**Village of Michiana**

 **Special Meeting (by phone)**

**Friday, June 26th 2020**

 **9:00 am (EST)**

The meeting was held by virtual “go to meeting”. Present were Linda Stein, Mike Mintz, Phil Bonello, Joann Fisher and Kathleen Hogan Morrison, as well as Anne Heywood/Clerk and 20 Village residents dialed in, to listen and participate.

The purpose for the meeting was to discuss the following items:

1. Request for Special Exception Approval for 4262,4226 & 4228 Ponchartrain
2. Paving Bids from Walsh & Kelly and ABC Asphalt
3. Discussion of Stairs at Stop 37

Mike Mintz opened the meeting by stating that if anyone on the phone call wanted to speak on the topics on the Agenda, Chief Layman would take the person’s name, address and the topic the person wanted to address.

Steve Pacelli - 4032 Choctaw - Stop 37

Krista - Indiana - Stop 37

Murphy – Indiana - Stop 37

Tony – Indiana - Stop 37

Mike - Indiana - Stop 37

Durkin – Indiana - Stop 37

Willa Lang – 3809 Ponchartrain - Stop 37

Jurate Landwehr – 4156 Ponchartrain - Special Exception

Matt Brown - 4184 Ponchartrain - Special Exception

Caryn Summer - 4141Lake Shore - Special Exception

Mike Mintz explained the Special Exception request for 4262, 4226 & 4228 Ponchartrain was part of the procedure required anytime an owner changed the use of the property. The Special Exception process is required by EGLE, which issues the permit. The village council could either approve, disapprove the project within 60 days from when the permit was requested. If the council did nothing on the request within 60 days, then the request was automatically approved.

Lindsey Mathus, the engineer from Edgewater Resources, is overseeing this project and filed the permits with EGLE. Lindsey answered some of the concerns and questions had by both the council and residents. The Healy property has existing cement bags that sit on a piece of Village right away that were put there years ago when the dune was in danger. Mathes said they would wrap the cement wall into the Dune to help fight the erosion. The new wall would be placed behind these existing cement bags which would be further up on the Litwin’s property. Village resident, Jurate Landwehr, expressed her concern that Michiana should make sure it always meets its duty to Chikaming Open Lands and all residents that beach property be restored to its original state whenever possible. Kathleen Hogan Morrison made a motion to approve the Special Exception; Joann Fisher seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken 5 ayes and 0 nays; motion passed.

The next order of business were the 2 street paving bids that Rick Reitz received from ABC Asphalt in the amount of $19, 385.00 and Walsh & Kelly in the amount of $39,600. The Council wanted to know why there was such a big difference in the prices proposed. Rick said the project was not that big as it was paving Grand Beach Road from Woodcrest to Pinewood and some additional street patching. Reitz wanted to give ABC Asphalt the job since the contractor had done the black top on the tennis courts. Mike Mintz made a motion to approve ABC Asphalt for $19,385.00; Joann Fisher seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken 5 ayes & 0 nays; the motion passed.

The last order of business was discussion of stairs at Stop 37. Mike Mintz looked at the stop and thought maybe a platform could be placed and attached to aluminum stairs. Mike Mintz said the project would have to be completed by a licensed contractor and Bill Lambert, the Building Inspector would have to approve to make sure everything else was safe. Joann Fisher had concerns about the dune being unstable and Linda Stein was concerned how the contractor would get material down the dune. Kathleen Hogan Morrison stated that at the last council meeting the Village of Michiana had decided not to invest any more money on the stops due to safety issues and the concerns about dune preservation. Kathleen Hogan Morrison suggested that if the Town of Michiana Shores, Indiana, wanted to proceed on the Stop 37 issue then it should pay for plans to be prepared by an engineer, as well as pay for all legal and financial bills involved. She said that the Village of Michiana was concerned that opening Stop 37 was unsafe, a hazard to the existing dune, and might engender injuries to beach goers. Kathleen Hogan Morrison also said that if Michiana Shores wanted to undertake this process then the contractor needed to be bonded, licensed and insured and the Michiana Village Council and the Michiana Building Inspector needed to review all documents and plans for final approval.

Chief Layman called on those for Public Comment: Krista, Maryann Durkin, Sheila Murphy, (all resident of Michiana Shores, Indiana) said they wanted access to Stop 37 and would like the two towns to work together. Willa Lang and Steve Pacelli Michiana, Michigan residents also wanted to see 37 opened.

Kathleen Hogan Morrison asked Rusty Bruesch, the Beach Commissioner, if he ever made contact with the Town Council of Michiana Shores, Indiana Council. Rusty said that he reached out to the town and then to Rich Young, one of the council members about Stop 37. Rusty and Rich met to review the status of the stop. Rusty said he tried to walk onto the dune at 37, but it was so unstable the dune started to give away. Rusty and Rich had then determined the dune was too unstable and the project would be too complex for the two of them to do any work. Their conclusion was to leave this Stop alone. Rusty said that after meeting with Rich Young he sent an email to Diane Dumbrys, the President of Michiana Shores, Indiana, explaining their decision for keeping the Stop closed at this time.

Kathleen Hogan Morrison was then asked to write a letter to Michiana Shore, Indiana inviting Michiana Shores to submit a proposal to the Village of Michiana if Michiana Shores still wanted to try to open Stop 37. The letter from Kathleen on behalf of the Village Council of Michiana, Michigan, would outline the issues that Michiana wanted Michiana Shores to include in its proposal. Anne Heywood then took a roll call vote if the council still wanted Kathleen to write the letter to Michiana Shores, Indiana, and the vote was 5 - ayes 0 – nays.

Mike Mintz adjourned the meeting at 10:12a.m. (EST)

Submitted by,

Anne Heywood/Clerk