

# FINAL

## Minutes VILLAGE OF HONOR

Regular Council Meeting

10922 Platte Street Honor, MI 49640

April, 14 2025

Meeting Called to order by President Theobald at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

**Roll Call:** Council- Denoyer, Theobald, Hepner, Fuller PRESENT. Wendel ABSENT

**Staff:** Reed, Roth, Brow, Leone PRESENT Wilkins ABSENT

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Theobald second by Denoyer to **approve** March 10, 2025 regular council meeting minutes as presented. 4/4 Ayes, MOTION PASSED.

**Board comments on Agenda:** Add one special guest Andrew Smith from the playground committee for an update.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Denoyer, second by Theobald to approve the agenda with above noted additions; **all ayes motion passed.**

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None.

### **Special Guests/Presentations-**

Steve Stephens, Master gardener - Flowers for the pots in the village cost will be the same as previous year. Tim at the greenhouse asks that the pots be brought to the greenhouse the last week of the month.

Rob Scott, Benzie Bus - Spoke about annual 2024/5 budget and services provided. Rob provided a handout with supporting figures.

Rebeca Hubers, Benzie Emergency Management Coordinator - Spoke about emergency readiness for weather related emergencies and debris management. Will follow up in a couple months to ensure and record the Village's designated place to put debris. This is to provide to EGLE ahead of time of a weather related emergency.

Andrew Smith, Playground Committee - Andrew used a slideshow to present updates on the playground. The presentation included what has already been purchased and details about

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items the committee has suggested for future purchase to the council. Andrew spoke about the design and land use permit to be submitted in May. The playground committee is still in need of volunteers. They are planning a party for volunteers and contributors.

**Planning Commission** - Naulty - April's PC meeting was cancelled due to weather. There has been one land use permit approved for the US Post Office to place a shed. The Short Term Rental Ordinance has been updated and PC intends to bring it to council for approval in May. PC intends to organize a meeting for the Zoning Board of Appeals/Village council for some training to include Blight training among other things.

**County Commissioner** - Tim Markey - Mr. Markey was absent, President Theobald read notes provided by Mr. Markey. Notes included that BCRC gave their presentation on mileage for a new building. The Board of Commissioners approved a resolution for a new BC Court Magistrate, Lisa Kenner. The Board of Commissioners approved a continuance for a \$3.00 surcharge for Central Dispatch. Notes regarding Fire; there have been 91 incidents YTD for 2025. Pancake breakfast at the FD dates 4/19 & 4/27.

**Financial Reports** -Brow: Treasurer states we are reconciled on all accounts through February. Brow will reconcile through March on Wednesday this week. We have received a couple payments (approx \$12,000) through the Cigma funds which includes revenue sharing through the State and Act 51. This amount is not showing on the report presented to the council today. All accounts combined \$452,983 plus the \$12,000. Just received a waste hauler today that hasn't been processed yet. YTD waste hauler income is approx \$15,800. Three interest payments were made to sewer bonds on April 1st in the amounts of \$37,187.50, \$12,581.25, \$1803.63. Next payment is due June 4th, approx \$1,900.00 and the funds are already in the account to make that payment.

Motion by Theobald ; second by Denoyer to approve the financial reports provided from the treasurer. **Roll call: Ayes: Fuller, Hepner, Denoyer, Theobald. Nays: NONE. MOTION PASSED.**

**Budget Amendments: None**

**Financial Correspondence: None**

**Submission of Bills/Checks- Reed: \$5174.86**

Consumers Amt. Pd\* \$4,654.70

1. Motion by Denoyer, second by Fuller to pay the Invoice Register Report as presented.  
**Roll Call: Ayes;Theobald, Denoyer, Hepner, Fuller. Nays: None. Motion Passed.**

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## Correspondence:

### Incoming:

- a. Mr. Saffron FOIA read aloud by Theobald and discussed amongst council.

### Outgoing:

- a. Letters were sent regarding the search for CIA board volunteers and the Village not participating in Homestead Township cleanup day. Letters were sent together to save money on postage. Two volunteers responded thus far.

