

Village of Michiana Council Meeting

September 6, 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 6 participated via Zoom.

Additions/Deletions – Council will hold a Close Session after Public Comment

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – N/A.

Minutes – **Tim McCarthy** made a motion to approve the following minutes: Council Meeting Minutes August 9, 2024, Planning Minutes of August 16, 2024, Tree Board minutes of August 21, 2024 and Tree Board Minutes from August 30, 2024; Nancy Thill seconded; motion passed.

Reports

Building Inspector Report - Bill Lambert reported there were 32 permits to date and the Rosenband permit was almost completed.

Fire Chief Report – Chief Bendix - Absent – Report on file

Police Report - Police Chief Ryan Layman reported there were 76 combined calls.

Beach Report - Brian Cassidy thanked Rick and Josh for the clean-up of 8 trees that came down from the storm during the night that were blocking roads. Brian stated October 15th all kayak and paddle boards needed to be removed from the beach. Brian said they need to meet with EAGLE to see what needs to be done at Stop 43.

Public Works Report - Rick Reitz reported 2 new drywells were installed and have budgeted 2 more to be installed in the later this year or in the Spring. They patched many potholes with hot patch and said it was working better than using cold patch. Leaf pick-up schedule will be announced at next month's meeting.

Water Report – Mike Mumper said the grant for the water project is moving. Since it is Federally funded, we need to be in compliance based on their policies and procedures. The Village engineering firm on this project, Merritt, is working on the bids for phase one. We also need EPA approval for the new pump before it can be installed.

Tree Board – Nancy Thill talked about the new trees purchased through the grant and that they will be planted in the park on September 24th. The Board is working on paperwork for the tree grant that needs to be submitted by September 30th showing how much we spent so far. The grant completion date is September 1, 2025. The Board was looking at maybe resubmitting paperwork for another grant for 2025. Nancy said that AEP has resumed their tree trimming. Arbor Day will take place on Saturday October 5th at 11:00 am. (EST.) please mark your calendar. Everyone is invited to attend.

Planning Commission – Mike Botelho announced the next workshop will be on September 13th from 9-11am EST. Mike also wanted Julie Bonello added to the reports since she will be the Chair person and will report all updates to the Council. Mike made a motion that Sport Courts take another pause for construction until the Master Plan frame work is completed; Tim McCarthy seconded the motion; roll call vote was taken; 5 ayes 0 nays motion passed.

Planning Commission Chair – Julie Bonello gave a rundown on where the planning commissions is at regarding updating the Village Master Plan. They will be talking about and meeting with consultants and what they are looking for from them. They committee agreed to follow the 2005 Master Plan format moving forward. The group will be working on putting together a letter of intent and drafting an RSP letter that will go out to potential consultants.

Treasurer Report – Tracey McCay gave the treasurer report and stated we have not received a new statement from the Pokagon Fund so the balance is still \$43,329. Tracey asked the council if they could amend the CD rate from 4% to 3.75% since the rates are coming down a with a few CD's maturing this would enable her to make financially sound decisions using what is available to us as the rates continue to drop. Tim McCarthy made a motion to amend the rate to 3.75% Nancy Thill seconded the motion; roll call vote was taken; 5 ayes, 0 nays; motion passed.

Clerk Report - Anne Heywood asked the council for approval of the Check Register in the amount of \$162,192.46. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the check register as submitted for \$162,192.46; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed. Anne reminded everyone about the October 5th Fall Fest.

Old Business

- 1. Update on Village Hall Renovation** – Tim McCarthy said the committee has staged the area by the fireplace for seating. The goal is to create a community center where any resident can come down and use the Village Hall, during office hours, for wi-fi access, read a book, play a board game or just hangout and chat. The new lighting and fans will be installed the week of September 16th. The fixtures were purchased with the money raised from the House Walk. Thank you to everyone again who participated and worked on making this happen. We are selling the historical wooden wagon wheel lighting for \$150 each and all proceeds will go back into the fund for the renovation of the Village Hall. We have sold 4 already and have 8 left if anyone is interested. The first order of the new Michiana posters will be ordered and arrive at the end of the month. The office will place orders for the posters each month as they come in. If any resident is interested, all the prints can be viewed on the website or in person at the Village Hall. Proceeds from a portion of the sale of prints will also go into the Hall renovation fund.
- 2. Update on the Park's Lawn** – Mike Mumper has been working with contractors to have the park lawn redone the correct way. We will be putting in an irrigation system and grading and hydro-seeding the lawn. Mike has been working on this project and has everything lined up and ready to go in the next week. Timing is very important due to weather. Nancy Thill informed Mike Mumper that she has been working for 2 years with Beth from Pizzo on the area over the creek to make it more natural with plants that attract butterflies. Mike said he would work with Nancy on that area and marking where

the new trees will be planted along the split rail fence. A resident who would like to remain anonymous reached out to Mike Mumper and will be making a substantial donation to the great lawn project in the park. Mike will be using the donations towards the lawn upgrade and utilizing additional funds that have been budgeted in the capital improvements for the park. Mike Mumper made a motion to approve the 2 proposals he had for the irrigation being done by Down to Earth \$19,000 and Serviscape for \$20,260 regrading, leveling and hydroseeding the park; Tim McCarthy seconded the motion; it was opened for discussion; Mike Mumper amended his motion not to exceed a total of \$40,000 a roll call vote was taken 5 ayes 0 nays; motion passed. Mike said project area will be fenced off once the work begins and closed until Spring to allow for the new grass to seed and grow properly. The playground and pickleball court will remain open but the entrance for the courts will be along the front of Cherokee and playground through the basketball area. The Council asked that everyone stay out of the park area where it has been hydro-seeded.

New Business

1. **Update Police Contract** – Contract looked good with some minor changes. Ryan will have Grand Beach review it as well and have both Village Councils prepare to review and vote to approve at the October meetings.
2. **Security Camera's – Tim McCarthy made a motion** to approve Omni Systems to install security camera's around the Village and Park not to exceed \$8,000; Brian Cassidy seconded the motion; discussion, Tim McCarthy said it is sad that we have to do this but we have a great investment in the park and hall and have had some vandalism already; a roll call vote was taken 5 ayes 0 nays; motion passed.
3. **Closed Session per a letter from the Village Attorney** – (Council only) Tim McCarthy moved up Public Comment in case residents didn't want to wait around until the council came back into session.

Correspondence – N/A

Public Comment – Julie Bonello said once we have a Master Plan some of these larger projects can be put into a 1 or 5-year plan to work with Council and the Planning Commission. Al Ancel asked about how the lawn will be maintained and cost. Mike Mumper said nothing really new from what we currently are doing. The irrigation system will be set on timers and zones. Mike said different types of seeds have been planted for sun and shade. Mike said he will be overseeing this project to make sure by summer we will continue to be able to use the new green built areas for events and recreation.

TJ made a motion to go into close session per the letter from the Village Attorney; Mike Botelho second the motion; motion passed. The motion read as follows:

"I make a motion under Section 8(H) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to go into closed session to consider an attorney-client privileged letter from our counsel, which is exempt from public disclosure."

Council returned to open session at 3:50p.m. Tim McCarthy said due to retention and appreciation and discussions with the Village Attorney Sara Senica, the Council would like to implement a 9% raise of total salary budgeted for the Department of Works and Village Office at this time. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the 9% total of the salary

budgeted for the 2 departments to take effect on the following payroll once each employee has met with a member of the Council; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed.

Next meeting will be Friday October 11th. The time of the meeting will be changed to 12:00pm EST.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. EST

Respectful submitted,

Anne Heywood/Clerk