

Village Council Meeting

Friday, May 8th, 2026

1:00 P.M. EST

Call to Order - Roll call was taken: Tim McCarthy, Mike Bumper, Mike Bothelo, and Brian Cassidy were present. Nancy Thill was excused. Also Present was Police Chief Ryan Layman, Superintendent Rick Reitz, Treasurer Tracey McCay and Clerk Anne Heywood. There were 15 residents present and 7 participated on line.

Tim McCarthy welcomed everyone in attendance and extended appreciation to the council and staff. Special Mother's Day wishes were offered to all mothers present, with hopes for a wonderful weekend.

Tim asked everyone to silence all cell phones and electronic devices. He reviewed the public comment procedures, noting there would be two public comment periods: Comments related specifically to agenda items and public comment at the end can be on any General topic.

Agenda Additions - Addition to New Business - Resident Dan Durkin will provide a presentation to the council regarding a proposed "Salon for Michiana."

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only) -N/A

Approval of Minutes - Mike Bothelo made to approve the minutes as presented; Council Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2026 and Special Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes preceding the April 10, 2026 meeting.; motion seconded by Mike Mumper; Motion passed.

Building Report – Building Inspector Bill Lambert – Absent

New Buffalo Township Fire Department Report - Fire Chief Jamie Flick provided the report for the Buffalo Township Fire Department. April Activity, 22 calls for service during April there were 99 calls year-to-date. No major incidents occurred during the month. Fire Chief Flick talked about a few items: Community Outreach & Recruitment which they participated in at Buffalo High School to encourage firefighter recruitment. Chief Flick was excited to announce the arrival of their New Fire Truck being delivered by late May or early June. The department plans to hold a traditional "push-in ceremony" once the truck arrives. He also stated to have 3 certified EMTs by early next year. The Community Connect & Smoke Detector Program the department continues promoting this program and smoke detector initiative.

Police Report Chief Layman reported one of our new cadets Megan Bunker graduated from the academy last week and Tyler our other new cadet is half with the academy and doing well. Ryan stated that we have 39 STR with one opening. Ryan said at the last police safety committee meeting the property where the new police safety building a survey for wetlands was done. The next police safety committee meeting will be Friday, June 12th. Please check the website for time, location and agenda. Chief introduced Officer David Hockenhull a full-time officer with New Buffalo Police Department for the past 10 years. Ryan would like to hire Officer Hockenhull as one of our part-time

officer to cover shifts when needed. Mike Bothelo asked Ryan if he had chance to see how much another Flock camera would cost and had a placement for it. Ryan said the cost would be \$3,300 and would like to place it at East Court and Ponchartrain.

Beach Report – Brian Cassidy reported the new fire rings for bonfires have installed at all the beach access points. He reminded the residents that bonfires permits are available this year for a fee of \$25. Council discussion enforcement, cleanup requirements, and responsibilities associated with the newly implemented beach bonfire permit program. Discussion focused on whether the current \$25 permit fee is sufficient or if an additional refundable cleanup deposit should be required. Council acknowledged that effective enforcement will be a critical to the success of the program. Following discussion, council consensus was to continue with the current permit structure and monitor the program as it is implemented and revisit the topic at the July meeting. Few other notes listed:

- Include reminder language in the next village newsletter outlining expectations and responsibilities for bonfire permit holders.
- Bonfires are permitted only within designated fire rings.
- Fires outside approved areas would require enforcement action.
- Existing beach rules already note permit requirements.
- Reminder No garbage cans will be placed at beach stops this year except during holiday weekends. So, please bring plastic bags to take garbage home.

Brian reported all the stair installations at the beach access stops have been completed. He noted that the beach at Stop 43 is finally returning and looking good. Council is moving forward with improvements at Stop 43 and hopes to have the access open for the season.

The project includes installing larger drywell, and constructing a retaining wall to hold back the sand, with steps leading up to an 80-foot boardwalk and stairs descending to the beach. The final phase of the project will include paving all of East Court. Brian received a quote from John Yanz for construction of the boardwalk and stairs to the beach. Council contacted Mr. Yanz because the previously completed work at Stop 37 and the new Stop 40. Council members expressed satisfaction with both the quality of his craftsmanship and his work ethics. Brian made a motion to approve the quote from John Yanz for \$33,000 for the construction of the boardwalk and stairs at Stop 43, and not to exceed \$35,000; Mike Bothelo second the motion: roll call vote was taken, resulting in four yeas and zero nays. Motion passed.

Brian also reported that he has scheduled a meeting with Donkersloot & Sons to obtain a quote for the removal of exposed metal at Stop 40. The metal is believed to be from a house that fell into the lake many years ago and has become exposed due to the shifting sand conditions.

Public Works/Water Report – Rick Reitz Street Superintendent, reported that he and Josh have completed the spring leaf pick-up throughout the Village. They also filled potholes, stained the stairs at Stop 39 & 40, installed the fire rings at the beach stops, and reinstalled all the drinking fountains at the stops. In addition, they placed the flower pots at the beach accesses, cleaned up sticks, and debris in the park, and mulched around the trees in the park. Rick reported that he completed the monthly meter readings and prepared all required monthly operating reports, cross-connection reports, water quality reports, and weekly bacteria testing. He also spent considerable time preparing the site at Stop 43 and completing related preliminary work.

Council Member Mike Mumper complimented Rick on another well-prepared report and thanked him for his continued dedication and hard work on behalf of the Village. Additional recognition was given to Rick for his recent training and certification efforts related to water safety operations. It was noted that he attended several days of classes over the past month and successfully completed two certification examinations totaling approximately five hours. Council expressed appreciation for his commitment to maintaining safe and reliable water operations while also preparing village facilities for the summer season.

