

Draft Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Homestead Township Board

June 11, 2025

Call to Order: Supervisor Cooley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited by all

Roll Call: Present: Cooley, Holbrook, Mead, Purchase & Wilson

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Cooley moved to accept the agenda as amended to include under new business; responding to the Benzie County Recreation Plan Survey and painting the town hall. Purchase supported. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Cooley moved and Wilson supported to accept the consent agenda as presented.

Public Comment: None offered

Reports:

Assessor, Gunnar Brow, shared verbal dialog with Treasurer Holbrook which she relayed to the Board. He emailed a follow up report regarding switching to a cloud based assessing program and expressed concerns about timing and compatibility.

Zoning: Marvin Radtke reported that permits have been obtained by Dollar General for a new location at the intersection of Marshall Rd and US 31. The land use permit has not been issued at this time. Marv is following up on several junk complaints and has hired a retired deputy to accompany him on inspections. There has been one newly submitted land division and several additional inquiries.

Parks: Shannon Purchase reported that the batting cages at the ballfield are in need of repair, the speed bumps are breaking down, and a second porta john is needed. The seasonal mowing has started and is going well. There are 4 women's baseball teams and 4/5 men's teams this year. Purchase is going to discuss the possibility of sharing costs with the Coho Festival to install a power line for the stage. In the past the Coho Festival has used a generator which is not very cost effective.

Mike Mead reported that he was not able to attend the Harp meeting via zoom but was informed that there has been vandalism at the Platte River Park.

Planning Commission: Mike Mead reported that the May meeting was cancelled due to illness but there is a meeting scheduled for June 16. The master plan will be discussed in

preparation of presenting the final product to the Township Board and the public in the very near future.

Benzie County Commissioner: Commissioner Markey reported that the County has approved an addition to the garage at the Maples location. The County will be providing online animal licensing through Webtex. The Village of Honor experienced a phishing attack and some of their data was compromised. Markey stressed that all officials should be extremely diligent. Markey also expressed concern over a procurement proposal plan proposed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services that could greatly impact community mental health care. He forwarded documents regarding the proposal to the Board.

Fire Chief: Markey reported that while calls were light in April, May was a very busy month, details were furnished in his written report.

Clerk's Report: Wilson filed a written report with a verbal addition that she expected to be back in the office for her regular hour starting July 1.

Treasurer's Report: Holbrook filed a written report but added that she would be accepting items for the newsletter through Thursday, June 12; she has decided not to accept credit card payments for property taxes as it is too costly and stated that the cd's she invested in have earned over \$6500 in interest in the past 8 months.

Wilson moved and Purchase supported to accept the reports as presented. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Finance: The payables list was amended to add 6 late filed invoices bringing the total due to \$24,728.93. Holbrook moved and Purchase supported to pay the bills as amended in the amount of \$24,728.93. Roll call: Holbrook, yes; Purchase, yes; Mead, yes; Cooley, yes; Wilson, yes. All ayes no nays, motion carried.

Budget Amendments: None required

New Business:

Ball Fields: Purchase expressed the need to have diamond dust delivered to the ballfields. Wilson moved and Holbrook supported to not exceed \$1200 for expenditure. Roll call: Wilson, yes; Holbrook, yes; Purchase, yes; Mead, yes; Cooley, Yes. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Amazon Payments: This matter was tabled as we did not have sufficient information to act. A discussion ensued as to the need for specifications for a new shredder.

BS&A Software: Holbrook informed that Board that Benzie County will be purchasing the cloud tax program from BS&A in the near future. She would like the Township to follow suit. There was discussion about the annual fee, whether or not the assessing program should also convert and a time frame. Further discussion will occur in the near future, no decision was reached.

Painting the Hall: Holbrook stated there was a need to paint the interior of the big meeting room and the newly remodeled center office. Purchase then added that the Board had approved power washing and painting the exterior a few years ago but it never occurred. The Board asked Purchase to reach out to local contractors for bids and report back.

Benzie County Recreation Plan Survey: The Board collectively responded to the 8 questions. Wilson will submit response to the County.

Old Business:

Earned Sick Time Act: Wilson will be attending an MTA seminar on this topic on June 24 and will report back to the Board at the July meeting.

Ad Responses: This matter was tabled until July as the deadline for submissions has not been reached.

Park Committee: Supervisor Cooley asked for direction in preparing a mission statement/bylaws for a newly formed parks committee. It was suggested that the Board include 5 to 7 members, minimum of 4 members must be Township residents, one of the goals is to grow and improve the Township park system, another thought was to incorporate the cemeteries into the park system, having a committee would aid in the application for grants. There was discussion as to whether the positions would be paid or volunteer. Cooley will draft language and bring it back to the Board in the near future.

Public Comment: None offered

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.