

Village Council Meeting
Friday, June 12, 2026
1:00 P.M. EST

Call to Order: Present were Tim McCarthy, Mike Mumper, Mike Bothelo, Brian Cassidy and Nancy Thill were present. Also present was Police Chief Ryan Layman, Building Inspector Bill Lambert, Treasurer Tracey McCay and Clerk Anne Heywood. There Superintendent Rick Reitz was excused. There were 25 residents present. Due to weather the internet was down, so zoom was unavailable.

Agenda Additions – 2 Additions – New Buffalo High School asking permission to place signs by the Courts for their Pickleball Fundraiser an Amend 2025/2026 Budget

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only) -N/A

Tim McCarthy moved Kurt Raducha the Athletic Director at New Buffalo High School up on the agenda; Kurt requested permission to place a couple of pickleball fundraiser signs on the Court fence to help promote an upcoming tournament. He explained that proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the New Buffalo High School World Travel Club for the students. The tournament is open to everyone and will be held on August 29 and 30. The Council granted permission for the signs to be displayed and expressed their support for the event, wishing Kurt a successful fundraiser and great turnout.

Approval of Minutes – Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Council Meeting Minutes from May 8th 2026 and Water Board Meeting Minutes from May 29th, 2026; motion seconded by Mike Mumper; Motion passed.

Building Report – Building Inspector Bill Lambert reported everything was looking good in the Village.

Michiana Shores & New Buffalo Township Fire Department Report - Before Fire Chief Jamie Flick's report, Council Member Mike Mumper recognized the outstanding efforts of the Michiana Shores Volunteer Fire Department and the New Buffalo Township Fire Department in responding to a residential fire that occurred several weeks earlier. Mike Mumper stated that the fire escalated rapidly from a fire pit in the early morning hours, engulfing the home. Four young men were inside the residence, and all were able to escape safely. He commended the firefighters for their quick response and professionalism, noting that their efforts prevented an even more tragic outcome. He also shared that one of the occupants became disoriented while inside the home. Although he did not sustain direct burns, he suffered heat-related injuries and was hospitalized for a period of time. Mike Mumper reported that he is doing well. He expressed his appreciation for the dedication of the volunteer firefighters, acknowledging the difficult and often dangerous work they perform for the community. Mike Mumper invited those in attendance to join him in a round of applause to thank the firefighters from both departments who responded to the incident. Mike Mumper also recognized Public Works

Superintendent Rick Reitz who happen to arrive early to work that morning and noticed the fire apparatus and immediately went to check the water pressure to ensure there was adequate water flow for the firefighters. He thanked Rick for stepping in without hesitation and helping to support the emergency response.

Fire Chief Jamie Flick reminded residents about the department's community connect smoke detector program. He encouraged anyone in need of smoke detectors or assistance with installation to contact the fire department. He reported that approximately 80 smoke detectors have been installed throughout the area and emphasized the importance of having working smoke detectors in every home to promote fire safety. Fire Chief Flick reminded everyone to be safe during the 4th of July.

Police Report Chief Ryan Layman want to welcome our new officer Megan Bunker who just graduated from the academy in May. Ryan informed the residence “Coffee with a Cop” will take place at the Village Hall on Saturday, June 27 at 12:00 through 1:00 p.m. Chief Layman talked about the Grant we submitted for Police Station, Grand Beach/Michiana Police Department Grant (FY27). Council was notified by Congressman Tim Walberg's office that five projects had been selected for consideration and the proposed police station project was one of them. It was explained that this grant process differs from the water project grant process. After being selected, the project must proceed through several steps at the federal level, including congressional review and budget approval through both the House and Senate. It is anticipated that a decision may be made by late fall. If the project receives federal approval, it will then move to the State of Michigan, which will determine the amount of funding to be awarded or may choose not to award the grant. Given the uncertainty and length of the approval process, representatives from both villages expressed a desire to continue moving forward with planning efforts. It was noted that project costs continue to increase while awaiting funding decisions, which is why the possibility of issuing a bond has been discussed at previous meetings. The next police meeting will be at 10:00A.M.(EST) at the Village of Grand Beach. Remember you can always go to the Village website: michianavillage.org to read the minutes from the police meeting to stay informed. Ryan also pointed out that Michiana Shores put up a 3 way stop signs at El Portal & Old Grand Beach Road.

