

## **Village of Michiana Council Meeting**

**August 9, 2024 at 2:00 pm. EST**

The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom.

**Roll Call** - Council members: Brian Cassidy, Mike Botelho, and Mike Mumper were present. Brian Cassidy excused Tim McCarthy and Nancy Thill. Also present were Police Chief Ryan Layman, DPW Josh Gondeck, Treasurer Tracey McCay, and Clerk Anne Heywood. Present were 14 residents and 6 participated via Zoom. Street Superintendent Rick Reitz and Bill Lambert were not present.

**Additions/Deletions – N/A**

**Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – N/A.**

**Guest:** Brian Cassidy introduced Howard Males a candidate running for New Buffalo Township Trustee.

Brian mentioned the election on August 6 and informed the group that the renewal of the Operating Millage passed.

**Minutes** – Mike Botelho made a motion to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from July 12, 2024, Mike Mumper seconded; motion passed. Mike Botelho made a motion to approve the Water minutes from August 2, 2024; Mike Mumper seconded; motion passed. Mike Botelho made a motion to approve Tree Board Meeting Minutes from August 5, 2024; Mike Mumper seconded the motion; motion passed.

### **Reports**

**Building Inspector Report** - Bill Lambert -Absent- Mike Botelho read the building report.

**Fire Chief Report** – Chief Bendix - Absent – Brian Cassidy read the fire report.

**Police Report** - Police Chief Ryan Layman reported there were 89 combined calls. Ryan said there are 30 rentals in the village. Phase 1 of the bike path is done and Phase 2 starting at Grand Beach will be done by the Spring of 2026. Ryan said the police departments average about 550-600 call a year.

**Beach Report** - Brian Cassidy met with Dan from Chikaming Open Lands to look over the Village property at the beach stops and reported that the Village was 100% in compliance. Brian also mentioned that someone at Stop 37 vandalized the 3 sand boxes built to help residents gradually get up the incline to the steps.

**Public Works Report** - Rick Reitz Absent – Josh reported they cleaned up the torn box step at Stop 37, cleaned up along Lake Shore Drive, painted speed bumps, did pot hole repair. Josh said 2 dead cottonwoods trees were removed and 2 new drywells were being installed on Seminole and Chippewa. Mike Botelho wanted to reassure the residents that the inmates that were here working in the Village were low level offenders. Brian thanked Rick, Josh and Cole for doing a great job making the Village look good.

**Water Report** – Mike Mumper said the new pump will be installed after Labor Day. Mike reported that Merritt Engineering was finishing up the plans for the water project on Creek. Mike would like to see this project started sometime in October. These projects are all part

of the \$620,000 grant. The water main project is estimated to take 2 or 3 weeks and by mid-November the asphalt could be done.

**Tree Board** – Nancy Thill, via Zoom, said the Tree Board met but she was not present, the group has not decided on a date for Arbor Day. They talked about making sure everyone keeps a grant time sheet. Andrew Arnson volunteered to be the chairperson for making sure he can get volunteers to help for about 2 weeks watering the new trees once they are planted. Nancy was working on the Little Ambassador Mission Statement. The Tree Board has Red Maple tree kits for sale in the office for \$10 if anyone interested. The next Tree Board Meeting will be August 21<sup>st</sup> time to be announced.

**Planning Commission** – Mike Botelho said he didn't have anything to report on except he will be having a Planning Meeting on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00a.m EST.

**Treasurer Report** – Tracey McCay gave the treasurer report and stated we have not received a new statement from the Pokagon Fund so the balance is still \$43,329. Tracey would like to rollover 2 CD'S that are coming due in September. Those would be the water CD at 1<sup>st</sup> Source for at least 6 months at the best rate available and the General CD at Chase Bank for at least 9 months at the best rate available. Brian Cassidy made a motion for Tracey to rollover the CD as presented; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken 3 ayes and 0 nays; motion passed. Tracey would also like to move the police vehicle and tractor money into a \$25,000 CD to earn more interest. This \$10,000 is budgeted every year to help purchase a Police car every 5 years and the \$15,000 for a tractor for the next 6 years. Brian Cassidy made a motion to move the \$25,000 into a CD for vehicles; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken; 3 ayes and 0 nays motion passed.

**Clerk Report** - Anne Heywood asked the council for approval of the Check Register in the amount of \$76,517.49. Mike Botelho made a motion to approve the check register as submitted for \$76,517.49.; Mike Mumper seconded the motion; motion passed. Anne reminded everyone about the Village Party on Saturday. Anne said the House Walk raised \$11,000 sold 96 tickets and Karen Shoshona and her team Jan Mathes, Lisa Zirpolo did an outstanding job.

## **Old Business**

- 1. Update on Village Hall Renovation** –Anne said the next fundraiser for the Village Hall renovation is the stunning posters done by a local artist that Chris Boothe has been working with. He has created 10 different posters for the Village to sell. These posters will be available to view at the Village Party and will be on the Village web-site. Anyone interested in purchasing a poster or framed poster should call the office.
- 2. Update on Water Contract with Michigan City** – Brian Cassidy made a motion to approve the Water Contract with Michigan City; Mike Mumper seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken 3 aye and 0 nays; motion passed.
- 3. Update on Law Suit with New Buffalo Township** – Sara Senica Village Attorney stated that we lost to the Court of Appeals. Sara is waiting to hear from MML Attorney to see how they would like to proceed.

## **New Business**

- 1. Update Police Contract** – Tabled until the September meeting.

2. **Day Camp Requesting to Purchase a Shed** – Brian Cassidy made a motion to approve the camp purchasing a shed to be placed in the back of Village Hall for all their equipment; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed.

**Correspondence – N/A**

**Public Comment** – Jurate asked for clarification on the water contract. Liz Cutler would like to have the guys to take a look at the handrails at the new stop 40. She thought they were a bit wide to hold onto. Kathleen Hogan Morisson does not like the amount the camp/women's group pays for the use of the hall and thought it should be more.

Meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m. EST

Respectful submitted,

Anne Heywood/Clerk