

Village of Michiana Council Meeting
July 12, 2024 at 1:00 pm. EST

The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom.

Roll Call - Council members: Tim McCarthy, Brian Cassidy, Nancy Thill, and Mike Mumper were present. Tim McCarthy excused Mike Botelho. Also, present were Police Chief Ryan Layman, Water & Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Building Inspector Bill Lambert, Treasurer Tracey McCay, Clerk Anne Heywood. Present were 10 residents and 5 participated via Zoom.

Additions/Deletions – Proposal from Siegfried Crandall Auditors

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only - Mark Zello was not in favor of the Speed Bump on Lake Shore Drive, Liz Cutler said as a bike rider she thought there were too main speed bumps in the Village. A few residents stated they do help slowing down the traffic.

Minutes - Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the following minutes: Council Meeting Minutes, Water minutes, Planning Meeting, Special Meeting from June 14, 2024 and Tree Board Meeting from June 19th and July 1st, 2024 Nancy Thill seconded the motion; motion passed.

Reports

Building Inspector Report - Bill Lambert gave report

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

Police Report - Police Chief Ryan Layman had to leave for a police call – Tim McCarthy read the Police Report. Tim was waiting for Sara Senica the Village Attorney to have the Police Contract ready to review.

Beach Report - Brian Cassidy said the beaches were very busy over the 4th of July and extra garbage bins were placed at some of the busier stops which helped.

Public Works Report - Rick Reitz reported they installed the new turf on the bocci ball court and built 3 boxes filled with sand at the bottom of stairs at Stop 37 to help with the drop from the last stair. Next week they will be fixing the pot holes around the Village and working on the lake front cutting back weeds and invasive small trees with the help of inmates. Brian Cassidy report after meeting with the creek commissioner regarding White Ditch they did a title search and found that the Village owned the creek. If the Village wanted to clear the creek it would require the Village to apply for a permit with EGLE.

Water Report – Mike Mumper said Merritt Engineering is putting together the final plans for the water project on Creek and hoping to have it ready to review at the next water meeting. Mike stated that the new pump for the pump house has not been changed out yet since we are helping Grand Beach supply water to their golf course and Rick didn't want to jeopardize the water pressure. Rick has been doing all his testing for lead & cooper and P-FAS testing which checks for chemicals in the water. Anne said the Water Contract was sent over to Michigan City with some minor changes and waiting to receive

the contract back and signed. Mike Mumper will have a Water Authority Meeting on Friday, August 2nd at 1:30 p.m. (EST).

Tree Board – Nancy Thill said AEP will be back after Labor Day to finish the trimming of trees on the Village right-of-way. Nancy and Rick have been fine tuning the software for the tree inventory. Lisa Zirpolo is working with the day camp on fundraiser which is an art project the money raised will go for the care of the trees in the park. Nancy attended a few local meetings in Michigan City and Long Beach. Nancy is looking forward to working with the tree board at Long Beach. They were amazed that Michiana had already done a tree survey. Nancy would like to take a pause on memorial trees in the park. Nancy said she will hold a Tree Board meeting on Monday, August 5th at 2:00 p.m. (EST) to discuss different areas around the Village that trees might be needed. Fencing has been put around the new trees in the park to protect them. Anne Blasko our tree Ambassador has been educating everyone about the Red Maple. We have Red Maple starter kits in the office for sale for \$10 if anyone is interested. Nancy is working on a date for Arbor Day.

Planning Commission – Mike Botelho was absent – Tim gave a few highlights that took place at the last planning commission meeting. Minutes can be found on the web-site.

Treasurer Report – Tracey McCay gave the treasurer report and stated we currently have \$43,329 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 said there are 2 CD's that will be maturing in September, Chase Bank and First Source. Tracey will need to look at the rates and decide if they should roll them over again.

Clerk Report - Anne Heywood asked the council for approval of the Check Register in the amount of \$117,647.67. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the check register as presented; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; motion passed.

