**Village of Michiana Council Meeting**

**October 14, 2022, 1pm**

Roll Call: Joann Fisher, Brain Cassidy, Tim McCarthy, Michael Tolentino, Josh Gondeck, Ryan Layman and Bill Lambert (Nancy Thill had an excused absence)

No public requests for additions to agenda.

Joann motion for acceptance of the minutes from the September Village Council meeting. Brian seconded. Michael Tolentino noted he was not present at the September meeting. He had an excused absence. Tim McCarthy amended the motion to approve the minutes subject to correction. Motion passed.

**Building Inspector Report: Bill Lambert**

* Delays to construction on Sucich property. At least one neighbor upset. The numerous delays are attributed to supply chain issues. Bill intends to stay on top of this to not only move things along but also address the neighbors’ concerns.
* Tim McCarthy inquired about what property improvements require building permits. Bill said if the job is about general maintenance, no permit is needed. If the job requires any type of rebuild or expansion, a permit is required from The Village.
* Bill is working on estimates for Stop 37 (shelter only-not stairs).

**Fire Chief Report: Gary Bendix**

* The recently improved 911 system has drastically cut down on response times.
* Last month 155.3 hours were spent on calls, with only a few requiring First Responder activity due to medical needs.
* The Pancake Breakfast was a huge success, serving over 300 people! Many donations were taken in. Garry thanked everyone for coming out and supporting the cause.

**Police /Commission Report: Chief Ryan Layman**

* Ryan offered sincere thanks to Gary and his Volunteer Department for their assistance with the unfortunate drowning at Stop 40. The body has been identified but the autopsy is ongoing. It is believed the drowning did not occur in the immediate area.
* Ryan also passed on condolences to Long Beach Police Department Deputy Toby Babcock, who recently passed away while in Florida with his family.
* Ryan asked for permission to sell the Village’s 2016 black squad car to the Grand Beach Water Authority for $9,000, once our new squad car arrives (less reasonable depreciation given the length of time it takes for the new car to arrive and potential increased wear and tear). The new car should arrive between now and July. The money from the sale would go into the Police Car Fund. Joann made the motion to approve the sale, Michael seconded, motion passed.

**Beach Commissioner Report: Brian Cassidy**

* The dune grass planting which was scheduled to be completed in early October has been delayed until the last week of October. Brian reiterated the importance of having this done before the winter for the plantings to properly take root.
* The company doing the planting, NorthShore, asked for the opportunity to present an estimate to the Village for the proposed bus stop renovation at Stop 37.

**Public Works Report: Josh Gondeck speaking on behalf of Rick Reitz – excused absence.**

* Chlorination Project is very close to completion; waiting for Peerless to install parts that are on backorder.
* Rick and Josh have been busy with general cleaning throughout the Village in preparation for leaf pick up season.
* The park has been getting a lot of attention in preparation of the final piece of park equipment arriving soon.
* It is anticipated that the court nets will be taken down and properly stored on November 1st.
* Beaches are in good shape right now. The kayak racks are expected to be emptied out by October 15th. Any remaining unclaimed kayaks will be confiscated by the Village.
* Stop 39 was heavily attended this last summer and much appreciated by the Villagers that were able to finally use it again. The stairs at the Stop were already pulled up and stored due to some anticipated weather issues. All other temporary stairs will be picked up and stored in late October.
* Speed Bumps have been removed for the winter. The permanent Speed Bumps will be painted in the near future.
* The tractor has its new tire (which was budgeted) and the new mower is saving a ton of time thanks to its updated efficiency.
* A leaf pick-up grid will be sent out in the near future, but it is anticipated to be very similar to last year’s schedule. Last day for yard waste to be picked up is October 27th and it must be properly contained and easily identified as such. After this date, home owners are responsible for yard waste removal
* The Village submitted a request for state assistance with road repairs. This request was unfortunately denied. Our roads have not had any major resurfacing since 2020. Josh and Rick are keeping a list of the roads that are in more dire need for repair. Tim McCarthy is looking into “hot-patching” as an option for immediate needs. Cold Patching is an option for really bad holes, but all on the board agree that rather than spend an estimated $7,000 for temporary street repairs, it would be economically prudent to wait until the spring when those streets in most need of repair are completely resurfaced.
* Joann and Tim met with our refuse service company to express the Village’s strong and unanimous disappointment with recent service. Several excuses were provided with the biggest one being that they are just stretched too thin. Villagers are encouraged to call the Village office with complaints, all of which are then documented. The Council is considering creating an ordinance defining proper garbage etiquette and instruction, particularly concerning storage of receptacle bins after trash pick-up and what is and isn’t considered recyclable. IMPORTANT-if recycling is in a plastic bag, it is immediately tossed into the trash and none of the contents are then recycled.

**Water Board Report: Brian Cassidy**

* Creek Water Project (water main)-The Village received only one bid on October 5th which proved to be both disappointing (was expecting more bids) and much higher than anticipated (was planning for roughly $150,000, but bid came in at $326,454). The solo bid came from H&G Plumbing out of LaPorte and they offered just one option for the repair. Brian begrudgingly feels he is back to the drawing board. He has asked Rick to look into buying the necessary materials directly from the supplier to lower costs. In addition, Brian is looking at potential sources of funding (grants given for infrastructure improvements). Brian vehemently believes that this repair is not an optional improvement, and that time is of the essence.
* Brian reports that Rick recently had the water tanks cleaned and 1/16th of an inch of sediment was removed from the tanks.
* New steps and a walkway were installed at the water pumphouse
* Tank #2 had a monitor installed to determine proper depth.

