

Village of Michiana Council Meeting
May 9th, 2025 at 1:00p.m. EST

The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom.

Roll Call

Council members: Tim McCarthy, Brian Cassidy, Mike Botelho and Mike Mumper were present. Tim McCarthy excused Nancy Thill and Clerk Anne Heywood. Also, present were Officer Pat Myers sitting in for Police Chief Layman, Water & Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Building Inspector Bill Lambert, Treasurer Tracey McCay. Present were 28 residents and 11 participated via Zoom.

Additions/Deletions – N/A

Tim McCarthy moved a new business item, update on Stop 42 Structure. Tim stated that this issue was under State control at this time and the Village would be stepping down at this time until we hear back from the State.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only-

Kathleen Hogan Morrison wanted to know if that meant the Village was doing nothing about the structure on 42. Tim responded that the Village was just stepping aside for the State at this time. Kathleen also wanted to know if residents should call EGLE to express their feelings on this matter. Tim responded that he can not give direction on what individual residents do and it was up to them if they wanted to contact EGLE.

Bill Schutt made a point that the Village owns the roads and even though it is not there anymore a road still exists in that area where the structure was built.

Caroline Rogers addressed the room to let everyone know they applied for a permit with EGLE and the Building Department. Caroline owns the land the structure was built on. She stated she was not trying to be defensive but she didn't know she was doing anything wrong.

Matt Brown – Wanted to know that if EGLE says it is okay will the Village step in. Tim responded we have to let this play out and couldn't answer at this time. The State is reviewing the situation now.

Minutes

Mike Botelho made a motion to approve the April 11th 2025 Council Meeting Minutes, Mike Mumper seconded the motion; motion passed.

REPORTS

Building Inspector Report – Bill reported on the current building permits. He also stated that the structure on 42 was permitted to a different address than it was built on.

Fire Chief Report – Chief Bendix - absent – Report given by Kris Wulff. Report on file.

Police Report- Officer Myers reported the number of calls last month was 38. There has been an up-tick in fraud cases. He also reminded everyone to keep their dog on a leash when walking them. There have already been a couple dog bites this season.

Park Report- The park grass is coming in nicely and they are still working on weed clean up. The first concert will be Saturday, May 24th from 3:00-5:30. Tim McCarthy reminded everyone to keep an eye on the website calendar for events this season.

Beach Report – It was reported that everything was on schedule for Memorial Day Weekend. The stairs at 39 & 40 are going to be stained.

Public Works Report- Rick reported that the leaf pick up was finished, the mulching of the park was underway, they were still picking up brush at stop 40, the parking lot and paved areas around the Village Hall were sealed and painted, and they repaired the landings at stops 41.5 and 40. Mike Botelho asked about the proposals that were in the report and Rick explained they were for 2 more drywells and paving.

Water Report –Mike Mumper reported that we are moving forward with the water project and that we were pushing Merritt to get started. We want to do 1 bid for both projects. The new, stronger pump is installed. Tim asked Rick if the bids for the new drywells included paving the drywells done in the fall to which he replied yes.

Tree Report –Nancy Thill reported on a few changes wanting to be made to the tree ordinance. The biggest being that Contractors need to be the ones to apply for a tree permit, not the homeowners. The Arbor Day celebration will be July 10th at the entrance to the butterfly garden. In the park the fencing around the trees will be replaced and Pizzo came to service the butterfly garden and noticed the Poison Hemlock was coming back. Nancy is also getting information on burying powerlines.

Planning Commission- Mike Botelho began by saying he is still working with Julie Bonello and the Planning Commission to get things finished and that Julie is doing a wonderful job. He turned it over to Julie who said that the goal is to have the Master Plan completed by mid-Fall. Julie thanked all the residents who have taken time to fill out the survey. The Master Planning Task Force most important priorities are beaches and infrastructure. The Master Planning Task Force has been meeting with each department to put a report together based on their priorities. The Master Planning Task Force will be holding an open workshop on Saturday, July 26th. Mike Botelho reminded the Planning Commission that it was important to keep the Council informed on decisions so things could keep moving forward.

Treasurer Report – Tracey McCay gave the treasurer report along with the Pokagon Fund balance of \$47,661. Tracey explained the pooling of the bank accounts per our auditors and that we now only have 3 bank accounts open. Tracey also mentioned that our CD at 1st Source would be maturing before the next Council meeting and asked if it could be rolled over if the rate was above the 3.5% floor set by the Council. Tim made a motion to roll over the CD when it is mature but not to go below 3.5%. Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; motion passed.

Clerk Report -Mike Botelho made a motion to approve the check register as submitted for \$48,560.77, Mike Mumper seconded the motion; motion passed.

Old Business

1. **Water Contract with Grand Beach** – Tim McCarthy explained Grand Beach will be having a Council meeting on the following Wednesday where they will review the 50-year water contract.
2. **Village Hall Project** – Tim McCarthy stated that the project was pretty much done. There would be a few additions such as closet organizers at the back of the hall and new kitchen lights.

New Business

1. **The First Reading of the Budget** - The 2025/2026 budget was approved by the Council members. Tim McCarthy took a roll call vote was taken; 4-yes and 0 -nays. Tracey McCay explained that if residents wanted to see the budget, they could make an appointment and view the budget in the office.

Public Comment – Pam Schutt had a complaint about the use of marijuana and the number of cars at one of the rental properties near her home. Council was already looking into it with the Village attorney and Police.

Mark Zello commended Bill Lambert on his knowledge and ease to work with.

Mike Mayfield had concerns/requests related to Pickleball. Some of the things mentioned were a pickleball liaison, bathroom access, & the court barricades should be allowed.

Bruce Hirsch expressed his concern about renters, parking issues, and dogs on leashes.

Mark Brown wanted the Village to be aware the Government was pulling grants.

Lynn & Joel Altschul wanted to express their extreme concern about the structure on the beach at 42.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:05 EST

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey McCay/Treasurer