

# Homestead Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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11508 Honor Highway, Honor, MI 49640 - 231-325-6772 - [www.homesteadtwp.org](http://www.homesteadtwp.org)

Meeting also available by teleconference link at the bottom of the agenda

2025 Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Homestead Township Board

November 12, 2025

**Call to Order:** 6:00 pm

**Pledge:** Recited

**Roll Call:** Trustee Mike Mead, present; Trustee Shannon Purchase, present; Treasurer Bev Holbrook, present; Clerk Kit Wilson, present. Supervisor Tia Cooley absent and excused.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda:** Kit Wilson moved to add Board of Review appointment to the agenda and approve agenda as revised. Bev Holbrook seconded the motion. All Ayes, No Nays, Motion Carried.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Bev Holbrook moved to accept the consent agenda as presented, Shannon Purchase seconded the motion. There was discussion about the correspondence from Michigan Par Plan. All Ayes, No Nays, Motion Carried.

**Public Comment:** None was offered

**Conservation District:** Ingemar Johansson spoke on behalf of the Benzie Conservation District in regards to a possible nature center/office building being built at the Platte River Park. He acknowledged that the Michigan Department of Transportation and the DNR Land Trust would be involved in any decision making. He stated that there would be no monetary costs to the Township. The Benzie Conservation District would absorb all costs in regards to any and all studies that must be performed and would possibly assist with park maintenance/management if the building comes to fruition. Kit Wilson moved that the Benzie Conservation district be allowed access to the Platte River Park to perform a feasibility study, delineation and other necessary tests to determine if there is a viable potential building site. Neither party is making any commitment or acknowledging any obligation at this time. All costs/expenses will be paid by Benzie Conservation District. Shannon Purchase supported the motion. Roll Call: Wilson, yes; Purchase, yes; Mead, yes; Holbrook, yes. All Ayes, No Nays, Motion Carried.

## **Reports:**

**Assessing:** Gunnar Brow provided a written report and explained the development of cost tables for containers being used as storage buildings. He reported that the prior year's permits for new construction have been inspected and that inspections for the 2025 permits will begin the week of November 17.

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**Zoning:** No report given

**Parks:** Mike Mead stated that the Platte River Park has remained open, there haven't been any major issues but people have been using the trash containers for their personal trash which is obviously not allowed.

Shannon Purchase reported that the door has been replaced on the pump house after being damaged by a pedestrian vehicle. There was also damage to the block structure itself which cannot be repaired due to the weather. The party responsible for the damage has agreed to pay. A bill will be sent for the work that has been done to date with an explanation that more charges will be forthcoming in the spring of 2026.

There was some discussion about a conceptual design bid that was received for the Homestead Park. The Board felt the bid was premature in light of the fact that we are trying to form a parks committee. Further discussion was tabled.

**Planning Commission:** Mike Mead reported that the Commission did a thorough review of the Capital Improvements Plan and would be preparing a report for the Board. It was discussed that we will need to recruit new members for the Planning Commission.

**County Commission:** Tim Markey reported that a new commissioner, Glen Mathew, has been appointed to replace Dave Davis. Benzie County has adopted a Public Land Ordinance to govern use and allowable activities at land owned by the County. Uniform Hours have been adopted by the Benzie County Governmental Center, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm & open during lunch hour. A new equalization director was hired, he begins work on Monday, November 17, his name is Michael Beach and he is a new resident of Benzie County.

**Fire Dept:** Chief Markey has met with one architectural firm and is meeting with a second firm next week to get quotes for a feasibility study regarding a new fire department structure, specifically if the existing building can be added onto in a safe & cost-effective manner or if a new building is a better option. He also hopes to pursue grant funding and/or other financial assistance. Bev Holbrook moved and Mike Mead supported to hire a new firefighter, AJ Patterson. All Ayes, No Nays, Motion Carried

**Clerk:** Kit Wilson reported that the return of absentee ballots was over 70% but the voting at the polls was less than 12%. She also noted that the Township would need to recruit election workers for the 2026 primary and general elections.

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**Treasurer:** Bev Holbrook prepared a written report and also commented on the highly successful investments of Township funds during 2025.

**Supervisor:** Tia Cooley filed a written report since she was absent from the meeting. She is checking into grants for park improvements. She is trying to recruit members for the park committee. The budget process for 2026 will be starting soon so Board members are asked to prepare accordingly. Tia is waiting to hear from the refuse hauler as to dates for next year's clean ups. Her report touched on the Benzie Conservation District proposal. There is on-going discussion with the Benzie County Road Commission in regards to matching funds. LIAA has been notified that their proposal for our new website has been accepted.

Shannon Purchase moved and Kit Wilson supported to accept the reports as presented. All Ayes, No Nays, Motion Carried.

## **Finance:**

**Payables:** Payables report was submitted by the Clerk, two late invoices were added and one invoice was removed for clarification. Bev Holbrook moved to pay bills as amended, in the amount of \$16,083.35. Purchase supported the motion. Roll Call: Holbrook, yes; Purchase, yes; Mead, yes; Wilson, yes. All Ayes, No Nays, Motion carried.

**Budget Amendments:** None at this time

## **New Business:**

**2% Tribal Grant Application :** Bev Holbrook moved and Shannon Purchase supported a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-1112-001 Submission of the 2% grant application to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians submitted by SEEDS Benzie EcoCorps for the Platte River Park Paths to Careers for Benzie Youth.

**Appoint BoR Member:** Kit Wilson moved and Shannon Purchase seconded the appointment of Adam Cooley to the Homestead Township Board of Review. All Ayes, No Nays, Motion Carried.

## **Old Business:**

**Snow Plow Bids:** 3 sealed bids were opened, bidders included: AJ's Excavating, Mark Gokey and Northern Edge Commercial & Residential Services. After careful review, Mike Mead moved and Bev Holbrook supported to contract with Mark Gokey for snow plowing services at

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both locations. Roll Call: Mike Mead, yes; Bev Holbrook, yes; Shannon Purchase, yes; Kit Wilson, yes. All Ayes, No Nays, Motion Carried.

**Weldon Rd:** The Board reviewed the communication from Troy Hinds of the Benzie County Road Commission. It was felt that there was some confusion in regards to the quote for paving Homestead Rd from Weldon Rd to Pioneer Rd. Clerk Wilson reminded the Board that there was also a quote for the partial paving of a portion of Weldon Rd that could be considered. The Board opted to table the matter until December to seek clarification before voting.

**Website Approval:** Wilson moved and Holbrook supported to pay a 50% deposit to LIAA upon receipt of the new contract for the website. Roll Call: Wilson, yes; Holbrook, yes; Purchase, yes, Mead, yes. All Ayes, No Nays, Motion Carried.

**Cemetery Ordinance:** Holbrook reviewed many of the verbiage changes and explained why the changes were being recommended. Purchase moved and Mead supported to adopt the Cemetery Ordinance as revised. All Ayes, No Nays, Motion Carried.

**Public Comment:** None Offered

**Adjournment:** 7:39 pm