## Old Business:

1. **MI Class/Mike W** - A joint venture for Michigan jurisdictions to pool their money to make more money. This is a low risk, high yield savings account, however it is not FDIC insured. In order to take part in this program a resolution would be needed, and an investment policy in place. In order to get more detailed information we would need to proceed with a resolution. With more details, a decision could be made to take part or not.

Motion to prepare a resolution/policy to get more detailed information about MiClass by Theobald, Second by Hepner. **Roll Call: Ayes: Denoyer, Fuller, Theobald, Hepner. Nays: None. Motion Passed.**

2. **Fire Escrow** - A withholding program designed for municipalities to withhold insurance money until clean up is completed after a fire. A resolution is required as well as a separate account to hold funds. Tabled till next month, resolution to be prepared by Clerks.
3. **Stacey Alley Speed Bumps** - DPW provided quotes for speed bumps. U-Line is the lowest price at \$1,080.00 plus shipping. Council discussed other options to address complaints, agreeing this is the next best step.

Motion to approve up to \$1300 for speed bumps purchase through U-Line by Theobald, Second by Fuller. **Roll Call: Ayes: Hepner, Theobald, Denoyer, Fuller. Nays: None. Motion Passed.**

4. **Rate Study/Sewer Rate Increase Res# 101-25** - Michigan Rural Water conducted a free study and provided a presentation advising an immediate increase from 62.00 up to 68.33. Michigan Rural Water also highly suggested an annual increase of 3%. Council discussed inflation, prices of parts to repair sewer equipment etc.

Motion to approve sewer rate increase and an annual 3% increase. **RES# 101-25** by Theobald, Second by Denoyer. **Roll Call: Ayes: Fuller, Denoyer, Theobald, Hepner. Nays: None. Motion Passed.**

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- 5. Maley Park Porta Johns & Gravel for Driveway** - Council asked clerks to get new quotes for porta johns before deciding to order for the season. DPW provided an estimate of \$2,050.00 for gravel for the park's driveway from AJ's excavating.

Motion to approve AJ's Excavating quote for \$2050.00 for gravel to be placed at Maley Park by Denoyer, Second by Fuller. Roll Call: Ayes: Theobald, Hepner, Denoyer, Fuller. Nays: None. Motion Passed.

- 6. Insurance for DPW** - Moving to a group plan now that there are two full time DPW employees is financially responsible (cheaper by \$80-\$100/month). This also allows the Village to make direct payments to the insurance company VS. reimbursing the DPW employee after they pay the payment.

Motion to approve up to \$850 per month for Blue Cross gold option by Theobald, Second by Hepner. **Roll Call: Ayes: Fuller, Denoyer, Theobald, Hepner. Nays: None. Motion Passed.**

## New Business:

- 1. Increase in hours for Deputy Clerk & Request for Notary Application Fee** - Deputy clerk is currently at 10 hours a week. There is more work that could be done if her hours are increased. Raising her wage from \$15/hr to \$17/hr would be justified as well. Her work thus far has proven she is capable and she continues to go above and beyond volunteering hours unpaid. It is advantageous of the Village for the Clerk to be a Notary, the current clerk that will retire is a Notary. The Deputy Clerk is asking for the fee to be paid by the Village.

Motion to approve raising the Deputy Clerk's wage from \$15/hour to \$17/hour and increasing hours from 10 to 20 hours per week made by Theobald, Second by Denoyer. **Roll Call: Ayes: Fuller, Denoyer, Hepner, Theobald. Nays: None. Motion Passed.**

Motion to approve up to \$75 for the Deputy Clerk to get Notarized by Theobald, Second by Hepner. Roll Call: Ayes: Denoyer, Fuller, Theobald, Hepner. Nays: None. Motion Passed.

- 2. BS&A Credit Card Payments for sewer payments** - Treasurer provided details about BS&A's program citing that they would not support the Village if charges are challenged by a customer. BS&A would return the money to the customer automatically. This may make things more difficult for accounting. Council decided to look for more options for accepting credit card payments.
- 3. Flowerpots** - Steve Stephens presentation indicated the cost for flowers in the flower pots placed around the village. Council discussed the flower and agreed that the pots beautify the village and are a welcomed addition.

