

The Council for the Village of Hillman met in regular session on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the east-end conference room of the Hillman Community Center at 24220 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hillman, Michigan. Present: President Dave Hornbacher. Trustees: Stephen Orlandi, Thomas Bouchey, Johnathon Smith, Velma Brown. Employees: Manager Dave Post, Secretary/Bookkeeper Jan McMurray, and Clerk/Treasurer Brenda South. Visitors: Judy Nichols, Brush Creek Mill, Jim Stoddard, Bob Hunt, Bruce Brown, Hillman VFW, Ron Floer,

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

A motion was made by Trustee Brown and supported by Trustee Smith to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Orlandi and supported by Trustee Bouchey to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2024 Council meeting as written. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bouchey and supported by Trustee Brown to pay the bills and additional bills with checks number 36681 through 36719. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jim Stoddard addressed the Council representing the Hillman VFW Post 2356. Mr. Stoddard asked the Council to consider designating Hillman as the VJ Day Capital of Michigan. MDOT will make and distribute the signs to be put at the entrance of Hillman, East entrance sign, South entrance sign, and to the North of town. There is a cost to do this, but MDOT will make and place the signs for the Village, but it must be at the request of the Council. Other communities surrounding the Village have designations such as Atlanta, which is the Elk Capital, and now Onaway, which is the Sturgeon Capital. **Bruce Brown** said that there is only 1 other town in the whole nation that still celebrates VJ Day. **President Hornbacher** suggested that he contact MDOT and get some more information, and the cost, before a decision is made. **Trustee Orlandi** thought it was a great idea.

Manager Dave Post asked the Council if they would like to renew the MML membership at a cost of \$744 per year. **A motion was made by President Hornbacher and supported by Trustee Orlandi renew the MML membership at a cost of \$744 per year. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Manager Dave Post showed the Council a map of Emerick Park and said that Huron Engineering is currently working on the upgrades to the park, placement of the pickleball court and new playground equipment. There was a question as to whether the old playground equipment should be left or removed. Most Council members said the equipment should be left if there is room. All of it will have to be removed so that the ground can be leveled said **Park Manager/Trustee Johnathon Smith**. **Manager Dave Post** said that the construction date is set for August. The grant application for the old sports center has been submitted. Work is being done to set-up training for RRC here at our office, possibly to invite other communities to attend this training. There is a MEDC training at Treetops Resort in Gaylord scheduled for June 11th from 12:15 to 3:15 p.m. registration must be in by June 4th. Trustee Brown, Bouchey, and President Hornbacher would like to attend. **Manager Dave Post** will be out of town from May 11th through the 17th. The Village received extra revenue sharing money from the State of Michigan designated for safety, where would the Council like the money to go to either the fire department or sheriff department. It was suggested to call the state to see where the money can be used then a decision will be made. **Manager Dave Post** reported that well #7 has had issues with the pump breaking suction. This is our best producing/quality well. Norther Pump and Well gave an estimate of \$16,500 to repair the well. **A motion was made by Trustee Bouchey and supported by Trustee Orlandi to have Northern Pump and Well to work on well #7 at a cost of \$16,500. All in favor. Motion carried.** **Manager Dave Post** continued reporting that he had attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting. The events schedule is as follows: Teeing up for Kids, July 16th (Brush Creek Mill), Blessing of the Bikes, June 1st (Hillman Chamber of Commerce) who would like to borrow the Village traffic cones for this event. Highway Clean-up, May 16th at 5:30 p.m. sponsored by the Chamber, hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided, volunteers are needed for this event and the clean-up will begin at Patchwood. The Chamber has proposed a challenge to the Lions Club and Brush Creek Mill and Hillman Chamber with a \$25 entry fee for the best float for VJ Day Parade, the winner will win \$50. Hillman Township will be doing some maintenance on the foyer floor on April 26th and have asked that the Village close our office on that day, they will be tiling the floor and will be using glue that has extreme fumes.

Secretary/Bookkeeper Jan McMurray asked the Council if they wanted to hire Sheila LaFleche again this year to maintain the pocket park flower beds, they said yes. The flower boxes will not be used this year, so it was suggested we lend them out to business to put in front of their businesses to plant and maintain for the summer. The Council agreed this was a good idea so Judy Nichols will discuss this with the Chamber board to see if they would like to do this project.

Trustee Brown reported that the runway lights are still not fixed and asked that someone contact Chris Hardies to get this done. President Hornbacher will try to contact him again to get a date to get the lights repaired. Contact was made to Aero Pines about accessing their property to remove trees blocking visibility on the runway.

Manager Dave Post stated that he will contact Becky at Huron Engineering to begin the project for identifying leads to homes, this must be done by October.

Trustee Smith reported that he had returned to work at Emerick Park and has begun cleaning and cutting grass to get the park ready for the May 1st opening. **President Hornbacher** reported that Mr. Hill would like to sell the ice machine to the Village, promising that he will maintain it. The machine did not work for part of the last summer camping season, he says that he replaced a pump and it should not have any problems.

Manager Dave Post reported that there are 3 zoning permits pending, the Thunder Bay Clinic drive-through, Huntington Bank parking lot remodel. A meeting is being scheduled with the people doing the work, and Mr. Villeneuve is planning to add on to the back of his building for holding pens. The request from Patchwood Products, for the change of use in his building, is pending for more information from Denise Cline, NEMCOG planning specialist.

Trustee Orlandi reported the streetlight on the south side of the Emerick Park entrance is still out, President Hornbacher said that there is a hole near the Episcopal Church on Third Street that needs to be patched, also one near the A-1 Woods and Waters on First Street. **Manager Dave Post** reported that Huron Engineering would like the Village to give them a map of areas we would like to put sidewalks. An e-mail from EGLE, Melissa Sauder, requesting that the Village have some water plans in place by June 1st, this e-mail was sent on to Huron Engineering.

Judy Nichols reported that the work has begun at the Brush Creek Mill, Tom Wolff is handling the bathroom remodel. New lighting for the roof has arrived, there seems to be a problem with the electronic sign, it is dimming. The annual yard sale is scheduled for May 25th donations will be accepted by May 1st. The Village attorney reviewed the PIE&G Franchise agreement and made some corrections, this will be put on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

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

Dave Hornbacher, President

Brenda South, Clerk/Treasurer