Water Department Report – Mike Mumper reported ongoing difficulties related to the water project and the approval process involving the EPA and EGLE. Mike Mumber said that EPA approval is required before water bids can go out and NIES is finalizing the bids for the EPA to review, also NIES will be submitting the plans to EGLE for the permit since this process takes about 3 weeks.

Rick reported that a generator-related maintenance issue is being addressed in the pump house. The repair work may require a brief overnight water shutdown. Backup systems are in place to help avoid a boil water advisory. Residents will be notified through the village email blast and website before any work takes place.

Parks Report - The tennis and pickleball courts are expected to close temporarily the following week for: crack repair, surface maintenance and painting. The weather conditions have delayed the work, as extended dry weather is required for completion. Notices will be posted both online and at the courts.

The first Concert in the Park is scheduled for Sunday, May 24. Council reminded residents that: The courts will close during concerts. The temporary closure allows visitors and performers to enjoy the event respectfully. Advance signage and website notices will be provided.

Park updates included: overseeding and fertilization work being done to the lawn, mulching and seasonal maintenance is being done. The Pavilion scraping and repainting assistance from the inmates. Council expressed satisfaction with the overall progress and appearance of the park. Mike reminded everyone driving pass the park in the evenings to notice the lighting has recently been illuminated in pink in recognition of Mother's Day and will transition to red, white, and blue themes in celebration of the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary observances. New signage has been installed at the pickleball courts outlining: Court rules, expected behavior standards and resident-use policies. All courts have now been numbered, and two courts have been designated specifically for resident use.

Tree Board Report

Tim read Nancy Thill report in her absence. The first Tree Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 21, 2026. The state urban forestry administrator was consulted regarding a resident request to top trees. As a designated Tree City USA community, it is unlawful to "top" any public tree as per the village tree ordinance. The board thanked the resident for consulting with the village before proceeding and appreciated the opportunity to research proper forestry practices. A report was received regarding treatment efforts for poison hemlock in the butterfly garden area resumes for its 6th season. Recommendations included: Continued treatment efforts, soil sampling and testing and potential soil supplements to improve plant growth.

Volunteer Stewardship Program coordination is underway with the Beach Garden Club to establish long-term stewardship and educational programming for village gardens and landscaped areas. Nancy will be looking for additional volunteers, more info to follow. Arbor Day Celebration will be celebrated on Monday, July 6th at: 9:30 a.m. Central Time 10:30 a.m. Eastern Time. The event will include: Participation from the Boy Scouts, Camp involvement, Tree planting and Refreshments.

Planning Commission – Mike Botelho reported that 1st Draft of the 2026 Master Plan received a stamp of approval from our Village Attorney Sara Senica. Mike thanked the group for getting this task done which took a year in half to complete. The Draft of the Master Plan will be uploaded to the Village website; for the residence to review. The Master Plan has to be posted and letters must go out to surrounding neighborhoods informing them of our Master Plan. Once the Master Plan has been posted for 63 days the Council will then adopt and approve the Master Plan.

Treasurer Report – Tracey McCay reported the CD's the Village opened in 2023 has made \$82,000 interest. The Pokagon Fund had \$56,000. Tim McCarthy approved the treasurer report and Council thanked Tracey for the update on the CD's.

Clerks Report – Anne Heywood asked for check register approval for \$76,174.89, Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the check register as submitted for \$76,174.89; Mike Botelho seconded the motion; motion passed. Anne reminded the residence parking, golf and watercraft stickers are available to purchase. Anne thanked the residents again for stepping up so quickly to adopt the planters at the beach stop and Tim McCarthy for his 15th year donating the hanging baskets on the porch.

Old Business

1. Update on Removal of Concrete Pillars on Beach – Tim McCarthy said that the homeowner has started removing the four pillars of the eight post have been removed. There are still four post left in the sand buried from the sand. Council will follow up with them to make sure they get taken out.
2. Update on the Trees taken down on Village Property along Lake Shore Drive – Tim McCarthy said it was still under investigation.

New Business

1. Dan Durkin resident of the Village would like to experiment with the use the Village Hall to host a "Conversation Salon" a way for people to meet each other. Dan said he would be in charge and like to see if this is something the community would be interested in. He explained how it works and what to expect: small group conversation over tea and coffee, simple conversation of topics Dan would create, judgment free environment. Council told Dan that he could use the hall to host 2 meetings at no charge to allow Dan to get this started and see if there would be interest from the residents. Council told him to work with Anne scheduling his meetings.
2. Mike Botelho made a motion to approve the final draft of the Master Plan to be posted for 63 days; Mike Mumper seconded the motion a roll call vote was taken; Four yeas and zero nays. Motion passed.

3. Tim McCarthy made a motion to amend budget \$58,200 for Speed Trailer, New Police Car, Maintenance of courts, and Police Safety Building. Tim explained that money was in the exiting budget but stated things were things that came up during the year. Mike Mumper seconded the motion; Motion passed.
4. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the 3% Salaries for 2026-2027 budget by Resolution, Mike Botelho seconded the motion; roll call was taken four yeas and zero nays: Motion passed.
5. **Closed Session** – Tim explained that the Council was going into a closed session regarding Personnel Issue. Council resumed in 15 minutes.
6. Tim McCarthy made a motion to hire and approve the salary of Part-Time Officer Dave Honkerhull; Mike Mumper seconded the motion; motion passed.
7. Tim McCarthy made a motion to approve the first reading of 2026-2027 budget which will be available to review in the Village Office; Mike Botelho seconded the motion a roll call vote was taken; Four yeas and zero nays; Motion passed.

Correspondence – N/A

Public Comment – N/A

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Heywood/Clerk