

Village Council Meeting

July 10th, 2026 at 2:00pm (EST)

Call to Order: Present were Tim McCarthy, Mike Mumper, Brian Cassidy and Nancy Thill were present. Also present was Police Chief Ryan Layman, Superintendent Rick Reitz, Treasurer Tracey McCay and Clerk Anne Heywood. Tim McCarthy excused Mike Bothelo and Building Inspector Bill Lambert. There were 9 residents present and 4 residents participated on line.

Additions and Deletions to the Agenda - Master Plan was deleted from the agenda. Resolution 2026-004 added to New Business.

Announcements - Before opening the meeting, President Tim McCarthy informed the council of a regional project occurring in the Township. He explained that representatives from Corewell Health had met with local communities, including the Village of Michiana, regarding plans to develop an urgent care center in the area. Tim McCarthy attended the meeting as the Village of Michiana's representative, along with representatives from neighboring communities, and wanted to make the council aware of the proposed project. The facility would operate as an urgent care center open seven days a week, though not 24 hours a day, and would be affiliated with the hospital system. He added that the project is still in the early planning stages but may eventually include primary care physicians, specialists, and medical offices.

Approval of Minutes -A motion was made by Mike Mumper, to approve all three sets of minutes as presented. Regular Council Meeting – June 12, 2026, Special Council Meeting – June 12, 2026, Tree Board Meeting – May 29, 2026; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion: Motion carried unanimously.

Building Inspector's Report - In the absence of Building Inspector Bill Lambert, Tim McCarthy reported for Bill. It was noted there was a typographical error, changing a valuation from 2.400 to 2,400.

Michiana Shores Volunteer Fire Department Report - President Tim McCarthy presented the Michiana Shores Volunteer Fire Department report for June, which included responses to: A tree down on Birchmont Trail, a generator incident on Ponchartrain and a medical call on Lakeshore Drive.

New Buffalo Township Fire Department Report - Fire Chief Jamie Flick reported that the department responded to 47 calls for service during June, with nine occurring in the Village of Michiana. Chief Flick had some additional updates: The department's new fire apparatus arrived on July 2 and is expected to be placed into service by the end of July following training. A push-in ceremony is being planned. The department is hiring two firefighters from the City of New Buffalo Fire Department. Residents were reminded to stay clear of downed trees and power lines and to contact emergency services rather than approaching hazardous areas. During the Fourth of July holiday weekend, the department responded to 24 calls. The annual Public Safety Day will be held on Sunday, August 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Michigan time) at the Public Safety Building. President McCarthy thanked both the New Buffalo Township and Michiana Shores Fire Departments for participating in the Village's Fourth of July parade, noting the event was well attended and well received by the community.

Police Report - Police Chief Ryan Layman reported 87 calls for service during June reported that the Police Department issued 41 citations during the month of June, with many involving parking violations. Chief said Officers have seen an increase in underage drinking, particularly on the beaches. The Chief reminded parents that underage alcohol possession carries significant consequences. Citations are reported to the Michigan Secretary of State, which notifies Illinois and other participating states, potentially resulting in a one-year driver's license suspension for offenders under the age of 21. Chief Layman noted most of the underage drinking incidents have occurred on the beaches. Chief Layman informed the council of a reported scam involving air duct cleaning services that had been promoted through the "Michiana People" Facebook group. A

resident reported that contractors arrived at a home, performed little or no work, and later demanded payment. Another resident was told additional costly work was needed after the advertised price increased significantly. Jurate Landwehr who is the administer the Facebook group explained that the page does not endorse contractors and that recommendations are posted by individual members. Once concerns arose, members were advised to take discussions offline, verify contractors with the Village, and understand that the Facebook group was not recommending any service provider. The administrator also removed the individual who posted the recommendation after being unable to verify that the person was a Village resident. Chief Layman noted that traveling contractor scams are common during the summer months and urged residents, especially seniors, to exercise caution when approached by unsolicited contractors.

Chief Layman introduced the departments newest officer, Tyler Skopec, who had recently graduated from the police academy after completing approximately 16 weeks of training. Ryan shared photographs highlighting various aspects of the academy, including OC (pepper spray) exposure, driving, K-(training and much more. Chief wanted to show the residents that this is a very intense training program.

