

**Minutes
VILLAGE OF HONOR**

Regular Council Meeting

10922 Platte Street Honor, MI 49640

March 10, 2025

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

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

President Theobald introduced new Council member Anna Fuller.

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Theobald second by Denoyer to **approve** February 10, 2025 regular council meeting minutes as presented. 5/5 Ayes, **MOTION PASSED.**

Board comments on Agenda: Theobald suggested amendment to Special Guests to add 1. Paul Beecraft with the BCRC, 2. Julie Bessinger with the Farmers Market. NEW BUSINESS additions 3. Stacey Alley, 4. Trash pick up, 5. Kennedy Industries. OLD BUSINESS 2. CIA

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

Public Comment on Agenda Items: Doug Durkee- Adelle M. fell and broke her hip, had surgery. She is in a rehab facility in Traverse City at this time. No visitors are allowed at this time without contacting family first.

Special Guests/Presentations-

1. Paul Beecraft & Bob Rosa of Benzie County Road Commission presented a flyer asking for support on the upcoming .61 millage request of \$18 million over 20 years for a new facility for the BCRC. An Open House will be held this summer. Tours can be scheduled by contacting Troy at BCRC.
2. Julie Bessinger of the Honor Farmers Market presented her plan to continue the market this summer on Tuesdays June-August from 9am-2pm at Maley Park. Liability commitment reviewed by Village insurance agent from last year discussed and to be resent for review of council again. Julie inquired about the need for approval for food

trucks and performance licensing. She spoke about the HFM budget and stated the HFM would no longer be accepting food subsidies. Julie expressed concerns about Drainage at the park/filling low areas in driveway with gravel, Wifi capabilities, portajohn pumping frequency increase needed, handicap parking signage, MDOT possible crosswalk on US 31. No ordinances regarding food trucks are currently in place so food truck approval is not necessary, an extra portajohn as well as vendor change is being discussed by council, gravel will be discussed and addressed at next meeting. DPW will install/replace handicap signage when the ground thaws. Wifi company will also be doing work on wifi when ground thaws. If MDOT does not repaint crosswalk by summer the village can reach out to inquire.

Planning Commission - Jana Goldman No land use permits were received in the past month. Jana and Rosemary Naulty will be attending training on Blight on Wednesday March 12, 2025 through the Michigan Planning Association. Goldman and Naulty will develop and present Blight training for a joint Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals meeting in April or May, date to be determined. The Village of Honor Zoning Ordinance needs to be updated. Arthur Mullen, a consultant with Wade Trim specializing in rural communities, will join the Planning Commission on April 2, 2025 to discuss his firms process and estimate cost involved. Planning commission intends to present the DRAFT of Short Term Rental Ordinance at the April 7 meeting. Goldman and Naulty will discuss the planning commission's research and development of the ordinance, followed by a question and answer period.

County Commissioner - Tim Markey - ABSENT

Financial Reports -Brow: Contacted by auditor to begin yearly audit. Phone conference scheduled for Wednesday March 12, 2025 to prepare for visit. One issue foreseen, when the 2025 budget was approved, the increase for DPW employees insurance was not accounted for which caused an overage. A plan of action will be necessary to submit to ensure this doesn't happen going forward. By law the audit needs to be complete by June 1st. After that happens there will be a roll over year end procedure run. Bond payment is due in April, there is more than enough to make that payment. The playground fund is low due to writing the check for equipment previously discussed. Remaining playground funds are in the deferred revenue fund and will be moved over soon. Treasurer is preparing to send out delinquent sewer notices, and forward to summer tax billing. Waste haulers have brought in just shy of \$16,000. Wendel suggested looking into MiSaves accounts to make the treasurer's job easier in the future. Treasurer reached out to BS&A about accepting credit card payments and will provide information/quote when received.

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

Budget Amendments: None

Financial Correspondence: None

Submission of Bills/Checks- Reed: \$6935.30

Consumers Amt. Pd* \$4,370.01

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

Correspondence:

Incoming:

- a. Emails from Mr. Saffron read aloud and concerns discussed

Outgoing: None

Old Business:

1. Sewer Capping- Rate study almost complete. Table till next month. Matt with Rural Water suggested that we do not proceed with an expensive phosphorus removal system until our new discharge permit is issued. CIA- Letters to be sent to residents within the corridor to ask for volunteer board members.

