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VILLAGE OF HONOR  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2024

Meeting Called to Order by President Ward at 6:02pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited

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

**Board Comments on Agenda:** None

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Denoyer/Wendel to approve agenda as presented; all ayes, motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Theobald/Denoyer to approve January 8, 2024 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented; all ayes; motion passed.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Guests/Presentations:** Jessica Carland, Executive Director of Benzie Bus. Presented their annual report. She reported they provided over 100,000 rides in 2023, which puts them back in line with pre-Covid numbers. Currently Benzie Bus has seen a 67% increase in medical use rides. They are continually exploring expanding their services and updating routes.

**Zoning Administrator:** Rosemary Naulty, verbal report. Issued one LUP for the demolition of former Platter River School building. Requested council approve up to \$700 (per attorney estimate) for review of Short Term Rental Ordinance. She plans to bring it to the Council in March for review and to schedule a public hearing.

Motion by Ward/Wendel to approve up to \$700 for attorney review of Short-Term Rental Ordinance. Roll Call: Ayes; Ward, Wendel, Theobald. Nays; Denoyer. Absent; Smith. Motion passed.

**Planning Commission:** Rosemary Naulty, verbal report given. Master Plan still needs to be finalized by Sara Kopriva of Beckett Raeder. She will then bring it to the Council for approval to continue the process by holding a public hearing prior to council adoption. She is hoping to be able to coordinate public hearings for Master Plan with STR ordinance. With the intention of making the meetings more accessible to residents, the Planning Commission has made a change in their meeting days/times. They will now meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm. They are also in need of another member.

**County Commissioner/Fire Chief:** Tim Markey reported the Sheriff Dept has a new K-9 named Omar, he joins two comfort dogs (one in the court, one in the schools).

County Board of Commissioners has created a County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee.

The Commissioners will be looking for approval from voters to reset the Headlee amendment rollback to original limits from 1982. They plan to levy only as much as needed, not necessarily the full allotted amount. Benzie is one of the last counties in the State to seek a Headlee reset.



The Commissioners approved a PILOT program for workforce housing in the county. The expansion in the Sheriff's Dept/911 dispatch is almost complete. Pt. Betsie is looking for a Director of Operations. The Maples is close to 100% of capacity, and the vast majority is Benzie County residents.

Fire Chief Markey reported there have been just 24 calls in 2024, down from the same time last year. He has new software and will be working toward a report that isolates runs in the Village of Honor.

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

**Budget Amendments:** None.

**Submission of Bills/Checks:** Motion by Ward/Theobald to approve bills as presented, totaling \$15,040.71. Roll Call: Ayes; Theobald, Wendel, Ward, Denoyer. Nays; none. Absent; Smith. Motion passed.

**Correspondence:**

Incoming: a. Letter from concerned citizen Harold Saffron, read aloud by President Ward. Naulty rebutted the accusations made against her. Reed explained Saffron's misunderstanding of her response to him.

Outgoing: a. President Ward hand delivered letters regarding the parking issues at the Honor Apartments and that seems to have had a positive effect.

**Old Business:**

a. Ongoing research into sidewalk snow removal. Council discussed options to having resident responsible, hiring outside company to handle it, or having it done by the Village. Council will continue discussions and research, with goal to have ordinance in place by next winter.

**New Business:**

a. Ward/Wendel nominated Theobald to fill position of President Pro-Tem. All ayes.

b. Brief discussion on approving Theobald as signatory on Village bank accounts. Roll Call: Ayes; Ward, Wendel, Denoyer. Nays; none. Abstain; Theobald. Absent; Smith.

c. Laura Ward has been engaged to clean the Village Hall, replacing J. Sessions.

**Reports:**

a. Maintenance Report – Leone, written report provided. New auto-dialer alarm for the sewer system has been installed. On Jan 29 there was a sewer back up along US-3. After confirming issue was somewhere along the village lines, Benzie Pumping was called to clear out the lines. AJ's Excavating provided a bypass pump until Roto-Rooter could jet the sewer main. Benzie Pumping then sent a camera to confirm the line was clear of debris. Had AJ's install a riser on one of the uncovered manholes because it was 16" underground. Having files from the sewer televising was instrumental in confirming the issue. Leone will be working on our Asset Management Plan and gathering information from the sewer televising to make recommendations to the Council for preventative line maintenance.

Leone reported he also passed an EGLE/MWRA supported online course designed to provide a more in depth look at all phases of collections system workings.

Leone advised he would like to purchase a rubberized sweeper attachment (est. \$360) to be used in spring clean-up. Motion by Ward/Theobald to approve purchase. All ayes. Motion passed.

b. Street Administrator – Leone reported there has been little snowfall, and the snow banks are melted. Noted a pothole forming on Platte Street.

c. Ordinance Officer – None.

d. Park Committee – Reed noted park is quiet. Ward mentioned Julie Bensinger attended the P/C meeting to update them on her plans for the Farmers Market. She has attended classes on market management and is looking for additional produce vendors for the market.

e. Sewer Committee – Goodman noted we have received full payment from a sewer customer outside of Village limits and will not need to take them to small claims court.

f. Playground Committee – Denoyer reported he is still working on grant options for playground. He is also working to put together a Facebook page to keep people up to date on happenings within the Village. This will not be an official Village site, something more informal; but should always have a qualified administrator.

**General Discussion:** Ward shared his conversation with Andrew Smith regarding his plan to offer his resignation from the council. Wendel requested we flip the sewer and playground reports to have park and playground together. General discussion about potential Dollar General project in Homestead Township. Former Platte River is currently being demolished to make room for new Road commission building. Council discussion/instruction to Treasurer to look into purchase of additional CD's from Honor Bank and to look into other banks as possible depositories.

**Public Input:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Theobald/Denoyer to adjourn meeting at 7:26pm. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Reed/Goodman

February 13, 2024