

Village of Michiana Council Meeting

December 13, 2024 at 1:00 pm. EST

The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom.

Roll Call - Council members: Tim McCarthy, Brian Cassidy, Mike Botelho, Nancy Thill and Mike Mumper were present. Also, present were Police Chief Ryan Layman, Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Building Inspector Bill Lambert, Treasurer Tracey McCay, and Clerk Anne Heywood. Present were 7 residents and 4 participated via Zoom.

Nomination of Officers for Council President; Mike Botelho moved to nominate Tim McCarthy as Council President; motion seconded by Brian Cassidy and unanimously approved 5-0. President ProTem; Tim McCarthy moved to nominate Brian Cassidy as President ProTem; motion seconded by Mike Mumper and unanimously approved 5-0.

Additions/Deletions

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – N/A

Pizzo Stewardship for Butterly Garden

Beth Denton, Territory Manager informed the Council that the last part of their stewardship activities was completed. They finished putting down the erosion blanket and pictures were provided. Going forward Pizzo presented a stewardship contract for 2025. Pizzo would continue to service the area where the pollinator garden is located, control invasive and non-native vegetation through hand pulling, brush in cutting, mowing or treatment as needed. They will also promote the native planets through seed collection and dispersal, these services will occur April through November. The contract included time, travel and supplies. Mike Botelho made a motion to approve the contract for one year, and not to exceed \$5,000 and will revisit if this stewardship to see if it needs to continue into 2026; motion seconded by Nancy Thill; there was discussion; a roll call vote was taken 5 aye – 0 nays motion passed.

Minutes – Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2024 Council Meeting; Mike Botelho seconded; Motion was approved by all.

Reports

Building Inspector Report - Bill Lambert report on file – not present

Fire Chief Report – Chief Bendix mentioned that their fund raising for Lucas CPR Machine is doing well since it started at the pancake breakfast in October. At the end of this month, they had raised \$16,000 and the machine cost is \$20,000. Garry was asked about how someone could donate. Garry said contributions should be made out to MSVF, they could be mailed or can be dropped off at the fire station on 911 El Portal and placed in the grey mail box. Garry thanked everyone for their donations and supporting their annual pancake breakfast.

Police Report – Chief Ryan Layman talked about the sign that went up at Stop 40 asking if anyone had any information regarding the vandalism of the 12 trees that were cut down at the beach on the Village property. Tim McCarthy asked the council since there will be

no meeting in January or February if, Ryan should get a break in the case would council give Tim permission to act on behalf of the council. Tim made a motion for permission from council to work with Chief Layman and Village Attorney Sara Senica if decisions needed to be made on the vandalism. Tim would make sure through the police or office keeping the rest of the council informed on any actions taking place. Mike Botelho seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken 5 ayes – 0 nays; motion passed.

Beach Report – Brian Cassidy reminded everyone Beach Stop 37 and 41.5 will remain opened for the season. The stairs at stop 38 are still in. They were buried in the sand about 4ft and too hard to remove. Brian said we are having a problem with the village toters disappearing at a few of the beach stops and will work with Republic to come up with some kind of solution. Brian warned everyone about the danger of walking on ice shelves that form on the water during freezing weather. Brian gave a little tid bit he thought everyone would find interesting that as of today, the lake levels were reported being 7 inches lower this year from what they were last year at this time.

Public Works Report – Rick Reitz said they still a few small piles of leaves left in the Village that needed to be taken care of. Rick said they removed 110 loads of leaves from the Village so far.

Water Report –Mike Mumper said Merritt Engineering is working on the Project Plan for the water project on Creek. We are waiting for AEP to come put fiber glass over the lines outside by the pump house so the new pump can be installed.

Tree Board – Nancy Thill reported AEP was close to finishing up the tree trimming in the Village, they had to move over to Michiana Shores, Indiana because of budgeting issues and will return back to Michiana to finish up once their new budget is approved. Nancy and Rick will work together on removing trees by the butterfly garden down by the creek.

Planning Commission – Mike Botelho reported on behalf of Julie Bonello who was out of town. There will be a letter going out explaining the survey from the council president and on the back a code that would take you directly to the survey monkey. The Planning Task Force, Julie, Kathleen and Karen have been working on the first survey with Marcy from Southwest. Marcy will build the Survey Monkey to be available on the Village website, use the code on the flyer or residents can come in the office for hard copy. They would like the survey to go out in January with the water bills and due back by the either Feb 7 or 14. They would like Anne to send weekly reminders to make sure everyone participates in this survey. Mike Botelho made a motion to move forward with the survey, Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; There was discussion; Mike Mumper said he would like the public safety building to be a separate survey that goes out later so they can keep moving forward with the exploring of the safety building since timing is important and waiting until mid-June for second survey seemed too far out; Council agreed with Mike Mumper this survey should be separate; Motion was approved by all.

Treasurer Report – Tracey McCay gave the treasurer report along with the Pokagon Fund balance of \$45,536. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the treasurer report; Mike Botelho seconded; motion passed. Tracey will be rolling over the next 2 CDs that will be coming due with Huntington 3.5% and Everwise 4.9%. Mike Mumper gave Tracey Honor Credit Union another bank she might want to check for rates.

Clerk Report - Anne Heywood asked the council for approval of the Check Register in the amount of \$112,935.49. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the check register as submitted; motion seconded by Mike Mumper; motion passed. The council amended the HR Manual regarding Medicare to add the word employee and spouse. Anne asked the council for their approval on having another Michiana House Walk on Friday, July 25, 2025. Karen Shoshana would be taking the lead and working on getting homes. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the house walk with funds going towards the renovation of the Hall; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; motion passed. Anne thanked Jan Mathes for new 4 donated game tables for the hall. The hall will be opened during the holiday season for residents to come and enjoy the decorations; hours opened Tuesday, December 17 at 11am -2pm and Friday, December 20th at 4pm – 7pm EST. More dates to be announced on the web-site.

Old Business

1. **Update on Village Hall Renovation** –The Committee is working on getting floor samples and quotes to move forward installing the floor once enough funds have been raised.

New Business

1. Pizzo – Contract for Stewardship for Butterly Garden - Moved up on the agenda.
2. 2023/2024 Audit Completed – Tim said the audit went well thanked Anne and Tracey for making everything run smooth. All reports have been filed with the State and Village is very good standings.

Public Comment –.

Mike Botelho asked the council for a motion to give the employees Monday, December 22, the day off since they were already off for Christmas on Tuesday and Wednesday. Mike Mumper seconded the motion' motion passed.

Linda Stein – Asked if they would be removing the old tile when they install the new. The council said they would lay the floor on the exiting floor.

Kathleen Hogan Morrison – Had concerns about Stop 40 the items sticking out of the sand. The council said they were watching it and will look at it again in the Spring.

Pam Schutt – Mentioned the animals eating the seeds that were planted.

January and February meetings cancelled next meeting will be March 13th.

Meeting adjourned at 3:26 EST

Respectfully submitted

Anne Heywood