

Present: President George, President Pro Tem Drummond (*arrived at 7:05 p.m.*) Members: Hrydziuszko, Kecskemeti, Mercer and O’Gorman

Absent: Abboud

Also Present: Village Manager, Rothe
Village Attorney, Kolb
Village Clerk, Brown
Public Safety Director, Arnold
Public Services Director, Johnston
Assistant to the Village Manager/Office Manager, Landis

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President George called the regular Village Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Little Theater at Groves High School located at 20500 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025. Brown called the roll. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Motion by Mercer, second by O’Gorman, to excuse President Pro Tem Drummond and Abboud from tonight’s meeting.

Motion passed.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Kecskemeti, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by O’Gorman, be it resolved, the consent agenda is approved.

1. Approve May 19, 2026, Regular Village Council Minutes
2. Review and File Bills recapped as of June 1, 2026
3. Approve FY 2027 Road Striping Proposal

Roll Call:

Motion passed (5-0)

President Pro Tem Drummond arrived at the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

BUSINESS AGENDA

DNR DEER MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION

Village President George gave an overview and noted that the purpose of the presentation was to educate the community and Council on available deer management approaches before engaging in broader policy discussions. Rothe introduced Kara Colton, Wildlife Biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), who provided a presentation regarding urban deer populations and deer management options. Colton explained that urban white-tailed deer exhibit significantly different behaviors than rural deer, including higher survival rates, reduced fear of humans, smaller home ranges, and increased reproductive success. She noted that urban landscapes

provide abundant food resources and fewer population controls, resulting in rapid population growth. She referenced research demonstrating that deer populations can grow exponentially in favorable conditions. Colton distinguished between biological carrying capacity—the maximum number of deer an area can support—and social carrying capacity, which reflects the level of deer-related impacts a community is willing to tolerate. She noted that communities typically reach their social carrying capacity well before biological limits are reached. Colton stated that common concerns associated with high deer populations include landscape damage, impacts on native vegetation, deer-vehicle collisions, habituated or aggressive deer behavior, and public health concerns related to ticks and Lyme disease. Ms. Colton outlined a community-based decision-making process consisting of defining the problem, establishing measurable goals, implementing management actions, and evaluating outcomes. She emphasized that successful programs focus on reducing impacts rather than achieving a specific deer population number. Colton discussed several management options, including along with their associated advantages, limitations, costs, effectiveness, and public acceptance considerations. She noted that no single option provides a perfect solution and emphasized that any management program requires an ongoing commitment rather than a one-time effort. Ms. Colton noted that the Beverly Hills deer population has likely not reached biological carrying capacity but appears to have exceeded the community's social tolerance threshold. She also explained that reducing female deer is the most effective method for slowing population growth and that sustained management efforts are necessary to maintain population reductions.

Council members asked questions regarding implementation, legal considerations, effectiveness, carrying capacity, population rebound following culling, and experiences in neighboring communities. Discussion included the role of local ordinances, private property participation, and the importance of measuring program success through reductions in impacts such as deer-vehicle collisions. The Council also discussed deer management efforts conducted in neighboring communities, including Farmington Hills, Farmington, and Southfield. Questions were raised regarding venison donation programs, contraceptive methods, Chronic Wasting Disease, and the relationship between deer populations, ticks, and coyotes.

Residents were invited to ask questions following the presentation. Topics included identifying sick versus habituated deer, ticks, deer aggression during fawning season, protecting pets, Lyme disease, Chronic Wasting Disease, and coyote activity. Southfield Mayor Ken Siver provided information regarding the recent regional deer management program conducted in Southfield, Farmington Hills, and Farmington. Mayor Siver reported that the USDA-contracted cull removed deer from designated properties, generated over 2,300 pounds of venison for donation to local food banks, and received minimal public opposition. He noted that neighboring communities have expressed interest in participating in future regional efforts and invited Beverly Hills to consider joining the program.

APPROVE COST PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SOUTHFIELD FOR THE 13 MILE ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT

Rothe presented a cost participation agreement with the City of Southfield for the resurfacing of 13 Mile Road between Greenfield and Southfield Road. Rothe stated that the City of Southfield will lead the project and the Village's participation is limited to a share in the cost of the project. Johnston stated that under the existing maintenance agreement, Beverly Hills is responsible for the Southfield Road to Evergreen Road segment, while Southfield maintains the Greenfield to

Southfield Road segment. Director Johnson confirmed that each jurisdiction maintains its respective one-mile section of the roadway.

Motion by Mercer, second by Kecskemeti, BE IT RESOLVED, the Beverly Hills Village Council approves the Agreement with the City of Southfield as presented and authorizes the Village President and Village Clerk to sign on behalf of the Village. Funds are available in account #202-449-970.00.

