**VILLAGE OF MICHIANA**

**MICHIANA COUNCIL MEETING**

**Friday, July 10, 2020**

The meeting was held by Virtual “go to meeting”. Mike Mintz, Linda Stein, Phil Bonello, Joann Fisher and Kathleen Hogan Morrison were present on the call, as well as Police Chief Ryan Layman, Water & Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Clerk Anne Heywood, and 20 or more Village residents dialed in to listen and participate.

Mike Mintz opened the meeting by announcing that Chief Layman would be taking names of anyone who wanted to talk after all Village business was completed. Residents would talk under public comment.

List of Residents: Steven Goldberg, Diana Dumbrys and Frank Mangialardi

**Addition to Agenda – New Police Office Furniture, Switching Village Banks and Village Party**

**Approval of Zoning minutes from June 12, 2020 –** Mike Mintz made a motion to approve the June 12, 2020 minutes; motion was seconded by Linda Stein; a roll call vote was taken 4 ayes and 0 nays; minutes approved.

**Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes from June 19, 2020 –** Mike Mintz made a motion to approve the June 19, 2020 minutes; motion seconded by Phil Bonello; a roll call vote was taken 5 ayes and 0 nays; minutes approved.

**Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes from June 26, 2020 –** Mike Mintz made a motion to approve the June 26, 2020 minutes; motion seconded by Phil Bonello; a roll call vote was taken 5 ayes – 0 nays; minutes approved.

**REPORTS**

1. **Building Inspector Report –** Bill Lambert read his report that indicated there were 12 building permits, lots of roofing work going on, and 2 of the larger projects were moving along. The Martino property windows and doors were being delivered and Kolovo property drywall had started.

**2. Treasurer’s Report –** Cheryl Cook (Absent) Heywood stated Cheryl was out sick but would have the report emailed to the Council next Tuesday.

**3. Tree Inspector Report –** Kris Wulff (Absent)

**4. Fire Chief Report –** Chief Gary Bendix (Absent) report on file

**5. Police Commission –** Russell Bruesch mentioned Grand Beach was losing one of their Officer’s. He was leaving the police field and Chief Layman has already hired a replacement. Rusty Bruesch also commented that the fireworks in the Village were not bad this year and felt that homeowners were respectful of the hours that were mandated by the State. Bruesch thanked Josh from the Street Department for getting all the speed bumps painted in the Village. Phil Bonello wanted to know the name of the Officer leaving, Bruesch said the Officer was Patrick Myers from Grand Beach.

**6. Police Report –** Chief Layman had 68 complaints and reported it was a busy month due to losing Officer Patrick Myers during the July 4th week. Chief Layman stated that Patrick Myers had taken a fulltime job with a private spectre. The new officer is from Flint, Michigan and working part time in New Buffalo. Officer Courtney Severn will be starting in Grand Beach full time in September. The Chief said he would like the council to meet her either at a meeting or one on one. Chief Layman gave an update on Highway 12, having MIDOT returning the 2 lanes back to 4 lanes. Chief Layman reported that New Buffalo Township also rescinded its Resolution supporting the project and returning the road back to 4 lanes.

Chief Layman reminded everyone again that Stops 37, 37 ½, 38, 39, 40 & 41 are closed. Anyone caught tearing down the fencing, trying to access closed beaches, or going down dunes will be fined. Note that residents are watching and calling the police when they see people trespassing.

Phil Bonello wanted to know what some of the complaints were on his report. Chief Layman stated the calls are combined Grand Beach and Michiana calls, medical calls, dogs off leashes, stolen golf carts to name a few. Mike Mintz reiterated that they will be writing tickets at the beach stops that are closed if residents are attempting to climb down. The Council felt that once someone gets fined that the word would get out and it should stop.

**7. Beach Commissioner** – Russell Bruesch did a review of the holiday weekend review starting with 41 ½ & 42 were crowded. He went down later in the evening and early morning to report that beaches were spotless everyone was respectful and left the beaches clean. The Stops looked good no garbage hanging over or on the ground. Phil Bonello wanted to mention that Anne Heywood called our garbage service Lakeshore and they did an extra run late Friday night and emptied that garbage which really helped the overflow.

**8. Public Works/Water Authority Report –** Superintendent Rick Reitz will be meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers sometime in August or September to do a beach front inspection. The Army Corp will be looking closely at Stop 38 where the water is getting close to Lake Shore Drive and destroying the Dune. The last time they were in Michiana was 1975 regarding beach erosion. Rick is working with the adjuster on the roof damage from the pump house leak and will probably be getting a new roof.

**9. Water Board Report** – Rick Reitz said Wightman is still working on the Water Study and they will be doing flow testing through the Village. Rick Reitz is also going to have Wightman check on Creek, Choctaw and Comanche regarding a few resident complaints about brown water. Anne Heywood inform the residents she was behind on the water bills due to a few issues but the bills would be going out sometime by the end of next week.

