**Village of Michiana Council Meeting**

**December 9, 2022, 1:00 p.m. (EST)**

**Roll Call**: Joann Fisher, Brain Cassidy, Tim McCarthy, Michael Tolentino, and Nancy Thill were present. Police Chief Ryan Layman, Water & Street Superintendent Rick, Building Inspectors Bill Lambert and Chad Butler, Clerk Anne Heywood were present. There were 17 Village residents present and 13 on line.

**Additions/Deletions**

Add – Nancy Thill Tree Report

Add – Michael Tolentino Planning Commission Master Plan Vision

**Public Comment on Agenda Items Only -** No Comments

**Consent Agenda**

Michael Tolentino made a motion for acceptance of the November 18, 2022 minutes and treasurer report, Tim McCarthy seconded the motion; motion passed.

**Reports**

**Building Inspector Report: Bill Lambert**

* Bill reported there were 42 building permits issued to date. Bill and the office are working on a new 2023 updated spreadsheet for the March meeting.

**Fire Chief Report: Gary Bendix** -(Report on File) Wished everyone a Happy Holiday

**Police /Commission Report: Chief Ryan Layman**

* Ryan reminded homeowners they can still sign up for house checks during the winter. All you have to do is log into the Village website **michianavillage.org** under police department click the tab called “Smart Sheet” and fill it out. Ryan said between the two Villages there were 180 homeowners already signed up. He mentioned they had a break in at Grand Beach. Nothing appears to have been taken. Remember to make sure you lock your cars and homes.

**Beach Commissioner Report: Brian Cassidy**

* Brian reported Stop 43 the Ginther property added more sand traps on top of their existing traps along with hay stacks and planted a thousand more beach grass plugs.
* Brian said while Northshore was on site working the Village had them add hay stacks on the Village area to help with erosion up on top of Stop 43. The total cost was $2,500.

**Public Works Report: Rick Reitz**

* Fall leaf pick up has been completed in the Village. The board thanked Rick and Josh for doing a great job this year and also thanked the residents for getting their leaves out early.
* If you have any sticks piles make sure you call a lawn service to take them away.
* Joann Fisher reminded the Village that Michiana is the only Village that still pays for leaf pick up, yard waste and garbage service.
* Spring leaf clean-up will be March 20- April 19 weather permitting.

**Water Board Report: Brian Cassidy**

* Brian will be meeting with Rick to see where we are on the completion of the pump house and other water related business.

**Parks & Recreation: Joann Fisher**

* Joann reported the new backboard donated by Jurate and Carl Landwehr has been installed and the pickleball tournament helped pay for the installation. Joann thanked everyone for their donations.
* Back by popular demand “Oktoberfest” will be October 7th 2023.

**Clerk Report: Anne Heywood**

* Anne reminded residents that if anyone is looking for Michiana wear or Pickleball posters for gifts she has them for sale in the office. Feel free to call or email if you’re interested.
* The 2023 council meetings have been posted on the web page. (michianavillage.org)
* Still waiting on quotes for renovating Stop 37.

**Tree Report: Nancy Thill**

* Nancy reported Rick Reitz was contacted by the builder for 3981 Lake Shore Drive requesting permission to remove two large trees at the front of the property in order to demolish his structure. Rick and Josh met with Nancy Thill at the site to review the circumstances. It was found that the two oak trees are growing on village property, disrupting the pavement and the branches were intertwined in the overhead power lines which is one of the criteria by EGLE for tree removal. After further consultation with Bill Lambert, it was agreed to contact AEP power to remove the two trees which are also located in the easement established for line trimming by the power company. AEP was contacted. Village is awaiting a reply.

**Master Plan Revision: Michael Tolentino**

* Michael read the Mission Statement for the Village which is located on the Village website. Tim McCarthy made a motion that the vision of Michiana stay the same as stated in the Village Charter, Nancy Thill seconded the motion, motion passed.
* The Planning Commission has started reviewing the Master Plan which has not been done in 20 years. Michael has assigned Kathleen Hogan Morrison and Maureen Skelton to work on this project. Sara Senica the Village Attorney suggested once the Master Plan is completed it should be looked at annually to keep it up to dated.

**Old Business**

**Update on Lawsuit with New Buffalo Township**

* Sara Senica the Village Attorney was present and gave a brief update on the lawsuit with New Buffalo Township. Sara filed with the Court of Appeals in October and is waiting to hear back with a court date**.**

**New Business**

**Village Hall Project: Michael Tolentino**

* Michael Tolentino assigned Holly Duran, Chris Booth and Justin Lucas to work on ideas for a facelift for the Village Hall. The group would like to work with Kono Design a general contractor. Michael made a motion for $5,500 to engage with Kono Design a general contractor to come up with a general design, this would include checking the existing HAVC, looking into cost of lighting, windows, doors, a working fireplace and new floors. Joann Fisher seconded the motion; there was discussion, a roll call vote was then taken; 5 ayes and 0 nays; motion passed. Michael Tolentino said they would report back at the March meeting. If the Village Council decides in March to move forward using Kono Design the company will apply 50% of the $5,500 to the project. Joann Fisher made a motion to amend the budget $5,500 to engage in a contract with Kono Design, Michael Tolentino seconded the motion a roll call vote was taken; 5 ayes and 0 nays; motion passed**.**

**Amend Budget $2,500 for Stop 43 revetment on top**

* Joann Fisher made a motion amending the budget $2,500 for revetment at Stop 43; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; motion passed

**Looking at new fees for 2023 Parking Tags, Golf Cart Stickers, and Kayak Stickers**

* Joann said two new racks for summer have been purchased will hold 16 Kayak’s each. The fee was $250, Joann Fisher made a motion to reduce the sticker to $150; Tim McCarthy seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken 3 ayes and 2 nays; motion passed.
* Parking stickers and golf cart sticker fees were tabled until the March meeting.

**NO Council Meetings for January and February 2023**

**Comments from the President**

Joann Fisher acknowledged the fine work of all the Village employees:

* Ryan Layman Police Chief, Lt. George Knoll and Officer Pat Meyers. Joanne also acknowledged the Grand Beach Officers that work in our Village, Capt. Jamie Flick for 22 years and Officer Creo Brewster.
* She introduced Chad Butler who is coming aboard to work with Bill Lambert, the Building Inspector, who has worked as the Village Inspector for 12 years.
* She thanked Rick Reitz and Josh Gondeck, the muscle of our Streets and Water Departments.
* The Village Clerk Anne Heywood and Treasurer Cheryl Cook for everything they do keeping the Village running.
* Thanked Karen Szyp and Lisa Zirpolo for helping fill in at the office when needed.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Joann Fisher then asked Sara Senica to call the meeting to a closed session - the Council and Village Clerk Anne Heywood stepped out of the Hall and entered into a closed session for an employee review.

Council Returned from the closed session at 3:30 p.m.

**Public Comment/Correspondence -** A resident asked if the council would look into the lighting issue in the Village. It was mentioned that the Village has an Ordinance about direct lighting. The resident would like to see a dark spot community. Michael Tolentino will look into this.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Heywood