Roll Call:

Motion passed (6-0)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Eisenman, Valley Ridge Drive, spoke on behalf of the Lorax and stated that deer overpopulation is harming the local ecosystem by over browsing native vegetation, damaging forest understory habitats, and negatively affecting insects, birds, and other wildlife. He urged the Council to reduce the deer population to a sustainable level to protect the broader plant and animal community.

Jeff Pynnonen, Allerton, shared that he is replacing oak trees with maples to reduce deer attraction and expressed concern about Lyme disease exposure linked to deer and ticks in local parks. He warned that close contact with pets can increase human risk and described Lyme disease as a serious public health issue.

Alan Study, Dunblaine, said he has installed extensive deer fencing and protective netting on his property to prevent damage from deer, which he described as increasingly habituated to residential neighborhoods and argued that the Village should move beyond a “wait and see” approach and take more aggressive measures to address the deer population.

Tina Kaplan, Kirkshire, opposed a deer cull and argued that lethal population control is inhumane, unlikely to produce lasting reductions because deer reproduce quickly, and ineffective at reducing Lyme disease tick populations. She advocated for non-lethal measures such as planting deer-resistant native species, using repellents and fencing, enforcing speed limits, improving wildlife crossing infrastructure, and equipping vehicles with deer whistles.

Nancy Ervin, Vernon, described herself as an avid gardener, stated that she had successfully adapted her plantings to coexist with deer and opposed lethal removal on compassionate grounds. She emphasized the value she placed on observing wildlife of that size in a residential setting.

Sean Millsamp, East Chelton, recounted a serious deer-vehicle collision involving a friend 35 years ago, as well as his own experience striking a deer while driving at the speed limit. He argued that reducing the deer population is necessary to protect public safety, particularly for young and inexperienced drivers, and characterized the issue as a matter of prioritizing human safety.

Paul Balogh, Auburn, opposed deer culling, arguing that human development created the conditions attracting deer and that residents should adapt rather than remove wildlife. He advocated for coexistence, pointed to coyotes as a natural population control mechanism, and cautioned against further human intervention in ecosystem management.

Bill Harvey, Old Stage, raised concerns about the poor condition of 13 Mile Road between Groves and Lahser, noting that it is difficult to traverse and unsafe for bicyclists.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Rothe went over the Manager's report as provided in the regular Village Council meeting packet. Arnold reported the Public Safety Department is now fully staffed with two new cross-trained officers, alongside over 700 May service calls, increased traffic enforcement, and one structure fire with no injuries. He also clarified that the 100-foot ladder truck is intended to serve both local needs and mutual aid to nearby communities with taller buildings.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

O'Gorman expressed appreciation to the Parks and Recreation Board for the Memorial Day Parade and Carnival and recognized Village President George's remarks at the ceremony. He shared his personal observations of the deer situation for over 13 years in Beverly Hills and stated that the community has a responsibility to maintain balance in the deer population and supported continued discussion regarding potential management options.

Kecskemeti noted that the forum attendance, while substantial, may not represent the full breadth of community opinion. She also emphasized the Council's responsibility to seek broader input before deciding on next steps. Kecskemeti agreed that a "do nothing" approach will result in continued exponential growth and stated that Council is committed to acting and ready to discuss next steps. She also congratulated the Groves High School Class of 2026 on their upcoming graduation.

Hrydziuszko thanked the community for the Memorial Day Parade and encouraged attendance at the Concert in the Park on Friday. She acknowledged that the Council's eventual decision on deer management will not satisfy everyone but emphasized the Council's commitment to representing all residents and remaining open to perspectives on both sides. Hrydziuszko stated that she has been regularly asked by neighbors about the deer situation and that the time has come to determine a responsible path forward.

Drummond recognized and thanked the volunteers and participants involved in the Memorial Day Parade and noted the strong community support and engagement demonstrated by the event.

George provided updates on the Evergreen sidewalk improvements, Beverly Park fence replacement project, and the Village's right-of-way tree planting program. He also discussed pedestrian safety and the need for additional crosswalks connecting Beverly Hills and Birmingham. George expressed support for further discussion on deer management and requested that the matter be placed on a future agenda and asked that Administration provide information on the process and requirements for participation in neighboring communities' deer management program.

Mercer expressed support for taking action regarding the deer management issue and noted that inaction could also have negative consequences. He emphasized the importance of identifying the next steps. He also raised concerns regarding the safety risks associated with electric bicycles and scooters and noted the need to enforce existing park regulations. Additionally, Mercer also acknowledged the loss of a friend and encouraged public participation in an upcoming Birmingham Transportation Commission meeting on the subject.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Kecskemeti, second by Hrydziusko, to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Village Council President

Carissa Brown
Village Clerk