

The Council for the Village of Hillman met in regular session on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the east-end conference room of the Hillman Community Center at 24220 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hillman, MI 49746. Present: Trustees: Steve Orlandi, Tom Bouchey, Jonathan Smith and Velma Brown. Absent: President Dave Hornbacher. Employees: Manager Dave Post, Bookkeeper Emma Niswonger and Bruce Brown. Clerk: Ann Williams. Visitors: Ron Floer, Judi Rappuhn, Pam Meicher, Tom Williams, Charles Arbour, Lloyd Pelitier, Jim Stoddard, Thomas Schumaker and Sally Kavenaugh.

President Pro Tempore Smith opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

Trustee Brown made a motion and was supported by Trustee Orlandi to approve the agenda with the correction of the date from April 20 to April 21, 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Bouchey made a motion and was supported by Trustee Brown to approve the minutes from April 7, 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Orlandi made a motion and was supported by Trustee Bouchey to pay all of the bills including the additional ones with check numbers 38401-38430.

Pam Meicher addressed the Council asking for a solution to a double booking of Pavillion #2 on VJ Day, August 8, 2026, for the Republican Party who sells burgers at their Burger Bash. **Jim Stoddard** stated that the Republican Party has reserved the pavilion every year for 5 years on October 1st of every year. **Judi Rappuhn and Lloyd Pelitier** verified that advertising has already been printed, and they always rent the same pavilion to have the Burger Bash.

Dave Post had minutes from 2015 that recorded the decision of Hillman Village Council to make it a policy that reservations of the pavilion should not be accepted until October 1st for the following summer.

There was one family who reserved the pavilion prior to October 1st which caused the overbooking and because of this the consensus of the Council was that the early booking should be moved and not the Republican Party because they followed policy and protocol. Discussion then veered to an alternate site for the moved family.

Bruce Brown suggested camping site #10, the family site in the Park, because it has a pavilion and could fit 6 picnic tables.

Darryl Peterson suggested the Park Pavilion at Tournament/Tiger Paw Park as an alternative; however, there are no reservations because it's first come, first served.

The Council instructed Emma or Dave to reach the offending party and explain the situation and give the alternatives to their booking.

Tom Schumaker addressed the council and asked for a refund of \$70.26 caused by fees for overuse of water due to a faulty water meter. He had a spread sheet in which he had recorded daily water meter readings along with any high-volume water usage. He then reported that the meter had been replaced with a new one, but his readings do not match the readings of those taken by our DPW workers and was worried there would still be issues with an erroneous meter read. The Council agreed to the refund and **Dave Post** would connect with John Burr regarding the readings of the new meter.

Trustee Orlandi made a motion and was supported by Trustee Brown to take off the 10% late fee and the overage amount to reflect a credit of \$70.26 to the water bill. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dave Post reported the quotes for a porta potty at the park for the summer. Halls Serv-All \$245 a month and Alpena Septic \$275 a month plus a \$50 set fee. The decision of the Council was to go with Halls Serv-All as in previous years.

Dave reported that the Consumer Confidence report had been draft form and submitted to EGLE and returned by same as acceptable; therefore, he will distribute it to the Health Department and get it on the website. **Dave** also reported that he had included in the Council agenda packets a declaration from County Emergency Manager along with the Montmorency County Hazard Mitigation Plan. He notified the Council that the Hazard Mitigation Plan needed to be updated by next February and the Village needs to have input. He also stated that the dam in Hillman is a low hazard dam and not required to submit an emergency plan.

Dave also reported he is still working on getting a committee together to discuss the impact of the power plant closing. The owners of the Black Squirrel Bakery will be submitting a plan for the property across from Eli's Marketplace. **Dave**

also stated that Epic Energy Star and ECT are requesting a Community Forum to discuss the possibility of opening a battery storage facility. They want to do their due diligence for the facility. It is a 30-million-dollar project, and they want their investment accepted by the community. He also reported that the Planning Commission met on April 20, 2026, to complete updates to the Master Plan and zoning map. There will be another special meeting on May 18, 2026, to hopefully complete the updates.

Ann gave affidavits of identity and Nominating Petitions to Trustees: Tom Bouchey, Steve Orlandi and Jonathan Smith because their seats are up for election this year.

Emma reported that she mailed a check to Blue Cross Blue Shield in March that was never received. They are now threatening to cancel the health policy for Kasey. She asked for permission to pay the bill on-line. The Council agreed to have her pay the Blue Cross bill online. Emma also reported that she is working on the SLFRF (State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds) Report which is for Covid. Auditors will be here on May 14, 2026.

Trustee Brown reported that there is only one functioning windsock at the airport, and the aviation board was told that we shouldn't have to pay the landowners to cut trees in the flight path. **Dave Post** said he has been trying for 2 years to get documentation of law that would show we do not have to pay landowners to cut trees but hasn't been successful.

Bruce Brown reported that he would not be able to take the Park Manager Position but would like to continue to work part-time. He also reported that the new signs are ready, picnic tables are out, brush has been picked up, and Standard Plumbing fixed the leaks in Emerick Park bathrooms. The park is almost ready for the May 1st opening date.

Dave Post reported that he received a letter that the plastic piping we wanted to use for the new wells was not approved.

Charlie Arbour had nothing to report for the Road Commission. Dave Post acclaimed Charlie for all his hard work and a great job on Twin Dams.

Daryl Peterson addressed the Council and asked what roads in the Village would be paved this year. **Dave Post** reassured Daryl that yes roads in the Village would be paved because of the Category B Grant; but we are waiting on bids. Daryl also reported that the Township would this year be giving the Village \$2,000 for the airport which is double from previous years.

Trustee Orlandi reported that there was a portion of lights out on the bridge.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Jonathan Smith, President Pro Tempore

Ann Williams, Clerk

Village of Hillman Managers Report – May 5, 2026

1. Does the Council want to order pocket calendars for next year?
2. ECT representing Epic Star Energy sent an email with a list of questions about zoning. I answered and referenced the sections of zoning that is applicable. I consulted Denise Cline and Tim Gulden on the answers. They both felt they were answered correctly. If Council members would like to review any of this information, please come to the office and we can go over it.
3. Under section 9.3 of the zoning the Village can ask Epic Star Energy for funds held in their name in Escrow to help pay for Village expenses. This could include the Village zoning Consultant, environmental review, engineering review and attorneys' fees. I believe the Council and planning commission should ask for this. I can get the cost together to submit to Epic Star.
4. Huron Engineering is doing some phase one environmental work for Epic Star. They are the firm the Village has been using. I talked to Becky Rivard and Tim Gulden about this, and Becky and Tim felt Huron would still be able to do the engineering review, but we should look to another firm for the environmental. Rich Brege from Alpena could do environmental work. He done the environmental on the Pine Street homes the Village tore down. Or, the Council could just ask another firm to do both.
5. The quarterly report for the MSHDA grant is done; Hopefully we will be done soon. Denise has moved our zoning sub-committee meeting back to June; The EGLE grant for cleaning up where Black Squirrel is, is still going. I was hoping for closeout;
6. I never received the cost estimate for airport lighting upgrades so I couldn't submit the grant.
7. I will be taking May 22nd off. Also, June 23-25 I will be at an MML Liability and Property Pool meeting. I have three more meetings for that board, and I will be termed out. So, the meeting in the first part of December will be my last.
8. Letters were sent out to homes with clutter (blight) asking them to clean up.

Dave Post, Village Manager Have a good weekend.