

## **Village Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** November 14<sup>th</sup> , 2025

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 est by President Tim McCarthy.

**Roll Call:** Present: Tim McCaythy, Brian Cassidy, Mike Botelho, Nancy Thill, and Mike Mumper. Also present were: Police Chief Layman, Fire Chief Flick, Building Inspector Bill Lambert, Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Treasurer Tracey McCay. President Tim McCarthy excused Clerk Anne Heywood.

### **Public Comment**

- No public comments were made during the first public comment period.

### **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

- Old Business: Cutting of The Trees at Stop 40
- New Business: Wreaths Across America – Mike Mumper

**Nomination of Officers:** Council President; Mike Mumper moved to nominate Tim McCarthy as Council President; motion seconded by Mike Botelho and unanimously approved 5-0. President ProTem; Tim McCarthy moved to nominate Brian Cassidy as President ProTem; motion seconded by Nancy Thill and unanimously approved 5-0.

Tim McCarthy made a motion to reappoint the following positions:

### **Village appointments for 2026:**

- Village Clerk - Anne Heywood
- Village Treasurer - Tracey McCay
- Department of Public Works Superintendent – Rick Reitz
- Police Chief – Ryan Layman
- Building Inspector – Bill Lambert
- Village Attorney – Sarah Senica
- Code Enforcement Official – Ryan Layman (Rentals)

Motion carried unanimously to approve 5-0.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Motion by Tim McCarthy, second by Mike Botelho, to approve the following minutes:
  - Council Meeting – October 10, 2025
  - STR Workshop – October 10, 2025
- Motion carried unanimously.

### **3 Agenda Items Moved Before Reports:**

#### **Planning Commission**

Julie Bonello presented the completed Master Plan Draft from her committee to the Council to be reviewed.

## Water Project

Derek Snyder from NEIS Engineering spoke on how the surveying was on track for the Water Project to break ground in the Spring. He reminded everyone that this was a 2 phase project but it was possible for 1 company to take both bids.

## Butterfly Garden

Beth Denton from Pizzo gave a presentation and a slide show explaining the rate of growth for an area similar to the Village's. Beth asked that we renew the stewardship with Pizzo for the next year. Beth was asked by the council to write up a formal proposal that can be voted on at the December meeting.

## Reports

### *Building Inspector – Bill Lampert*

- 42 permits have been issued so far this year and 9 of those were issued in October.
- The 2 projects still open from the 2024 year are coming to a close within days.
- No issues reported.

### *Fire Department – Report given on behalf of Gary Bendifx*

- Michiana Shores responded to 5 (alarms going off) in Michiana.

### *New Buffalo Township Fire Department – Chief Jamie Flick*

- Township responded to 40 calls in October (11 in Grand Beach/Michiana area).
- There has been an uptick in Carbon Monoxide alarms with furnaces turning on.
- The 2 new recruits have been doing a lot of training in the area if you see the trucks out.
- Upcoming events:
  - Polar Plunge for Special Olympics- February 7<sup>th</sup> in Stevensville
  - The NBFD already has a team and is taking donations for the Special Olympics.

### *Police Department – Chief Ryan Layman*

- 53 calls for October.
- Ryan has 2 interviews scheduled for the positions in his department one in Michiana and the other in Grand Beach. Representatives from Michiana and Grand Beach will assist in interviewing the candidates.
- Reminder: If you would like to request Winter property checks, you can sign up on the Village website. Ryan thanked the residents who have already signed up.

### *Beach Report – Brian Cassidy*

- This is a slow time of year. Stops 37 and 41.5 will still have beach access.
- Some stairs, the flower pots, and garbage cans have been removed from the stops.
- Working on a solution for the showers at the stops. Still searching for the right product to fit our parameters. The mechanisms that allow the shower to run then shut itself off are the same ones that freeze and break.

*Public Works – Rick Reitz*

- The biggest undertaking now is picking up leaves around the Village. Have leaf piles at the edge of the road. Leaf collection ends the first week in December.

