

The Council for the Village of Hillman met in regular session on Tuesday, May 6, 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, Jonathan Smith and Velma Brown. Employees: John Burr, Dave Post and Emma Niswonger. Clerk: Ann Williams. Visitors: Ron Floer, Judy Nichols, Becky Rivard and Kim from Huron Engineering and Brian Rogers President of Montmorency Township.

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

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

Trustee Orlandi made a motion and was supported by Trustee Bouchey to approve the minutes with the following correction: On page 3 mid-way down in reference to the Hubbard Lake truck it is "not in service" instead of "not running". All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Smith made a motion and was supported by Trustee Brown to pay the bills including the additional bills with check numbers * to *. All in favor. Motion carried.

Kim from Huron Engineering advised the Council that drilling was on schedule for the week of May 19. One shallow well and one deep well will be drilled at the high school and a secondary well next to well 7 at the east-end of First Street. Chemical and Bacteria testing will be week of May 17. Hoping to find good water and no bacteria.

Becky Rivard from Huron Engineering advised Council there is a Grant available from EGLE called CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) designed for water improvements. She listed requirements of Grant to be as 1.) low income, 2.) imminent threat to failure and 3.) no match required, but extra points if we pay 11%-25%. She can get cost together and it will be due by the end of May. Board was agreeable they could prepare the Grant in hopes of a replacement of well #7.

Becky then advised the Council regarding Next Category B Grant which included requirements that it is reserved for small city and villages, a reconstruction rehabilitation, 50% up to \$250,000, so a \$500,000 project for local streets. She

also advised that the grant would be due June 15th and will require a resolution. She suggested a discussion to determine how much money to spend, and what projects we can do. This would be for local streets that don't qualify for any other funding. How many streets we can overlay and put in guard rails. Becky recommended the failing guard rail on First Street and Pleasant Valley. We can do overlays for preventative maintenance. First Street will need more work for stabilization.

She reported the culvert on Second and third Streets had an estimated cost of \$31,000 for two 36-inch culverts and EGLE will work with Huron Engineering. There are 3 options in proceeding: 1.) no changes, replace both culverts \$31,00. 2.) Replace 2 culverts and replace with squelch pipe. It would be shorter. 3.) replace with squelch pipe, leave long 9-10 feet and have sidewalks on the side for \$44,700.

After much discussion, the consensus of the Council was to go with option #3. **Trustee Smith made a motion and was supported by Trustee Brown to proceed with replacing both culverts with squelch pipe, leave long about 9-10 feet and have sidewalks on the side for \$44,700. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Becky then brought up the Category B Grant again and asked how much the Village could spend and is the Council interested in the Grant. **President Hornbacher** recommended 150,000. **Becky** then stated the projects could total \$300,000. Guardrails would be priority. She will bring back pricing and a Resolution for the next meeting and will need a final decision.

Manager Post advised Council he needed a formal motion for the aggregate at the park to have Team Elmers' finish the job. **President Hornbacher made a motion and was supported by Trustee Brown to have Team Elmers' do the aggregate work for \$2500. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Trustee Orlandi made a motion and was supported by Trustee Bouchey to purchase pens and calendars from Myron for \$871.32 for the end of the year. All in favor. Motion carried.

President Hornbacher made a motion and was supported by Trustee Smith to use Dan Smith as Village Auditor. All in favor. Motion carried.

Manager Post got a call from someone who wants to put in a tobacco shop. They would want to sell Kratom, an herb that is similar to opioids. The village received

an email from Kevin Fair to rent all Emerick Park for 4 days in 2026 for a Class of 1976 reunion. He will forward the email to the Council. He shared his text from Shiela and Gary LaFleche that listed the supplies they would need for the Pocket Parks. They need \$65 per pocket park and need an allowance to replace plants. Consensus of Council was yes to all. MSHDA has already been in contact with the Village for the Notice of Intent that Habitat wrote and we should know by the 17th if we can write for full Grant. Huron Engineering has made about 75% progress on the five-year water study and the CCR.

Becky stated the culvert on Elizabeth Street has been patched several times. She is watching for grant opportunity.

Manager Post stated the DPW has allocated doing hours worked as storm cleanup. We received \$30,000 from Treasury. NEMCOG will do the work. Been using First Advantage for drug testing for CDLs and would like to switch to OMS Compliance. They have a \$500 buy-in fee. He will have more information at the next meeting.

President Hornbacher said OMEGA will do the Industrial Park sign at \$2,750 with half down. **President Hornbacher made a motion and was supported by Trustee Brown to pay up to two-thirds of \$2750 for sign at Progress Street. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Manager Post advised the Council that the Village received a letter from Mike and Teresa Walker asking for compensation from damage to their boat and lawnmower from tree limbs falling from Village property. **President Hornbacher** suggested to submit to our insurance Company. PIE&G wants to know if they can use the airport for brush drop off also. Consensus of the Council was they were okay with them using it. A zoning permit was made for A-1 Party Store for replacement of a canopy.

Trustee Brown gave stats for Fire and Ambulance. They received a recruitment from volunteers of the ice storm.

President Hornbacher introduced **Brian Rogers**, President of Montmorency Township Board. Hillman will have 2 fire stations, one at Canada Creek and one in the Village. Hillman township will pay through millage funds in 2026. Dave Hornbacher would be Chief at both stations. They will test for one year.

Brian Rogers reported to the Council that he is very optimistic the new fire station. It is within 1-5 miles of Clear Lake and M33. It will improve insurance rates.

John Burr stated the pole by park needs bolts. The orange bump guards needed at Brush Creek Mill will have to be reordered. He is done discharging the lagoons.

Judy Nichols reported that the furnaces are in at the Brush Creek Mill. Another date will be determined for the A/C units.

Trustee Orlandi made a motion and was supported by Trustee Bouchey to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned 7:10 p.m.

President, Dave Hornbacher

Ann Williams, Clerk