

# Michiana Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 8, 2025

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

**Location:** Village of Michiana

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

## Attendance and Roll Call

### Council Members Present:

- Nancy Thill
- Mike Botelho
- Mike Mumper
- Brian Cassidy
- Tim McCarthy

### Others Present:

- Bill Lambert, Building Inspector
- Rick Reitz, Water and Street Superintendent
- Chief Ryan Layman, Police Department
- Tracey McCay, Treasurer
- Anne Heywood, Clerk

### Attendance Summary:

- 15 individuals present in total
- 10 via Zoom

Additions/Deletions – Day Camp 2026 Contract (fee & tennis/pickleball court time)

## Public Comment (on agenda)

There were no public comments relating to the agenda.

## Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes of the July 11, 2025 regular council meeting and the July 25, 2025 special meeting were presented for approval.
- **Motion** by Mike Botelho to approve the minutes as submitted: Seconded by Nancy Thill. Motion passed.

## Reports

### Building Inspector – Bill Lambert

- 26 building permits issued.
- Discussion regarding Stop 43. The Ledgers have EGLE approval but need village authorization to cross village property.

- Attorney Sara Senica prepared a Hold Harmless agreement that will make the contractor and homeowner responsible. Council was in agreement to allow as long as the agreement was signed. Also, upon completion, the Ledgers contractor will work with the Village in restoring the site and assist in cleanup of Stop 43.

### **Fire Department – Chief Garry Bendix (Michiana Shores Volunteer Fire Department)**

- Chief Bendix absent.
- Report on file.

### **Police Department – Chief Ryan Layman**

- Community requests for a traffic light at U.S. 12 and Grand Beach entrance; MDOT conducting a traffic study.
- Thanked Officer Creo Brewster and Officer Heather Crooks for covering overtime while short-staffed.
- Proposed a two-tier police officer hiring incentive: \$5,000 bonus after one year of service, and \$5,000 after two years, for Michiana.

### **Council Action:**

- **Motion** by Mike Botelho to approve a 2-tier level of a short-term incentive of \$10,000. The new officer would receive \$5,000 on their anniversary date of completion of their first year of hire; after their second year of completion, they would receive the other \$5,000 of the incentive package: Seconded by Brian Cassidy. Roll call vote: 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

### **Beach Commission – Brian Cassidy**

- Beaches busy; four new buoys installed.
- Shower parts were ordered, with extras for inventory. Repairs pending.
- It was noted that the fountain parts failing was due to inability to winterize system.
- July 26th Master Plan Open House held successfully. Feedback included concerns about dogs on the beach.
- Reminder: Dogs permitted only during posted hours and must always be kept on a leash.
- Discussion was held regarding reopening Stop 43 which was blocked off after there was vandalism to signs and split rail fencing. Council agreed to reopen the stop so residents could use the area to watch the sunset. The fences will remain in place to prevent beach access, as there is currently no safe way down due to the rocks.
- Emphasis on respect, safety, and lake stewardship.

### **Public Works – Rick Reitz**

- Still waiting for Reith and Riley to pave Lakeshore Drive. Rick will follow up with them again.

### **Water Board – Mike Mumper**

- Reported with all the delays we had with Merritt Engineering the Village terminated their contract.
- Mike and Rick met with Neis Engineering (Hammond, Indiana) and would like hire them to also, oversee the second water grant. To be addressed under New Business.

### **Park – Mike Mumper**

- Park lawn burned due to incorrect seeding and hot weather conditions.
- Mike apologized and is working with Serviscape to correct and restore grass.

### **Tree Board – Nancy Thill**

- Pizzo cleaned butterfly garden, all part the stewardship contract.

- Garden Club will be working with Nancy planting native plants at park triangle near Musical Garden; temporary fencing will be added to protect new growth.
- Tree Board grant paperwork due September; matching contributions completed and timesheets submitted. Gratitude expressed to all volunteers.

### **Planning Commission – Mike Botelho (for Julie Bonello, absent)**

- Planning Workshop was well attended.
- Short-term rentals identified as a primary concern for residents.

### **Council Action:**

- **Motion** by Mike Botelho to adopt a moratorium until January 1, 2026 on new applications for short-term rentals until the Master Plan is complete, with current rentals grandfathered. Seconded by Nancy Thill. There was discussion; Roll call vote: unanimous approval. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer – Tracey McCay**

- Delivered Treasurer's Report.
- Reported balance of \$51,119 in the Pokagon Fund.

### **Clerk – Anne Heywood**

- Presented check register report for approval.
  - **Motion** by Tim McCarthy to accept the check register as submitted for \$118,588.12: Seconded by Mike Botelho: All in favor. Motion carried.
- Announcements:
  - Village “swag” items still available.
  - Upcoming Village Party on August 16, 2025 (BYOB). Menu includes pizza, fried chicken, hot dogs, corn on the cob, coleslaw, pasta salad, watermelon, and dessert from Oinks or Rainbow Ice Cream. 125 RSVPs received.
  - House Walk was a success: 98 tickets sold, raising over \$7,000 (final accounting pending). Appreciation extended to Karen Shoshana, event lead, and committee members Lisa Zirpolo, Jan Mathes, Kori Burland, Anne Heywood, and Tracey McCay.
  - Special thanks to Karen Shoshana for her donation of new sound equipment and iPad for the Village Hall.

### **Old Business**

#### **EGLE Update – Beach Structure**

- Tim McCarthy reported that EGLE is still watching the structure on the beach. A second notice will be issued; if no response, the matter will escalate to another State office. The Village awaits further guidance from EGLE.

### **New Business**

#### **NEIS Engineering Contract**

### **Council Action:**

- **Motion** by Mike Mumper to hire NEIS Engineering to begin work on the second water grant: they would design engineering services to including field survey work, preparation of plans and specifications suitable for competitive bidding, EGLE permitting and assistance during the bid process. Not to exceed \$125,000.00: Seconded by Mike Botelho. Roll call vote: unanimous approval. Motion carried.

## Day Camp Contract 2026

### Discussion:

Representatives from the Day Camp, including President Tina Weaver and Secretary Jenna Feminis, met with council members Tim McCarthy and Mike Botelho to discuss updates to the camp's contract for use of the pickleball courts.

- The Day Camp currently has access to the courts on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They requested an additional day (Wednesday) for use between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. (ET).
- The camp agreed that during the week of June 29 – July 5, one of the busiest weeks of the summer, they would not use the courts and leave them available for public play.
- Tim McCarthy proposed updating the contract to raise the deposit fee from \$300 to \$500.
- It was proposed increasing the rental fee by 14%.

### Council Action:

- **Motion** by Mike Botelho moved to (1) allow the additional court day (Wednesday), (2) exempt camp use during June 29 – July 5 for public play, and (3) increase the deposit and rental fees as noted. Brian Cassidy seconded the motion. Some discussion followed. The motion carried.

### Public Comment

- Maureen Shekleton who was part of the Master Plan Work Force thanked all for attending the Open House and read some of her own highlights.
- Bruce Hirsch and Jurate Landwehr expressed support for a stoplight at U.S. 12 and Grand Beach entrance. Asked how residents could assist by writing to MDOT or state officials.
  - Chief Layman reported he has along with Grand Beach contacted MDOT and all state-level representatives.

### Adjournment

- **Motion** to adjourn made by Mike Botelho: Seconded by Nancy Thill: All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Heywood, Clerk