

Hiram Township Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 21, 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; Hiram Fire Chief Bill Byers

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

Reading of the Minutes:

Minutes from the 12/20/2022 and 01/17/2023 meetings are not available to read. They will be read at the next meeting.

Fiscal Officer:

- Mr. Hankinson to reach out to Josh Johnston (web guy) to make sure approved minutes are posted and Agricultural Exemption Permit for Zoning.
- Regional Planning 2023 Membership fees for the Township are due.

Public Comment:

None

Old Business:

Mr. Groselle received information about the NOPEC grants for 2023. Mr. Hankinson will go into the web portal to start process for 2023 registration of Event Sponsorship and the Community Sponsorship.

Mr. Groselle & Mr. Matota mentioned that residents of Udall Rd are grateful about the speed limit signs that were recently erected.

Mr. Groselle asked the Board what they should do regarding the insulated shed at the front of the 6352 SR 82 property. Mr. Pancost motioned to put the building up for highest bid with bids due March 21 at 7:00pm at the Township Trustees Meeting, Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-009**

Mr. Hankinson confirmed with Tom Matota that the new Road Maintenance cell phone works properly within the building as the previous cell phone would not. Also, Mr. Matota requested that the web site be updated to show the Road Maintenance phone number be the Road Maintenance Office phone at 330-977-4040

New Business:

Mr. Pancost mentioned that Portage County Regional Planning is planning to roll out the Portage County Comprehensive Plan that they have been working on. Center of Hope in Ravenna is looking for donations of silverware so that they no longer need to purchase plastic ware.

Mr. Groselle noticed that recently the effective tax rates of all communities in Portage County were published as a public notice. Hiram Township is one of the lowest effective tax rates in the County.

Mr. Groselle received a complaint about the dumpsters on Allyn Rd. There are two dumpsters, one is trash and the other is recycling. When Mr. Groselle passed by the dumpsters on a Saturday (after Friday pickup) the dumpsters were clean and empty.

Mr. Groselle received information regarding Celebrate Portage initiatives.

Road:

Road Maintenance has started ordering salt from Morton (the ODOT approved vendor). The Township is required to order at least 360 tons worth of road salt. Mr. Matota would like to speak with a technician from Ohio Edison regarding the lighting of the Flag at the Rapids Cemetery and had a discussion with the Trustees. Mr. Matota suggested a possible solution of adding a new pole to mount the lighting to and then the light would be considered another street light for the Township.

Mr. Matota learned that Dominion East Ohio Gas will be upgrading the gas lines running by the Township Complex. They will be removing the "Farm Taps" between Alpha and Abbott roads along SR 82 and replacing with a pressurized gas line. Mr. Matota stated that should allow the Township to hook up to Natural Gas for a much lower rate than originally provided to the Township when the building was constructed. The Trustees requested that Mr. Matota to follow up with Dominion East Ohio Gas to gather more information on when the upgrade will be happening and to eventually get a quote from Dominion on hooking up the Township Complex to replace the propane system that is currently heating the building and fueling the backup generator.

Mr. Matota updated the Trustees on pipes on Asbury Rd south of Schustrich. The pipes both north and south of Schustrich are under the Portage County Engineers. It was determined that beavers keep building dams in the area of the pipes south of Schustrich which keep filling up the pipes with water which are unable to drain properly and cause flooding of Schustrich and Asbury. Unfortunately, the beaver dams are located on private property.

The Township Complex is still having major issues with rust and sediment. Mr. Matota asked the Trustees if hooking into the Village's water system is still an option. Mr. Matota feels the initial quote received was way off. Mr. Matota would like to get a quote to have a 2" line, directionally bored, from 6352 SR 82 (Township Complex) to the nearest city water hookup location. Originally the price quoted was \$45,000 from Integra.

Zoning:

On January 25th, 2023 Mr. Gano served a search warrant to Thomas Mihelick (of 12837 Washburn Rd, Hiram Township) accompanied by County Deputies and Sheriff. Mr. Mihelick signed for a certified letter from Mr. Gano on February 6, 2023. Mr. Gano is giving Mr. Mihelick 30 days (which would be March 6, 2023) to comply with the request in the certified letter. If Mr. Mihelick does not comply, Mr. Gano asked the Trustees for a Resolution to then have the Portage County Prosecutor start with Court Proceedings without waiting for the next Trustees Meeting. Mr. Pancost motioned to allow the Portage County Prosecutor to proceed with Court Proceedings against Mr. Mihelick if he is found in

noncompliance by March 6, 2023. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes **Resolution 2023-010**

Mr. Gano contacted Mr. Huter to follow up on their ongoing discussion.

A Thrasher Rd resident contacted Mr. Gano regarding a dilapidated structure on a property on Thrasher.

There may be an upcoming Hiram BZA meeting to be scheduled for a resident. Mr. Gano is planning to reach out to the Township Zoning Board to schedule a meeting to request & discuss some updates to the Township Zoning Regulations.

Police:

January 2023: 100 Patrol hours, 1053 miles driven, 11 traffic stops and 2 citations issued.

Fire:

January 2023: 34 runs for the Township, average response time is 4:06. New squad vehicle working out great. The old squad vehicle was sold to University Hospitals. Chief Byers is having great difficulty securing grants to fund Full-time positions at the Fire department. He discussed with the Trustees possible other ways to fund the positions so that the Fire Department can keep their level of service going into the future.

Mr. Pancost motioned to Pay the Bills, Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. The meeting ended at 8:20pm.

02-21-23 Meeting Payments and Receipts

Warrant	Payee	Description	Expenses	Received
11947	Superior Dental Care		\$272.12	
11948	Preston		\$256.50	
11949	United Site Services		\$141.13	
11950	Charter Communications		\$175.94	
11951	Portman Electric		\$10,100.00	
11952	Thomas Matota		\$1,124.60	
11953	Industrial Connections		\$142.41	
11954	Centerra Co-op		\$947.52	
11955	Hiram Police Dept.		\$6,269.50	
11956	Village of Hiram		\$622.18	
11957	Hiram Police Dept.		\$3,610.74	
electronic	Ohio State Treasurer		\$1,752.00	
electronic	Wages		\$21,044.23	
electronic	Windstream		\$84.70	
electronic	Middlefield Bank		\$40.48	
electronic	Middlefield Bank		\$25.00	
electronic	Middlefield Bank			\$1,536.34
electronic	Portage County Auditor			\$66,805.77
electronic	Carter Lumber			\$141.11