

## MICHIANA WATER AUTHORITY MEETING

October 11, 2021, 10 AM

The meeting was called to order at 10 AM.

Attendance: All members of the Board appeared in person: Village President Michael Mintz, Public Works Superintendent Rick Rietz, and Village President Pro Tem Kathleen Hogan Morrison

Prior Minutes: The members approved the minutes of the December 15, 2020, meeting as there appeared to be no record of prior approval.

Water Rates: Rick proposed raising the water rates from \$4.00 per thousand gallons to \$4.10 per thousand gallons. He said there had been an increase in the cost of materials. He pointed to the large increase in the price of the acid used in the Chlorination Project. In terms of doing an increase, he said it was easier to raise the Michiana rate while Michigan City was raising its rate charged to Michiana. The average home in the Village pays \$60 and the increase would be \$1.50 for the average home. All members of the Board supported this change.

Tap-In Fees – Rick also suggested raising the tap-in fee from \$2200 to @2800. The fee is for water tap-in to a new house or a resident requested a bigger tap. The fee covers the cost of the boring, dig-up fee and the work done by Rick and Josh. If the watermain is across the street from the home, then the owner will pay for the waterline to be bored under the street. The price of copper has almost doubled. Rick made a motion to raise the tap-in fee immediately as described. Mike Mintz seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 – 0.

Ready to Serve Charges – There was discussion about the monthly ready to serve charges being tied to the size of the water meter. Currently the base charge is \$25 per month, but there are different size meter taps for water flow. Rick made a motion that the fees should be \$25 per month for a ¾ inch meter tap; \$32.50 per month for a 1-inch meter tap; \$50 per month for a 1.5-inch meter tap; and \$65 per month for a 2-inch meter tap. Kathleen Hogan Morrison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 – 0.

Hydrant Flushing – Hydrants are flushed once a year in October as required by the fire department. In those areas where there have been complaints about brown water, i.e., Creek, flushing is done more often, and Rick tries to flush there once a month.

Current Water Bond and Future Need – The Village will do another Water Study in about three years to prepare for financing another water bond. There are specific areas of the Village that need new pipes – including Creek, Choctaw, Chickagami, and parts of Lake Shore Drive and Avalon. 6-inch plastic pipes are needed. These issues will be addressed when the current water bond is paid.

Chlorination Project – This project is designed to chlorinate the water Michiana gets from Michigan City. Rick is working with Peerless on this project and he predicts completion by January 1, 2022. Michiana and EGLE will send letters to residents and Michiana and Grand Beach to advise what is happening. It will touch on issues like the change in the smell and taste of the water.

EPA Visit – Michiana had been chosen randomly for an EPA visit to explain its water system, manpower, size of mains, etc. All went well and reenforced a good relationship between Michiana and both the EPA and EGLE.

Cost of Michiana Water – Rick said that Michigan City charges less for its water and Grand Beach charges more. The Board will discuss in the future what steps could be taken that might benefit Michiana.

Future Meetings – The Board members agreed to have quarterly meetings in the future. The next meeting is set for Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 10 EST / 9 CST.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.