

Village of Michiana Council Meeting

April 11, 2025 at 1:00 pm. EST

The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom.

Roll Call - Council members: Tim McCarthy, Mike Botelho and Brian Cassidy were present. Tim McCarthy excused Nancy Thill and Mike Mumper. Also, present were Police Chief Ryan Layman, Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Josh Gondek, Building Inspector Bill Lambert, Treasurer Tracey McCay, and Clerk Anne Heywood. Present were 4 residents and 6 participated via Zoom.

Additions/Deletions – n/a

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – n/a

Minutes – Mike Botelho made a motion to approve the Council minutes, Closed Session Minutes and Special Budget Workshop Meeting from March 14, 2025; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; motion was approved by all.

Tim McCarthy moved John from HONK Parking Operations up on the agenda; John Cherewko from HONK gave a presentation on how the program works. Ryan thought it was user friendly and would help with parking around the hall and park. The Village would have full control to customize how much to charge and when to turn it on or off. This program would not affect any residents of Michiana as long as they had a parking tag or golf cart sticker on their vehicle. This program requires No App; visitors would scan the QR code on the sign with their phone. The company HONK accepts all digital payment types like...Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal. If the Village is having an event, HONK can be turned off. The Council thought the fee should be \$10 an hour; HONK would charge 2.9% for a credit card transaction fee. The cost to the Village would be \$50 a month for the service. HONK would handle all transactions and send the Village a check monthly. Tim McCarthy made a motion to move forward with this program charging \$10 an hour to non-residents only; Brian Cassidy seconded; there was discussion; motion was approved by all.

Reports

Building Inspector Report - Bill Lambert read his report said no new project were happening at this time in the Village. (Report on file)

Fire Chief Report – Chief Bendix absent – Tim McCarthy read the report.

Police Report – Chief Ryan reported he had 54 calls last month. Ryan thanked everyone for signing and returning the support letters for the new Police Station. There were 220 letters from the two villages combined and letters will be submitted with the Grant application that Grand Beach and Michiana applied for.

Beach Report – Brian Cassidy said Rick and Josh will be working on some smaller projects at the beach stops to get them ready for the season. Brian said there will be 2 garbage cans left at the beach stops, no recycle cans. The reason for removing the recycle totes from the beach stops is the garbage service said people were dumping garbage into the recycle cans. If you would like to recycle, please bring your recycling

back to your home. Brian showed a sample of the stickers that will be going on each garbage can. They are marked with the Beach Stop number on them and will be placed on all sides of the toters so the village can locate them if they should be removed. Brian is hoping this solution will keep the village toters from disappearing from the beach stops. The inmates will be here the end of April helping to get the beaches cleaned up along with other items around the Village. The planters will be placed at all the beach stops during the first week of May. Brian thanked everyone who volunteered to adopt a Stop this year. Anne only has Stop 37 left to be adopted so, if you're interested please call the office.

Public Works Report – Rick Reitz reported that they have started cleaning up the park, working on his office, putting new signs up around the village. Rick and the police department will start locking and unlocking the pickleball/tennis court gates starting May 1st. Rick has removed the cranks for the nets since some how they always go missing or get broken. We will have 2 port-a-pots delivered on May 1st. Council reminded everyone again that no personal property is to be left on the courts. Anything left will be taken and after 30 days if no one claims the items they will be thrown away. Rick had a quote for \$5,800 to have all the parking lot and the basketball court cleaned and major cracks fixed with hot rubberized crack sealant and everything restriped. Mike Botelho made motion to approve the \$5,800 for all the work; Tim McCarthy seconded; motion was approved by all.

Park Report: Rick reported for Mike Mumper that the park has been fertilized, the new trees have been mulched, rolls of blanket seeding was laid around the edges of the park, and orange fencing went up around the park since the park was re-seeded and fertilized. The sprinkler system has been turned on for the season. Rick said there is still a path to the pickleball courts and the fencing will come down May 1st.

Water Report –Mike Mumper reported that the water project on Creek was moving forward. The EPA requires a National Historic Preservation Study before moving to the next phase. The company Orbis, is working on getting this study done and reporting to the engineers so we can move to the next phase. This phase is submitting the project plan to the EPA for review before taking the project out for bid.

Tree Board – Nancy Thill was excused but was on the zoom call and read report that she had submitted prior to the meeting. Brian Gerdes the line trim manager for AEP replied with an update that the work is completed in the village. Nancy met with David Manecke the new Tree Board Chair for Grand Beach. Nancy helped them get established with their UFMP. The MDNR communicated that they expect us to work together and adopt similar programs. David Manecke said he would look over everything and keep in touch to build a reciprocal program. Nancy said that the Village already received \$7,000 of the \$11,500 that committed from the tree grant and we have until the end of August to complete. Nancy mention that the Beach Garden Club was having a Garden Tour that will take place on Saturday, June 21st from 11-4 EST. Nancy said there will be 2 homes in the Village on the tour. Nancy asked if we could share the information on the website with more information and how to buy tickets.

Planning Commission – Mike Botelho said Julie's team is working hard with the analysis of the survey everyone took.

Treasurer Report – Tracey McCay gave the treasurer report along with the Pokagon Fund balance of \$49,238. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the treasurer report; Mike Botelho seconded; motion was approved by all.

Clerk Report – Anne Heywood asked for approval of the check register for \$126,625.33; Mike Botelho made a motion to approve the check register as submitted; motion seconded by Tim McCarthy; motion passed. Anne said they are working on finishing the plaques for the musical garden and for the playground equipment donations. Reminded the residents the new directories were available and kayak, parking, and golf tags were for sale. Anne listed the following upcoming events and music in the park:

Save the Dates: Arbor Day - Thursday, July 10th, House Walk - Friday, July 25th, Village Party - Saturday, August 16th, Octoberfest - Saturday, October 4th

Music on the Green: Saturday, July 12th Latin Jazz, Saturday, July 26 Toxic Crayon (90's music), Sunday, August 31st (Labor Day Weekend) Jessi.

Day Camp will start June 16, through – August 8th more information will be posted on the Village website. Anne reminded the residents that July and August meeting will start at 2pm EST because of camp hours.

Old Business

1. N/A

New Business

1. Village Hall Parking (HONK) presentation moved up on the agenda.
2. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the Water Contract with The Village of Grand; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion was approved by all. Tim asked Anne to send the contract over to Grand Beach so they can approve the contract at their next council meeting.
3. Lisa Zirpolo sent in a request regarding the dates for the pickleball tournament; they would like to reserve the courts for 4 days starting September 4th – 7th. The council decided 4 days was too long to shut down the courts. Tim McCarthy made a motion to allow the tournament to take place on Friday, September 5th with set up starting time of 4pm EST. and Saturday, September 6th and Sunday, September 7th. Council said if they need any of our resources (tables, chairs, cords, etc..) the list will need to be given to the office a week prior of the tournament; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion was approved by all. Council asked Anne to notify Lisa with the Council's decision.
4. Tim McCarthy appointed Mike Mumper to be the Park liaison.

Public Comment – Pam Schutt complained about the pickleball players relieving themselves by the creek. Nancy Thill talked about quiet pickleballs that they do work.

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 EST

Respectfully submitted

Anne Heywood

