**VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL MEETING**

**Friday, August 12, 2022**

**At 1:00 p.m. (EST)**

The meeting was held in person and by virtual Zoom meeting. President Joann Fisher, called the meeting to order. Present were Michael Tolentino, Brian Cassidy, Tim McCarthy and Nancy Thill. Also, present Police Chief Ryan Layman, Water & Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Clerk Anne Heywood and Attorney Sara Senica joined by via zoom. There were 11 Village residents that dialed in to listen and 6 were present and the Village Hall.

Joann Fisher opened the meeting by stating that Kathleen Hogan Morrison had stepped down from the Council. Joann welcomed Nancy Thill who was appointed at the Special Meeting on August 8th, 2022 to complete Kathleen’s term. Joann read all Kathleen’s accomplishments while on the Council and thanked her on behalf of the Council and residents for her years of service.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** –Dune grass at Stop 39

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON AGENDA ITEMS**

No comments were made by residents

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND TREASURER REPORT**

Council Meeting minutes– July 15, 2022

Special Meeting minutes – August 8, 2022

Treasurer Report & Check Register for $84,088.41

Joann Fisher made a motion to approve the Minutes, Treasurer’s and Clerk’s report.

Nancy Thill seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken with 5 ayes and 0 nays. The motion passed.

**VILLAGE REPORTS**

**Building Inspector Report:** Bill Lambert reported no new issues in the Village.

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

**Police Report –** Chief Layman is reported an increase in petty vandalism going on in Michiana & Grand Beach. The speed monitoring trailer was setup in Grand Beach and someone tipped it over and the stabilizing legs were damaged. Chief Layman said on Monday the officers would be going to active shooting training. Which is required once a year.

**Public Works Report -** Rick Reitz reported that the inmates did a great job cleaning along Cherokee and behind the Village Hall. Rick explained that any irrigation system and inground pools must now be tested for proper back flow protection which is required by the State of Michigan through EGLE. At the moment, few technicians in the area are certified to perform testing. This test will need to be done and submitted to the Village once every five years.

**Water Report –** Brian Cassidyreported that theservice lines along the South end of Lake Shore Drive have been completed. The water project along Creek is moving forward. Hass & Associates (Engineering firm) have already completed the survey of the area and have drawn up the blue prints for the project. Brian said on Thursday he along with Tim and Rick will be meeting with Hass to review the prints. If there are no changes in the prints the engineer will send them out for bids. The engineer will present the bids to the council for them to award the project. The 750-gpm pump has been ordered and will be installed by Peerless in October. Rick is working on getting quotes to have the water tank cleaned. Brian found it interesting that this inspection is done by divers who enter the water tank and check the inside walls. The chlorination protect is just waiting on Peerless to do the electrical portion of the project. The water contract with Michigan City is almost up. Tim McCarthy asked Sara her thoughts on the contract, specifically if it needed to be rewritten or simply amend the existing contract for an additional 20 years. The 20 year extension was suggested by Sara as a more common term based on contract law changes over the past 40 years. We would also ask Michigan City to extend the notice of potential termination of the contract from 60 days to one year.

**Beach Report** – Brian Cassidy graciously accepted the position as the Beach Commissioner. Brian said he has some big shoes to fill. One of his first steps would be to visit each of the Stops and afterwards meet with Rick, Bill, Anne and Ryan to get a better understanding regarding Rusty’s responsibilities and how he communicated any issues or concerns back to the Village Council.

**Clerk Report** -Anne Heywood reminded everyone about the Summer Village party on Saturday, August 13. Classic Catering would be catering and serving hamburgers, brats, hotdogs, pizza, capri salad, mac & cheese and watermelon! Rum Sweets will be providing desserts of varies chocolate chip cookies and cupcakes. Music will be provided by a DJ from Chicago. The Village would like to plant 1,000 daffodils bulbs this fall in the area around the map by the Village Hall. This is a landscaping project and donations will be accepted from any of our residents at the Village party.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Park Update** - Joann Fisher said the park was used steadily all summer and the playground, zip line and the vintage animal teeter totter and swings were poplar with kids of all ages. The day camp staff had a wide variety of options in the park for their campers. Pickleball continues to be a huge attraction plus the Women’s Club hosted a tournament for the day camp to raise money.

The pickleball group has asked to host a pickleball tournament which will held on September 9,10 & 11 to raise funds to maintain the pickleball courts. The Village held the first live concert at the Buford Pavilion! We plan to ask the band, South of Disorder, to return next year. If anyone has any other names, please contact the Village office. The Marla Musical Garden was installed and completed thanks to Tim McCarthy’s donation for the 25 yards of mulch and his man power efforts. A rainbow samba drums are **NOT** stepping stones for kids to stand on, jump on or walk on. Please, do not hesitate to tell kids and their parents to respect our park.