Motion to approve \$560 for flowers in the flower pots by Denoyer, Second by Fuller. Roll Call: Ayes: Denoyer Theobald, Hepner, Fuller. Nays: None. Motion Passed.

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4. **New Hire Benefits/Pay \$18-\$20** - Hiring committee submitted a letter in regards to the new DPW employee being hired at \$18/hr. Council discussed his skills and abilities displayed thus far and in his resume support increasing his pay to the higher end of \$18 to \$20/hr offered in the advertisement. Denoyer expressed concern, suggesting waiting a 90 day probationary period.

Motion to raise new DPW employee's wage to \$20/hr with back pay by Theobald, Second by Fuller. **Roll Call: Ayes: Fuller, Theobald, Hepner. Nays: Denoyer. Motion Passed.**

5. **Additional Funds for Audit corrections** - The audit company requires additional charges to identify and correct errors. These additional fees were paid last year in the amount of \$800. Without identification of the problems we cannot correct mistakes for the future. Council discussed the efficacy of this audit company and finding a new auditor that may be all encompassing for future use. Council asked clerks to research new auditors.

Motion to approve up to \$1500 for additional audit corrections by Theobald, Second by Denoyer. **Roll Call: Ayes: Hepner, Theobald, Denoyer, Fuller. Nays: None. Motion Passed.**

6. **Updated Employee personnel policy/handbook** - The employee handbook was updated to comply with the Michigan Sick Leave Act and the insurance for full time employees. Council decided to remove two paid holidays and approve the policy as amended. **All in favor. None opposed.**
7. **Drying bed at sewer lagoon** - DPW is suggesting creating a drying bed to process remains of routine cleaning of valve structures at the lagoons, grit chamber at lift stations etc. The concept of a drying bed is an upfront cost but saves money long term. Molon has done this annually. The village is paying approx. \$20,000/year for the disposal and transportation of the remains to disposal locations. DPW has presented a contract for engineering and survey for location of a drying bed from Gosling Czubak. Council would like to see more quotes. Tabled till next month.
8. **Playground Fencing** - Three quotes were presented, two from Menards and one from Harbor Fence Company. Harbor was almost twice the cost of Menards for both galvanized or black fencing. Galvanized is \$3800 and black fencing is \$4900. These are not Village funds, these are raised funds. Council discussed the additional cost for black vs galvanized and installation.

Motion to approve up to \$5200 for black chain link fencing from Menards for the playground by Theobald, Second by Denoyer. **Roll Call: Ayes: Denoyer, Hepner, Fuller, Theobald. Nays: None. Motion Passed.**

9. **Playground Flooring** - Three quotes were presented. Two port in place options and two astro turn options presented; astroturf shows to be more affordable. Site One out of Traverse City is substantially cheaper because they are a manufacturer vs. a supplier.

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More funds for edging will need to be approved for edging in the future but installation is required first.

Motion to approve up to \$18,000 for 4500 sq ft of astroturf from Site One by Denoyer, Second by Fuller. Roll Call: Ayes: Fuller, Denoyer, Theobald, Hepner. Nays: None. Motion Passed.

- 10. Playground Equipment Purchase** - Three quotes presented. Additional pieces of equipment are being presented for purchase since there is more space available for equipment and all equipment needs to be placed before the flooring is installed. These are smaller pieces of equipment; wheel through ADA Arcade (galvanized or \$300 additional for colored) and tether ball. Council discussed additional \$300 for colored monkey bars to match the other structures.

Motion to approve up to \$2600 for tetherball and wheel through ADA arcade with color from AAA State of Play by Denoyer, Second by Theobald. Roll Call: Ayes: Theobald, Fuller, Hepner, Denoyer. Nays: None. Motion Passed.

