

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: April 14, 2026

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Bob Grabowski, Fire Chief

Topic: Renewal Agreement – Utermark & Sons

PURPOSE

Staff is requesting that the Village Board approve a renewal agreement with Utermark & Sons LLC of Homewood, IL for grass cutting, nuisance vegetation trimming, and debris removal for the Village between May 1, 2026 and November 30, 2026.

PROCESS

Regular grass cutting enhances community character by creating a clean, manicured aesthetic that fosters a sense of order, cleanliness and property ownership. Well-maintained lawns create inviting, uniform landscapes that improve curb appeal and lends to Homewood's identity as a livable and joined community.

Municipal nuisance grass cutting refers to a local government process where a municipality cites a property owner for high grass. If the property owner does not cut the grass in a specified time, the municipality engages a contractor to cut the grass along with *before and after pictures*. The property owner is then charged for the cutting.

One of the most immediate and visible benefits of contracting nuisance grass cutting services is the improvement in community aesthetics. Overgrown grass and neglected lawns can create a sense of disorder and neglect, which can affect the perception of residents and visitors alike. By ensuring that all properties adhere to the Homewood Municipal Code, the Village helps to maintain an attractive community for those who live, work, and shop in Homewood.

The Village has utilized two (2) separate contractors for grass cutting, nuisance vegetation trimming, and debris removal since 2014. Utermark & Sons is the contractor that the Village has used to maintain single-family vacant or occupied properties that fail to be compliant, and staff has been pleased with the quality of their work.

OUTCOME

Per the current agreement, upon written agreement of the Village and the Contractor no later than May 1, 2026, the Agreement may be renewed by the Village for a period of two successive years under the same terms and conditions as in the original Agreement. Staff recommends that

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the agreement be renewed for another year. Approval of the renewal contract will allow the Village to continue working with Utermark & Sons LLC to service non-code compliant properties throughout the year to ensure that properties are well-maintained, safe, and attractive, thereby fostering a thriving community environment. The Village's costs for Utermark & Sons are fully recovered

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** General Fund
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$70,000 split between both contracted companies
- **Cost:** \$70,000 split between both contracted companies

LEGAL REVIEW

Not required

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Authorize the Village Manager to enter into an agreement establishing the renewal of the existing agreement with Utermark and Sons of Homewood, IL for grass cutting, nuisance vegetation trimming, and debris removal for privately-owned non-compliant properties between May 1, 2026 and November 30, 2026.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Renewal Agreement