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Minutes VILLAGE OF HONOR

Regular Council Meeting

10922 Platte Street Honor, MI 49640

August 11, 2025

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

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

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

(Fuller) Dunn ABSENT

Staff: Roth, Brow, Leone, Naulty PRESENT

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Denoyer, second by Wendel to approve July 14, 2025 regular council meeting minutes as presented. 4/0 Ayes **MOTION PASSED.**

Board Comments on Agenda:

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Denoyer, second by Theobald to approve agenda as presented. 4/0 Ayes **MOTION PASSED.**

Public Comments:

Doug Durkee- Thank you for all you do!

Brooke Sowa- Inquiring about Council's decision to forgive sewer late fees.

Dennis Rodzik- Will be waiting till spring to get sewer rates on the ballot.

Special Guests/Presentations- None

Zoning Administrator: Rosemary Naulty

Currently addressing properties with blight or zoning issues. Letters will be mailed to notify property owners and allow them two weeks to remedy the issues. Rosemary is suggesting some community beautification programs or community involvement to encourage neighbors to help each other.

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County Commissioner- Tim Markey

County

The Tax Advisory Committee has been meeting. I'm not sure on the timeline, but when done, they should have their recommendation on what the county and township tax rate should be.

Point Betsie Restoration project has finally gotten all of the different groups involved, EGAL, The lighthouse historical society, Arm corps of Engineers, to agree on the project and they have the bids back. They are a bit short on funding, but feel fairly confident that they will be able to raise what is needed.

We should be having our public hearing for the county's 2025/2026 budget at our first September meeting, Sept 9. The date is not official yet, we should be setting it at our meeting tomorrow.

Fire

2025 YtD Incidents: 215

Month of July: 36

8 – Village of Honor

3 – Platte Twp

22 – Homestead

3 – Out of District

Financial Reports- Brow

Financial Correspondence - None

Bank Reconciliations All accounts reconciled except the General account. There is a .10 cent discrepancy from last month the treasurer is still trying to find.

Waste Hauler Report- Report reflects what has been paid to the Village to date, not what has been billed. The Clerk indicated there is a large check that came on the day of the meeting so that is also not reflected in the report.

Budget Amendments - None

Motion to approve financial report and bank reconciliations as presented by Theobald, second by Wendel. **Roll Call: Ayes:Hepner, Denoyer, Theobald, Wendel. Nays:None. Motion Passed.**

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Submission of Bills/Checks:

Invoices PAID: \$ 6,260.35

Invoice Approval: \$65,278.20

Consumers amt \$2,874.28

Zoning Admin amt \$350

Please add \$_____ (not entered yet)

The Clerk indicated the presentation is a little different this month as approved bills were paid upon receipt so there are two reports. One report shows bills that have been paid and the second report are bills that need approval. One discrepancy was found where the wrong vendor was input. Clerk marked for amendment before payment.

Motion to pay the bills with amendment by Denoyer, second by Theobald. **Roll Call:Ayes: Wendel,Theobald, Hepner, Denoyer. Nays:None. Motion Passed.**

Correspondence:

Incoming: Saffron zoning complaint- Letter was read aloud concerning 10823 Main st.. President Theobald indicated there are some holes in the sides of the home that do fall under the dangerous building ordinance. The home owner Doug Durkee was present, he agreed that the home does require some maintenance and indicated he will get that taken care of within a week to ten days.

Outgoing: Thank you card sent to Jean Weiss for her efforts to beautify the garden bed in front of Village Hall.

Old Business-

1. Dark Skies

President Theobald has spoken with a few residents regarding street lights in front of their homes. Many have responded that the lights are more of a nuisance, shining in their windows. Most were in favor of turning lights out.

Dennis Rodzik made a post in a community social media platform that received similar responses, that they were in favor of dark skies and support the effort.

Consumers energy was contacted in regard to cost or savings for turning out lights in the Village. Consumers indicated that there is no cost to shut off the lights however they would remove the light completely. Should the Village want to turn any lights back on there would be a cost involved as it would be a complete new install including an engineer. Consumers

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suggested not to turn off or remove any lights unless there was no possibility of wanting it back. Consumers did indicate there would be a savings monthly as the wattage used would decrease however the “street lights” consumers bill is relatively small compared to others, less than \$25/month.

Also brought to attention was the street lights along US 31 may need MDOT approval to turn off.

Further discussion indicated more community awareness is desired before any lights get turned out/removed. Council asked that a Facebook post be made, a notice placed on the Village website and notices be placed in/on bulletin boards in the community. A resolution will be prepared and presented at next month's meeting.

New Business:

1. Mudgies late fee forgiveness- Brooke Sowa had asked at last month's meeting for the council to forgive sewer bill late fees due to improper notification after the sale/purchase of real estate. It was discussed as to who was ultimately responsible for notification. Ultimately the council took into account that Brooke and her husband who purchased the real estate and incurred the late fees took the proper steps to rectify as soon as they were made aware. It was recognized that they paid the use charges up to date and are only asking for the late fees to be forgiven.

