

Hiram Township Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM, Hiram Township Complex

Present: Trustees; Chairman Jack Groselle, and Steve Pancost. Fiscal Officer Eric Hankinson. Zoning Inspector Rich Gano. Road Supervisor Tom Matota. Public; Andy Pfaff, Hiram Fire Assistant Chief Jason Groselle

This meeting is being recorded to facilitate the written minutes. The tape will be preserved until the minutes are approved.

Reading of the Minutes:

Reading of the minutes from 12/20/2022 will be postponed to the next meeting.

Fiscal Officer:

- Appointment of Chairperson of Hiram Township Trustees. Mr. Pancost motioned to appoint Jack Groselle as the Chair, Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-001**
- Appointment of Vice-Chairperson of Hiram Township Trustees. Mr. Groselle motioned to appoint Steve Pancost as the Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Pancost seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-002**
- Appointment of member to the County Regional Planning Commission for 2023. Mr. Groselle motioned to appoint Steve Pancost as the 2023 Representative to Regional Planning Commission, Mr. Pancost seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-003**
- Hiram Village sent the Trustees a contract for 100 hours of Police Patrol in the Township. Mr. Pancost motioned to approve the contract, Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-004**
- Mr. Hankinson presented the Trustees with a Temporary Appropriation Budget for 2023 based on the Proposed Budget worksheet from a previous meeting. Mr. Pancost motioned to accept the Temporary Appropriation for 2023, Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-005**
- Mr. Hankinson asked the Trustees if the Trustees will meet on the third Tuesday of every month. Mr. Pancost motioned to keep meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-006**
- Mr. Hankinson presented paperwork from the County Engineers regarding Road Mileage within the Township. Mr. Pancost motioned to accept the Road Mileage declaration from the County Engineers, Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-007**
- Mr. Hankinson noted that W2s would be sent out in the coming days to all Trustees and Employees of Hiram Township.

Public Comment:

Mr. Andy Pfaff presented a letter to the Trustees regarding his concern with neighbor Joe Ober as Andy had to leave for another meeting.

Old Business:

Mr. Pancost received an email from the County Engineers stating that everything was submitted to ODOT, but they have not been contacted by ODOT. The Township has also not been contacted by ODOT with a response for the Udall Road Speed Study.

Mr. Pancost followed up with the County Prosecutor, Township Employees are allowed to have Concealed Carry because it is outlined in the Township's Employee Handbook.

Mr. Pancost will have an upcoming conversation with Todd Peetz regarding Tire Recycling for the Township since the Township has not offered that the last few years.

Mr. Groselle took a photograph of the new Facility and submitted it to Josh Johnston to update the web site with that and the new address of the Facility to replace the previous Township Meeting Hall address since that property was sold back in May of 2022.

Mr. Groselle asked the Trustees what do they, as a Board, want to do with the Shed at the from of the 6352 SR 82 property. The decision was postponed until the next meeting.

New Business:

Mr. Groselle received a call from a resident on Wrenwood Drive regarding dog barking. The Township has no noise ordinance because of agriculture and no way to enforce such an ordinance. Mr. Groselle told the resident to take it up with his Home Owners Association.

Mr. Groselle received a call from a resident on Winchell Rd to hook up to Natural Gas. Mr. Groselle suggested that the resident contact East Ohio Gas to confirm that a line exists that the resident can actually tap into.

Road:

No break downs and smooth sailing so far. Salt was ordered from Morton (via the ODOT bid in 2022) and deliveries have started. Still having water issues at the Township Facility. Vendor trying different cycling on the water softener to correct. One of the Township trucks had an issue with the exhaust gas recirculator leaking coolant (EGR Cooler). This was replaced by Cerni.

Mr. Matota asked the Trustees if an Asphalt Hotbox can be purchased for the Township. Mr. Pancost motioned to purchase an Asphalt Hotbox for the Township Road Department, Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-008.**

Mr. Pancost mentioned that a Road Weight Limit sign is missing on Allyn Rd neat Rt 700. Mr. Matota will call the County to address the missing sign since Allyn Rd. is a County Road.