- 11. Gas Station Music Complaints** - Residents have complained that the gas station's music plays 24 hours a day from their pumps. Council discussed that there isn't currently a noise ordinance that would be enforceable. President suggested asking the zoning administrator to ask management at True North to turn down the music after 10pm. Tabled till next month for update after asking.

- 12. Right to Farm Agreement** - Hangover Hops LLC, the farmers that currently farm the 18.8 acres where the lagoons are irrigated are asking for a 5 year agreement with no fault clause in the case any irrigation is damaged. This field has never been reseeded and will need to be reseeded soon. In order to do so, this field will need to be disked and tilled. In exchange for the disking and tilling at no additional cost Hangover Hops LLC would like the right to farm for 5 years.

Motion to approve a 5 year contract with Hangover Hops LLC by Denoyer, Second by Hepner. **All in favor. None oppose.**

- 13. Alarm System for Wastewater Facility** - DPW proposed putting in a cellular modem and alarm system to notify of any power loss, phase loss, gas detection alarms, fail to run etc. to prevent freezing in winter months. This wasn't included in the original plan when the facility was built. If any issues occurred at the facility right now DPW wouldn't know until there was a bigger problem or if power loss happened in the middle of the night they wouldn't know till the next morning. With this alarm it would allow DPW to get ahead of bigger issues like freezing by calling Consumers earlier. DPW presented a \$5600 quote from Widnemuller for an alarm system.

Motion to approve up to \$5600 for an alarm system from Windemuller by Theobald, Second by Hepner. **Roll Call: Ayes: Denoyer, Fuller, Theobald, Hepner. Nays: None. Motion Passed.**

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## Reports:

Maintenance Report- Leone stated discharge season is in three weeks, quarterly monitor well testing, soil testing and bi-weekly affluent testing coming up. The field at the lagoons needs disking, tilling and seeding. DPW intends to get some water out, get the field disked and tilled very soon so we can start getting rid of more water. They are still waiting on some parts from Kennedy for the Riverside lift station. There was an oxygen sensor that went bad at the lagoons; there's a two week wait on that sensor. There were 7 alarms this month. Art's Automotive's repair to the plow continues to be successful. Plows are off, sanders are out of the trucks. DPW is still researching replacement for the Gravelly. Ford was taken to Express Tire & Lube for repairs to the wheel bearings, pitman arm bushing, both lockouts and U Joints. The Ford has been plowing for 15 years with limited repairs. With an additional employee now to use this vehicle, safety was ensured. New DPW employee is doing a great job so far! Now that the snow has melted the streets are a priority. DPW will be contacting BCRC for a quote to clean the streets with their sweeper. DPW is beginning work on sidewalks. All the lights look good. Nothing new to report on ditches. Some flags are coming down but DPW will be putting up American Flags a couple weeks before Memorial Day. Plenty of winter clean up to do!

## Street Administrator-

- a. Ordinance Officer-NONE...
- b. Park Committee-Reed\*Nic Hepner,- Saturday April 19 the CoHo Festival will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at Maley Park. Park improvements to come with gravel. Remaining Christmas lights will come down shortly.
- c. Playground Committee- \$3,000 was raised by Sweet's Bar & Grill with their karaoke contest. A \$50,000 grant was applied for from Consumers. Many other grants being worked on; tribal grant, Kellogg foundation, community foundation, 100 women who care. Anna Fuller will be campaigning to local businesses to raise more money.
- d. Sewer Committee-Jesse\*Mike\*Jake - Rate study is complete, rates will be raised according to recommendations. Everything is running smoothly.

## General Discussion:

Google Drive- Council discussed the Deputy Clerk uploading meeting packets to a google drive prior to meeting for easier access to information ahead of meetings to be more prepared. All agreed that would be helpful.

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**Public Input: Doug Durkee-** Inquired about a Facebook poll made by Denoyer about using general funds for the playground. Council reassured Doug that no money is being spent out of the general fund for the playground at this time.

**Adjournment: 8:54pm**

**1st: Theobald 2nd: Fuller Ayes: 4/4**

Respectfully submitted by:  
Deputy Clerk Jessica Roth for Clerk Deb Reed