The treasurer pointed out that Ordinance 21 outlines that there is a 5% late fee and the 20% if delinquent for the year.

Furthermore, due to the fact that this particular sewer account was an addition to the sewer system but is not within the Village limits, late fees could not be added to the tax bill. If not paid willingly or forgiven, the Village would need to pursue small claims in court to collect the fees.

Motion to forgive 2024 and 2025 late fees by Theobald, second by Wendel. **Roll Call: Ayes: Denoyer, Wendel, Hepner, Theobald. Nays: None. Motion passed.**

2. MI Par Plan grant- There is a \$5,000 grant available to apply to risk reduction items like security cameras, parking bollards, emergency lighting for the DPW vehicles. It was discussed that Trustee Dunn has some experience with grant writing. The clerk indicated she would be willing to look into this grant and with Trustee Dunn's guidance, apply for this grant on behalf of the Village.
3. Manhole structure riser- Many manholes in the Village are below ground level and difficult to locate in an emergency. There is currently one about two feet deep that was located due to an emergency recently that has been left exposed

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causing a tripping/falling hazard. Previous riser work provided by AJ's was estimated around \$1400.00. Due to the urgent liability issue DPW supervisor is asking to approve funds without multiple bids. Discussion included other manholes in the Village that would be addressed in the future with bids to repair 5-6 at a time.

Motion to approve up to \$2000.00 to repair the currently emergent manhole structure by Wendel, second by Denoyer. **Roll call: Ayes: Theobald, Denoyer, Hepner, Wendel. Nays:None. Motion passed.**

Reports:

1. Maintenance- Leone

SEWER: We are now halfway through the discharge season-the current storage lagoon depth is 6.6', and I anticipate to end our season in the 4.5' region. Andrew with hangover hops has sprayed the irrigation field and is almost done tilling/discing. He hopes to be planting seed this upcoming week. Ginger from MRWA has completed our 2025 energy use study, which I have attached. On 7/11 Honor Motel noticed a slight backup in one of their cabins. It was determined after some investigating that we had a blockage at manhole 48 on Stacey Alley, near the gas station. The Pumping Service was very prompt to respond and pump out the structure, we were able to see and clear the blockage which restored the flow. We discovered another manhole structure (#49-in front of the motel) that needs to have risers installed to get it back up to grade. In the month of July we had 10 alarms:

7/9 9:03AM- Riverside connection loss- was restored.

7/11 6:35PM-Riverside connection loss-was restored shortly after resetting equipment.

7/12 10:10PM- Riverside connection loss- was restored.

7/14 5:39PM- Riverside connection loss- was restored.

7/20 10:04AM- Riverside connection loss- was restored.

7/23 9:56AM- Riverside connection loss- was restored.

7/23 9:06PM-(STORM) Ely phase loss/ VFD fault- power was restored, and VFD was reset. Riverside connection loss- was restored shortly after resetting equipment.

Wastewater facility- Screen fault, screen was reset.

EQUIPMENT: The new Ventrac tractor and all attachments were delivered and it has been running great!

PARK: With Jesse's help we have installed the track slide, wheel thru arcade, swing set, and the tetherball pole. We plan to install the merry go round next week.

GENERAL: Nothing new to report.

2. Street Administrator- Leone

STREETS: I have graded Highland street.

SIDEWALKS: Nothing new to report.

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STREET LIGHTS: All appear to be functioning.

DITCHES: Nothing new to report.

GENERAL: I submitted, and was approved for both permits (parade & banner) regarding The Coho Festival. We will begin cleaning sidewalks and along curbs for the upcoming Parade on August 23 at 1:00 PM.

3. Ordinance Officer- NONE

4. Park Committee- Roth, Hepner- We have had some people stay overnight recently. "No Overnight Parking" or "Dusk till Dawn" signs may be necessary.

5. Playground Committee- Denoyer- A lot of equipment has been installed. The Village was denied a Grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians however they encouraged applying again. Grand opening of the park is expected for late September at this point as long as things go to plan.

6. Sewer Committee- Theobald, Wendel, Leone

7. Dark Skies- Theobald, Dennis Rodzik, Denoyer- was addressed previously in the meeting.

General Discussion:

Blight/Dangerous Building - President Theobald asked the council if they would like the planning commission to begin revisions on these zoning ordinances that need revision and clarification. Council agrees that the PC should revise the ordinances and present to the council.

Budget Meeting- Bringing this to the council's attention that a budget for 2026 will need to be approved by December and to start thinking about compiling a committee and dates that work for Budget preparations.

Public Input

Pam Nason- Pointing out there has been issues with an aggressive dog in the neighborhood of Riverside Dr. There has been increased patrols from Benzie County Animal Control. Pam wanted to express her appreciation to Animal Control.

Dennis Rodzik- Indicated the old Shell gas station site as an eye sore and needs cleaning up. There is a large pile of dirt in the parking lot and weeds growing high by the road but overall looks bad. President Theobald said he will ask the Zoning Administrator to address this situation.

Announcements

Adjournment: 7:35pm

Motion by Theobald, Second by Wendel. Ayes:4 Nays:0