Michiana Water Authority Meeting

June 29th, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. (EST)

The meeting of the Michiana Water Authority was called to order at 2:30p.m.

 (EST) by Council Member Tim McCarthy, present were Council Member Brian Cassidy, Public Works Superintendent Rick Reitz, and Clerk Anne Heywood. There were 8 Village residents present.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the following:

1. **WATER MAIN PROJECT**: Rick talked about the brown water issue residents were facing on Creek. Rick proposed installing a new water main along Creek between Chickagami and Grand Beach Road. Rick introduced Jeff from Haas & Associates an engineer consulting company who he has been working with the Village putting together a proposal for the project. The project would consist of installing a new 1,050 foot – 8 inch main placed 5 feet below grade level. The project would also add 2 to 3 new fire hydrants in along the run. The cost to hire Haas is $20,000 for the design and bid process. The money for this project would be taken from the remaining money in the Village Water Bond that was leftover from the large water project on the West side of the Village. This money must be used before the Bond is paid off to avoid losing it. Brian Cassidy asked Jeff from Haas if the council approved the project when could they start the work. Jeff said they would start working on the design once approved. He projected that we would begin the work sometime in October or November to avoid postponing it until the Spring. This would provide materials at a lower cost to the Village on the Fall. Brian will discuss the proposal at July 15 council meeting.
2. **PUMPS IN WATER PUMPHOUSE**: Contractor Peerless would like to change out the 500-gpm pump to a 750-gpm pump. Rick said in the ISO Report and Liability report it was suggested we upgrade this pump. Tim McCarthy asked if the old pump was worth anything and if so we should sell it to minimize costs. Rick said he was already working to market the old pump. Tim McCarthy asked what the cost was from Peerless to install the pump. Rick responded that the new pump would cost $68,000. Brian Cassidy will bring this up at the Council Meeting on July 15th for Council approval. Tim McCarthy again stated that this project would be paid for with money left over from the water Bond.
3. **SENDING POSTCARDS FOR WATER BILLS**: The office would like to change over to using Postcards for residential water bills. We could save money and time in the office. Anne would like to start using the postcards for the September billing. Brian and Tim didn’t see a problem with changing to postcards. Many of our residents have their water bills paid via ACH. Anne has the forms at the office if residents would prefer this method of payment.
4. **LETTER FROM MR. UBATUBA**: Mr. Ubatuba on Lake Shore Drive asked that water board to revisit his high-water bill from a water line break under his driveway this winter. Rick explained to the board that we read meters once every three months so the leak was not detected when it first started. Rick said when leaks like this happen outside the home, insurance does not cover it, only inside water damages are covered by insurance. Tim McCarthy said the Council had reduced his water bill 20% from $8,470 down to $6,775 at one of the last council meetings. Tim felt we could lower the bill further to the Villages actual cost from Michigan City. Rick calculated our actual cost to be 5,802.05. Tim said this would have to go back to the Council for approval.
5. **WATER PRESSURE ISSUE**: Rick would like to replace 2 water service lines on Lake Shore Drive due to very low pressure. Rick said these homeowners have been having issues for some time now. The homeowners have tried everything on their end and the problem seems to be on the Villages side. Tim McCarthy said this issue should be taken care of immediately as these residents are paying to have acceptable water pressure provided to their homes by the Village. Tim McCarthy wanted it noted that any work the Village does will be on the Village side of access to the property and the property owners are responsible from the street to their property. Tim felt a Special Meeting should be called since we have a quote from a contractor and before prices increase. Again, the cost would be covered by our excess funds in our Water Bond with the County.
6. **CHLORINE PROTECT**: Tim McCarthy told Rick he would like to see this Chlorine Project finished. Rick said once the project is completed, he would only use it as a backup if the chlorine levels from Michigan City declined to unacceptable levels in the future.
7. **INSTALLING METER FOR WATER:** Dune Oaks at Stop 37 asked if they could have water. Rick gave them the price to install a meter and is just waiting for Dune Oaks to get back to him.
8. **BACKFLOW LETTER**: Rick said we need to have a letter go out to all the homeowners regarding annual inspection of backflow preventer devices. This has to be done by year end. It would impact residents with swimming pools and irrigation systems. Anne will get a copy of the letter Long Beach sent to their homeowners and edit it to apply to Michiana Residents.

Tim McCarthy thanked everyone for coming an adjourned the meeting at 4:00p.m. (EST)

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Heywood