

VILLAGE OF HONOR
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2023

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited.

Roll Call: Council- Denoyer, Theobald, Sternburgh, Ward; present. Smith, absent
Staff- Goodman, Reed; present. Leone, Sessions; absent.

Board Comments on Agenda: Add Old Business d. Repeal Resolution 105-23. Amend New Business c. Resolution 104-23.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Theobald /Denoyer to approve agenda as amended; all ayes, motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Denoyer/Sternburgh to approve September 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented; all ayes; motion passed.

Public Input: Lisa Pline inquired if the Council has considered refurbishing Village signs along US-31. She also stated that Julie Besinger doing a great job planning and promoting the Farmers Market.

Guests/Presentations:

- a. Paul Olson/Insurance, not present.
- b. Julie Besinger/Farmers Market, gave a brief update. She would like to discuss liability insurance/waivers, etc. Clerk will get her in touch with Paul Olson. She also inquired about possibility of a designated 'stop traffic' crosswalk on US-31 between the park and the plaza. Ward will talk to MDOT regarding repainting the current crosswalk, but MDOT will not allow the 'stop traffic' type of crosswalk on US-31. Council will continue exploring other options of slowing traffic through the Village.

County Commissioner/Fire Chief: Tim Markey gave verbal report. County Commissioners are holding a townhall type meeting on October 30, 2023 to exchange information on possible Headley Amendment Rollback. Commission passed a resolution for Benzie County to become a PACE district. New Public Safety Tower will be located in Frankfort, majority of the project will be funded with State Grant monies. The County Animal Control will hook up to Village of Beulah water/sewer. Homestead Fire Department is at 255 runs to date, a little less than this time last year. Recent four recruits have all taken fire school training and are working through medical training.

Zoning Administrator: Rosemary Naulty, gave verbal report. She currently has no open permits. She has been researching issues regarding permitting of underground utilities on Scenic Circle. Rosemary offered her help with park development.

Planning Commission: Rosemary Naulty, gave verbal report. The Master Plan draft is complete and is being formatted. She will bring it to the Village Council at November meeting, if approved, we will begin the process of a public hearing, publication, etc. and then finally adoption. The P/C is continuing work on the short-term rental ordinance.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Sternburgh/Theobald to accept financial reports as presented. Roll Call: Ayes; Theobald, Sternburgh, Ward, Denoyer. Nays; none. Absent; Smith. Motion passed.

Budget Amendments: Presented by Goodman, Motion by Denoyer/Theobald to accept amendments as presented. Roll Call: Ayes; Ward, Theobald, Denoyer, Sternburgh. Nays; none. Absent; Smith. Motion passed.

Submission of Bills/Checks: Motion by Sternburgh/Denoyer to approve bills as presented. Roll Call: Ayes; Theobald, Sternburgh, Ward, Denoyer. Nays; none. Absent; Smith. Motion passed.

Correspondence:

Incoming: None

Outgoing: Letter of thanks to MWRA for their help in securing over \$3,700 in credit from Consumers Energy for wrongfully charges sales tax.

Old Business:

a. Ward gave update on Dollar General request to extend and connect to Village sewer system. They are willing to give the Village \$10,000 in escrow funds while they pursue finalizing their project. The money will be used to cover any costs the Village incurs regarding the project. Our attorney advised we will need an inter-governmental contract with Homestead Township. Gosling Czubak advised our current sewer system could handle the additional hook-up. With the proposed store being outside the Village limits, we will install a shut-off valve at Dollar General extension. Much council discussion with regards to what we can and cannot control on this project. If we accept the \$10,000, we essentially agree they can hook-up to the sewer system if they can get through the rest of the permitting process for this project. Motion by Ward/Sternburgh to accept \$10,000 in escrow funds from Dollar General. Roll Call: Ayes; Ward, Sternburgh, Theobald, Nays; Denoyer. Absent; Smith. Motion passed.

b. Website. Clerk presented contract from K&K Digital for a one-year contract beginning November 1, 2023 for village website and e-mail. Approved last month, President will sign.

c. Denoyer presented information on proposed park in the 'triangle' portion of village property. He has a meeting scheduled for Friday 2-3 pm with Midstates Recreation, to go over design options and pricing. Hopes to get donation link on new website, and is looking into other fundraising ideas. The Village has \$34,784.37 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and building a park is an allowable use for these funds. Motion by Denoyer/Theobald to allocate Village ARPA funds to proposed park. Roll Call: Ayes; Ward, Sternburgh, Theobald, Denoyer. Nays; none. Absent; Smith. Motion passed.

d. Context of Resolution 105-23 is already covered under the Villages nuisance ordinance, and is therefore unnecessary. Motion to repeal Resolution #105-23 made by Ward/Denoyer. All ayes, motion passed.

New Business:

a. No information on final draw of USDA funds. Treasurer will contact Gosling Czubak and request completion by year end.

b. Audit Firms. Treasurer presented bids from two firms; Council discussed the need to have new eyes on the book vs. the cost difference. Treasurer will get a couple more options for the council to discuss at November meeting. Decision tabled until November.

c. Publishing of Resolution 104-23. Motion by Ward/Sternburgh to approve up to \$200 for publishing for weeks in local paper. Roll Call: Ayes; Theobald, Sternburgh, Ward, Denoyer. Nays; none. Absent; Smith. Motion passed.

d. Budget Committee. Council discussion on meeting for budget workshop. 2023-2024 budget committee will be Ward, Smith, Denoyer, Goodman, Leone, and Doug Durkee. This will be a workshop only; no decisions will be made. Committee will try to schedule by the end of October. Clerk will post date/time when set; public may attend.

Reports:

a. Maintenance Report – Leone, absent. Written report submitted, read by Durkee. Auto-dialer issues are finally resolved and operational, but was strongly advised we need to consider upgrading our monitoring and auto-dialer system. Will get quote for budgeting purposes. Began the process of updating the certifier into Leone’s name on EGLE’s MIEnviro site. We did not get a permit to treat duckweed, so it will need to wait until next year. Brian has been painting and cleaning up around the sewer building. Thank you to Jesse Theobald for donating a Stihl chainsaw to the Village. Took down a tree next to the portable bathrooms at Maley Park. Again, thank you to Ginger at MWRA for assisting the Village in saving over \$3,700 on Consumers Energy bills to date.

b. Street Administrator – Leone, absent. Written report submitted, read by Durkee. Trimming trees and overhanging limbs along Cedar and portions of Platte Streets. Will be installing additional no parking signs on Henry Street. Still waiting on gate for Stacey Alley.

c. Ordinance Officer – No report.

d. Park Committee – Reed, verbal report given. Will have portable restrooms removed November 1st. The swing set sustained vehicle damage and the swings have been taken off for the season. Advised maintenance there appears to be a large hole forming where the tree was removed and it needs filling. Maintenance will follow-up.

e. Sewer Committee – No report.

f. Budget Committee –No report.

General Discussion: Council discussion regarding possibility of installing audio/video capabilities for Village meetings. Will be put on agenda for November 2023 meeting. Ward will forward summer road patrol reports to Clerk for distribution.

Public Input: Annie advised Buelah is in the process of updating their Master Plan and will be sending out surveys soon.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: Motion by Denoyer /Theobald to adjourn meeting at 7:51 pm. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Reed/Goodman
October 10, 2023