

**Village of Michiana Council Meeting**  
**June 13, 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, Nancy Thill and Mike Mumper were present. Also, present were Police Chief Ryan Layman, Water & Street Superintendent Rick Reitz. Building Inspector Bill Lambert, Treasurer Tracey McCay were absent. Present were 34 residents and 12 participated via Zoom.

**Additions/Deletions – N/A**

Tim McCarthy added the Amended Tree Ordinance to new business.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items Only-** Dr. Lome asked why the Village created the new paid parking area.

**Minutes**

Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the April 11<sup>th</sup> 2025 Council Meeting Minutes, and the Special Meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> ,2025 Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed.

**REPORTS**

**Building Inspector Report** – Bill Lambert - absent

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

**Police Report- Chief Layman** reported 45 calls last month. Ryan thanked all the departments who responded to help pull a worker that fell into a trench where he was working on Lake Shore Drive. Michigan City with their equipment was able to pull the worker out and happy to report he was not hurt.

**Beach Report** – Brian Cassidy thanked all the families for making the beach stops look lovely with all the flowers in the planters. Brian asked if the flowers look dry to please give them a drink. The water has been turned on at the stops. Brian mentioned they were waiting for a part for Stop 41 but the shower part was working. The landings at Stop 41.5 & 40 were repaired and the water temp was 60 degrees. Brian would like to look into phone service satellites for beach area.

**Public Works Report-** Rick reported the park had fresh mulch added, the basketball court and parking area around the Village were sealed and painted. Our seasonal employee Cole is back and will be overseeing the park & beaches. Cole will be checking the kayak racks to make sure that all water crafts have their new stickers on them.

**Water Report** –Mike Mumper reported that there will be a Water meeting on Friday, June 20 at 10:30 to meet with Merritt to push to get the bid put together on the water project. Mike said this project has been dragging on way to long.

**Park Report-** Mike Mumper said the park looks awesome and we had our first music in the park over Memorial Day. There were about 100 attendees who came to listen and had a wonderful evening. Mike said moving forward the courts will be closed during the hours of the Village events in the park. This is to be considerate to the performer and the people who came down to enjoy the music.

**Tree Report** –Nancy Thill reported Steve Lane, who worked on the tree survey map for the Village was leaving and Lesley will be the Urban Arborist and will be revisiting the maps. Arbor day will be Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am Est will take place in the park over by the Sugar Maple Tree. The next Tree Board meeting will be Friday, June 20, 2025 at 11:00am. Est.

**Planning Commission-** Mike Botelho turned it over to Julie Bonello the planning commissioner. Julie thanked the Master Task Force for the hard work gathering community data from the survey. Julie announced there will be an open workshop on Saturday morning July 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am – 2:00pm EST. Feel free to stop in during this 3-hour window, to walk through to see the poster boards and give your thoughts.

**Treasurer Report** – Tim McCarthy approved the treasurers report; all were in favor motion passed.

**Clerk Report** -Mike Botelho made a motion to approve the check register as submitted for \$67,790.33 Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; motion passed.

### **Old Business**

1. **Update on Lawsuit with New Buffalo Township** – Attorney Sara Senica spoke on the outcome of the lawsuit and how disappointed she was the Michigan Supreme Court of Appeals DENIED hearing the Villages appeal. Sara stated the MML Board advised that they'd already talked about a legislative amendment and Sara will keep the Council informed if there's anything new.
2. **Additional 6-month Moratorium on Sports Courts** – Tim McCarthy made a motion to extend the hold on sports courts until the Master Plan is completed which will be before the end of year; Nancy Thill seconded the motion; motion passed.
3. **Village Parking Explanation due to all the Confusion** – Tim McCarthy explained the parking in front of the Village Hall was paid parking. If you are a resident, you must place your hanging tag on your review mirror. Golf carts should place the sticker on the back fender of cart. These tags & stickers have been available in the village for the past 12 years and were used for the designated parking at Stop 41 for \$10 a year. The tags now can be used by the Village Hall. Many visitors were using all the spots in front and residents could not park to do village business or park near the park with small children. The Council felt the tax payers of the Village should have the benefit of being able to park closer to enjoy the park they helped pay for. Tim McCarthy stated that this council never said outside visitors were not welcomed. Tim said the Council provided more parking for the pickleball players along Cherokee Drive and created more golf cart parking for the Village residents. If visitors would like to park in front of the Village Hall, they will have to pay \$10 an hour to park or visitors can park in the parking area over by Michiana Drive or along Cherokee Drive for free. When the Village is hosting an event like music in the park NO one will have to pay for parking.
4. **Amend the Tree Ordinance** – Nancy Thill asked for a motion to approve the following change in the Tree Ordinance: It will be up to the tree contractors to apply for the tree permit not the homeowners. Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; motion passed.

### **New Business**

1. **Amend the 2024/2025 end of year budget –** Tim McCarthy made a motion to amend the following departments in the General Budget; 215,253,265,266,290,301,751 overage total is \$52,660. The General Budget as whole including all departments was under budget by \$32,899. The Water Budget was over \$36,976.54 due to water usage. Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed by all.
2. **The Final Reading of the Budget –** Tim McCarthy made a motion to adopt the 2025/2026 budget; Nancy Thill seconded the motion; 5-yes and 0-nays.
3. **Close Session with Village Attorney**

**Correspondence – n/a**

Tim McCarthy took public comments before going into close session.

**Public Comment**

Roxanne Martino informed the council about an incident that happened at the beach regarding dogs at the beach with no leash. Pam Schutt asked if a larger sign that say No Dogs on beach could be put up. Linda Stein asked if the roads will be paved where the new drywell were installed. Dr. Lome asked if the courts were open to everyone since part of the cost came from the Pokagon Grant written by the Village. Holly Duran asked if the speed bumps could be removed or if they are staying to be repainted so they can be more visible. Karen Summer also complained about the speed bump being painted or removed she told the council that she had wiped out on one a couple of years ago. Karen Hardy would like to know if the pickleball rules were going to be put back up. Megan Schmollinger thought there should be extra buoys placed in the water near 41.5 and 42.

Tim McCarthy made a motion to go into close session per the letter from the Village Attorney; Mike Botelho second the motion; motion passed. The motion read as follows: "I make a motion under Section 8(H) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to go into closed session to consider an attorney-client privileged letter from our council, which is exempt from public disclosure."

Council returned from close session.

Tim McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 3:35pm EST, Mike Mumper seconded; meeting closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Heywood/Clerk