Beach Committee Report - Beach Committee Chair Brian Cassidy reported that work at Stop 43 continues to progress despite delays caused by coordinating multiple contractors, weather, and material availability. He emphasized that no single contractor was at fault. Brian also updated that two new dry wells have been installed to address flooding at the bottom of East Court. Materials for the retaining wall are expected to arrive the following week, after which construction of the retaining wall and stairway will begin. Framing for the boardwalk from the street to the top of the dune has been completed. While no completion date was provided, work is moving forward as materials and contractors become available.

Cassidy reminded residents that a permit is required for beach fire pits and noted that the Police Department will enforce the ordinance through citations. He encouraged parents and residents to promote responsible behavior at the beaches and to clean up the area when finished. Regarding Stop 40, Brian said he continues to work with the engineer to obtain a proposal outlining the anticipated costs and timeline for future improvements. The proposal has been delayed due to the engineer's workload. He also said Fourth of July beach activity was busy but manageable despite intermittent weather. Temporary trash receptacles placed at the beach for the holiday weekend have been removed as part of the Village's continuing evaluation of beach trash collection. Residents should continue to exercise caution around Lake Michigan due to dangerous conditions.

Public Works Report - Public Works Superintendent Rick Reitz reported that crews have been primarily focused on storm cleanup, including removing fallen trees and branches. Rick also stated roadside tree trimming will begin to improve roadway clearance. Crews continue removing unregistered kayaks and paddleboards left on Village beach racks. An additional stairway has been installed at Stop 42. One remaining shower and water fountain will be installed at Stop 43 once construction is complete. Public Works used Village equipment to widen portions of the roadway near Stop 43 by approximately 15 feet, reducing project costs.

Water Board Report - Water Board Chair Mike Mumper reported, the Village successfully completed its annual lead and copper compliance testing with Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), with satisfactory results. PFAS testing has been completed, and results are pending. EGLE also conducted the Village's required three-year sanitary survey. No significant issues were identified, and a formal report is expected within approximately one month. Public Works Superintendent Rick assisted the Village of Grand Beach in returning its water tower to service after an extended outage. Mike said regarding the water system improvement project, Mike reported on the water project has received approval from the EPA. Engineering plans and specifications have been submitted to EGLE for final review. Once approvals are complete, the project will be advertised for bids. Combining the two planned water projects into a single contract is expected to produce more competitive bids and reduce mobilization costs. Construction is anticipated to begin in the fall, likely September or October, with some temporary inconveniences expected.

Tree Board Report -Tree Board Chair Nancy Thill reported, the Village held its 5th Annual Arbor Day Celebration on July 6 in conjunction with the Day Camp's Little Tree Ambassadors program. Scouts participated in the ceremony, including the presentation of colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. American flags were distributed to attendees donated by Tim McCarthy. The next Tree Board meeting will be held on July 21 at 1:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) at the Public Works building. The Tree Board is obtaining estimates to remove several dead or hazardous trees near the playground after one tree recently failed. A workshop is being planned for early August to review the progress of the Village's native butterfly garden restoration with council members. The restoration project continues to establish native grasses and flowering plants as expected. Volunteers continue to assist with maintaining the gardens, and efforts are underway to expand community participation. Staff certification for herbicide application was discussed to assist with ongoing invasive species management.

Park Report - Park Committee Chair Mike Mumper thanked Nancy Thill for organizing the placement of additional American flags throughout the Village for the Fourth of July. Mike reported that the park remains in excellent condition despite heavy summer use by the Day Camp and Concerts in the Park. Turf conditions remain healthy and resilient. Based on his professional experience as a licensed pesticide applicator, he does not believe herbicide applications have contributed to the challenges experienced in the butterfly garden restoration. He noted that only a limited contact herbicide application was made early in the spring and that no pre-emergent herbicides were applied this season. Mike said that the newly planted tree in the park is doing well and expressed hope that it continues to thrive. A suggestion was made to install a temporary protective barrier around the tree.

