, 2025.
3. **Update on the Park's Lawn** – Mike Mumper has been working with the contractors to complete the lawn project. He has been very pleased with the results. Mike said they will be fertilizing, and mowing the grass once; followed by another round of fertilizing in November and again in the Spring. Mike thanked Rick and Josh for their help getting the water up and running for the irrigation system.

### **New Business – N/A**

### **Correspondence – N/A**

**Public Comment** – Pam Schutt wanted to know when the hall would be open to the public. Council said they have to work out a few details and work was still being done.

Next meeting will be Friday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm EST.

Meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m. EST

Respectful submitted,

Anne Heywood/Clerk