

Village of Michiana Council Meeting

June 14, 2024 at 1:00 pm. 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, Clerk Anne Heywood. Present were 14 residents and 7 participated via Zoom.

Additions/Deletions

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Minutes - Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from May 10th, 2024 and Water minutes from May 3rd, 2024 Meeting; Nancy Thill seconded the motion; motion passed.

Tim McCarthy introduced Special Guest Amy Berg, Prosecutor Attorney for Berrien County. Amy stopped by to introduce herself and will be running in the up-coming election.

Tim McCarthy moved Jim Metros from Republic Garbage Service up on the agenda.

Tim McCarthy explained the contract with Republic stated that after the first year of service if the Village was unhappy with Republic services the Village could pull out of the 2 remaining years of the contract. Anne said there have been no major issues or complaints. Tim McCarthy made a motion to continue the next 2 years with Republic, Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed. Republic also stated they have had no problems with the Village and looked forward continuing to provide the Village with quality service.

Reports

Building Inspector Report - Bill Lambert reported two new homes were going up in the Village near Comanche.

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

Police Report - Police Chief Ryan Layman reminded the residents to make sure to lock their car door, make sure dogs are on a leash when walking in the Village. Ryan explained that contractors can only work between the hours of 10am-5pm on Saturdays and not on Sunday. Ryan informed the residents about the new golf cart parking created across from the entrance to the park on Cherokee. These spots are for Michiana golf carts with a Village sticker with the current year. Ryan requested if Mike Mumper and Mike Botelho could be appointed by the council to sit on committee with members from Grand Beach to do a study of a future police station. Ryan said this committees main charge is to assist him in identifying the best possible course of action in moving forward. At their meeting they will discuss and then present their findings /recommendations to the rest of the Council. Tim Made a motion to appoint Mike Mumper and Mike Botelho to sit on this committee, motion was seconded by Nancy Thill; motion was approved by all.

Beach Report - Brian Cassidy reported the last stair at Stop 37 sand had shifted creating a large dip. The Village is working on a plan to fix this situation. Brian wanted to ask the

council for their opinion on an issue that was brought to his attention regarding the kayak rack. The homeowner wanted to be able to store 2 items in his slot since he felt he paid for the spot. There was discussion and it was decided to leave it with one item in each spot. The Council and Rick felt there is not a lot of room on the racks to double up. Council said If there were any empty spots left residents could purchase a second spot.

Public Works Report - Rick Reitz reported all the fountains are working at Stops except waiting for a part for the Shower at Stop 41. Rick and Anne worked on a grant through MDOT. This grant would allow the installation of four new and replacement dry wells. The grant was for \$107,000 and would be a 50/50 match. Rick said we should hear back around September whether we received it or not.

Water Report – Mike Mumper had a water meeting in the morning and talked about a few items: Announced the Village had applied for 2 Clean Drinking Water Grants. The first grant we were awarded was for **\$620,000**. This project was to up-grade the water lines on Creek, add 600 ft of new water line on Michiana and Lake Shore Dr. and install a new 750 GPM pump to replace the 500 GPM at the pump house. The second Grant we applied for under the Clean Drinking Water was to complete the water project for the back half of the Village. The Village was awarded **\$2,026,200.00**. This was great news for the Village and especially for each homeowner. This grant means the Village will not have to apply for another water bond to finish upgrading all the water lines in the back part of the Village. The savings for each homeowner is about \$8,000 over a 10-year period. Mike said the 10-year bond that is in place on the water bills currently will be paid off in the Spring of 2027.

Tree Board – Nancy Thill had 3 quotes for 2 dead cottonwoods that need to be taken down located in the park. Nancy made a motion to have Kevin Kramer with Sturgeons Tree Service take the trees down for \$5,000; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed. Nancy is working with the Michiana Day Camp hosting Arbor Day along with a fundraiser. Anne Blasko and Lisa Zirpolo are working on an art project with the camp to be presented during carnival day on July 12th. Nancy reported that AEP has not completed the trimming and removal of the trees around the utility lines. They have stopped since many are oak trees and there was concern about Oak wilt. Nancy said the Village will receive some money from AEP for the removal of trees they take down. Nancy said her next tree board meeting will be Wednesday, June 19 at 1:00p.m. EST.

Planning Commission – Mike Botelho reported the Planning Commission met earlier to discuss some short and long-term goals. Chrystal Welsh from Abonmarche was a guest speaker who had turned in a proposal a couple of years ago redoing the existing Master Plan for the cost of \$29,000. Mike said there were other options brought up and will be looking at these. Mike asked if this is something that council would like him to research more on. The Council agreed for the commission to look at other options that might be out there. Chrystal did say the Villages current Master Plan was in compliance with the State and so were our ordinances. Chrystal recommended whatever we decided, moving forward the Master Plan should be looked at every 5 years to make sure things are still in compliance in case something should change

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.

Clerk Report - Anne Heywood asked the council for approval for the Check Register in the amount of \$131,194.04 Brian Cassidy made a motion to approve the check register as presented; Nancy Thill seconded the motion; motion passed.
Anne talked about purchasing tickets for the House Walk on Friday, July 19th to raise money for the hall renovation, starting with new light fixtures.

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 event.

New Business

1. **Amendments on the 2023/2024 budget** - Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the amended for 2023/2024 budget \$77,264 in the General Fund and \$28, 832 in Local, Mike Botelho seconded the motion; roll call vote was taken 5 ayes; motion passed.
2. **Final Reading of the 2024/2025 Budget** – Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the 2024/2025 Budget, Mike Mumper seconded the motion; roll call vote was taken 5 ayes motion passed.
3. **Republic Garbage Contract – Moved to the beginning of the agenda**
4. **Michigan City Water Contract** – Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the Water Service Agreement with Michigan City subject to Michigan City approving the few items added per the recommendation of the Village Attorney Sara Senica; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; some discussion; roll call vote was taken 5 ayes motion passed.
5. **Dr. Kerlis Concert in the park**– wanted to rent the new pavilion next summer to have a Lithuanian night. Tim said she could rent the pavilion and would have to fill out a contract and provide any insurance if alcohol is serviced or sold. Dr. Kerlis wanted the council to revisit the contract for renting the Hall and felt that Non-residents should pay more.

Correspondence – N/A

Public Comment – Anne wanted to thank Tim McCarthy for again purchasing the hanging baskets around the Village Porch and Jurate and Carl Landwehr for their generous donation to be used for flowers for the flower pot by the Village sign and perennials to be planted by the sign. These two donors were missed in the summer newsletter.

Reminder the July 12 Council meeting will be at 2:00p.m EST

Tim McCarthy made a motion to adjourn Mike Botelho seconded at 2:43pm.

Respectful submitted,

Anne Heywood/Clerk