

Hiram Township Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2024 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; Village Council Chris Szell, Hiram Fire Chief Bill Byers, Township Employee George Firtik, Tom Franek, Gary Burden

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 January 16, 2024 meeting were read. Ms. Blake motioned to approve the minutes with corrections. Mr. Pancost seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Fiscal Officer:

- Mr. Hankinson ordered the new laser printer for Rich Gano to use for Township Zoning purposes.

Public Comment:

Tom Franek addressed the Trustees sharing some information he gathered while attending a Buckeye Trail conference. The Buckeye Trail goes through the Township. Mr. Franek thought it would be beneficial to the Township (increase popularity and tourism to the Township & Village of Hiram) to enhance the portion of the Trail in the Township. Mantua is working on enhancements to their portion of the Trail. Possibilities could include enhancing the trail, rerouting it, or protecting it so that it is maintained in the community. Also, looking to connect Hiram Village with the Headwaters Trail which was a discussion about a decade ago, but no further movement happened. The Trustees suggested the possibility that the new Portage County Park (previous Carlisle Farm on SR 82) could provide a trail that would connect the Village of Hiram with the Headwaters Trail. Lastly, looking to enhance any existing trails located within the Township.

Gary Burden, on behalf of Liberty, provided an article to the Trustees regarding the history of how more a socialist a country is, the poorer it is.

Old Business:

Mr. Matota & Mr. Hankinson attended the Spectrum luncheon in Freedom Township. Very little new information was provided but residents can follow Spectrum's Rural Broadband project at

<https://www.spectrum.com/cp/build?cmp=ruralbuild>

Hiram Councilman Chris Szell addressed the Trustees regarding a previous conversation to possibly invoice the Township annually for Police Protection Services. Mr. Szell provided an update to the Trustees on conversations at the Village, and provided Mr. Hankinson with an invoice for the annual 2024 Police Protection Services of Hiram Village Police

Department. Mr. Groselle motioned to accept the Hiram Village's proposal to invoice the Township annually for Police Protection Services. Mr. Pancost seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution: 2024-01**

A resident, Devin Wilfong 6335 Allyn Rd, located in the Hiram Rapids is asking the Township to purchase a small piece of property to square off his property near the baseball diamond in the Rapids. The resident also owns the lot behind them. The Trustees asked the residents to have their lots surveyed to understand where the lot lines are. Mr. Matota asked for some additional clarification as it was unclear to him how this could be done given the Road Right of Way. Further discussion was had by the Trustees, Mr. Matota and the resident. The Trustees reaffirmed that they want to have the residents perform a survey.

Mr. Pancost provided an update that the Parks Grant that was applied for was denied for the Township. There should be additional chances at grant applications for Parks / Trails in the Township.

New Business:

Mr. Groselle received a call if anyone in the Township picks up dead deer in the road. The Township does not do this.

Mr. Groselle provided some paperwork to Mr. Matota regarding Transportation Improvement District information provided by the Portage County Engineers to see if anything may pertain to the Township. Mr. Matota reviewed the paperwork provided and stated that it is related to "Issue 2" which has not worked in the favor of the Township in the past.

Mr. Groselle asked Mr. Hankinson regarding the NOPEC 2024 Event Sponsorship. Mr. Hankinson will submit the necessary paperwork to apply for the sponsorship (the amount of which is directly given to the Hiram Fire Association to host events for the Township and Village). Mr. Hankinson will also get the necessary paperwork to apply for the NOPEC 2024 Energized Community Grant for the next meeting.

Road:

Equipment and Roads in good shape. Will need to order road salt per a contractual agreement with ODOT. Mr. Matota notified the Trustees that in the near future the Ford F-150 truck the Township uses should be considered for replacement as maintenance costs are increasing on it. The Trustees asked Mr. Matota to look at what vehicles are available from the State Bid and he will follow up on that.

Mr. Matota mentioned that he will work with the County Engineers to put a package together for the 2024 Chip and Seal bid. He suggested that the Township not do Wheeler Rd this year, and pick up the other roads that were not done last year.

Mr. Matota asked the Trustees regarding resolving the ongoing well water supply problems at the Township Facility. If the amount is under \$75,000 then the Township is not required to hold a public bid. The Trustees asked Mr. Matota to contact Mayes & Sons Plumbing, which provided a high level quote almost 2 years ago, for a more detailed quote to connect the Township Facility with the new Hiram Village Water Tower next door.

Zoning:

New Home permit and impact fee from Kurtz. Mylar signed for a property split on Rt 700. Mr. Gano attended the quarterly zoning inspector meeting. Everyone having issues with County Prosecutors not calling back the Zoning Inspectors. A BZA meeting will be scheduled for a variance regarding proposed construction of an Amish School on Mumford Rd. Following up on the buildings on Winchell Rd that look like they are being occupied as a home but are

claimed to be agricultural use. Also looking into a home on Pioneer Trail that is being used for rental property which is not currently allowed within the Township.

Police:

January 2024: 100 patrol hours, 14 traffic stops, 5 citation issued

Fire:

January 2024: 23 runs for the Township, average response time is 5:10 Fire Chief Byers presented the Trustees with a copy of the 2023 Annual Report for the Hiram Village Fire Department and reviewed at a high level a few points within the report.

At 7:50pm Ms. Blake motioned to pay the bills, Mr. Pancost seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Executive Session:

On this 20th day of February 2024, Trustee Steve Pancost moved to convene an Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22 G-1 for the purpose of considering the following matters:

To consider employment of a public employee or official.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Groselle. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

At 7:52pm the Township Trustees entered Executive Session.

At 8:07pm Ms. Blake motioned to exit the Executive Session. Mr. Pancost seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. No decisions were made after the Executive Session.

Mr. Groselle adjourned the meeting. Meeting ended at 8:07pm

02-20-24 Meeting Payments and Receipts

Warrant	Payee	Description	Expenses	Received
12183	Portage County Treasurer		\$3,898.48	
12184	Charter Communications		\$127.97	
12185	Portman Electric		\$325.00	
12186	Industrial Connections, Inc		\$238.38	
12187	Hartville Hardware		\$229.00	
12188	Medical Mutual of Ohio		\$5,084.81	
12189	Municipal Signs, Inc		\$75.00	
12190	Mantua Hardware Lawn & Garden		\$112.54	
12191	Centerra Co-Op		\$1,109.88	
12192	Airgas USA, LLC		\$17.46	
12193	Hiram Police Department		\$3,656.56	
12194	Village of Hiram		\$72,557.23	
12195	PhoebeDog Technical Services, LLC		\$450.00	
12196	Mantua Auto Parts		\$1,122.54	
12197	George Firtik		\$74.85	
12198	Ohio Edison		\$1,486.62	
12199	Gannet Publishing LocalIQ		\$19.75	
electronic	Wages		\$22,478.95	
electronic	Windstream		\$106.92	
electronic	United Site Services		\$141.13	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	ACH Service Fees	\$25.00	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	Interest		\$1,787.57