

Village of Herscher Board Meeting

March 17, 2025 7:00P.M.

Village President Shannon Sweeney called the meeting to order the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The following Trustees were present: Skip Grigas, Mike Bruner, Jeremy Bauer (arrived 7:05), Andy Cotter, and Jacob Wagner. Trustee Gayle Landeck was absent. Also, present Village Clerk Heather Meredith, Police Chief Kurt Quick, Public Works, Janet Mau from The Herscher Pilot (Zoom), Attorney Chris Bohlen, and residents Lauren Ruel, Tim Feller, Lori Teaders, Boo Wagner, Brenda Leiser and school Board Members Mark Regis and Dustin Wright.

Jacob Wagner moved to approve the Regular minutes of February 18, 2025; Skip Grigas seconded. All in favor, Motion carried.

Jacob Wagner moved to approve the Special Board Meeting minutes of February 26, 2025; Skip Grigas seconded. Motion carried. 4-0-1 Andy Cotter abstained as he was absent from the last meeting.

STREETS:

Jacob Wagner moved to approve the Village purchase new benches in the amount of \$9,831.63. We will be reimbursed \$5,000 by the Legion Auxiliary in January 2026. Skip Grigas seconded. Roll call taken Mike Bruner-aye, Andy Cotter-aye, Jeremy Bauer-abstain, Skip Grigas-aye, Jacob Wagner-aye, and Gayle Landeck-absent. All in favor; Motion Carried.

FINANCE:

Mike Bruner presented the Accounts Payable Report totaling \$66,014.66 to the Board for payment. Skip Grigas moved to accept the accounts payable as presented. Jacob Wagner seconded. Roll call taken Mike Bruner-aye, Andy Cotter-aye, Jeremy Bauer-aye, Skip Grigas-aye, Jacob Wagner-aye, and Gayle Landeck-absent. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Payroll presented totaled \$50,476.07. Skip Grigas moved to accept payroll as presented, Skip Grigas seconded. Roll call taken Mike Bruner-aye, Andy Cotter-aye, Jeremy Bauer-aye, Skip Grigas-aye, Jacob Wagner-aye, and Gayle Landeck-absent. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Mike Bruner went over the revenue and expense report.

PARKS:

Andy Cotter said that he received a quote for \$1,700 from Fine Lines Striping for striping the tennis courts and will get that done soon. He is also planning on painting the park buildings in Village Park white or green.

WATER AND SEWER:

Jeremy Bauer said that we unfortunately will not receive the loan from the IEPA for the Water Main Replacement project on Park Road. He is going to get some rates from local banks for Financing to bring to the next meeting.

ORDINANCE:

Mike Bruner moved to pass Resolution #25-03 for Cancellation of the April 7th Meeting. Jeremy Bauer seconded. Roll call taken Mike Bruner-aye, Andy Cotter-aye, Jeremy Bauer-aye, Skip Grigas-aye, Jacob Wagner-aye, and Gayle Landeck-absent. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Jacob Wagner said that Gayle Landeck asked him to mention that she would like to start issuing tickets to the property. Attorney Bolen said that we should issue the ticket to both the owner and the tenant.

POLICE:

Mike Bruner said that he, Chief Quick, and SRO Meister went to the executive school board meeting. He wanted to make it public that they Violated the open meetings act and the Intergovernmental Agreement should have been spoke about in the public meeting. He says we in no way are profiting from the school by providing an SRO for the school district.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mike Bruner said that we need to decide if we want to write an Ordinance to retain the 1% Grocery Tax that will be eliminated by the state unless we pass an ordinance. Mike says that 40 other communities have passed an ordinance.

President Sweeney said that we have some downtown grant applicants that still must do their project. Brenda Leiser and Tim Feller said that they hope to be done with the Leiser project by December. The only projects left are the downtown Country Chevrolet Showroom and The Herscher Restaurant.

Mike Bruner moved to extend the Downtown Grant for 1 year in the amount of \$75,000.00 for 3 businesses that haven't started or finished their project. Skip Grigas; second. Roll call taken Mike Bruner-aye, Andy Cotter-aye, Jeremy Bauer-aye, Skip Grigas-aye, Jacob Wagner-aye, and Gayle Landeck-absent. All in favor; Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Sweeney handed out an AI generated adjustment for the Chicken Coop Ordinance for the Board to review. Clerk Meredith read a letter from an HHS Student about a political party race they are having in school. Village President Sweeney says that J's Home and Hardware will be having a Grand Opening on May 10 and will be serving food and drinks.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR:

Tim Feller asked about getting a key for the cardboard recycling dumpster that is downtown. The Board said that he could have one.

Lauren Ruel addressed the Board about Alliance Grain the dust.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mike Bruner made a motion to enter Executive Session (7:50 pm) to discuss appointments, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village of Herscher and potential Litigations. Skip Grigas seconded. Roll call taken Jacob Wagner-aye, Mike Bruner-aye, Andy Cotter-aye, Jeremy Bauer-aye, Gayle Landeck-absent, and Skip Grigas-aye. All in favor; motion carried.

Mike Bruner motioned to exit executive session at 8:17 p.m. seconded. All in favor motion carried.

Andy Cotter moved to approve 3.5% raises for all employees. Jacob Wagner **seconded**. Roll call taken Mike Bruner-aye, Andy Cotter-aye, Jeremy Bauer-aye, Skip Grigas-aye, Jacob Wagner-aye, and Gayle Landeck-absent. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Motion to adjourn by Skip Grigas. Seconded by Jacob Wagner. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Heather Meredith, Village Clerk