**Village of Michiana\Council Minutes**

**Friday, May 14, 2021**

The meeting was held by Virtual “Zoom”. Council President Mike Mintz called the electronic (virtual) Zoom Council Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. EST.

Mike Mintz read the following information regarding the remote meeting:

This meeting is being held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic enrolled under Senate Bill 1246, Public Act 254 of 2020 amending the Open Meetings Act. All Council members should identify themselves prior to speaking so that everyone is aware of who is speaking. The President of the Council will read all of the agenda items as we go along for those that can‘t see the agenda.

There will be two times when the public can speak.

* The first time will be during “comments on agenda items”.
* The second time is during “public comments - general” where you can speak about any concerns.
* All audience members will be muted until it is time for them to speak.
* Please identify yourself before speaking.

**ROLL CALL – IN ATTENDANCE**

Mike Mintz - Attending remotely and in person from Michiana, Michigan Village Hall

Kathleen Hogan Morrison – Attending remotely and in person from Michiana, Michigan Village Hall

Joann Fisher - Attending remotely and in person from Michiana, Michigan Village Hall

Phil Bonello – Attending remotely from Albuquerque, NM

Linda Stein – Attending remotely from Geneva, IL

Anne stated that there was a needed correction in the April 9th minutes as to Rick’s water report. Rick had stated at the meeting that the deadline for the chlorination project was June 1st. June 1st was Rick’s deadline, not the state’s deadline.

Approval of Council Meeting minutes for March 12, 2021 and April 9, 2021; Linda Stein made a motion for approval of minutes with the correction of April 9th’s minutes; Mike Mintz seconded; motion passed.

**REPORTS:**

**Building Inspector Report -** Bill Lambert is not in attendance.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Anne Heywood stated there is a total of $2,458,707.86 in the General Fund, and as of April 30, 2021 there is $23,460.00 in the Pokagon Fund. She said $12,000 was removed from the Pokagon fund for grant funds for the improvements at Stop 41.5.

**Tree Inspector Report** - Kris Wulff is not in attendance.

**Fire Chief Report** – Chief Gary Bendix is not in attendance. (Report on File)

**Police Report/Commissioner Report** – Chief Layman stated there were 41 calls for the month of April. Chief Laymen had a couple of reminders for everyone: first, no cars should be parked in the roadway and all tires should be off the roadway and second, all cars should be locked.

**Beach Commissioner Report** – Russell Bruesch said the stairs at Stop 41.5 will be complete in the next few days, and that Stop 38 at the bus stop will be open sometime next week. He said the aluminum stairway will be placed at the bus stop instead of further south as originally planned. Russell said there is no need to clean up the beaches as they are in pretty good shape, but there is a lot of wood debris in the dune grass from Stop 41.5 to 42. He said he will cut up that wood and encouraged people who have beach fires to use it for their fires. Beach Stops 37, 38, 41.5 and 42 will be open this summer.

**Public Works Report** – Rick Reitz said the painting of stripes on the parking area south of the village hall will occur next week. Flower planters will be at the beach stops next week. He said they will pick up fill for potholes on Monday. Michigan City Port Authority will try to get buoys in place along our opened beaches by Memorial Day. New trash cans have been ordered for Stop 41.5. Rick said he is working on water quality reports, including lead and copper testing. Rick will meet with Peerless on Tuesday to review the chlorine project at the pump house.

**Clerk’s Report** – Anne Heywood asked for approval of the check register in the amount of $113,435.00. Kathleen Hogan Morrison moved to approve the check register; Linda Stein seconded; motion passed. Anne said the letters to residents who made park donations will go out by June 1.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Second Reading of Stormwater Management Amended Ordinance – Mike Mintz stated the ordinance is available to everyone to review on the Village website. Kathleen Hogan Morrison moved to approve the stormwater management amended ordinance; Joann Fisher seconded. Roll call was taken, all council members voted yes; motion passed.
2. Park Update – Joann Fisher said Rick and Josh have done cleanup and maintenance. She said over 60 residents have donated almost $195,000 so far. The last Walk in the Park event was well attended. Someone suggested hydroseeding, they sold lots of hats, and will continue selling merchandise. Anne is working on the plaques for the six benches that have been sponsored. The personalized bricks have been delivered. Thirty-two engraved bricks were set in the pathway and the personalized bricks will be available ongoing. The hope is to start the bocce ball court in the next couple of weeks. Joann said there have been three large donations for trees. Kris Wulff planted pin oak trees, and Joann has ordered serviceberry trees. Anne and Joann are working with two residents who are interested in upgrading the basketball back stops. Joann said there will be a volunteer work day on May 22, 10am-noon. The work will involve cleaning out the area in the young tot’s playground area that is overgrown with vines. She said the food trucks in the village idea hasn’t progressed, but it can be considered in the future as fundraiser. Two benches will be installed in the pickle ball court area. She said the Village party is tentatively scheduled for August 14. Phil Bonello is working on scheduling the live music with the Hoyle Brothers.

