

The Council for the Village of Hillman met in regular session on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the evening in the east-end conference room of the Hillman Community Center at 24220 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hillman, Michigan. Present: President Dave Hornbacher. Trustees: Thomas Bouchey, Johnathon Smith, Velma Brown. Absent: Stephen Orlandi. Employees: Dave Post, Jan McMurray and Brenda South.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of allegiance and was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Hornbacher.

**A motion was made by Trustee Bouchey and supported by Trustee Brown to approve the agenda as presented. Yeas: Brown, Bouchey, Smith. Nays: None, Abstain: Hornbacher. Motion carried.**

**A motion was made by Trustee Brown and supported by Trustee Bouchey to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2023, Council meeting as written. Yeas: Bouchey, Brown, Smith. Nays: None, Abstain: Hornbacher. Motion carried.**

**President Hornbacher** set the door to door Trick or Treat hours for October 31, 2023, from 5-7:30 p.m.

**A motion was made by Trustee Brown and supported by Trustee Smith to pay the bills and additional bills with checks numbered 36314 through 36353. Yeas: Smith, Brown, Bouchey. Nays: None, Abstain: Hornbacher. Motion carried.**

**President Hornbacher** reported that the Planning Commission Board had met on Monday, October 16, 2023, and a sample ordinance for housing chickens in the Village of Hillman was discussed. Currently there is a resident housing “free-range” chickens and there have been some complaints from neighboring property owners. The planning board recommended sending this sample ordinance to the Village Council for consideration. This item was tabled for further review by the full council.

**Manager Dave Post** reported that he had met with Julie Lowe who discussed Brownfield developments, Doug Baum and Heather from NEMCOG were also present. Money may be available for tearing down buildings or to get businesses back on the tax rolls. **Manager Dave Post** and Trustee Johnathon Smith met with the Habitat for Humanity board members about forming a “housing commission” or “housing board”. Dave went on to say that he had done some research in the

General Law Charter about forming partnerships and this may not be allowed. Most of the agreements allowed were intergovernmental or other governmental entities. A “contract” with Habitat for Humanity who would then form the housing commission may be the option for the Village. Dave will continue to get more information about the commission. Dave reported that he would not have to do the “dashboard” report this year, this report involves revenue sharing reporting. The Village of Hillman was turned down for the SPARK Grant, Emerick Park improvements, funding was given to larger communities. **Manager Dave Post** and President Dave Hornbacher will attend the MML Annual Convention October 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>. Dave reported that he will be taking November 1-3<sup>rd</sup> off for vacation and he will also be taking November 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> off for vacation. The next issue was the managers contract, this will be discussed with the personnel committee, Tom Bouchey, Dave Hornbacher, and Manager Dave Post, a meeting will be set around the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. **Manager Dave Post** reported that after researching rules and regulations for municipal campgrounds there is currently a law (PA162, 1990) that allows removal of unruly individuals from campgrounds without the Council having to write an ordinance. This law is on the books and can be enforced by local law enforcement officers. Dave contacted the Village attorney who said that this should cover the Village, it is state law. It was suggested that this be posted on the campground website, or posted in the park. The next issue was removal of the dilapidated houses on Pine Street. A call was made to Alpena Power and they will disconnect their services lines without charge, not sure about gas lines as yet.

**Trustee Brown** reported that the DPW has been hauling dirt out to the airport. Manager Mark Mellingen changed the sign, the paint was wrong so he redid them. There are 18 runway lights that need to be replaced, those were marked for the DPW to replace. There are trees on the south end of the runway that need to be cut back. The terminal building furnace needs to be serviced, there is concern about it getting done, the crawl space is very small. It was decided to put a call into a local furnace repairman and have it serviced. **Manager Dave Post** suggested that the same repairman service the Brush Creek Mill furnace as well. It was suggested that a smoke detector be purchased and installed in the upstairs of the mill by the Village rather than leave it to the mill board volunteers.

**Trustee Smith** reported that there are still some campers at the park. Dave Post suggested he get the park equipment serviced before storage for next summer. Park Manager Johnathon Smith will talk with DPW worker Kasey Burr about getting the equipment serviced. The bridge lights are on sometimes and then off, also the pocket park lights are still out. It was suggested to contact Brad Smith about getting them repaired. The garbage can near the post office needs to be

dumped and there was a request to put a sidewalk along Pleasant Valley Road to Elizabeth Street as there are speeding cars and several people who walk it daily. The discharge permit for the lagoons is in and that will be done soon. A water meeting with Bob Weir from EGLE resulted in him suggesting a filtration system, which may generate more points for the Village. It was determined that this was listed in the Village Water Study Plan, Mr. Weir didn't think the Village was serious enough. **Trustee Brown** asked about restoring the pay to Trustees to the original amount, the pay was cut 2 years ago due to budget concerns. This will be discussed during budget meetings. **Trustee Smith** asked about a delinquent HELP Loan, Manager Dave Post stated that it has been referred to the Village attorney, we are waiting for his reply. There has been no price quote received for repairs to the Brush Creek Mill bathrooms, this will be tabled until the quote is received.

**A motion was made by Trustee Smith and supported by Trustee Brown to adjourn the meeting. Yeas: Bouchey, Smith, Brown. Nays: none, Abstain: Hornbacher. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.**

---

Dave Hornbacher, President

---

Brenda South, Clerk/Treasurer