**Clerk Report: Joann speaking on behalf of Anne Heywood – excused absence.**

* Residents most remove their kayaks from the beaches or they will be taken by the Village.
* Please remember to have all yard waste out before October 27th.
* Stop 37- the Letter of Intent was approved by Pokagon Fund.
* As previously mentioned, the requested Grant for paving was denied. The Village has funds budgeted and road repairs will still happen in 2023.

**Old Business**

* The fence on each end of the basketball court has been installed!
* Carl and Jurate Landwehr have graciously donated a backboard that will be installed on the new tennis and pickleball courts. This 10’x20’ board will be professionally installed once it arrives.
* The paths will be Installed around the park once all of the play equipment is in place, followed by resodding. This project could be completed as early as Spring 2023.
* A wind screen is being considered for the fence separating the playground and the courts.
* Sarah Senica has received the law suit briefs. She will be immediately filing for a 28-day extension in order for MML Legal Department to further work on the planned tactics.
* Women’s Club did not have anyone present at the meeting. No update on their pickleball tournament was provided.
* The Village pickleball group was able to quickly add another day of Mixed Doubles competition, given that several events were rained out during the original tournament. Over 60 people came out and the weather this time around was perfect. Although there wasn’t music or food trucks present, everyone was so appreciative of the efforts and had a great time. Between the two days of play, over $7,000 was generated and all of it was given to the Village. There are still t-shirts and posters available for sell in the Village office.

**New Business**

* Tim Ketelhut from TeamLife attended the meeting to discuss our current AED. He said that our AED is absolutely sufficient. This model self-monitors itself with monthly check-ups to determine that all components are properly working and that the battery is fully charged. Our unit has a CPR component included in our unit. Tim briefly explained and demonstrated how to easily use an AED. There is a CPR component on our current AED.

There are things to consider for the near future regarding our AED units. There is now a newer model that comes with even more options (a camera, a sensor to alert authorities when the unit is removed, a rapid response call to 911, etc.). Tim also strongly encouraged The Village to consider moving the AED outside and enclose it in a weather proof cabinet. Tim is looking into all potential improvements and hopes to present recommendations by the end of the year.

Holly Duran suggested that signs be posted near the courts informing people where the AED is located. The council concurred and said it was already in the works.

Village Police have separate AED kits in each squad car and are prepared and properly trained to use them. Tim has proposed that The Village sponsor a class that would educate any interested residents on how to use this life-saving device and provide those in attendance with a Certificate identifying them as qualified to operate an AED and provide CPR. The AED unit has both audible and written instructions, both being very user friendly.

* A Planning Commission has been appointed by the Village President, to be chaired by Councilman Michael Tolentino. There are six people he has selected to assist him with this assignment (Maureen Shekleton, Kathleen Hogan Morrison, Holly Duran, Chris Boothe, Renee Okonek and Karen Szyp).

-Maureen and Kathleen will be reviewing the Master Plan and all Ordinances.

-Holly and Chris will be handling the revamping of the Village Hall- They will also be providing rough plans for approval at the November meeting.

-The Planning Commission in full will also be actively involved and the main communication resource with the Michiana Beach Stops.

* Tim McCarthy motioned to amend Josh’s salary due to his recent successful completion and acquisition of a state required water license/certification. Josh aspires to obtain several more licenses, all of which are essential to operating and maintaining the Villages water system. Michael Tolentino seconded the Motion, and all approved. This increase is retroactive to October 1st, 2022.
* Tim McCarthy made a motion to accept the bid to replace the large stone retaining wall along Michiana Drive, between Hillside and Cherokee which, is seriously deteriorating. The 175’ x 6-7’ wall needs to be repaired or replaced, sooner rather than later. The Village received a bid of $34,500 to remove and replace the wall. This is a big project with many loose ends. Council members expressed a concern that the bid did not address installation of a proper drainage system for the new wall and if EGLE needed to review and approve the project. It became clear that the project would need to be tabled for the time being until these questions can be addressed. Tim withdrew his motion to approve the project at this time.

**Comments from the President**

The 2022 year has been very full and incredibly productive. Profound thanks from the past boards for leaving such a healthy budget to work with. Much improvements all around the Village including Stop 39 being actively used, the courts being consistently active and the playground is definitely taking shape with great new equipment and Marla’s Musical Garden. All were big projects, but each are proving to be great enhancements. In every case, there was a strong sense of Villager involvement, which is both heart-warming and appreciated.

Our first Concert in the Park was a huge success and we are planning for several more in the upcoming summers!

Bringing Stop 37 up to speed with the rest of the Stops is moving along quickly and should be ready for the 2023 season! It goes without saying that we are desperately hoping that all stops survive the winter season!

We have put together a long Infrastructure list with the top two items being the roads and the water. As a Council, we are working hard to get things fixed, both quickly and affordably. In addition, council member Nancy Thill is actively looking at the many trees in the area, attempting to be very proactive with possible removal of dead trees that could cause dreadful electrical problems if they fall. As mentioned earlier in the meeting, Michael and his crew are actively looking into improvements for The Village Hall.

Finally, remember to go out and vote on November 8th!

**MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:36 ET**