

Hiram Township Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 26, 2023 at 7:00 PM, Hiram Township Complex

Present: Trustees; Chairman Jack Groselle, Steve Pancost and Debra Blake. Fiscal Officer Eric Hankinson. Zoning Inspector Rich Gano. Road Supervisor Tom Matota. Public; Chris Szell, Hiram Fire Chief Bill Byers, Hiram Village Mayor Lou Bertrand

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

Reading of the Minutes:

The minutes from the November 21, 2023 meeting are not ready. They will be read at the January 16, 2024 meeting.

Fiscal Officer:

- Spectrum / Charter Communications requested a letter of support from the Township Trustees related to the work being done to install High Speed Fiber via the Rural Broadband initiative and grants to be sent to BroadbandOhio as well as a resolution showing support of Spectrum getting the grants to continue rolling out Fiber Internet to the residents of Hiram Township. Ms. Blake motioned to write a letter of support for the expansion of Rural Broadband by Spectrum. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-040**
- Letter received from Portman Electric that maintenance is due on the generator at the Township Facility. This maintenance is required to maintain the warranty on the generator. The maintenance will be scheduled with Portman Electric.
- Mr. Hankinson asked the Trustees for a nomination for Board Chairman for 2024. Mr. Pancost motioned that Mr. Groselle be the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-036**
- Mr. Hankinson asked the Trustees for a nomination for Board Vice-Chairman for 2024. Mr. Groselle motioned that Mr. Pancost be the Vice-Chairman. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-037**
- Mr. Hankinson asked the Board for a motion to continue holding the Trustees meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. Mr. Pancost motioned that the Board continue holding the Trustees meetings on the third Tuesday of every month. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-038**
- Mr. Pancost motioned that the Trustees continue being paid as salary, not hourly. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-039**
- Mr. Groselle motioned that Mr. Pancost continue being the main representative for Portage County Regional Planning. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-041**

Public Comment:

Mayor Bertrand of Hiram Village swore in Mr. Groselle and Mr. Hankinson for their new terms commencing in 2024.

Old Business:

Mr. Pancost updated the Board that the \$250,000 grant application for Park funding (to build a trail and two pavilions on the Township Facility property) was submitted through Portage County Regional Planning.

New Business:

Chris Szell from Hiram Village Council addressed the Trustees regarding postponing the payments from the General Fund into the Fire Dept. line item. Mr. Szell provided the numbers to the Board and Mr. Hankinson. Mr. Szell stated that Hiram Village Council will not postpone the payment. He did suggest that the Township and Village discuss the Fire Department contract in the new year with the new mayor and new solicitor. Mr. Groselle told Mr. Szell that the Township will plan to increase its contribution to 65% since the Township just passed the Fire Replacement levy for the Fire Department and the Village would be at 35% contribution. Mr. Szell asked the Board if they would want to pay the \$35,000 for Police coverage in 2024 as one lump sum or continue to pay monthly. The Board stated they would be fine paying that lump sum if that would be helpful to the Village.

Mr. Groselle asked Mr. Hankinson to update the website so that it reflects the Sirens going off at 12:30pm every Saturday instead of 12:00pm.

Mr. Pancost met with Ryan Shackleford about the County's Rural Broadband initiative to get an update on what the current state is. Spectrum is installing cabling on Allyn Rd (from Rapids to Rt 700), Tilden, Pope Rd and a few other locations near the Rapids, and Hidden Hills. Spectrum provided a proposed plan, based on the grant acceptance, of what streets and when would be scheduled for installation of the Fiber internet within the Township.

Ms. Blake motioned that the \$1,000 grant from NOPEC (Community Event Grant) be given to the Fire Department to be used for events. Mr. Pancost seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-042**

Mr. Groselle asked Mr. Gano if he had any discussions with Mary Umbaugh regarding her inlaw-suite in the garage of her property prior to filing a variance request with the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Road:

Mr. Matota updated the Board that things are ready to go for winter. Mr. Matota requested of the Board that he be paid the remainder of his unused Paid Time Off of 2023. Mr. Groselle motioned to pay Mr. Matota the remainder of his unused PTO from 2023. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2023-043**

Zoning:

The Bank that owns the property on Winchell (that was mowed per Zoning regulations) was contacted to follow up on payment of the mowing charge to the Township. The Amish folks wanting to build a school on Mumford still needs to provide correct paperwork in order to file for a variance with the Board of Zoning Appeals. This is still in process. Follow up with phone calls from title agencies.

Police:

November 2023: 100 patrol hours, 10 traffic stops, 1 citation issued

Fire:

November 2023: 20 runs for the Township, average response time is 5:55 Maintenance on the Squad was completed. Mr. Byers provided the Board with a reminder about the EMS levy coming up to be put onto the ballot soon.

Mr. Pancost motioned to pay the bills, Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Mr. Groselle adjourned the meeting. Meeting ended at 8:01pm

12-26-23 Meeting Payments and Receipts

Warrant	Payee	Description	Expenses	Received
12156	Steven Pancost		\$3,000.00	
12157	Quick Service Welding & Machine		\$314.00	
12158	Municipal Signs & Sales, Inc.		\$515.00	
12159	Charter Communications		\$255.94	
12160	Industrial Connections, Inc		\$28.08	
12161	Mantua Hardware Lawn & Garden		\$153.48	
12162	Mantua Auto Parts		\$88.00	
12163	Gee-Ville Auto Parts Corp		\$68.93	
12164	Stryker Medical		\$1,008.38	
12165	Medical Mutual of Ohio		\$56.12	
12166	George Firtik		\$1,822.41	
12167	Thomas Matota		\$1,611.33	
12168	Cuyahoga Asphalt Materials		\$732.88	
12169	Cuyahoga Landmark		\$950.65	
12170	Preston		\$640.64	
12171	Ohio Edison		\$848.38	
electronic	Wages		\$15,058.88	
electronic	Windstream		\$100.92	
electronic	United Site Services		\$141.13	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	ACH Service Fees	\$25.00	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	Interest		\$1,502.63
electronic	County Auditor	Taxes & Local Government		\$22,065.68
electronic	Verizon	Refund		\$15.82
electronic	OTARMA	Refund		\$1,591.55
electronic	Road Department	Cemetary Plot		\$390.00
electronic	Zoning Permits			\$50.00