

The Council for the Village of Hillman met in regular session on Tuesday, April 15, 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: Steve Orlandi, Tom Bouchey and Jonathan Smith. Absent: Velma Brown. Employees: Dave Post, Emma Niswonger, John Burr. Clerk: Ann Williams. Visitors: Ron Floer, Bruce Brown, Doug Morrison, Kelly Bennet and Lisa Applegren.

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

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

**Trustee Bouchey made a motion and was supported by Trustee Orlandi to approve the minutes as written. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Trustee Smith made a motion and was supported by Trustee Bouchey to approve and pay the bills along with the additional ones with check numbers 37526 to 37575. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Manager Post** reported that there are no adjustments yet to the budget.

**DPW Supervisor John Burr** reported that there has been a multi-township endeavor to find an alternate brush drop off at Hillman Airport. This is due to the unprecedented ice storm damage to trees that occurred at the end of March. He advised that Montmorency and Rust Township agreed to contribute to the expense, but Hillman Township has denied any support. Would the Village of Hillman be willing to help support this endeavor?

**Kelly Bennett, Clerk of Montmorency Township** reported that they agreed to pay up to \$1,500 for the airport brush drop off, but do not want to pay for Hillman Township residents' brush.

**Lisa Applegren, Treasurer of Rust Township** reported they agreed up to \$500 for the airport brush drop off.

Much discussion pursued and the final consensus of the Council was to agree to help. **Trustee Orlandi made a motion and was supported by Trustee Smith to**

**help pay up to \$2,000 for the brush drop off at Hillman Airport. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Both Townships, Rust and Montmorency, and the Village of Hillman agreed to a 4x6 aluminum sign for the Airport stating Brush Drop off here for Residents of Montmorency, Rust Townships and the Village of Hillman for \$340. All township and Village representatives signed the Village of Hillman Memorandum of Understanding. Dave Post offered to email a copy to each of the Clerk's.

**Visitor Bruce Brown** thanked the Council and the DPW workers for their good work and pulling together from the aftermath of this storm. He stated he was very proud to be from Hillman. He was also impressed by the Fire and Police Departments in the way they took care of people.

**Visitor Doug Morrison** reported that he was grateful and impressed by our work during the storm. He said everyone was on board. He brought up his concerns of what he called is keeping Hillman in the rough instead of being a diamond. He brought up 2 homes in the Village that have several old vehicles and garbage visible from the street. There is one home with 5 old non-running cars and 40 tires that need to be dealt with. A home on Second Street needs to be torn down. It is full of mold and uninhabitable. He reported that he has made this same complaint to the Council previously, and nothing seems to get done. He requested that the Village of Hillman enforce rules.

**Manager Post** reported that Habitat seems to be satisfied with the mortgage agreement. **President Hornbacher** confirmed, yes, go ahead with the mortgage agreement.

**Manager Post** also reported that the culvert proposal needs an updated permit to do an open cut. Becky from Huron Engineering has reached out to EGLE about the permitting. He is asking Huron Engineering for help with the CCR (Consumer Confidence Report) because there is so much more entailed this year to complete it. He spoke to Standard Plumbing and Heating, and they want 50% down before work begins. There is also a NEMCOG meeting April 17<sup>th</sup> if anyone is interested. Habitat wrote a letter "to request permission from the Village to reserve Community Development Block Grant funds, which are funded through MSHDA MI Neighborhood Program through a 'Letter of Intent' due by Thursday, April 17, 2025." Consensus of the Council was that they were ok with LOI (Letter of Intent). **Trustee Orlandi made a motion and was supported by President**

**Hornbacher to have Habitat for Humanity write an LOI in our behalf. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**President Hornbacher** asked if Emerick Park would be up and running for a May 1<sup>st</sup> open date or would we have to refund reservations. **John Burr** stated that most of the work needed to be done should be done by this weekend. They are still without power in the park, but Alpena Power is working on it. **President Hornbacher** suggested Mike Wilson, the Park Manager, should call anyone on the reservation list and let them know there may be a delay, but the Village is working on getting the park ready by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**President Hornbacher** reported their current ISO (Insurance Services Office) score is at a 6. The same as it was last year. The Hubbard Lake truck is painted but not running yet. It needs to be retooled. 800 hours have been logged for the storm. It may take 2 years to get reimbursed from the State and that is not a guarantee. Yearly audit for the EMS is April 22nd.

**Manager Post** reported that a firm from Gaylord will be here on Monday to see if he will bid on our Audit. We have received another bid, but it was much more money than what we had previously paid.

**Trustee Orlandi** reported that John and Kasey have done a great job. He was grateful and impressed by all the volunteers.

**Manager Post** reported that the test wells will start in May. PFA's need to be tested in the lagoons.

**Judy Nichols** asked when the orange bump guards would be replaced at Brush Creek Mill and is happy to know that the work on the furnace will begin very shortly. She is very thankful to the Village and the organization of the Fire Department as well as the kindness of everyone during this catastrophic storm.

**Trustee Smith made a motion and was supported by Trustee Orlandi to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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Dave Hornbacher, President

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Ann Williams, Clerk