*Water Report – Mike Mumper*

- Moved to front of the agenda (Derek from NEIS)

*Parks Report – Mike Mumper*

- There was a significant recovery on the turf grass in the park. Will be doing fall clean up and a late fall fertilization to get things started for the Spring season.
- The nets on the courts are going to be loosened so if there is a freeze they won't pull the poles out of the ground.

*Tree Board – Nancy Thill*

- Working on the Tree City USA recertification.
- Rick, with the help of the inmates, removed 4 Trees of Heaven by the Butterfly Garden.
- Nancy spoke in support of having Pizzo continuing their stewardship.
- Aside from squirrel invasion, the garden planted near the playground by the Beach Garden Club is doing nicely.

*Treasurer's Report – Tracey McCay*

- Motion passed to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.
- 3 of the Village CDs will be maturing this winter. Treasurer requested to roll over the December 9<sup>th</sup> CD at the best rate possible for a short term to allow for more time to research banks with higher rates.

*Clerk's Report – Ann Heywood -given by Tim McCarthy*

- Tim McCarthy made motion to approve the check registry as submitted in the amount of \$70,046.37: Motion carried unanimously to approve.

**Old Business:**

**Update from EGLE**

- The structure at 41.5 has been taken down but the concrete supports remain. EGLE is still pursuing the issue of removal of concrete pillars as is our Village Attorney Sara Senica.

**Pickleball Tournament**

- The Village was given the \$6000 check with instructions to fix the courts in the spring.
- Question posed: Do we want to continue allowing the Pickleball tournament to take place on our courts? Tim McCarthy made a motion to not allow Pickleball tournament, Nancy Thill amended the motion to say no pickleball tournaments or any other future tournaments in the park. Mike Bothelo seconded the

motion; there was discussion; Roll call vote was taken 3 council members agreed to motions, 2 were not in favor of the motion: motion passed there would be no more tournaments in the park.

## Short-Term Rentals

- The Council and the Village Attorney are still working on the short-term rental ordinance. The goal is to have it ready by the December Council Meeting.

## Update on the Police Station

- Hopefully in December public meetings will reopen and we will be moving forward with applying for a federal grant to build a station. The deadline to submit that grant is March.

## Tree cutting at Stop 40

- Motion made by Tim McCarthy to give the Village Attorney permission to begin legal proceedings, motion was seconded by Nancy Thill, Motion carried unanimously.

### *Wreaths Across America Mike Mumper*

Mike wanted to talk about the organization called *Wreaths Across America*. They've been around about 25 years and started with a company in Maine that does Christmas trees and wreaths. They had all these wreaths left over, and they didn't know what to do with them. So, they ended up putting them in a truck and driving them down to Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C., and put them at all the graves at Arlington Cemetery. Wreaths Across America, now they have 4,000 cemeteries that they service during the holiday, and they put wreaths around our veterans' graves. Mike asked if anyone was interested in volunteering or would like to donate a wreath for \$17 he had a sign-up sheet; and QR code if you want to sponsor a wreath. If you want to volunteer, it is December 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 o'clock. Volunteers come out, they take the wreath, go to the veteran's grave, say their name, say a little thank-you, and put the wreath by the grave. There is also the website you can go to for more information: [www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/MI/Piney](http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/MI/Piney). Mike thanked Tim for giving him a platform as a member of our community, not as a council member.

## Public Comment

- **Caroline Rogers** would like everyone to know that the Village has failed in communicating with her about the structure her family built on the beach. The Village did communicate a stop work order in April and work continued, it was then turned over to EGLE.
- **Maureen Sheckleton** was wondering if someone could donate on behalf of the Butterfly Garden. Nancy said yes donation would be wonderful for the Butterfly Garden.
- **Roxanne Martino** was wondering if there was a list of seeds preferred for the butterfly garden. Nancy Thills directed Roxanne to the website under trees. She also inquired if the Village had any land the police station could be built on. Ryan said there is no land available in the Village.

Tim McCarthy made a motion to adjourn at 3:00 p.m. EST

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey McCay/Treasurer