New Business:

1. Training for Deputy Clerk and Treasurer with BS&A costs up to \$3300.00. Necessary training for new employees on general ledger, accounts payable, utility billing, payroll and tax programs to be effective in positions. Additional pay for Dep. Clerk for training.
Motion to approve up to \$3300 for BS&A training Denoyer; second by Wendel. Roll Call: Ayes: Denoyer, Fuller, Hepner, Wendel, Theobald. Nays: None. Motion Passed. Motion to approve up to 21 additional hours pay @ \$15/hr for Dept. Clerk for BS&A Training by Theobald; second by Wendel. Roll Call: Ayes: Fuller, Hepner, Denoyer, Wendel, Theobald. Nays: None. Motion passed.
2. Hiring Committee
A committee is needed for the upcoming hiring of a maintenance employee. Jesse and Anna volunteered from the council, Jake from maintenance and Christy the treasurer volunteered to sit on the committee. **Motion to approve hiring committee as presented by Theobald; second by Wendel. Ayes: 5 Nays: None. Motion Passed.**
3. Stacey Alley

Concerned citizens reaching out about snowmobilers speeding through alley. . Speed limit signs and no semis signs will be going up when the ground thaws. Updated speed bump quotes will be provided next month. Table till next month.

4. Trash pickup

Homestead Township clean up day is May 17. Last year around \$7,000 was billed to the Village. Previous years were closer to \$3,000. Current Village contract with Republic allows residents that are Republic customers to dispose of one large item the first Monday of the month. Council discussed continuing or abandoning the initiative due to rising costs associated. **Motion to abandon village clean up day by Theobald; Second by Wendel. Roll Call: Ayes: Denoyer, Hepner, Fuller, Wendel, Theobald. Nays: None. Motion to approve up to \$250 for individual mailers and postage to notify residents by Theobald; second by Denoyer. Roll Call: Ayes: Wendel, Theobald, Denoyer, Fuller, Hepner. Nays: None.**

5. Kennedy Industries Quote for Sewer Pump Maintenance

Quote for maintenance at the riverside pump station is \$9890.00. As discussed previously this preventative maintenance is necessary. The cutting knives on pump 2 are pretty bad and we have seen increased run times. It has been 3 years since this has been done. **Motion to approve Kennedy Industries quote to do the routine maintenance as presented at \$9890.00 by Theobald; second by Wendel. Roll Call: Ayes: Wendel, Denoyer, Fuller, Hepner, Theobald Nays: None. Motion passed.**

Reports:

1. Maintenance Report- Leone-Everything running well with the exception of pumps on Riverside. Right around 8ft right now; still have plenty of room till discharge season. Pump 2 previously addressed under Kennedy Industries Quote. I did find a bad block heater on Ely Rd lift station generator. Graham Electric replaced on 2/27.

Matt with Rural Water will be here Wednesday March 12 to finish up Rate Study.

Only two alarms this month; loss of connection on 2/20 @ 11:30pm Eclipse was called. Everything was restored by morning. On 2/23 ice took down an internet line. Eclipse was called, replaced and rerouted the line to eliminate the issue moving forward.

Received a call on 2/27 about a blockage at 10451 Main Street. Found that the down stream manhole structure was dry, upstream structures were unable to be located. Molon Excavating was called to jet the line. Ended up being a blockage between the home and the main.

This call drew attention to the fact that there are many manholes around the village that are below grade and should be brought up to grade and marked.

Still trying to find a wiring issue on the Western MVP3 plow on the Ram 5500. Will be reaching out to Art's Auto for more help on diagnosing and fixing the issue. Cherryland Auto Glass replaced the windshields on both trucks on 2/27.

Rural Water Annual Conference is on March 18. Jake would like to attend a course or two that offer continuing education credits. A one day pass is around \$250. This is a good opportunity to speak with other professionals in the field. **Motion to approve up to \$300 to attend Rural Water Conference by Weldel; Second by Theobald. Roll Call: Ayes: Fuller, Theobald, Denoyer, Hepner, Wendel. Nays: None. Motion passed.**

2. Street Administrator- Leone, Plowing has slowed down significantly. Ditches-Had a little bit of a back up on the south side of 31 which is actually the county. BCRC was contacted.

Sidewalks- Sections are needing improvement. Quotes were previously provided from three companies. Jake & Christy will look into Act 51.

3. Ordinance Officer-None
4. Park Committee-Reed*Hepner- Reed would like to nominate Roth to take her place going forward. Park is flooded, there's a downed tree and Christmas lights need to come down soon.
5. Playground Committee**Dallas D, Sweets Bar is hosting a Karaoke contest to raise money. Started Saturday March 7th. Meeting with AJ's Excavating this week to discuss plans. Hoping to get things in the ground May/June. Kevin is picking up equipment but waiting on dimensions.
6. Sewer Committee-Jesse*Mike*Jake, waiting on rate study Wednesday 3/12.

General Discussion: President Theobald expressed that Village employees and council members have been receiving spam/scam messages that look like they are coming from him, requesting payment. He expressed he will not ask anyone to make payments on his behalf so please do not be tricked!

Public Input: Doug Durkee- Nice article in the paper about remediation of the previous Dollar General site.

Adjournment: 7:48pm

1st: Theobald 2nd: Denoyer Ayes: 5/5

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