Minutes
VILLAGE OF HONOR

Regular Council Meeting

10922 Platte Street Honor, MI 49640

**September 8, 2025**

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

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

**Roll Call**: Council- Denoyer, Theobald, Wendel, Dunn PRESENT.

Hepner ABSENT

**Staff:** Roth, Brow, Leone PRESENT

Naulty ABSENT

**Approval of Minutes:** Correction necessary to EGLE on page two. Motion to approve minutes as amended by Theobald, second by Wendel. 4/0 Ayes **MOTION PASSED.**

**Board Comments on Agenda:**

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

**Public Comments:**

Julie Besinger- Thank you to the Village for allowing another new event-Village Garage Sale event at Maley Park

Doug Durkee- Thank you for all you do!

**Special Guests/Presentations- None**

Chris Varenhorst with Eclipse- Chis submitted a bid to the Village to complete installation of cameras at Maley Park. Chis attended the meeting to explain why the previously considered wireless cameras were not an effective choice and how his bid proposal not only works with the Village’s current camera security system but would provide ground work for other technological goals of the Village. Chris was available for questions and explanation to the council.

**Zoning Administrator: Rosemary Naulty**

Rosemary Naulty was not present at the meeting however President Theobald read her written report aloud.

**County Commissioner- Tim Markey**

**County**

Chip Johnston, the executive director of Centra Wellness, our Community Mental Health origination, gave the BOC an update on the State of Michigan’s Department of Health and Human Services bid-out of the Regional PIHP (Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans) and the affect it will have on the local Community Mental Health providers and was available to answer any questions.

Our Equalization Director has put in her resignation notice. We are looking at contracting that function.

The BOCs approved the funding to the Conservation District to build GIS mapping layers

**Fire**

2025 YtD Incidents: 232

Month of July: 26

9 – Village of Honor

1 – Platte Twp

13 – Homestead

3 – Out of District

**Financial Reports- Brow**

Bank Cash Summary- There is a bond payment coming up in October. The Treasurer will receive an email at the end of September indicating the amount. Plenty of money in the account. The quarterly revenue and expenditure report show the need for budget amendments which should be entered by next month's meeting. There are about 9-10 line items that need to be amended due to hiring, raises and insurance. All bank reconciliations are balanced to date. The $0.10 discrepancy noted last month was located and reconciled. Tax collection as of August 27th is $43,092. Monday September 15th is the due date; the Treasurer intends to be in office all day to collect payments in person. The Treasurer has started to prepare for the budget meeting for next year's budget. Trustee Wendel suggested the budget meeting be scheduled after October’s regular monthly meeting.

**Budget Amendments -** None

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

**Submission of Bills/Checks:**

Invoices PAID: $ 6,629.26

Invoice Approval: $12,560.66

Consumers amt $2,683.11

Zoning Admin amt $770

Please add $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not entered yet)

Trustee Dunn questioned the invoice of the Zoning Administrator in regard to being charged $35 for an email. Due to her absence at the meeting President Theobald indicated he intends to speak with the Zoning Administrator in reference to her monthly report and costs associated. Trustee Dunn suggested amending the ZA contract.

Motion to pay bills as presented by Theobald, second by Denoyer. **Roll Call:Ayes: Dunn, Denoyer, Theobald, Wendel. Nays:None. Motion Passed.**

**Correspondence:**

Incoming: None

Outgoing: None

**Old Business-**

1. Office Tech Purchases- budgeted

The budget allowed for $5000 for new office computers. Since new computers have been purchased for under $2000 the Clerk and Treasurer are asking to use some remaining funds to purchase cameras and microphones for the computers in order to do online training.

Motion to approve $563.03 to purchase Amazon order including tech items by Theobald, second by Wendel. **Roll Call:Ayes: Theobald, Dunn, Denoyer, Wendel. Nays: None. Motion Passed.**

1. Dark Skies Resolution # 111-25

President Theobald spoke to many residents in regard to extinguishing lights and indicated those residents were in favor. He pointed out there were two comments concerned about safety on social media he responded to and once they understood the lights in question were not safety hazards were pleased with his response. Trustee Dunn indicated she has received much support in regard to this initiative. It was discussed to possibly extinguish lights in phases instead of all 23 at once. Ultimately the council agreed that there was ample notification and very little push back.

Motion to turn off 23 lights as suggested by Dunn, second by Theobald. **Roll Call: Ayes: Denoyer, Wendel, Theobald, Dunn. Nays: None. Motion passed.**

1. Paperless billing

The Treasurer has successfully implemented paperless billing using BS&A. Residents can now sign up for paperless billing by completing a form providing their email address in order to receive their sewer bills via email instead of receiving the post card. This form is available on the website or at the Village office.

