**VILLAGE OF MICHIANA**

**Special Council Meeting**

**Thursday, November 18, 2021**

**9:00 a.m. (EST)**

The meeting was held by zoom and in person at the Village Hall. Mike Mintz called to meeting to order, Mike Mintz asked Kathleen Hogan Morrison to run the meeting on his behalf since he was still recovering from health issues, Linda Stein, Joann Fisher, and Phil Bonello were present. Also present were Water Street Superintendent Rick Reitz, Anne Heywood Clerk and 6 Village resident present and 10 on zoom.

Purpose of the Meeting:

Kathleen Hogan Morrison explained there are only 2 items on the agenda only these 2 items that can be discussed:

1. Bid proposal for Stop 39 there are three things we need to do; first is to protect Lake Shore Drive second, we need to stabilize the dune from any further erosion and last to protect what beach we have left.
2. To discuss water increases, water rates, tap fees, and Ready to Serve Charge.

Kathleen started with Stop 39 which has been discussed at the last three council meeting. The current status at Stop 39 the dune has continued to erode and we are concerned about endangering Lake Shore Drive and the infrastructure. Kathleen said we could do nothing and run the risk if we have another bad winter, it could cause Lake shore drive to collapse or we can sit back and wait until Spring and hope winter has no challenges and nothing happens. In any event I believe the council would like to move forward. Kathleen has collected estimates for this project. Kathleen has been in contact with Zach from EGEL.

If we want the work done, we will need to start this project within the month due to weather. The contractors have stated they can work in cold weather but once the dune gets icy, they will have to stop work. Kathleen stated the Village has chosen to use sand bags or trap bags at Stop 39 since it’s surrounded by boulders and steel walls on each side. By looking at the size and shape of Stop 39 it appears it may always have a cove. The second part of this project will take place in the Spring this would be putting in backfill, planting of dune grass and maybe if possible, putting back the beach access.

Kathleen read a summary from each proposal:

1. Steps to Last from Grand Rapids their estimate is $48,000 to use sandbags filled with our beach sand, pile 2 or 3 rows high. He would not be clearing the debris that is on the beach which consist of concrete and rocks but will put some type of strong material around the debris before putting down the sandbags. He also makes it clear there are no guarantees and that the work is to protect the dune on a temporary basis. He would like a survey of our property or written consent from the two homeowners that are located on each side of the Village property. Kathleen stated she has spoken with the Judy Purze and has been in contact with Robert Buford’s office and felt there would be no problem getting their signature on this project since the Village worked with them when they did their revetment work.
2. Superior Groundcover from Grand Rapids their estimate is $50,000 to install 2 rows of sandbags. They would bring in the sand by trucks and fill the sandbags on the side of the road and wouldn’t have to access the beach. The proposal does not include any clearing of beach concrete and debris. He did include additional options for Spring to include full backfill of sand for entire dune and dune grass planting amount not quoted at this time. His proposal requires clearance from EGLE.
3. Save Our Shores from South Haven came in at $288,000 but then revised his estimate for the same work $158,000 which is 6 stacked rows of sandbags 3 rows at base, 2 rows in middle and 1 row on top. His estimate did not include clearing of the debris.
4. North Shore Property Solution of Pentwater his estimate is for $34,300 which includes $8,300 for site preparation by using medium size excavator and a bobcat to clear concrete with the goal of clearing area where the sandbags will be placed without destabilizing the dune; and $26,000 for the installation of double wrapped trap bags and scour skirt protection. They will use the sand from the beach. Kathleen did ask if they could haul in their own sand so they didn’t have to access the beach. Caleb said yes, they could bring in their own sand and it would be at the same price as quoted above. They also asked for EGLE approval.

Kathleen stated 2 residents in the Village Martha Forsyth and Casey Ginther at stop 43 had used North Shore Property Solution and they highly recommended the Village of Michiana pick this company.

Kathleen asked the council if they had any questions; Joann asked that the estimate from North Shore price increased for hauling in their own sand, Kathleen stated the price was the same as quoted above. Linda asked if the sizes of bags were all the same and how would they enter onto the beach. Kathleen said these are 50-foot lengths bags and would use a part of dune to access along the side. Joann wanted to thank the previous council and this council for having money in the reserve for this type of emergency. Joann said otherwise, we would have to assess each homeowner in order to pay for this project.

Kathleen asked for questions from the residents: Jurate Landwehr from Ponchartrain wanted to know if all the companies were using the same number of bags going up the dune and if they thought those were enough rows for the splash of the waves. Kathleen stated that out of the 4 companies that she talked with 3 of the 4 said that 2 or 3 rows was enough for this project. There was talk about the colors of the bags it was stated that they are black bags.

Lorin Brown from Stop 43 said you can see the way the area has been cut out by the wave action at stop 39. Rusty Bruesch also stated he has been watching the lake and has noticed sandbars forming at the different stops but nothing at Stop 39.

Linda Stein made a motion to use Proposal number 4 Caleb from North Shore Property Solution in the amount of $34,300, Phil Bonello seconded there was discussion from Mike Mintz to have a little more put in as a buffer since this was just an estimate, Linda Stein revised the motion not to exceed $40,000 to stabilize the dune at Stop 39, Mike Mintz seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken; motion passes.

Kathleen said the second item of business was the discussion of water increases. This was presented at the last meeting and the water board meeting. Kathleen wanted to repeat the information so everyone has it. This will be on the December agenda.

1. Rick would like to raise the **Water Rate** from $4.00 to $4.10 per 1,000 gal.

The main reason the cost of material for example there is a large price of acid that is used in the chlorination project. The average home pays about $60.00 for water the cost increase would be $1.50.

1. **Tap Fee** would like to raise new tap fees from $2,200 to $2,800. Homeowners will also be responsible for the cost of boring under the street if needed. Basically, this will only affect anyone building a new home or residents that want a bigger meter. Due to cost of materials having gone up Copper for example has doubled.
2. **Ready to Serve Charge** will only effect about 10% of the homeowners. More than 98 % of the residents have a ¾ meter so the Ready to Serve charge will remain the same $25.00 a month - $75 quarterly. There will be no increase.

**The homes with larger Meters will go up accordingly**:

Ready to Serve Charge for only residents with the following size meters: a. 1-inch meters $32.50 a month – quarterly $97.50

 b. 1.5-inch meters $50.00 a month - quarterly $150.00

 c. 2-inch meters $65.00 a month – quarterly $195.00

These increases are due to materials cost, system usage. Rick would like these increases to go into effect in January. Kathleen again stated we will put this on the agenda for December to discuss and voted on. Linda Stein asked when the last increase was, Rick said the increase was 2015. There were only a few questions. Rusty said if we already have a larger meter would this affect them. Rick said yes it will affect whoever has a larger meter and going forward if someone wants to install a larger meter whether building or wanting to upgrade their existing meters. Again, most of the Village has a ¾ meter so there will be no change in the ready to serve charge.

Meeting adjourned at 10am EST

Respectfully submitted

Anne Heywood