

Village of Michiana Council Meeting

March 14, 2025 at 1:00 pm. EST

The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom.

Roll Call - Council members: Tim McCarthy, Mike Botelho and Mike Mumper were present. Tim McCarthy excused Nancy Thill and Brian Cassidy. Also, present were Police Chief Ryan Layman, Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Building Inspector Bill Lambert, Treasurer Tracey McCay, and Clerk Anne Heywood. Present were 10 residents and 7 participated via Zoom.

Additions/Deletions - Grant Resolution and Police Survey

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – N/A

Minutes – Mike Botelho made a motion to approve the Council minutes from the December 13, 2024 and the Special Meeting on January 13, 2025. Mike Mumper seconded; Motion was approved by all.

Reports

Building Inspector Report - Bill Lambert said many of the jobs listed are in the process of being completed. (Report on file)

Fire Chief Report – Chief Bendix absent – Tim McCarthy gave the report mentioned that the fire department wanted to thank everyone who donated to the purchase of the Lucas 3 CPR Machine. The fire department has completed their training to use the CPR Machine, it has now been placed on the rescue rig. These new CPR Machines are designed to do all the compressions for you.

Police Report – Chief Ryan Layman talked about the stoplight by the Grand Beach entrance off of Highway 12. MDOT has decided not to install one at that intersection. Ryan said they will look at it again in 5 years. Ryan introduced Brendan Stadler who has been hired by Grand Beach who will be attending the Police Academy this May. Brendan is taking the place of Officer Jamie Flick who retired this winter to become the fulltime Fire Chief for the New Buffalo Township. Ryan is still working on the vandalism of the 12 trees that were cut down at Stop 40 on the Village property. The police have received so more information regarding the trees and ask if anyone knows anything regarding this incident to please their office. Mike Botelho told the Chief that he has the support of the Council to do whatever it takes to solve this case and if he needs to call the Village Attorney for a legal advice. Tim would like to see the beach cleaned up before Memorial Day and plant very large hemlocks where the trees were taken down. Ryan said his Radio Tower which is the base station for all his radios is located in this office and is required by the State to have, is no longer working after 25 years. Ryan would like to purchase a new one for \$2,540. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the purchase of the radio tower; Mike Mumper seconded the motion; motion was approved by all.

Beach Report – Brian Cassidy was excused – Tim McCarthy talked briefly about the beach stops 37 and 43. Tim talked about maybe extending the stairs at Stop 37. At Stop 43 starting maybe to get some prices of a wall with stairs to hold back the sand and place a platform on top with benches. Brian had ordered stickers that will be placed on the

Village garbage toters at the beach stops. The Council is hoping this solution might help from the village toters disappearing from the beach stops.

Public Works Report – Rick Reitz talked about the projects they have been working on this winter around the Village inside and outside, painting, hanging new doors, couple of drywells cleaned, hand the plow fixed, oil changed on the dump truck had some tree work done around the village. The seasonal employee will start June 1st and will be in charge of Parks and Beaches. Rick has requested to have the inmates back to work on a few projects in the Village. Tim reminded the residents that these inmates are part of work program who have to serve time for child support or DUI's. They are accompanied by the Sheriff and it mandatory they have to wear the orange jumpsuits.

Water Report –Mike Mumper said we had to resubmit our second water grant again, he explained that Congress put a pause on all grants. Merritt Engineering is still moving forward with the first water grant and is completing the Project Plan for the water project on Creek. Part of the project plan is the EPA requires a National Historic Preservation study which means to make sure the Village has no above ground historic/architectural resources. This study will also cover the second water grant. Mike Mumper received 2 quotes from Merjent for \$7,450 and Orbis for \$2,105. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve Orbis Environmental Consulting for \$2,105; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed. Mike Mumper reported new 750mp pump has finally been installed in the pump house which is part of the first grant. Mike Mumper said he hopes to have the water contract with Grand Beach ready by the April meeting.