Anne mentioned a few Events coming up in the Village for July: House Walk on July 19th can stop in the office or contact Karen Shoshana & Music in the Park on Thursday, July 25 Jessi and the Fizz. There will be food vendor Valdo's serving tacos and Kona Ice serving snow cones the music will be from 6-9 pm Michigan time. Anne talked with Sara Senica the Village Attorney regarding the status of the law suit with New Buffalo Township. Sara stated there has been no ruling made yet.

Old Business

1. Update on Village Hall Renovation – Tim McCarthy is working Kono Construction to fix the doors again, still having issues locking them. The next fundraiser will be the House Walk, hoping to raise enough money to update the lighting in the Village Hall.

New Business

- 1. Village Hall & Pavilion Rent for Residents and Non-Residents – Tim McCarthy made a motion** the New Pavilion rental at \$100, Hall rental for residents \$300 and non-residents \$400. The deposit increased from \$300 to \$500 and returned after the event as long as there are no damages; Nancy Thill seconded the motion; all were in favor, motion passed. Council said once the Village Hall has been remodeled, they could revisit the fees.
- 2. Speed Bump on Lake Shore Drive** – Tim McCarthy said the council removed the speed bump on Lake Shore Drive. Tim drove around the Village with Carl Landwehr looking at the placement of the current 10 speed bumps in the Village. Council

asked Ryan if the mobile speed machine tracks the data. Ryan said he could do a traffic study.

3. **Reminder to Vote August 6th Election for Milage** – Tim McCarthy reminded the residents about the upcoming Election on Tuesday, August 6th for the renewal of a 5yr operating millage that has been in place for the past 15 years. Tim explained this millage had been put in place to help operate the Village. He informed the residents this millage can only be passed or not passed by the Village voters.
4. **Pickleball Repair** - Karen Harty had a quote from Seal Coating to repair the cracks on the court in the amount of \$4,300 with a one-year guarantee. Karen stated that Martin from Seal Coating had fixed the 2 years ago. Council said these cracks will keep coming back until the court surface is done correctly. Tim McCarthy asked Karen to send the quote to Rick and he could follow up with the contractor. Brian made a motion to move forward with the repair of the cracks up to \$5,000 with the understanding that Tim McCarthy would review everything first, and the quote would be given to Rick, and Rick would contact Martin to make the appointment. Brian said we have a contract with the Day Camp and the Village needed to schedule this repair on days the camp wasn't using them. Nancy Thill seconded the motion; motion passed. Tim McCarthy explained the money the tournament makes goes into this Pickleball Fund and then becomes funds of the Village to be used for the courts as its sees fits per the council. Karen mentioned that the Pickleball Tournament would be taking place on September 6,7, & 8th, Karen reached out to a local brewery, Zorn's in Michigan City, who agreed to host a give back night. Meaning 20% of food purchases on Wednesday, July 24 would go toward the Michiana Pickleball Courts.
5. **Siegfried Crandall Proposal for Village New Auditor's** – Tim McCarthy explained Kruggel & Lawton were dissolving some of their smaller clients. Tim McCarthy made a motion to move forward with Siegfried Crandall who already service 160 Municipalities in the State. This is a 3yr contract with the cost locked in at \$12,000 per year. If the Village is not satisfied with the auditors, after the first year's audit the Village can walk away. Nancy Thill seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken 4 ayes and 0 nays. Motion passed.

Correspondence – N/A

Public Comment – Tina Weaver talked about the 4th of July Parade being one of the largest she ever seen but received many disturbing emails and phone calls about the danger of golf carts at the parade. Tina was looking for more help with controlling the golf carts and crowd control in general for next year from the police. Joan Jareo wanted to know if the Village had an Ordinance about over grown weeds on empty lots. Liz Cutler asked about dark skies which was talked about 2 years ago. Council said this was something the Planning Commission will be looking into.

Respectful submitted,

Anne Heywood/Clerk