**VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL MEETING**

**Friday, July 15, 2022**

**At 2:00 p.m. (EST)**

The meeting was held in person and by virtual Zoom meeting. President Joann Fisher, Kathleen Hogan Morrison, Michael Tolentino, and Brian Cassidy. Also, present Police Chief Ryan Layman, Water & Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Clerk Anne Heywood and Village Attorney Sara Senica, 15 Village residents dialed in to listen and 14 were present. Joann Fisher stated that Tim McCarthy was present but connected via zoom. Tim McCarthy had been in contact with someone that tested positive with COVID. Tim had been on lock down all week with no symptoms but thought it best to do zoom from home to protect Council members and Village residents.

Joann Fisher read a letter the Village received from the former Police Chief Schroeder of Grand Beach sending his regrets for Police Commissioner Rusty Bruesch. The Village received many emails expressing their condolences for the loss of Rusty Bruesch. Joann said he will be missed in the Village as a friend to many, and serving as Police Commissioner and Beach Commissioner. Joann asked for a moment of silence.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON AGENDA ITEMS**

No comments were made by residents

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND TREASURER REPORT**

Special Meeting minutes – June 10th 2022

Council Meeting minutes– June 10, 2022

Special Meeting minutes - June 24, 2022

Water Meeting minutes – June 29, 2022

Treasurer Report & Check Register for $153,860.00

Joann Fisher made a motion to approve he Minutes and Treasurer’s Report.

Kathleen Hogan Morrison seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken with 4 ayes and 0 nays. The motion passed.

**VILLAGE REPORTS**

**Building Inspector Report:** Bill Lambert report no issues in the Village, but stated the new home under construction on Ponchartrain is experiencing delays due to back ordered materials**.**

 **Fire Chief Report –** Michiana Shores Volunteer Fire Departments report is on file. Garry Bendix-absent.

 **Police Report –** Chief Layman reminded everyone to lock their car doors. He talked about plans to place speed bumps on Oriole/Hillside and two by the park. These speed bumps will be the rubber ones that can be picked up and removed in the winter. Chief Layman, with deepest sorrows, wanted to thank Rusty for his service to the Village and that he will be greatly missed.

**Public Works/Water Authority Report -** Rick Reitz said Northshore had completed the sand backfill project at Stop 39. Joann thanked Josh for cleaning and checking the Stops every day. Our beaches and stops look great. Rick has been watering the new trees in the park and making sure the Tennis and Pickleball courts are kept clean. Rick is working with Bill Lambert on a solution for the water run off issue at Stop 43. This has been ongoing problem with road flooding. Joann felt this might have to be repaired in two stages: Stage 1 would be to install a stone retaining wall with steps to beach to hold back the sand and Stage 2 would be to work with an engineer to improve drainage along the streets in that area.  Rick has inmates coming to help this weekend to continue clearing the right of way on Cherokee. Council thanked Anne & Kevin Blasko for clearing several dead trees on the Cherokee and Tahoma along the right of way. Rick received 2 quotes to remove a dead tree that sits half on the Village property and Altschul property. Olivia's Tree Service came in at $1,500. Rick said the Altschul’s will split the bill with the Village. Brian Cassidy made a motion to approve Oliva Tree Service for $1,500 and splitting the cost with the homeowner at 180 Avalon; Michael Tolentino seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 4 ayes and 0 nays. The motion passed. Rick asked the council for approval to order new stairs for Stop 42, like those at Stop 39, which would be wider and up to code. Michael Tolentino made a motion to approve the stairs for $3,800, Brian Cassidy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 4 ayes and 0 nays. The motion passed.

**Clerk Report** -Anne Heywood reminded everyone to RSVP for the Village picnic Saturday, August 13. Classic Catering will be catering the event and it’s a BYOB. Anne still has Michiana beach towels and few sweatshirts for sale in the office.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Park Update** - Joann Fisher said the first concert at Buford Pavilion was a success with approximately 125 people attendance. Anne ordered 150 sandwiches from the food truck and they completely sold out. Joann said she is looking into getting the band, South of Disorder, back next summer. The Marla Memorial Music Garden has arrived and will be installed sometime in August. The larger playground equipment is expected to arrive October 10th and will be installed by playground company. The Park is a work in progress. Donations are always welcomed.