Tree Board – Nancy Thill was excused but was on the zoom call and read report that she had submitted prior to the meeting. Nancy said Brian Gerdes, Line Trim Manger with AEP has completed all work in the village and thanked the residents for their patience and cooperation. Nancy has been working Tracey on budget numbers for trees and working with Rick to get help of the inmates to remove the residual timber in the park by the garden area. Nancy announced as of February 21, 2025 Tree City USA has approved recertification and would like approval to use their logo on our website and letterhead along with the Village logo. Nancy will be working with the Tree Board in consultation with Michiana Day Camp to establish Arbor Day to be held on Thursday, July 10 at 10AM EST. There will be refreshment, Honor Guard & a tree to be planted somewhere in the Village. So please mark your calendar everyone will be invited to come and celebrate.

Planning Commission – Mike Botelho thanked Julie and her team for all their work. Julie Bonello talked briefly about 3 phases for the Master Plan project. 1. The survey and responses, a vision statement. They received 232 responses from the survey. Council along with departments and committee members from the Task Force meant to understanding what the goals were. 2. Holding a workshop this summer inviting the committee to attend. 3. Put together an action plan. Julie would like to ready to finalize their work by October.

Treasurer Report – Tracey McCay gave the treasurer report along with the Pokagon Fund balance of \$47,661. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the treasurer report; Mike Botelho seconded; motion passed. Tracey said the Vehicle CD will be coming due in May

Clerk Report - Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the check register as submitted; motion seconded by Mike Botelho; motion passed. Anne talked about the upcoming Events that will be posted in the Spring Newsletter and on the Village website this summer.

Old Business

- 1. Update on Village Hall Renovation** – Tim McCarthy said the floor is finished and the hearth will be completed next week. Most of the major work is done.

New Business

1. Mike Mumper explained we have been saving for a new tractor for the DPW and Water Department. The existing one is almost 30 years old and costing thousands of dollars for yearly repairs. Rick has received 2 quotes for a John Deere for \$68,789 and Kubota for \$89,210 that he would like to purchase sooner and would come out of next year's budget because it could take 3 to 6 months for delivery. The tractor will also have a backhoe attached for digging water lines and we wouldn't have to pay for an outside service. Mike Mumper said the company with the John Deere is giving the Village \$10,000 trade in on the old tractor. We have \$20,000 in our vehicle reserve and the difference would be paid with the water bond money. The only motion needed would be to cash in our CD that comes mature at the end of May for 20,640 to be used towards the purchase of the tractor. The other 38,149 would be from the Water Bond money. WE would not have to amend the budget. Mike Mumper made a motion to purchase the John Deere tractor using the CD and Water Bond money for \$68,787; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed. Mike Mumper made a motion to cash out of the vehicle CD when it comes mature at the end of May to use towards the purchase of the tractor: Mike Botelho seconded the motion: A roll call vote was taken 4 ayes – 0 nays; motion passed.
2. The Council voted to sell golf stickers only for \$300 to Grand Beach to be allowed to park in the designated parking areas in the Village. This will be a 1-year trail for the 2025 season. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the grand beach golf parking stickers for one year and to revisit next season; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed.
3. The Council stated this year there will be hours posted for the Tennis/Pickleball Court. The hours will be 9am to Dusk. Gates will be locked every night by the police and reopened by DPW in the morning after the courts have been cleaned. Council said these courts belong to the Village of Michiana and no personal property will be allowed to be left in the court area.
4. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the Resolution which is required for the Grant for the Police Safety Building stating both villages Michiana and Grand Beach we're in agreement to co-sponsor and co-sign a proposal for federal funding in order that proposal founding be a joint initiative on behalf of both Villages. is in favor of moving forward with grant; Mike Mumper seconded the motion; motion passed. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the draft police survey that may go out to the residents at later date; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed.
5. Tim McCarthy to public comment before going into Close Session so residents would not have to sit around and wait.

Public Comment –. Kathleen Hogan Morrisson asked that the check register be read out loud. Linda Stein was inquiring if there was any word on the Law suit with New Buffalo Township. Council said waiting on a date from the Supreme Court. Craig Pierson asked where the new Safety Building would be going. The Council said on the frontage road there is about 4 acres from the entrance of Grand Beach that one of their residents donated to the Village.

Tim McCarthy and the Council went into a Closed Session.

Council returned from Close Session at 3:14p.m.

Tim McCarthy made a motion that the Council recommend an hourly rate increase for our 2 fulltime officers as a matter of retention starting April 1st, 2025; Mike Mumper seconded the motion: roll call vote was taken 4ayes – o nays; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:26 EST

Respectfully submitted

Anne Heywood