The meeting of the Michiana Water Authority was held by Virtual “Go to Meeting” called to order at 10:00 a.m. (EST) by President Mike Mintz. Present were Public Works Superintendent Rick Reitz, Kathleen Hogan Morrison, Village Clerk Anne Heywood and Tim Iverson since this would have been the first water meeting since Tim left office and thought he could help with any questions the water board might have. Tim asked if anyone else from the Village was on the call that would like to identify themselves. Ellen Goldrick wanted to speak about galvanized pipes in the Village remembered talking about them at meeting just wanted to follow up on what happened.

Rick stated the galvanized pipes were replaced during our water project in 2017 they were 2 inch and 3 inches galvanized pipes that ran along Ponchartrain and Tahoma, these pipes were replaced with 8-inch PVC pipes. Tim asked Rick if these were residents’ lines or the Village lines. Rick stated that this was the Village main water lines that were replaced. Rick said all galvanized lines have been removed we just have a few cast iron water mains which are still fine per the State of Michigan. If we replace the cast iron it is mandatory that we replace the 4-inch pipe with a 6-inch pipe there is no time frame required for replacement since they meet States guidelines. Rick told Ellen it was the homeowners’ responsibility from the meter pit to the house to change the lines if they had galvanized piping. The main to the meter pit is the water departments responsibility. Ellen thanked Rick for explaining her question.

Next Rick would like to talk about the Chlorination system at the pump house. Tim said the two main reasons for this chlorination project was the ability to control any bacteria within the Village water system and the second reason is to have the ability with New Buffalo Township water system should we ever need to co share water. This then was driven to have a study done to see how much the cost would be using an outside company to install the chlorination system. What we found was that nobody was interested in the project because it was either too small or prices were way out of line. Tim said then Rick went back to the State an asked if he followed the engineer diagram from the consultant, we hired to install the system could Rick install the system himself using a State electrician to do the electrical work. Rick said the State replied yes. Rick is getting that ok from the State in writing.

The issue at hand is Rick would like to propose moving forward with self-installation of the chlorination system. Tim asked the board if there any questions they would like to ask. Mike Mintz wanted to know if this type of system allows us to run the systems parallel while testing until we see if the system works. Rick said Michigan City has the chloramines and what we are doing is adding free chlorine so you cannot switch back in forth. Mike thought we were getting some free equipment from the Township but Rick said the equipment was not in good condition. Rick said we have a reserve from the water bond where we put $60,000 on the side for this project. Rick thought the total project could cost around $45,000. Kathleen does not want undercut Rick’s ability which are numerous, but what kind of experience Rick had for installing equipment like this? Rick said he worked for City of New Buffalo for 17 years and did all their installation using chlorine gas which is more dangerous than what we are using. Kathleen asked should we talk about joining the New Buffalo Township water department as one department. Tim said good question, but this is something you could have a discussion about with Michelle Heit from the Township to get her thoughts on the topic.

Tim suggested a few items that should be in writing:

Once we move forward with the chlorination system, we should have an emergency written formal document with New Buffalo Township instead of a hand shake stating if an emergency they would provide water to the Village.

Have Rick get in writing from the State of Michigan that they are comfortable with Rick doing this project. Tim said once you have the letter from the State, Rick will need a more accurate cost of this project. Then Rick will make a recommendation from the water board to the Village Council for approval of the chlorination project and not to exceed what the cost should be and take a roll call vote.

Anne asked Rick if he found himself running into a problem while installing is there someone he could call. Rick said yes Archie from New Buffalo Township would be on hand who also has experience installing these.

Once system is ready to start up Rick said the State would come down and help. Tim said this too he should have in writing.

Since we need a Legal Notice that has to go out to all the residents regarding this project. Tim would like Rick to find out the exact time frame in writing from the State and to verify with the State in writing if someone should have an open objection to the system can that hold the process up. Tim would like that clarified by the State before moving forward.

Anne asked if we were still training Josh for water, Rick said yes.

Anne asked if we heard back about the 5-year Reliability Study. Rick said it was still in the hands of EGEL. Tim looked over the report and wanted Rick to make copies of pages 14 and 17 for Mike and Kathleen. Tim said this is where they talk about the 5-year plan water line replacement plan and 17 talks about formal agreements with the Township.

Long-term planning is on page 14 regarding the water lines on Creek and Chickagami they recommended major water line replacement. We have 5 years left on the existing water bond. In the next three years start working on the cost so you can work on the finance. We should talk with Dan Fett controller with St. Joseph who handled the last bond placement

on how should we go about this. But start talking with the residents that this replacement will be coming. Nowhere does it stay there is any danger or need for this project to be done know. One error to be corrected on page 12 did not show we replaced pump number 1 which was purchased 1995 and was replaced in 2019 very important to be updated. Tim said after reviewing the report shows no major deficiencies in the system just shows a few recommendations which can be found on page 14 and 17 gives clear on longer term direction for the Village continue improve good water service to their customers. Hats off to Rick we got no deficiencies.

The Village is in good standing.

Tim also mentioned that fire hydrants need to be replace but as we continue update water lines in the Village, we will add the new hydrants.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m. (EST)

Anne Heywood

Michiana Village Clerk