

VILLAGE OF HONOR
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2022

Meeting Called to Order by President Sandman at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: recited.

Moment of Silence observed for Susan Leone.

Roll Call: Council- Ward, Sandman, Sternburgh, Denoyer; Present. Leone; Absent
Staff- Reed, Goodman, Adkins, Sessions; Present. Naulty; Present.

Comments on Agenda: None

Approval of Agenda: Correct date to read February 14 2022. Addition under Correspondence; add Incoming #2, Audit Letter; #3 Saffron response letter; #4 Dustin Wolpoff/IT work. Motion by Ward/Denoyer to approve amended agenda; all ayes, motion passed. Leone; absent.

Approval of Minutes: President Sandman adds under old business; He has researched replacement vehicles and provided several options, and found one available that fit our needs. Motion by Sternburgh/Ward to approve January 10, 2022 Council minutes as amended; all ayes motion passed. Leone; absent.

Guests/Presentations: None.

Zoning Administrator: Rosemary Naulty reported a Special Land Use Permit submitted by True North for a gas station/convenience store at the old Buds location. The process is moving along, they have gotten necessary permits from DEQ, etc. Mr. Turner was at their P/C meeting with plans and drawings. P/C will be holding a public hearing on the SLUP tentatively scheduled for March 16 at 6:00pm. The Planning Commission is working with True North on all phases of construction as well as ‘closing up’ of the current station location and she will keep the Village Council informed.

She has issued a citation and fine for Ross property. The fine was paid, but she has not noted any remediation efforts, so she is continuing this process through 85th district court. She will keep the Council updated.

County Commissioner/Fire Chief: Tim Markey reported Benzie County commissioners are working on a list of goals for the County Administration. Headley rollback will not be on the ballot until at least 2023. They are working on language for county millage renewals to be on August ballot. There are employment opportunities at the county level. They are also looking

into an IT and phone update for the Government building along with possible reconfiguration of departments and locations to alleviate crowding.

The County Commissioners are discussing employment opportunities in the area; also helping to implement some trade-type classes, and affordable housing in the area. Also considering the issue of daycare for local workers, including those in the Government Center.

Markey also reported that the County Planning Commission has been decommissioned at this time. President Sandman expressed disappointment in that decision and would like to see it reinstated, as he believes it could be beneficial to smaller communities within the county.

Chief Markey reported the new brush truck will be delivered on Wednesday, Feb 16. It is the first vehicle of this type in Michigan.

During 2021, they logged 412 runs, up from 306 in 2020. This includes 73 runs in December 2021 alone. He is in talks with Homestead Township regarding department space, and is also looking into additional staffing.

Early in the month, they participated in ice water training with the Coast Guard and other surrounding EMS departments.

Treasurer's Report: Bank report presented by Goodman. Motion by Ward/Sternburgh to accept report. Roll Call: Ayes; Sandman, Sternburgh, Ward, Denoyer; Nays none; Leone, absent; motion passed.

Submission of Bills/Checks: Presented by Reed, motion to accept by Sternburgh/Denoyer. Roll Call: Ayes; Sandman, Sternburgh; Ward, Denoyer. Leone absent; motion passed.

Correspondence:

Incoming: Five letters received from Harold Saffron: *Thank You & Bitch, more bitch, \$20,000 Bids, Planning & Zoning Book, Request for new truck information.* Council discussed content and spirit of the letters and will look into options for proper replies.

Received e-mail from Gabridge noting increase in audit fee this year. Stated they would like to bid for services if we decide to solicit them. Council agreed to gather information/bids from two additional firms.

Response letter addressing Saffron complaints discussed above.

Received notice from Dustin Wolpoff that he will be limiting his availability for IT work. We will continue sing him and working around his availability.

Outgoing: None

Old Business:

a. Ward reported we will be reconfiguring sewer rates as part of the current sewer improvement project and at that time, we should look into possible options for auto-pay for our residents convenience.

b. Ward presented additional information regarding the estimate from Beckett/Raeder for their assistance with RRC paperwork needed to continue with NEDC. The estimate is from

approximately \$15,000, noting up to 75% is reimbursable. This is very important for our community to stay up to date with these services in order to be in place for grant monies for Homestretch and continuing improvements to our downtown. We will also coordinate our efforts with HARP as much as possible. Motion by Sandman/Sternburgh to approve estimate/contract with Beckett/Raeder. Roll Call: Ayes; Denoyer, Sternburgh, Sandman, Ward; Leone, absent; motion passed.

New Business:

- a. Motion by Sandman/Ward to declare Leone council seat vacated. All ayes, motion passed.
- b. Motion by Sandman/Ward to approve up to \$100 for publishing ad for two weeks in local paper seeking interest in vacant council seat, with term ending November 2022.
- c. Denoyer presented an estimate for a generator and upgraded lighting for the Village Hall/offices. He feels a generator would benefit the whole community not only by being able to keep the Village offices open, but also by having somewhere residents could come to in the event of power outages, etc. Denoyer will solicit additional bids for these services. Council also agreed to work towards completing needed improvements at the Village buildings.
- d. Adkins seeking approval of \$235 to attend Wastewater conference in Frankenmuth March 2-3, 2022. He will be able to acquire continuing education credits as well as beneficial contacts with vendors and peers. Also requests \$125 hotel/travel expense. Motion by Ward/Denoyer to approve up to \$500 for conference and travel. Roll Call: Ayes; Denoyer, Sandman, Ward, Sternburgh; motion passed.

Reports:

- a. Maintenance Report - Butch Adkins, written report submitted. He has been working on maintaining pumps #1 and #2, both are working, but will need additional attention in the spring. New truck works well for plowing, old truck has been listed for sale.
- b. Street Report - Butch Adkins, written report submitted. Submitted signed proposal to Browns for resurfacing of Mill Street, he is expecting work to be scheduled in the spring. Will get on Rosa's schedule for ditch digging on Link Dr.
- c. Ordinance Officer; none.
- d. Park Committee - Deb Reed-Things are quiet.
- e. Sewer Committee; Bill Ward-Bids are being solicited for sewer improvement project.
- f. Budget Committee; Jeff Sandman-no report.

General Discussion: President Sandman will look into contract with Zoning Administrator.

Public Input: Public comment that the Village of Beulah seems to be dealing with the same issues as the Village of Honor.

Announcements:

Adjournment: Motion by Ward/Sternburgh to adjourn meeting at 7:54pm. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Reed/Goodman
February 15, 2022