Kathleen Hogan Morrison said the Village was applying for a small grant from the Williams J. Deputy fund. The application is for less than $5,000 for installation of 4 to 6 benches along Lake Shore Drive so people walking along the Drive can rest, view the lake, and also watch the sunset. Kathleen Hogan Morrison made a motion to move forward with submitting the grant; Phil Bonello seconded. Roll call was taken, all council members voted yes; motion passed.

1. Contract with Camp – Mike Mintz said the Village and the Michiana Women’s Club had negotiated a commercial lease for the Day Camp. A copy of the lease is at the village office. He said the council has reviewed the lease, which is contingent on a schedule of evening dates that the Women’s Club would like added to the contract. Kathleen Hogan Morrison said there are state, federal and/or county rules regarding Covid that apply to day camps. The Village Hall is no longer available to the Day Camp at this time. There has been much discussion about access to the pickle ball courts. Kathleen said the parties tried to seek a compromise. The current schedule may change when Governor Whitmer changes the Covid requirements. At the moment this contract says that the public is welcome to Pickle Ball courts from morning to night, and for two hours in morning Monday - Friday from 10am – 12pm it is open only to Day Camp attendees. Phil Bonello moved to approve the contract; Kathleen Hogan Morrison seconded. Roll call was taken, all council members voted yes; motion passed.

Resident Judi Diamond-Falk asked what has to change with Covid to allow full use of courts during day camp? Kathleen Hogan Morrison said she doesn’t know; the rules currently state adults are not to be around kids during day camp. Judi asked if the governor lifts restrictions, will there be a different contract? Kathleen responded that at that time they can talk again with the Women’s Club and renegotiate in the future if possible. Phil Bonello made a motion to approve the contract, Kathleen Hogan Morrison seconded. Roll call was taken, all council member voted yes; motion passed.

1. Beach Stops – see Beach Commissioner Report.

Resident Maureen Mills asked why Stop 39 won’t be open this year. Mike Mintz explained that it is a smaller beach and has limited capacity for stairs. The bluff at the stairs is severe and fragile; making changes at this time could compromise the bus stop.

1. Bonfires – Mike stated the procedure for reserving a permit for a beach fire will remain the same with a $100 deposit. If the site is not cleaned up by 9:00 am the next day, your deposit will not be returned. There will be one fire area at Stop 37, two fire areas at Stop 38, and three fire areas between Stops 41.5 and 42.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. First Reading of Budget 2021-2022 – The budget is available at village office for anyone to review. At the June meeting we will have a second reading. The council has reviewed the budget. Kathleen Hogan Morrison moved to approve the first reading of 2021/2022 budget; Phil Bonello seconded; roll call was taken, all council members voted yes; motion passed.
2. Amend Budget for Repairs to Stop 42 – Mike Mintz said there was a large washout of sand that needed 50% more concrete than projected, and a French drain was added to shunt water away from the structure. The project required supports underneath and buildout of a ramp where the stairs broke off. The additional cost is $5,077.00, going to two different providers. Linda Stein moved to amend the budget for repairs at Stop 42; Joann Fisher seconded. Roll call was taken, all council members voted yes; motion passed.
3. Anne Harris, Kayak Racks – Anne expressed a need for more racks at the beach. Mike Mintz said the original plan was to have one per beach. He said the beaches were diminished in size due to erosion; and there is an increased number of people using the beaches. The Village has 80 plus names in the lottery and only one beach to store kayaks and paddle boards. Mike said perhaps the low $10 fee may be encouraging people to use the rack to store their water craft, but rarely use it. He suggested charging a higher fee to enable getting a rack that meets demand. He mentioned more kayak storage will be available when they can be distributed among the different beaches to limit foot traffic on the dune. He suggested a “kayak sharing” type situation where ten kayaks could be available for people to share.

Resident Judi Diamond-Falk suggested ideas for other types of kayak racks and to accommodate more paddle boards. Kathleen Hogan Morrison asked Judy and Anne to develop proposals for next year when more beaches may be available to accommodate racks. Mike Mintz said they would try to add 14-15 more storage spots this year by adding one additional rack.

Resident Cara Rehal suggested reconfiguring the current rack to fit more paddle boards.

Resident Maureen Shelton suggested creating summer jobs for college students to haul kayaks and paddle boards to the beach.

Cara Rehal, Anne Harris and Judi Diamond-Falk are now on a committee with Anne Heywood to propose kayak storage ideas and will report to the council.

Mike Mintz, the Police Chief Ryan Layman, Anne Heywood and one council member will draw 26 names for the first rack and another 15 names for the second rack. Anne said she will notify the lottery winners by Wednesday, May 19.

Anne Heywood said that if next month’s meeting is outdoors, she will notify residents by email, and it will also be on the Village website.

Mike Mintz adjourned the meeting at 2:19 EST

Respectfully submitted

Anne Heywood/Village Clerk