

The Council for the Village of Hillman met in regular session on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the east-end conference room of the Hillman Community Center at 24220 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hillman, MI 49746. Present: President Dave Hornbacher. Trustees: Thomas Bouchey, Steve Orlandi, Velma Brown and Jonathan Smith. Employees: Dave Post, Jan McMurray and Emma Niswonger. Clerk: Ann Williams. Visitors: Deputy DeMott from Montmorency County Sheriff's Office, Ron Floer and Judy Nichols.

The meeting was called to order by President Hornbacher with the pledge of allegiance at 6 p.m.

Trustee Smith made a motion and was supported by Trustee Bouchey to approve the agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Orlandi made a motion and was supported by Trustee Brown to approve the minutes as written from the previous meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Bouchey made a motion and was supported by Trustee Brown to approve the bills including the additional ones with the check numbers 37433 through 37454. All in favor. Motion carried.

President Hornbacher declared that we would table Resolution 2025-03 Employee Contract Village Manager Village of Hillman until the next meeting.

Manger Post read through a proposed new Sick Time Policy due to the recently passed State Law, Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA). There was much discussion concerning unused hours that would roll over to the next year. It was decided that 40 hours could roll over not to exceed 80 hours in a year. Dave said he would rewrite the Sick Time Policy and have the attorney look over before we set it in place.

Deputy DeMott reported that they just had a substantial drug bust in the area and would be patrolling in the area a lot more.

President Hornbacher reported that he did not have a chance to speak with John Burr regarding the repairs on Maple Street. It was made clear the Council did not want most of the expense coming from the Street Budget for this repair because it is doubtful we could obtain grant money. He stated he would speak with John Burr, and they would come up with a cheaper repair.

Manager Post introduced Emma Niswonger as the new employee to take the place of Jan McMurray as administrative assistant. The Council welcomed her. He reported that Habitat for Humanity was using the assessed value for the properties on Pine Street and would like to put half of the money down now and then pay the other half once homes are built. Council decided to put together an agreement that would allow the above stated proposal with a contingency that if a home was not built on the property, the money would be refundable, and the property would revert to the Village. Dave agreed to contact the attorney to have the agreement completed. A large HELP Loan Account was paid off. The EDA Grant is still in process, and we should hold off on using the matching State Treasury money until April to give time on the grant. Enclosed in the agenda packet are proposals from Everest and MD-7 for the lease of our water tower. After discussion, the Council decided to do nothing with either proposal and keep control of the water tower. Manager Post asked for comments on changes for the budget and advised Council there is still time to make changes. There is a proposal from Huron Engineering for the 5-year water study for \$10,000. Manager Post informed Council when it was done last time it was done by Fleis & Vandenbrink for \$7,400.

President Hornbacher made a motion and was supported by Trustee Brown to hire Huron Engineering for \$10,000 to complete the Water Reliability Study. All in favor. Motion carried.

He informed the Council that he would be leaving on March 5 and not be in the office at all on March 6 to attend a meeting in Lansing for MML Liability & Property Pool Board.

Bookkeeper McMurray reported that we still do not have an audit company for the audit due in June. There are 3 possibilities in Alpena, but there has been no confirmation from one yet. President Hornbacher requested a report next month to get an update.

Trustee Brown reported that the tarmac and both runways need crack sealing at the airport. She will check and see when it was last done. Leases are due by September 1, 2025.

Manager Post would like to form a sub committee to review possible changes to the Master Plan in Zoning before it goes to the Planning Commission. He suggested himself, Dave Hornbacher and Ron Floer.

Trustee Brown reported that the Fire Department had 5 runs and EMS had 35 billable runs. Painting is done on the Hubbard Lake truck. The Fire Department joined MABAS. **President Hornbacher** said they would like to get reimbursed for runs to Green Township. Green Township has only first responders and cannot transport.

Trustee Orlandi reported that streetlights are all working, and DPW has been doing a good job with snow removal.

Manager Post is sending the EGLE letter out next week. He received a letter from Claire Lowe stating we need to buy a new caliper. Water drilling will begin in April.

President Hornbacher reported that the Fire Department would like to start utilizing cooling pond water. Pumps will be put into place in the next month or two.

Judy Nichols reported that Brush Creek Mill will reopen in April.

Trustee Smith made a motion supported by Trustee Orlandi to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.