**Village Lawsuit Update**- Attorney Sara Senica said the village is moving forward with the appeal of the lawsuit with the Township. She provided the Council with a resolution requesting assistance from the Michigan Municipal League Legal Defense Fund. Sara explained that there are only two villages in the State of Michigan that are double taxed for emergency services: Michiana and Grand Beach. Kathleen Hogan Morrison added that if the League accepts our application, it adds clout to our case.  Joann Fisher made a motion approve the Resolution to move forward. Kathleen Hogan Morrison seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Special Meeting Update** Michael Tolentino gave an update on the meeting that was held on June 24th for input from the residents on capital improvement projects in the Village: Michael listed some of the issues discussed including: street paving, tree issues, beach stop 37, speed bumps, greenway area along the creek, and concern about retaining wall on Michiana Drive.  Michael stated that the Council would be looking at some of these projects immediately and others that would need to be added to our budget for next year.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Requesting use of the Pickleball Courts for Tournament** - Karen Harty and Lisa Zirpolo requested to reserve the pickleball courts on September 9-11 for a pickleball tournament fundraiser. All proceeds will be donated to the Village to be used for current court repairs.

**Water Department Projects -** Brian Cassidy discussed several Water Projects that will be taking place in the Village.

* **Water line project West of White Ditch Creek**: Many residents that have been dealing with brown water as a result of older water pipes West of the Creek. This will be a large infrastructure project for the Village to replace these water lines. The first phase of the project will be to replace approximately 1,000 feet of old pipes with 8” pipe along Creek Drive. Three new fire hydrants will also be added to the new line. Brian Cassidy made a motion to approve Hass & Associates for $20,000 for the design and bid process for this project. Joann Fisher seconded the motion. There was some discussion. A vote was called and motion was approved. Brian Cassidy stated this project will be funded with the Village Water Bond reserves. There would be no increase to resident’s water bills or property taxes,
* **New Water Pump**: The Village pumping station currently has three pumps. We need to upgrade one of the 500-gpm pumps to a 750-gpm pump. Brian stated the ISO Report and Liability Report had suggested we upgrade the pump. Rick is going to research if the current 500-gpm pump that will be replaced can be sold. The cost for the new pump will be $68,000 and would be installed by Peerless. This project will also be funded with the Village Water Bond reserves. The reserves must be used up before the bond matures to avoid losing these funds. Brian Cassidy made a motion to approve the purchase and installation of the new 750-gpm pump, not to exceed $68,000. Michael Tolentino seconded the motion. There was some discussion on how the pumps run. A roll call vote was taken with 4 ayes and 0 nays. The motion passed.
* **Replacing Paper Water Bills with Postcards:** Brian talked about the Village changing to post cards for water bills to save cost. This will begin in September. Anne reminded residents that they can apply with the Village to have their water bills paid via automatic payment (ACH). Applications can be found on line or forms can picked up at the Village office.

Brian mentioned that the previous council approved adjusting a resident's high-water bill due to larger water leak last year. The resident sent another letter to the Council requesting a larger discount. The Council said the homeowner’s bill would be lowered to the actual cost of the water charged to the Village from Michigan City. However, the other costs on the bill such as the sur-charge, water bond and hydrant fee cannot be waived. Brian also reminded residents to turn off their water in the winter if they plan not to use their residence for lengthy period of time to avoid freezing pipes and line breaks both inside and outside the residence. There is a $25 charge for the Village to turn off the water from the street line and $25 to turn on.

Brian Cassidy said the water pressure issues on several residences along Lakeshore have been resolved. The Village Chlorine Project is almost completed and it will act as a backup, if necessary, on any future chlorine level drops in the water supplied from Michigan City. He stated that our water chlorine levels are good.

Village has sent out a letter regarding inspection of backflow prevention for pools and irrigation systems. This inspection is per EGLE (Environmental, Great Lakes, and Energy) requirements. This requirement must be completed by October 1st, 2022.

**Day Camp Report** - Tina Weaver reported the Day Camp is going well with 300 plus kids registered. Camp is averaging about 100 campers a day.

**Comments from the President** - Joann Fisher reminded residents to not store garbage cans on the edge of road and to make sure they are pulled back after garbage is picked up.  Yard Waste is no longer being picked up by the Village employees anymore. Lakeshore, our refuse company, is picking up yard waste on Thursdays. Check our Village webpage for more details.

We greatly appreciate residents who voluntarily pick up trash on our streets and beaches.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON COUNCIL MEETING DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS**

No comments were made by residents.

**Reminders of Upcoming Events/Dates**

July 30 & 31 - Michiana Women’s Club Pickleball Tournament

August 13 – Village Party

Respectfully submitted

Anne Heywood

Clerk