

**1. Roll Call- All present**

**2. Public Comment**

• **Matt Ashbrook (Township Supervisor):**

Requested a Village letter of support for an August Road millage. Proposed projects include a Mill Lake Road overlay (\$283,480) and Baseline Road tree removal/prep for future expansion (\$18,290). Noted limited tree removal due to past resident concerns and emphasized Mill Lake Road as a priority.

**3. February Expenses**

General Fund-\$32,746.25	Major Streets-\$47,281.56
Sewer Fund-\$20,148.40	Local Streets-\$15,183.62

**4. Approval of Agenda (Additions or Deletions)**

**Agenda Amendments:**

- Added under President's Report: Letter of support for road millage.
  - Added under Sewer items added: weed control for ponds; replacement of sewer computer/software; replacement of effluent pump; replacement of east pond pump; replacement of south lift station pump; auto samplers.
  - Added under New Business: Voda Cleaning services.
  - Added under Clerk ICA computer support \$1,520.55.
- Motion by B. Strong, supported by G. Simpson. Roll- Yes. Motion Carried.

**5. Approval of February 17th Regular and Special Meeting Minutes**

- Motion by R. Empson, supported by T. Rankin. Roll-Yes. Motion Carried.

**6. Communication:**

• Van Buren County Commissioner

**County Commissioner Report:**

- County audit was positive with a balanced budget.
  - Crime trends: overall cases slightly down; domestic violence, assaults, and felony drunk driving increased; meth decreased, other drugs increased.
  - Village crime rates are below proportional share.
  - Updates on Health Department role, Palisades delay, and future county facility planning.
  - Road funding remains uncertain due to marijuana tax litigation.
- Parks and Recreation
- A tentative community workday is scheduled for March 28 at 9:00 AM, with volunteer support from the Christian Church. Planned activities include raking mulch, painting playground equipment, and power washing, and community members are encouraged to attend.

**7. Reports on Village Officials**

• President's Monthly Report

- Reported multiple power outages and storm-related debris cleanup, including a large branch on Oak Street. Ongoing coordination with DPW staff on sewer and road needs. Plans to meet with contractors to measure Rumery Street for paving and evaluating grinding and potential resurfacing of two blocks on Oak Street, with estimates pending.
  - Support letter for township road millage.
- Motion by G. Simpson, supported by R. Empson. Roll-Yes. Motion Carried.

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- Treasurer's Report- attached.
  - Discussion regarding closing the Bond & Interest account, as payments have been completed. Item will be placed on next month's agenda for formal consideration.
- Clerk's Report
  - Administrative Update
    - Clerk addressed the board, requesting any concerns regarding performance be brought forward directly or discussed openly at meetings.
  - Southwestern Michigan Dust Control- Brine 2/3/2026-2/27/2026- \$1,500.00
  - Motion by G. Simpson, supported by T. Dickerson. Roll-Yes. Motion Carried.
  - MDOT- Pine Street to N. Village Limits- Resurfacing, driveway, sidewalk, and ADA ramps- \$8,960.26
  - Motion by B. Strong, supported by G. Simpson. Roll-Yes. Motion Carried.
  - ICA- Computer Support at Sewer Plant- \$1,520.55
  - Motion by B. Strong, supported by G. Simpson. Roll-Yes. Motion Carried.
- Grant Oversight- None
- Budget
  - Current budget and audit plans- Audit schedule for 5/4-5/6/2026
    - Preliminary budget review indicates the Village is in good financial standing, with revenues closely matching projections. Variances noted due to unpaid Van Buren Street costs and incomplete local street repairs. Auditors will be arriving soon, with staff preparing necessary documentation.
- Parks
  1. Haven Park
  2. Depot- Testing results from excavated material
    - Environmental testing results showed no VOCs detected; however, multiple metals were identified, with selenium noted at elevated levels due to historical railroad activity. While levels are below heavily contaminated thresholds, further guidance is needed. Discussion included potential on-site encapsulation and consultation with an environmental engineer. Motion to approved to allocate up to \$1,000 for environmental consulting services.
- Motion by T. Dickerson, supported by B. Strong. Roll-Yes. Motion Carried.
- Sewer
  - Discussion regarding sewer pond weed control services, nothing is needed and can proceed under the existing permit. Estimated cost is \$3,700 for one-time treatment of the west pond.
  - Motion by B. Strong, supported by T. Rankin. Roll-Yes. Motion Carried.
    - Discussion regarding replacement of the sewer computer system after failure due to a power surge, leaving the facility without a functioning computer. Proposal included software updates and purchase of a new computer, with installation, data restoration, and training, totaling approximately \$16,966. Motion to approved to proceed with purchase and installation of new sewer computer system and software.
  - Motion by G. Simpson, supported by R. Empson. Roll-Yes. Motion Carried.
    - Discussion regarding replacement of the east pond pump damaged by a power surge. Estimated cost up to \$12,000, with potential for lower cost if an existing pump can be utilized. Motion to approved to replace the east pond pump at a cost not to exceed \$12,000.

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- Motion by T. Dickerson, supported by B. Strong. Roll-Yes. Motion Carried.
  - Discussion regarding the need for a new effluent pump, noting the system is currently operating with only one pump and replacement had been previously budgeted. Motion to approved to purchase and install a new effluent pump at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.
- Motion by B. Strong, supported by G. Simpson. Roll-Yes. Motion Carried.
  - Discussion regarding replacement of a south lift pump damaged during a recent power outage, with no coverage from the power company or insurance. Estimated replacement cost does not exceed \$8,000. Motion to approved to replace the south lift station pump at a cost not to exceed \$8,000.
- Motion by T. Dickerson, supported by T. Rankin. Roll-Yes. Motion Carried.
  - Discussion regarding ongoing issues with both auto samplers during winter conditions, including freezing and operational concerns. Plan to contact the manufacturer for a service technician to inspect equipment and provide solutions. No action taken at this time.
- Streets
  - Street and Sidewalks- Sidewalk damage on Pine Street from winter snow removal was discussed; responsible parties have been contacted, and repairs are expected in the spring. Board also discussed sidewalk maintenance approaches, including research into how other municipalities oversee snow removal and funding. DPW will begin clearing and reopening sidewalks soon.
- Ordinance
  - Discussion regarding new ordinance enforcement officer, noting a more efficient and automated approach to code enforcement, including quicker identification of property information and issuance of notices and citations. Board also discussed transitioning certain ordinances to civil infractions for improved enforcement.

**8. Unfinished Business- None**

**9. New Business**

- Discussion regarding concerns with Voda Cleaning services, including missed cleaning, inadequate performance, and security issues. Current agreement was a 90-day trial. Township Supervisor will review previous bids and reach out to alternative providers for consideration at a future meeting.

**10. Public Comment (Final Call)**

- Discussion regarding the need to obtain additional quotes for a sewer building roof project, with plans to place the item on a future agenda.
- Board discussed general building maintenance needs, including windows and potential repairs, pending available funding.
- Clarification provided that prior support for the Bloomingdale Food Access Project was general in nature, with no formal commitments.

**11. Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn by G. Simpson, supported by T. Fisher. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.