

Village of Michiana Council Meeting

July 11, 2025 at 2:00p.m. EST

The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom.

Roll Call

Council members: Tim McCarthy, Brian Cassidy, Nancy Thill and Mike Mumper were present. Also, present were Police Chief Ryan Layman, Water & Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Treasurer Tracey McCay and Clerk Anne Heywood. Tim McCarthy excused Mike Botelho and Building Inspector Bill Lambert. Present were 17 residents and 6 participated via Zoom.

Additions/Deletions – Tim McCarthy added special guest Laura Freehling from Berrien County Register of Deeds.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only-

Minutes

Nancy Thill made a motion to approve the following minutes: Council Meeting, June 13, 2025, Special Meeting, June 14, 2025, Tree Board Meeting, April 30, 2025, Tree Board Meeting, June 20, 2025 and Water Board Meeting, June 20, 2025; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed.

Tim McCarthy moved Lora Freehling from Berrien County Register of Deeds and Fire Chief Jamie Flick regarding Community Connect to speak first before the reports.

1. Fire Chief Flick talked about and demonstrated how this new program called “Community Connect” works. This program is designed to put information you want the fire department to know at your address, such as your name, address, phone number or keyholders name and number in case of an emergency. If you’re interested in signing up for the program, got to their website: Newbuffalotownshipfiredepartment.org
2. Lora Freehling with Berrien County Register of Deeds was invited to by Police Chief Layman speak again about property Fraud alerts because there were 2 incidence that occurred nearby. Lora stated that you could set this up yourself on the website: berrien.mi.publicsearch.us or by contacting her office at 269-983-7111 Ex 8562. This program is a free notification service for Berrien County Property owners. She explained that it is important to review your property records to protect yourself from fraud. By registering you will receive email alerts when new documents of interest are recorded at the Register of Deeds Office. You would receive an email alert any time your personal or entity name s is used in a real property recording within the county. This fraud can happen on homes as well as empty property. Flyers were left in the office for anyone interested.

REPORTS

Building Inspector Report – Bill Lambert – absent – Report on file

Fire Chief Report – Chief Bendix - absent – Report on file.

Police Report- Chief Layman reported there were 66 calls last month. Ryan talked about the vandalism at Stop 43. Ryan asked the Council their thoughts about putting out the temporary speed bumps. The Council was in favor of temporary speed bumps because they can be moved around the Village where

needed. Brian Cassidy felt Ryan's department should make the final discussion on where they should be placed.

Beach Report – Brian Cassidy reminded everyone that dogs should always be on a leash, even on the beaches. Brian said there are signs posted at the stops with the times dogs are allowed on the beach. The new buoys that were ordered arrived today and will be placed in the water between Stop 41- 43 sometime next week by Michigan City Port Authority.

Public Works Report- Rick reported Rieth & Riley were hoping to start paving sometime at the end of July or first week in August. The paving will start on Lake Shore Drive and Powhatan down to Seminole and down Seminole to where the drain was installed. They will do Birchmont where a waterline was repaired and Commanche where a drywell was installed last fall.

Water Report –Mike Mumper reported Merritt finally submitted a bid for the water project which they were still reviewing. Mike hopes to have more to report at the next meeting.

Park Report- Mike said everything is looking good in the park and new lights were installed on the new pavilion that can change to any colors during the year. If you drive by in the evening you will see they are currently red, white and blue.

Tree Report –Nancy Thill reminded everyone about the new language that was updated in the Tree Ordinance. It states; the tree service must be registered and licensed, and required to obtain a permit from the office at no cost. The purpose of the permit is to help the Village maintain the tree inventory and for public safety. Rick checked on a tree at Stop 42 there were concerns about it falling. The tree was inspected and treated for the vines growing on this Siberian Elm. Because it is failing and also on the invasive species removal report on the UFMP, Rick is obtaining estimates for removal of this multi-trunk tree. Nancy said this year Arbor Day was held in conjunction with the Day Camp and was a great success. The Tree Board wishes to thank our budding Little Tree Ambassadors and the Michiana Women's Club for their participation and support. Kim Gondeck and Troop members 802 & GSA 8022 provided the color guard. Nancy said AEP was halfway through a design for two sections of the village for utility line burial, one to the west, and the other adjacent to the east. This is a first draft stage, and they hope to provide a plan and proposal soon. Pizzo has treated the remaining poison hemlock and will work on to thin the Black Mustard which is abundant. More flowering plants are blossoming, and butterflies are flying over the area. There will be temporary fence installed in the corner by the musical garden on the playground and remain there over the next several months. We ask that you please keep children out of this area while a group from the Garden Club works with us to restore this area by the playground musical garden with American Native plants.

Planning Commission- Mike Botelho was not present. Julie reminded everyone about the Open House on Saturday, July 26 from 11-2 EST.

Treasurer Report – Tracey reported we have \$51,119 in the Pokagon Fund. Tim McCarthy approved the treasurers report; all were in favor motion passed. Tracey reminded everyone the summer tax bills went out July 1st and due September 15th.

Clerk Report -Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the check register as submitted for \$115,490.82 Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; motion passed. Anne reminded everyone about upcoming events happening in the Village: Concert in the park on July 12 and 26th, The House Walk tickets were still available for July 25th and reminder that the Master Plan Task Force was having an Open House. Anne mentioned she still had water craft stickers available and new Michiana polo shirts for sale.

Old Business

1. **Update from EGLE on structure on beach at Stop 42.** Tim McCarthy reported a letter went to the homeowners from EGLE stating they had 30 days from the date of the violation notice to remove the structure.

New Business

1. **New Buffalo Township Fire Chief Jamie Flick** – (Moved up on the agenda).
2. **Lora Freehling from Berrien County Register of Deeds** – (Moved up on the agenda)

Correspondence – n/a

Public Comment

Linda Stein mentioned that some of the drinking fountains at the Stops were not working. Brian Cassidy said they were aware and working getting parts for some of them. A couple of residences complained about dogs at the beach with no leashes.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Heywood/Clerk