Planning Commission Report - Kathleen Hogan Morrison a Planning Commission member reported that a public hearing on the Master Plan will be held on August 8 at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time). The Planning Commission will meet immediately afterward to review public comments. Any necessary revisions will be considered before granting final approval of the Master Plan. The commission also reported that the draft Master Plan has been circulated to neighboring communities for review and, to date, no comments have been received.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Tracey McCay reported, the Pokagon Fund balance has increased to \$57,500. A Village certificate of deposit with Chase Bank was renewed for 12 months at 3.7% interest. Additional certificates of deposit will mature in August, September, and December, with interest rates to be reviewed at those times. A motion was made by Tim McCarthy, seconded by Brian Cassidy, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk's Report - Clerk Anne Heywood requested approval of the check register in the amount of \$160,883.07. A motion was made by Mike Mumper, seconded by Brian Cassidy, to approve the check register as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. Ann reported, Music in the Park will be held on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. (Michigan time) featuring Jim St. James. Residents were reminded to bring their own food and beverages, as no food vendor will be available. The next Music in the Park event on July 25 will feature Electric Sugar. Residents were encouraged to attend and support the remaining concerts despite lower-than-expected attendance this season. Residents were reminded to contact the Police Department immediately when noise complaints, fireworks, or other disturbances are occurring rather than waiting and reporting them to the office the next day. She thanked the Michiana Shores Fire Department, Josh, and Austin for installing American flags along Ponchartrain and over by the park. Anne announced the Village received \$15,000 in donations from the Ledger and Mathis families to assist with improvements at Stop 43. The Council thanked them for generous donation.

Old Business

Police Station Update - Police Chief Ryan Layman reported that a meeting is scheduled for the following Tuesday with Village representatives, Attorney Sara Seneca, and representatives from Grand Beach to continue reviewing the proposed intergovernmental agreement for the new police station. President Tim McCarthy

stated that the agreement is intended to ensure a fair, long-term partnership between the two villages and should provide a framework that will remain effective well into the future. Chief Layman reported that a draft agreement is being reviewed and refined. The goal is to have a completed draft ready for council consideration by August. Most other aspects of the police station project remain on hold until this agreement is done. The next Police Station Committee meeting is scheduled for July 17 at 10:00 a.m. at the Grand Beach Village Hall. During council discussion, a question was raised regarding whether Village Attorney Sara Seneca could represent both Michiana and Grand Beach in drafting the agreement. It was noted that she also assisted with preparing the original joint police agreement. Council discussed that if a conflict were to arise during negotiations, each village could obtain separate legal representation if necessary.

Resolution 2026-002 Emergency Service – Correction to the ending year was made to 2032 for a 6 (six) year millage so that the village wouldn't have to pay for an election in the odd year where it could cost the Village over \$10,000 for just one item on the ballot. Tim made a motion to approve the change and Mike Mumper seconded the motion; A roll call vote was taken 4 ayes and 0 nays; Motion passed.

New Business

New Village Sign -Tim McCarthy presented a draft for a new Village Wayfinding signage and noted that this is something that has been in the works for some time. Tim explained that the Council was looking at 2 new signs, one located at Michiana Drive and Lake Shore Drive as a Welcome to Michiana and the other over by the Village Hall. Tim explained that the project may qualify for funding through the Village's Act 51 Non-Motorized transportation funds, which may be used for Wayfinding Signage that assists in identifying the Village Hall, the park and other public facilities. Tim noted that approximately \$10,000 in Act 51 non-motorized transportation and some of these funds could be applied toward the project and that funds for the remaining cost had already been included in this year's Village budget. A motion was made and seconded to approve the purchase and installation of two Village entrance signs: The proposal cost: A primary entrance sign at an estimated cost of \$19,405. A secondary entrance sign at an estimated cost of \$9,430. A total project cost of \$30,135 with installation. There was discussion; whether the project might also qualify for Pokagon Fund assistance. Reducing the overall size of the primary sign to improve visibility at the intersection and reduce the visual impact. Concerns about using a photographic image on the sign because prolonged sun exposure could cause colors to fade over time. Adding historical information, such as the year the Village was established, to the sign design and including a message on the reverse side of the sign. Council decided to table this until they can work with the sign manufacturer to revise art work and size based on the council's comments. It was noted the considerable amount of time already invested in the project but agreed to continue reviewing the design and work with the sign company on possible revisions to present to the village before moving forward.

Resolution 2026-004 Asserting the Village Council's Right to Approve Master Plan Under MCL 125.3843. – This Resolution to authorize the Village Council to approve or reject the Master Plan; a roll call vote 4 aye and 0 nays; Motion passed.

Public Comment - Pam Schutt thanked the Village for its efforts at the beaches but noted that fire pit ashes contained discarded fireworks debris. Council acknowledged the concern. She also told the council of the upcoming public hearing being held by New Buffalo Township on July 20th regarding a few of the cannabis stores receiving fines for violations.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30p.m. EST

Respectfully Submitted

Anne Heywood/Clerk