

## **Michiana Water Authority Meeting – February 27, 2026 at 10:30am**

Present were Tim McCarthy, Mike Mumper, Craig Pierson, Rick Rietz and Clerk Anne Heywood.

Council discussed prior engineering services during the transition from Merrtti. It was noted that the Village did not receive usable materials or any completed work from the firm. A letter was sent (through Sarah our Village Attorney) stating that no payment would be issued due to the lack of deliverables meeting project needs. Anne stated no invoice has been received, and no further communication has occurred aside from a holiday card.

**Grant Funding Update** - The Village received confirmation of \$1 million in grant funding, rather than the originally anticipated \$1.6 million.

Current project funding discussion included:

- \$1,000,000 confirmed from the second grant.
- Approximately \$50,000 remaining in water bond fund.
- Estimated \$70,000 reimbursement anticipated for pump expenses from the first grant.
- Previously planned Village contribution total for both grants would be approximately \$360,000.

Estimated total available funding: approximately \$1.4–\$1.5 million for project completion (reduced from the original \$2 million scope).

**Revised Project Scope** -Based on engineering recommendations:

- Full re-piping of Chickagami is no longer required.
- Water main installation will run end-to-end, with cross-connections installed at intersections for future expansion.
- Proposed connection from Chickagami to Creek near Cherokee for system integration.
- Remaining work includes approximately two and a half streets still requiring completion.

The engineer understands the revised scope and believes the project remains feasible within the updated funding level.

**Bidding Strategy** - Discussion included issuing bids for multiple project components simultaneously in order to:

- Improve contractor pricing.
- Allow one contractor to complete all work.
- Reduce material and mobilization costs.

The initial grant of \$623,000 will cover previously approved areas including Lakeshore Drive and is separate from the revised funding calculations.

**Street Improvements & Act 51 Funding** – Tim McCarthy stated that we have deteriorating street conditions in project areas.

Funding considerations:

- Approximately \$100,000 annually received through Act 51 funds.
- Approximately \$70,000 or more may remain unspent in the current Act 51 budget.
- Additional monthly transportation funds accumulating but must be formally allocated through the budget process.
- Capital improvement funds have already included allocations for Stop 43 improvements.

Potential exists to complete street improvements alongside water infrastructure work depending on available funds.

### **Next Steps**

- Engineer proceeding with permits and grant coordination.
- Prepare bid documents under revised scope.
- Confirm budget allocations (including Act 51 funds).

### **Project Timeline**

Mike Mumper emphasized the need to:

- Coordinate with the project engineer to establish a timeline.
- Proceed with project implementation as soon as permits and logistics allow.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Heywood/Clerk