Some upcoming projects to be watching for; Nancy Thill will be overseeing landscaping in the park. Rick continues to water the new trees planted in the park. Tim McCarthy is getting estimates for 6-foot-tall fence around three sides of basketball court. The excavating for final installation of playground equipment will be starting after Labor Day. We are also looking at estimates for replacing shingle roofs of the other small pavilions in the park to match the Buford pavilion. Finally, there still is time to memorialize your summer. See Anne to purchase a brick for our brick walkway. The park is an on-going project. The Village will accept donations anytime, but as of right now there are no plans for an official fundraising event for the park.

**Village Lawsuit Update**- Joann Fisher said Attorney Sara Senica has received the New Buffalo Township lawsuit transcripts necessary for the Michigan Municipality League to review. They usually receive 200 requests for representation. They only accept 20. They found our case very interesting. We are waiting to see if they will support our case.

**Update on Michiana Women’s Club Pickleball Tournament** – No one present to give report.

**Dune Grass at Stop 39** - Joann is waiting on quotes for the dune grass. This project will be done sometime in the fall. This item was put in the 2022-2023 budget.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Approval to Apply for Pokagon Grant for Stop 37 Shelter** -Council approved filing the Letter of Inquiry for a Pokagon Grant for a new shelter and stairs at Stop 37.  Joann Fisher made a motion to move forward with the Letter of Inquiry to the Pokagon Fund. Michael Tolentino seconded the motion. There was some discussion that the Welcome to Michiana sign should be moved so that people know where the state line is. A motion vote was taken with 5 ayes and 0 nays. The motion passed.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT** - Joann Fisher said the council is working hard and juggling many balls right now. Over the next three council meetings, we will systematically share the council’s direction and vision on all ongoing and future Village projects. There is a lot of excitement and positive proactive energy serving our community now. Joann said for example; Monday at 11:00 the council had a special meeting to appoint Nancy to fill Kathleen’s vacated seat on the council and appointed Tim to be President Pro Tem, which was a position held by Kathleen on the Council. Then Tim and Joann met with the Day Camp for a wrap up meeting, which went very well. At the same time as the meeting with the Day Camp, Rick led other members of the Council on a building tour; inside and outside. Later, Michael and Tim met with Brian, the Village auditor, to go over our budget and accounting practices to gain a better understanding of all the required reporting from the Village to the State. The State of Michigan dictates how we must structure and maintain our budget. It clearly is a complicated system. Michael and Tim also reviewed our internal methods of compliance and security backup systems. Meanwhile, Joanne met with a resident exploring a plan for dog park idea. The Village office was like grand central station with council members in and out all day. Joann said you can expect a lot from this Council. Our goal at the end of day is to strive to constantly improve and protect the beauty of our community and provide our residents with strong public services for our beaches, parks, roads and utilities!

Joann reminded residents if you’re leaving for the season, please make sure your refuse cans are moved back off the road to help our Public Works department while snowplowing and to also improve the aesthetics for our residence who reside here year round. Joann said if you will be leaving the village for the season you should call the office to have your water turned off. Lakeshore will be picking up yard waste on Thursdays until the end of October.

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

Maureen Shekleton provided her opinion about the Village creating a dog park and was not in support. Richard Harris provided an opposing position and was in favor of a dog park. Joann said she was still exploring the idea with the greatest difficulty being the placement of such an improvement that would be acceptable to all of our residents.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Anne received a letter from Rusty Bruesch ‘s sister Karen Plantiga, who is the executor for Rusty’s Estate. Tim McCarthy read the letter which was full of wonderful memories and beautiful sentiments about Rusty and his wife Beverly and their love for Michiana. In Rusty’s Will he remembered Michiana and his friends and neighbors by donating $50,000 to Michiana to be used for our beaches and parks. Tim stated that this display of amazing generosity and civic pride from Rusty’s family to ours went beyond words of gratitude. He truly wanted to make sure that his beloved Michiana would continue to be taken care of after his passing.

The Council will share next month plans to honor Rusty and his wishes. The letter will be posted on the website so everyone can share in our respect and love for this great Michiana Family.

The Council will share next month plans to honor Rusty and his wishes. The letter will be posted on the website so everyone can share in our respect and love for this great Michiana Family.

**Reminders of Upcoming Events/Dates**

September 9, 10 & 11 Pickleball Group Hosting a Pickleball Tournament

Respectfully submitted

Anne Heywood/Clerk