1. MiClass

The Treasurer met with a representative from MiClass. Unfortunately, the resolution to engage with MiClass is in direct contradiction with the Village's current investment policy. The Village’s investment policy only allows for investment with banks, savings & loans or credit unions that are insured. MiClass is not insured.In order to continue with MiClass the Village’s investment policy would need to be updated. President Theobald inquired about the Village’s investments that are maturing; the Treasurer indicated the earliest is in October; indicating there is time to make a decision. President Theobald suggested waiting as the Treasurer is looking into an investment opportunity through Honor bank that is in line with the Village’s current investment policy.

**New Business:**

1. Delinquent sewer-small claims

The Treasurer indicated she has sent out certified letters to the delinquent sewer accounts outside of the Village allowing a time frame and indicating that the Village would file in small claims court if not paid by the end of the time frame. The Clerk indicated one of the recipients called the morning of the meeting and would be in on Friday to pay his delinquent bill.

1. Honor Bank investment program

This is a new investment program, similar to MiClass in the sense you can access the money immediately at any time. This program IS insured up to $250,000 and is allowed by our current investment policy unlike MiClass. Interest is similar, both programs are variable. President Theobald encouraged the Treasurer to get more information. Any decision was tabled till next month.

1. Job descriptions

The Clerk presented to the board official job descriptions for the Treasurer, DPW Supervisor and DPW Assistant. These job descriptions were acquired from the Village of Elberta (attorney reviewed) and adapted to the Village of Honor.

Motion to approve job descriptions as presented by Theobald, second by Wendel. **Ayes:4 Nays: None. Motion passed.**

1. Tree Removal Bids

Three bids were presented to remove a tree on Platte St. This tree is in Village easement and is a safety hazard. These bids were presented in two ways; to drop the tree and leave the wood and secondly to drop the tree, clean up and stump grind. Council agreed all of the bids were quite high in price and desired more bids before a decision was made. Many recommendations were provided to acquire more bids.

1. Hiring new DPW employee

The hiring committee provided a letter of recommendation read aloud by President Theobald. The committee recommended hiring applicant Justin Towle as he is currently employed by the Village of Elberta in a similar position. Due to his knowledge, skills and abilities related to the position the committee felt he was the best choice. The committee recommended offering this position to Mr. Towle at the max rate of $20/hr with benefits and the provision of a 90 day review for an increase in wage. As a secondary choice the committee recommended Kevin Taghon if Mr. Towel did not accept the position. President Theobald added that this would be a pay cut for Mr. Towel.

Motion to offer the position to Justin Towel at $20 per hour, and Kevin Taghon if Justin Towel does not accept the position by Wendel, second by Dunn. **Roll Call: Ayes: Theobald, Dunn, Denoyer, Wendel. Nays: None. Motion passed.**

1. Amazon Prime for purchasing

The Clerk presented a price comparison of Amazon vs Jackpine for office supplies as well as technological requests. The savings on office supplies alone was enough to pay for a year's worth of Prime membership through Amazon. Prime membership for businesses is roughly $180/year. The Clerk has set up an amazon account for the Village, tax exempt and with free shipping for a month. By purchasing the Prime membership the Village would be able to order office supplies and needed items, tax free, with free shipping for less money than ordering through the previously used company Jackpine.

Motion to purchase the Amazon Prime Membership by Theobald, second by Wendel. **Roll Call: Ayes: Wendel, Dunn, Theobald, Denoyer. Nays:None. Motion passed.**

1. Corridor Improvement Authority Resolution of Intent # 112-25

A resolution of intent was previously passed however it was not publicized in the paper at that time which is required. President Theobald expressed there is plenty of interest by community members to form a board.

Motion to pass the Corridor Improvement Authority Resolution by Wendel, second by Dunn. **Roll Call: Ayes: Wendel, Dunn, Theobald. Nays: Denoyer. Motion passed.**

1. Corridor Improvement Authority board members

President Theobald has compiled a list of individuals who have expressed interest in becoming a board member. It is recommended to have 5-9 board members. Volunteers include: Anna Dunn for residential, Doug Rodruigez-Honor Building Supply, Pam Lang-Honor Bank, Tom Madeline-Weldon Coffee, Katie Zietz-Benzie County Road Commission, Brigit Hassig-Benzie Senior Resources, Lesley Bayo-new owner of apartments across from the old Shell station, Brian Rosa-Carwash for businesses. There are a couple volunteers that would like to participate as non voting members as they are outside of the Village limits. President Theobald recommended approving all the volunteers at this time.