Beach Report – Brian Cassidy reported the new fire rings for bonfires have installed at all the beach access points. He reminded the residents that bonfires permits are available this year for a fee of \$25. Brian reported all the stair installations at the beach access stops have been completed. Council is moving forward with improvements at Stop 43 and hopes to have the access open for the season. Brian also reported that he has scheduled a meeting with Donkersloot & Sons to obtain a quote for the removal of exposed metal at Stop 40.

Public Works/Water Report – Brian Cassidy reported for Rick – Brian stated that American Seal Coating were out filling the cracks on the courts. All the fountains/showers were installed and working. They have been working on filling

Potholes around the Village. They went through the village one last time to pick up remaining leaves. Blowing the courts daily in the park and working on cleaning basement getting ready for day camp. Rick was moving sand around at Stop 43 getting ready for the contractors to come and install larger dry wells.

Water Department Report – Mik Mumper provided an update on the village's water project timeline. He reported that NIES Engineering is nearing completion of the project plans and has combined both grant-funded projects into a single set of plans. The project is currently awaiting permit approval from EGLE while the EPA reviews the project plans. The goal is for EPA review to be completed by the time EGLE approves and issues the permit. Then the project would be ready to be advertised for bidding. If the schedule remains on track, the Village hopes to solicit bids by the end of August and begin construction shortly after Labor Day.

Park Report – Mike Mumper thanked Tim McCarthy for donating all the little flags placed around the park. Mike reported that the courts have been resealed they are not perfect but will do for now.

Tree Board Report - Nancy Thill reported that the Village's Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for Monday, July 6, at 10:15 a.m. Eastern Time. Planning and delegation of event activities are underway. The Honor Guard has been arranged by Kim Gondack, and a replacement tree has been selected to replace the failed pagoda dogwood. Andrew Aronson will coordinate refreshments following the ceremony, and Nancy has contacted the press regarding an Arbor Day news release. Nancy also announced that the Village of Michiana has received its third-year Tree City USA recognition during the program's 50th anniversary year. The Tree Board reviewed the Urban and Community Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) removal inventory and supplemental inventory, with particular attention to the lakefront area. Work is scheduled to begin on removing invasive tree species that currently make up approximately 25% of the Village's tree canopy. The most common and aggressive invasive species is the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus*). Residents are encouraged to remove small trees of this species from their property before they become larger and more expensive to remove. Nancy reported on one of the trees in the park, the pagoda dogwood located near the utility panel did not survive. Sawyer Gardens has agreed to replace the tree at 50% of the replacement cost.

Planning Commission – Mike Botelho reported the Master Plan has to be posted on the village web page for review and neighboring communities have been notified about our Master Plan. At our July meeting it will be over the 63 days to and the council will then adopt and approve the 2026 Master Plan.

Treasurer Report – Tracey McCay reported that we had 3 CD's coming for renewal in July and September and would like to roll them over for just a 3-month period in case we need them for the Water project. Tracey was going to be looking into the CDAR accounts that were

presented to us from Horizon. She explained these CDAR work the same way as the sweep account we have, expect the rates are low. Tracey would like to research other banks to see if they offer anything similar at a better rate. Tim McCarthy approved the treasurer report and Nancy Thill seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Clerks Report – Anne Heywood asked for check register approval for \$171,203.11, Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the check register as submitted for \$171,203.11; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; motion passed.

Old Business

1. Update on the Trees taken down on Village Property along Lake Shore Drive – Tim McCarthy said it was still under investigation.
2. Approval of Master Plan – Discussed under Planning report.

New Business

1. Resolution 2026-02 Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the language for November ballot for Emergency Services Millage; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken; 5 ayes and 0 nays; motion passed.
2. Resolution 2026-03 Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the opposing the redesignation of Critical Dune Area within the Village; Nancy Thill seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken; 5 ayes and 0 nays; motion passed.
3. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the \$55,000 that we were over in the budget, under different appropriated lines but came in under budget in all; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion passed.
4. Second reading of the 2026/2027 Budget; Mike Botelho made a motion to approve the 2026/2027 Budget; Nancy Thill seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken; 5 ayes and 0 nays; motion passed

Correspondence – N/A

Public Comment – Mark Fesenmyer asked if speed bumps could be put up around the park to slow down traffic. Renee Okenck also asked if the removable speed bumps would be going up again over by Apache. Council will check with Rick on Monday.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Heywood/Clerk

DRAFT