Zoning:

Mr. Gano read the letter from Andy Pfaff that was provided at the meeting:

“ We have no further complaints on this matter if the Ober house is constructed over same are as the old existing structure. The accessory structure should also be constructed at least 30ft from the property line as defined in the Township Zoning. 9/14/22 first reached out to Mr. Gano. Concerns were not answered. 10/14/22 complaint given to Mr. Gano. Complaint not addressed (as Mr. Gano was on vacation in Germany at that time. Mr. Gano also received a letter from the County Prosecutor regarding the matter dated 12/21/2022). 1/17/23 no responses, so we (Andy & Cindy Faff) attended the Trustees meeting to present this letter. Joe Ober told us that he can build a house and accessory building 10ft from the property line due to irregular lot. We believe that this would be in violation of the Township Zoning District regulations. We are attempting to ensure the aesthetics & atmosphere of the land remain for now and generations to come. Note OC District 5 irregular lot house placement- to replace old house. These statements are derived from the Township Zoning regulations. Parcel ID 2002-10065-000 address 13051 Thrasher Rd located in OC District 5. Accessory Buildings can not be placed onto a lot until the Principal Structure has been constructed and an occupancy permit has been issued by the Portage County Building Department. OC District 5 accessory building construction placement requires a permit regardless of size. OC District 5 requires accessory building placement distance of 30ft from property line and only allows for 1 accessory building to be on any irregular lot. Building house replacement must be constructed over the exact area of the previous building. My research has helped to resolve our concerns. Everything mentioned above was addressed in the Township Zoning Regulations. Also, there was no mention of an accessory building exempt from permit that can be constructed before a house has passed building inspection. Signed by Andy Pfaff”

Mr. Gano received a letter from the Portage County Prosecutor on 12/21/2022 regarding this manner. “As stated in 203-4, Section E for irregular lot are applicable to all irregular substandard lots including those in OC District regulations. No distances are specific to a home versus an accessory building. The accessory building cannot be closer than 20ft to the house. Given the exception in 203-4, Section E establishes the side and rear yard distances on substandard lots in the OC District and establishes the side yard at 10ft, and rear yard at 30ft. Therefor I am of the opinion that 203-4, Section E as written establishes a general exception to the single-family dwelling requirements and side & rear yard requirements of substandard lots where a single family dwelling is to be placed. An accessory building pursuant to OC District Regulation 301-284 may be placed as long as accepted side yards as outlined in 203-4, Section E are observed.”

Mr. Gano provided Mr. Pfaff a copy of the letter from the Portage County Prosecutor prior to Mr. Pfaff leaving the meeting. Mr. Gano stated that the building is exempt from needing a County Building Permit as the shed is under 200sqft.

Mr. Gano mentioned that on Thursday January 19th 2023 he will sign another search warrant for Thomas Mihelick of 12837 Washburn Rd Hiram Township. The Hiram Police Department told Mr. Gano that they will not escort Mr. Gano, but the County Sherriff will escort Mr. Gano during the service of the search warrant.

Police:

December 2022: 73.5 Patrol hours (2 vehicles down so unable to hit the 100 hour Patrol target), 802 miles driven, 8 traffic stops and 2 citations issued.

Fire:

December 2022: 18 runs for the Township, average response time is 4:54. YTD was 252 runs (down from 303) for the Township and YTD average response time is 5:05. Chief Byers working to obtain grants and possible levy to be able to fund 3 full-time positions at the Hiram Village Fire Department.

Mr. Pancost motioned to Pay the Bills, Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. The meeting ended at 7:42pm.

01-17-23 Meeting Payments and Receipts

Warrant	Payee	Description	Expenses
11944	Edward Jewett (Snap-On)		\$43.25
11945	Superior Dental Care		\$137.12
11946	Quaker City Concrete Products		\$69.00
electronic	Wages		\$15,457.02
electronic	Windstream		\$84.70
electronic	Middlefield Bank		\$25.00