**10. Clerk Report –** Anne Heywood asked for a motion to approve the check register for $81,694.64. Kathleen Hogan Morrison made a motion to approve the check register for June in the amount of $81,69.64 as submitted; Phil Bonello, seconded the motion, motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Update of pickle ball & tennis court** – Anne Heywood reported that the courts were in the process of being painted and to be completed by July 4th weekend weather permitting. Anne gave a big “thank you” to Lisa Zirpolo for spearheading and overseeing this project. Anne said the company was coming out to show how to install the netting. Phil Bonello thought it would be a good idea to videotape the installation. Linda Stein asked about court rules. Anne Heywood said she was working on them and will email them to the council for approval. Phil Bonello would like to see the rules posted on the web site.
2. **Heywood Working on Plans for Replacing Playground Equipment in the Park**. Tabled until the committee can meet.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Police Office Furniture –** Chief Layman said he was working with someone from Steel Case as he liked the look of the Village office. Chief Layman had a quote for $5,552.90 and was waiting for a second quote from another Steel Case dealer. Chief Layman would like the council to approve that if the second bid is more, he could not exceed the $5,552.90 quote he had. Mike Mintz asked how much money was budgeted for the furniture in the new budget. Chief Layman stated that $6,000 was earmarked for office furniture in the new budget. Motion was made by Kathleen Hogan Morrison not to exceed $5,552.90; motion was seconded by Linda Stein; a roll call vote was taken; 5 ayes and 0 nays; motion passed.
2. **Changing Banks from Chemical to Horizon** – Anne Heywood and Cheryl Cook, the treasurer, received a letter that Chemical Bank was closing its office in Three Oaks on August 7th. The other Chemical Banks were much further away for banking. Cheryl has been working with Karen Poff from Horizon Bank on moving the rest of the Villages accounts over and giving us a better interest rate then we have now. Anne Heywood mentioned Horizon has two branches nearby, one in New Buffalo and the other in Michigan City, both convenient for banking since the Village makes deposits 3 to 4 times a week. Anne Heywood talked with the auditors who had no problem at their end in making this move. Kathleen Hogan Morrison made a motion to move the funds from Chemical Bank to Horizon Bank as of August 1st 2020; Mike Mintz seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken 5 ayes and 0 nays; motion passed.
3. **Village Party** – Mike Mintz spoke on behalf of the Council that with all the uncertainty felt it only safe to cancel the Village Party this year. Kathleen Hogan Morrison mentioned would be hard to social distance since the size of the party had grown to about 225 residents. All of the Council members agreed that the party had to be cancelled this year due to public health and safety concerns in this time of Coronavirus. The Council hopes to host the party next year.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Steve Goldberg – 24 Pocantico thanked Anne Heywood for the answers about the tennis and pickle ball courts. Mr. Goldberg wanted to understand why some of the beaches were closed. Mike Mintz reviewed all of the beach stops and explained why they were closed. Kathleen Hogan Morrison again mentioned the council concerns were public safety, dune integrity, expense, and liability. Stop 37 belongs to Michiana, Michigan and the residents on the Indiana side can use the beach when there is one. Michiana Shores, Indiana had been invited to give the Village of Michiana Council a proposal for Stop 37, but to date nothing has been submitted to review. Mr. Goldberg asked who gave the Village advise to close the beaches. Kathleen Hogan Morrison said the Village had consulted its attorney, Sara Sencia.

Diana Dumbrys, the President of Michiana Shores, Indiana thanked the board for sharing information and noted that residents caught tearing down the fencing will be fined.

Fran Mangialardi asked whether the Village had funds for construction if Lake Shore Drive needed to be secured and whether the Village would be able to secure a contractor for such work. Mike Mintz stated once the Army Corp of Engineers inspects the lake shore, the Village will have more information. He also said that there are contractors who do this kind of work, whom he hopes will be available if needed.

Jurate Landwehr mentioned that there was a webinar on July 17 about the Great Lakes. She also stated there are a number of unleashed dogs on the beach. Although she understands that dogs are allowed on the beach after 6, she suggested that in light of the many people on the beach the board should consider a rule of no dogs on the beach in the evening until Labor Day. Jurate likened the proposed rule to the recent rule barring beach fires and beach permits until Labor Day. She recognized that dogs could still go to the beach in the morning until 11 AM. Kathleen Hogan Morrison said this idea was something the Council could consider. Mike Mintz said if Jurate saw dogs on the beach between 11 and 6, she should call the police or take a picture.

Mike adjourned the meeting at 2:10pm (EST)

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Heywood

**Next Meeting Friday, August 14 at 1:00 p.m. (EST) again by a “go to meeting” phone in session. See the Village Web site for instructions to join the meeting. Michianavillage.org**