

Village of Michiana Council Meeting

May 10, 2024 at 11:00 am. 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, there was no discussion; approved. Also, present were Police Chief Ryan Layman, Water & Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Treasurer Tracey McCay, Clerk Anne Heywood. Present were 6 residents and 7 participated via Zoom.

Additions/Deletions – Salary Resolution, Guest Lora Freehling from Register of Deeds & Shelly Weich County Treasurer

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – Kathleen Hogan Morrison asked to present the bocce ball court for Pam Schutt.

Tim McCarthy Introduced Lora Freehling Register of Deeds and Shelly Weich County Treasurer

Lora from the Register of Deeds in Berrien County talked about Fraud Alerts and how to log on their website to monitor action for homeowners. Lora gave out pamphlets and told residents to feel free to contact her with any questions. Shelly Weich the County Treasurer introduced herself and mentioned she was running again for the office of County Treasurer. Tim thanked them both for their service to our community.

Minutes - Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2024. Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed.

REPORTS

Building Inspector Report - Bill Lambert - Absent – Report is on file.

Fire Chief Report – Chief Bendix - Absent – Report is on file.

Police Report - Police Chief Ryan Layman reported 34 calls for the month. Chief Layman said the police board has met twice to work on the police contract. Chief Layman talked about the hours and dates for using fireworks in the Village and no fireworks allowed on the public property and beaches. Fireworks can only be set off on private property and renters are not allowed to use fireworks on a rental property. Council asked that these rules be put in the next newsletter.

Beach Report - Brian Cassidy reported the Beach Stops were all looking good and ready for summer. The new stairs at Stop 37 have been completed. Brian met with John B. from EGLE to do an inspection of the trap bags at Stop 39. Brian said we will have to wait to hear back from EGLE if they would give the Village a one-year extension. The reason the bags need to be eventually removed is so that loose material - debris will not go into the lake. Tim, Brian, Rick and John (EGLE) looked at Stop 43 where we have flooding issues. Brian told John that the Village would first like to put in a larger drain at the bottom of the road. Second, build a brick retention wall with a stairway access to the sunset beach stop

to stabilize the dune and keep sand from washing down onto the road. This would then allow the Village to install a pathway to the sunset beach benches on the lakefront. Brian then showed John from EGLE the creek behind the Village Hall. John said the Village could apply for a permit with EGLE if we were to do some cleanup along the creek. The permit would be good for 5 years. It was also stated that the creek was not a County drain.

Public Works Report - Rick Reitz reported they have cleaned out storm drains, power washed covered ceiling area and stained the Village Hall deck, finished the leaf pick up, planned to begin hot patching pot holes, put new LED lighting in the garage, cleaned out the public works garage and painted the walls and ceiling in the garage. In June, July and August they will have seasonal help again to take care of beach stops, checking the kayak racks and cleaning the park. Working with Anne on another MDOT Grant for drywells which is June 12th.

Water Report – Mike Mumper reported the 750 GPM pump is set to be installed in the pump house in the next couple of weeks. Merritt Engineering is working on completing the schematics for the rest of the water project along Creek and Lake Shore Drive. We applied for another 2 million dollar grant to finish the water project in the back of the Village. Information regarding the grant was provided to us through Congressman Walberg's Office. The Village should hear back from Congressman Walberg's Office by May 17th if our application has been approved for funding.

Tree Report - Nancy Thill was not present but online and reported she has set up a training course with Rick Reitz and Steve Lane with Great Lakes Urban Forestry to learn how to use the GIS software program. Nancy will be working with Lisa Zirpolo and Anne Blasko who have volunteered to do a fundraising project with the Day Camp about the care of the trees. This event will be coordinated with our Arbor Day event.

Planning Commission – Mike Botelho apologized for cancelling the last planning commission meeting. Mike would like to reschedule the meeting for Friday, June 14, sometime in the morning before the council meeting.

Treasurer Report – Tracey McCay gave the treasurer report and stated we currently have \$41,295 in the Pokagon Fund. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as submitted; Mike Mumper seconded the motion; motion passed. Tracey will have the 2024/2025 budget amendments ready for the June meeting. Tracey would like to roll over the Water CD at Huntington Bank and the General CD at United CU which are coming mature in June. Tim McCarthy made a motion to roll over both CDs if the rate is 4.5% or higher; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Clerk Report - Anne Heywood asked the council for approval for the Check Register in the amount of \$43,473.58; Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the check register as presented; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed.

Anne talked about the House Walk on Friday, July 19th to raise money for the hall renovation, specifically for new hall lighting fixtures. More information to come in the June newsletter!

Old Business

- 1. Update on Village Hall Renovation** – Tim McCarthy said there will be no major renovation going on during the summer due to residents renting the hall, Village summer party, Day Camp and Village Hall fundraising events. The renovation Committee would like to spend the summer getting people excited about the project and working on raising donations so the project could continue to keep moving forward after in the Fall.
- 2. Bocci Ball** – Kathleen Hogan Morrison gave her presentation on behalf of Pam Schutt who could not be present. Brian Cassidy told Kathleen that the paperwork provided by Pam only had one quote that could be considered by the Council. Pam reached out to two additional companies and provided text messages she had received from them that would not be considered an actual quote for consideration. The amounts in the correspondence provided from these companies were \$23,000 to \$28,000. The quote from the company in New Buffalo came in at almost \$7,000 which was higher than anticipated by the Council. Brian Cassidy & Rick reached out to the same company in New Buffalo and one in Franklin Park, Illinois to purchase the material and the Village would then do the installation. Brian Cassidy made a motion to approve the purchase of the product for \$4,221, having Rick and Josh install with a cap not to exceed \$4,800; Mike Mumper seconded; There was discussion; Mike Mumper has been watching the bocce ball court for drainage and there are no problems. Since this is his field of expertise, he would like explore further with Rick regarding material and acquisition. Brian retracted his motion; Tim McCarthy made a motion to allow Mike Mumper to move forward with the project but not to exceed \$3,000 without reconsideration from the Council at the next Village meeting; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; motion was approved.

New Business

- 1. Salary Resolution 2024-003** – Mike Botelho made a motion to approve the salaries for the 2024-2025 budget; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; motion passed.
- 2. First Reading of 2024-2025 Budget** – Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the first reading of budget as presented; Mike Mumper seconded the motion; no discussion; Roll call vote was taken 4 ayes -0 nays; motion passed. Tim McCarthy informed the residents if they would like to review the budget before the June meeting they could call and set up an appointment. The approval of the budget will be at the June meeting.
- 3. Michigan City Water Contract** – Tim McCarthy said the contract was received from Michigan City. The contract is now pending review by our Attorney Sara Senica. Tim tabled this until the June meeting so edits, if necessary, can be made.
- 4. Resolution 2024-004** – Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the resolution-2024-004 for a grant with the Michigan Department of Transportation. This grant will be 5 new drywells located in the Village of Michiana of which the Village is

committed to providing their half of the funding; Mike Mumper seconded the motion; motion passed.

Correspondence – N/A

Public Comment - Dr. Kerlis from 3885 Lake Shore Dr. asked if another removable speed bump could be added on Lake Shore near her residence during the busy summer months and would also like a deer sign to be placed on Lake Shore Dr.

Brian Cassidy made a motion to adjourn Mike Mumper seconded at 2:29pm.

Respectful submitted,

Anne Heywood/Clerk