Motion to approve the 8 volunteers listed by Theobald, second by Wendel. **Ayes: 4. Nays:None. Motion passed.**

1. Michigan Par Plan Risk Reduction Grant Resolution #113-25

This resolution would allow the Clerk to apply for a grant of $2500 to offset the cost of installing cameras at Maley Park. The Clerk has acquired bids from TKS security systems which the Village currently uses for 3 security cameras on Village premises as well as Eclipse Communications to support this grants requirement. The bid from Eclipse includes some upgrades to the current system that were previously encouraged to improve storage of security footage. The upgrades would also provide other opportunities for improvement on the waste water notification system in the future.

Motion to approve $4068 Eclipse bid to upgrade and install cameras at Maley Park by Denoyer, second by Wendel. **Roll Call: Ayes: Theobald, Denoyer, Dunn, Wendel. Nays: None. Motion passed.**

Motion to approve Resolution 113-25 to apply for MI Par Plan Risk Reduction grant by Theobald, second by Wendel. **Ayes: 4. Nays: None. Motion passed.**

1. Playground opening ceremony

The playground committee is asking for funds to be approved to throw an opening ceremony on September 27th. The playground will not be finished at that time but the committee wanted to do something before the end of the summer. The Council decided it was best to wait for a ceremony and to table approving any funds at this time.

1. Playground-boards for edging

The playground committee is asking for some funds to be approved for edging boards to frame the astro turf to provide a clean edge between astroturf and grass.

Motion to approve $500 for edging material by Wendel, second by Theobald. **Roll Call: Ayes: Denoyer, Dunn, Theobald, Wendel. Nays: None. Motion passed.**

1. Playground signage

The playground committee is asking for funds to be approved for signage at the playground at Maley Park. No bids were provided. Council decided to table this request until bids/quotes are provided.

1. Playground padding

The Rep that sold the turf suggested padding to go under the turf for added protection. This is not necessary but recommended. The Council decided this was not necessary.

**Reports:**

1. **Maintenance- Leone**

**SEWER**: Our current storage lagoon depth is 6.2’, I and am on track to end my discharge season at a good level. The irrigation field was planted and has begun to take off. AJ’s excavating has been contracted to install risers on the manhole structure in front of the Motel and should be done soon. I replaced the backup battery in Ely Road lift station’s Sensaphone. We have received preliminary designs from Glenna regarding our solids unloading station/ drying bed proposal and have included them with my report for your review.

In the month of August I had 2 Alarms:

8/10 11:13AM- Low battery on Ely Road Sensaphone backup battery- monitored

8/25 7:41AM- Communication loss at US31 & Ely Road- connection was restored almost immediately.

**EQUIPMENT**: The Ventrac has already proven it’s worth, making short work of otherwise strenuous tasks such as cleaning streets and sidewalks.

**GENERAL**: As the board is aware, I have had several attendance issues with Dan, and on 8/23 he gave me verbal notice that he was terminating his employment immediately.

**PARK:** Nothing new to report.

1. **Street Administrator- Leone**

STREETS: Nothing new to report.

SIDEWALKS: Most of the sidewalks have been cleaned, and I plan to finish the rest in the upcoming weeks.

STREET LIGHTS: All appear to be functioning.

DITCHES: Nothing new to report.

GENERAL: The Coho Festival’s annual parade went great. I would like to thank Benzie County Road Commission for the use of road barricades, Benzie County Sheriff's Department for the assistance closing US31, and all the volunteers that helped out.

I have included bids for the removal of the tree across from the Village Hall for your review.

1. **Ordinance Officer- NONE**
2. **Park Committee- Roth, Hepner**- Farmers market wrapped up for the season. Julie Bessinger has applied to use the park for a new community event “Junk in the Trunk” , a community garage sale.
3. **Playground Committee- Denoyer**- Covered previously. Building continues.
4. **Sewer Committee- Theobald, Wendel, Leone** Nothing new to report.
5. **Dark Skies- Theobald, Dennis Rodzik, Denoyer**- Resolution passed.

**General Discussion**:

Trash Service Contract renewal- The contract with Republic Trash service is up for renewal. The council decided to open up for bid to explore options.

**Public Input**

Dallas Denoyer- We need to get a light put on the flag here at the Village office.

**Announcements**

**Adjournment: 8:27pm**

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