The meeting of the Michiana Water Authority was called to order at 11:00A.M. (EST) by Brian Cassidy. Present were Councilman Tim McCarthy, Public Works Superintendent Rick Reitz, and Village Clerk Anne Heywood.

**Agenda Items**

1. **Alarm system for pumphouse:** Rick explained that the alarm system he is looking at with Peerless will call out if there is intrusion, high/low water levels in tank, high /low water pressure, high service pumps not working, no power, generator running/not running, high/low chlorine residual. The alarm will call cell phones that are hooked up to alarm. The cost for this alarm $7,100
2. **Extend the watermain permit for Creek Drive:**  Rick talked with EGLE regarding an extension for the Creek project. EGLE said we would could ask for a one-year extension in writing before the original permit expires on 10/19/2024.
3. **Water Rates and tap-in charges:**
   1. Water Rates: Rick would like to raise the water rate .10 cents thousand gallons per year starting in September for the next 4 years. This would give Village residents sufficient time to absorb future proposed water rate increases from Michigan City.
   2. Tap-on Charges: Materials are going up in cost approximately. Currently it costs the Village approximately $1,800 to $2,000 with a 3 to 6 months wait for receiving the parts. Labor to dig the hole for water taps runs $1,500 to $2,000 when the water main is on the same side of the tap-in and around $3,500 to push the line under the road. Rick would like to increase this tap-on charge from $2,800 to $4,500.
4. **750 GPM Pump:** Rick talked with EGLE and the engineer Peerless and they are behind in giving out the permits, because there are only 2 of them going through the permit applications. Peerless projects that the work would be completed in 2 or 3 weeks.
5. **Engineering Services for Water Project:** Rick provided names of other engineers for the Village to consider regarding the future water project on Creek. Rick and the water board were not happy with the last engineer cost projections which were considerable low based on the bid received. Rick mentioned Merritt/Midwest who has done work in Grand Beach, Prein & Newhof has been used by New Buffalo Township and The City of New Buffalo has used NIES Engineering. Brian would like Rick to set up meetings with some of these engineers to meet and interview them.

1. **Michigan City Water Contract** - Tim McCarthy met with the Michigan City Water Superintendent Chris Johnson and talked about the new Water Contract with them. Chris Johnson is having their Attorney Barry McDonald look over the contract and should have it ready for the March Council meeting. The new contract will have a 50-year term.
2. **Water Payments** - Tim would like to see the water billing changed from four bills a month to six bills month. This would help the residents with those larger bills in the summer by adding two additional billing periods.
3. **Education for Water Classes:**  Tim asked Rick if they signed up for any upcoming water classes. Rick said March 22 through 24 he will be taking classes for his required CDC credit hours. Josh is set to take his 2nd certification class in May. They both will be taking additional classes on zoom.
4. **Fountain:**  Rick mentioned he is planning on putting a new fountain at Stop 37 but will have to run a new water line. He is looking into install a hose bib in the park by the new pavilion for maintenance and landscaping needs.

Brian Cassidy stated that he will make the following recommendations at the March Council meeting:

1. Purchase a new alarm system for water pumphouse $7,100 using the water bond monies.
2. Increase the water rate starting September 2023 billing .10 cents per 1000 gallons per year for the next 4 years.
3. Increase the water tap fee from $2,800 to $4,500 to cover time and materials.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:53 a.m. (EST)

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Heywood

Village Clerk