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Minutes
VILLAGE OF HONOR
Regular Council Meeting

10922 Platte Street Honor, Mi 49640
January 13, 2025

Meeting Called to order by President Theobald at 6:01pm.

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

Roll Call: Council- Denoyer, Theobald, Wendel; **present.** Hepner- **absent**
Staff- Leone, Brow, Reed, Wilkins; **present.**

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes: Motion by Denoyer, second by Wendel to approve December 9, 2024, Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented; **all ayes, motion passed.**

Approval of Special Meeting Minutes: Motion by Theobald, second by Denoyer to approve December 30, 2024, Special Council Meeting minutes as presented; **all ayes, motion passed.**

Approval of Budget Meeting Minutes: Motion by Theobald, second by Wendel to approve December 9, 2024, Budget Meeting minutes as amended – change Wedel, to Wendel; **all ayes, motion passed.**

Board Comments on Agenda: Additions to: **Special Guests** – a. Annie Stadle, Lifestyles Magazine and **New Business** – b. New Hire Request - DPW

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

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Guests/Presentations:

- a. Annie Stadle, Lifestyles Magazine – The Honor area will be featured in the spring issue. The magazine advertises local businesses and calls on area writers to feature their favorite attractions while the Benzie Historical Society covers the history of the area.

Planning Commission:

- a. **Jana Goldman 3-year term Appointment.** Motion by Theobald, second by Wendel to reappoint Jana Goldman for a three-year term on Planning Commission. **All ayes, motion passed.**
- b. **Heather Brushaber 1-year term Appointment.** Motion by Theobald, second by Denoyer to reappoint Heather Brushaber for a 1-year term on Planning Commission. Wendel; abstain, married to Brushaber. **All ayes, motion passed by majority.**
- c. **2024 Annual Report.** Motion by Theobald, second by Denoyer to approve the 2024 Annual Planning Commission Report. **All ayes, motion passed.**

County Commissioner/Fire Chief: Markey reported that he is excited to no longer be the vice chair of the Board of Commissioners. Homestead has had 12 runs so far in 2025, an increase of 20% from the neighboring communities.

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Financial Reports: Motion by Wendel; second by Denoyer to approve the financial reports provided by the Treasurer. **Roll Call: Ayes; Theobald, Denoyer, and Wendel. Nays: none. Absent: Hepner, Motion Passed.**

Submission of Bills/Checks:

1. Motion by Denoyer, second by Theobald to pay the Invoice Register Report as presented. **Roll Call: Ayes; Wendel, Theobald, and Denoyer. Nays; none. Absent: Hepner, Motion passed.**

Correspondence:

Incoming: (All read aloud)

- a. **Mary Haan** – Request to be considered for the open seat on Council. Introduction and background information included for Council review.
- b. **Dennis Rodzik** – Letter of complaint regarding a Dark Sky Ordinance not being followed by current council. Council is researching the validity of the Ordinance in question.
- c. **Harold Saffron/2 emails** – 1. 12-30-2024 Sections of past meeting minutes regarding purchased Christmas lights were noted, would like to see new lights stored properly. Clerk Reed provided proof that reimbursements for Christmas lights to Dallas and Kevin did not include taxes. The village is tax exempt.
2. 1-6-2025 expressed opposition to the Corridor Improvement Authority.
- d. **Valerie Gerhart, Sunrise Rotary** – Request to use Maley Park as a stop on the Bike Benzie Tour held May 31. Motion by Wendel, second by Theobald to allow Sunrise Rotary to reserve Maley Park on May 31, 2025. **All ayes, motion passed.**

Outgoing: a. None.

Old Business

- a. **Clerk Shadow.** Deb will only be the clerk until her current term ends in 2026. She would like anyone interested in being the village clerk to shadow her on the job to make sure the job duties interest them. Village insurance covers a job shadow. Motion by Denoyer; second by Theobald to spend up to \$200 on an ad for a Deputy Clerk. **Roll Call: Ayes; Denoyer, Wendel, and Theobald. Absent; Hepner Nays; none. Motion passed**

New Business:

- a. **Resolution #100-25 Wage and Compensation for Elected and Appointed Officials – Clerk & Treasurer.** To maintain a quality workforce, raises for the Clerk and Treasurer were budgeted for 2025. Motion by Theobald; second by Wendel to approve Resolution #100-25. **Roll Call: Ayes; Denoyer, Wendel, Theobald. Nays; none. Absent; Hepner. Motion passed**
- b. **New Hire Request - DPW.** DPW, Christian “Jake” Leone requested council consider hiring a second full time DPW to assist in the ever-growing workload. Job qualifications cited. Wages budgeted for 2025. Discussion to start at \$18-\$20 an hour based on experience. Motion by Wendel, second by Theobald to hire a second DPW. **Roll Call: Ayes; Theobald, Denoyer, and Wendel. Nays; none. Absent; Hepner. Motion passed.** Motion by Theobald, second by Wendel to spend up to \$200 on an ad for a second full time Department of Public Works. **Roll Call: Ayes; Denoyer, Wendel, and Theobald. Nays; none. Absent; Hepner. Motion passed.**

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Reports:

- a. Maintenance Report – Leone, written report provided, lagoon depth at 6.4', pumps to be removed and inspected by Kennedy Industries and lift station wet wells to be pumped and cleaned. Ram 550 needed a broken hydraulic hose repaired and the oil in the plow changed.
- b. Street Administrator – Leone, written report provided, plowing efforts continuing with the ever-changing weather, awaiting a response from Consumers on when the light pole plugs will be fixed.
- c. Ordinance Officer – None.
- d. Park Committee – Nothing to report
- e. Sewer Committee – Nothing to report
- f. Playground Committee – Signed a contract with a playground equipment company. Awaiting grant application notification from the tribe, Christmas lights turned off end of January, taken down in spring. Budget setting for Christmas 2025 at next meeting.

General Council Discussion: None

Public Input: Doug Durkee – excited to see so much board activity, requesting one way street designation in the alley to the gas station. Dallas – seeking Welcome to the Village of Honor sign designs. Anna Fuller – introduction as new resident with grant writing skills, works from home, interested in the vacant seat on Council. Annie Browning, Beulah Planning Commission is at open public comment in the new Master Plan draft process. Mentioned she was relocating to Frankfort and thanked the board for everything they do.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: 7:13pm by President Theobald; seconded by Denoyer.

Respectfully submitted by Wilkins for Reed, Village Clerk