

Hiram Township Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2024 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; Mayes & Sons Plumbing, Hiram Fire Chief Bill Byers, Dennis Cardello

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

Reading of the Minutes:

Minutes from the February 20, 2024 meeting were read. A few corrections were provided to Mr. Hankinson. Mr. Pancost motioned to accept the minutes with corrections. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Fiscal Officer:

- NOPEC Community Event Sponsorship info submitted online.
- NOPEC Energized Community Grant needed to be applied for. Mr. Pancost motioned to apply for the 2024 Energized Community Grant. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Resolution 2024-02

- Trued up with Hiram Village on Fire Protection amount due to increased revenue from Fire Levy that was passed November 2023
- Trustees Minutes posted through January 2024

Public Comment:

None

Old Business:

Mr. Groselle read an article regarding other Townships putting their decisions regarding Growing of Marijuana within a Township, and also Solar & Wind Farms within a Township into their Zoning Regulations. He prompted Mr. Gano and Mr. Hankinson to schedule an upcoming meeting with the Township's Zoning Board to discuss adding new regulations around these topics based on the wording already approved by the Township Trustees at a prior meeting.

Mr. Groselle inquired about the Amish School BZA Hearing scheduling. Mr. Hankinson stated that the hearing is scheduled and will be held on March 20, 2024 at 7:00pm.

New Business:

Mr. Pancost received the Annual Report from Portage County Regional Planning.

Mr. Groselle received a phone call inquiring about Dominion East Ohio putting in Natural Gas on Allyn Rd. This appears to be in the area of Allyn near the Oil Well and Hidden Hills. Mr. Pancost noted that it appears that the lines are marked between Rt 700 and the Rapids but no supplies have been delivered yet. The Trustees discussed what other Natural Gas news anyone may have heard regarding replacements of the "Farm Taps" within the Township. Mr. Groselle noted that the older high pressure gas lines would still need to be in use as Gas Wells in the area can produce in excess of 1000PSI.

Mr. Groselle mentioned that the Umbaugh Property for sale next door had an inquiry regarding any provisions/restrictions in the deed. Mr. Hankinson noted that any of these would be printed on the Deed and available at the Portage County Tax Office.

Mr. Matota mentioned to the Trustees that it is the time of year to start on Chip & Seal Bidding. After some discussion on what roads, Mr. Pancost motioned to apply for Chip & Seal Bidding through the Portage County Engineers Office. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2024-04**

Dennis Cardello, a Mumford Rd. resident, voiced his concern that traffic drives entirely too fast down Mumford Rd. as commuters use it to cut through between SR 88 and US 422. Mr. Pancost told the resident that the Township would request a speed study from the Portage County Engineers Office of Mumford Rd after which a discussion on speed limit change could happen. Mr. Pancost motioned to request that the Portage County Engineers complete a speed study of Mumford Rd in Hiram Township. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2024-05**

Road:

Mr. Matota spoke to the County Engineers about the Hankee Rd. Bridge work. The Program that would be beneficial is the Ohio Public Works Commission. However, the Township has not been successful with grants coming from the OPWC. Any work on the bridge would require some engineering done to produce specifications for a job on the bridge. That cost would be around \$8,000 - 9,000 or so to generate the specifications.

Not much news. Mr. Matota looked into what it would cost to replace the Ford F-150 Truck the Township owns. The approximate cost is around \$55,000 through the State Bidding Process. The replacement truck would be a ¾ Ton vehicle (Ford F-250, Chevy 2500, etc).

The 2023 ODOT Road Salt Contract tonnage has been ordered, and deliveries have started.

Zoning:

Mylar signed for Brant Jessel in Village Gate (combining lots), Jennifer C. 6038 SR 82 Accessory Building permit, letters to families living in their Agricultural Buildings on Winchell Rd which is not allowed in the Township. Receiving more calls about construction.

Police:

February 2024: Report not currently available

Fire:

February 2024: 8 runs for the Township, average response time is 4:56

Mr. Byers asked the Trustees if they would approve expenditure of maintenance work on the Sirens in the Township. Mr. Pancost motioned to authorize the Hiram Township Fire department to get the Township's Tornado Sirens to be serviced. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2024-06**

Mr. Byers mentioned to the Trustees regarding the cost of a new Fire Engine. He mentioned that Mantua ordered an Engine for about \$825,000 which is significantly more than pre-COVID pricing around \$650,000.

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

Mr. Hankinson reviewed the FY 2024 Budget and Permanent Appropriations. The Trustees reviewed the numbers provided by Mr. Hankinson and had a discussion regarding the appropriations versus the cash balance at the time of appropriations. The Trustees opted to appropriate amounts closer to the full amount of cash in the funds for now and will revisit supplemental appropriations when more money arrives from the 1st half payment of Replacement Levies approved by voters in 2023. Mr. Pancost motioned to approve the Permanent Appropriations as discussed. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes **Resolution 2024-03**

Executive Session:

On this 19th day of March 2024, Trustee Jack Groselle moved to convene an Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22 G-1 for the purpose of considering the following matters:

To consider the sale of property at competitive bidding.

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

At 8:12pm the Township Trustees entered Executive Session.

At 8:27pm Mr. Groselle 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 8:28pm

03-19-24 Meeting Payments and Receipts

Warrant	Payee	Description	Expenses	Received
12200	Preston Ford		\$935.53	
12201	Medical Mutual of Ohio		\$5,081.81	
12202	Mantua Hardware Lawn & Garden		\$38.54	
12203	Portage County Health District		\$275.00	
12204	Ray's Repair		\$15.25	
12205	Industrial Connections, Inc		\$42.16	
12206	Portage County Regional Planning Commission		\$2,164.50	
12207	Village of Hiram		\$295.98	
12208	Village of Hiram		\$4,062.80	
12209	Charter Communications		\$255.94	
12210	Centerra Co-op		\$1,223.38	
12211	Ohio Edison		\$757.64	
12212	Hiram Police Department		\$42,684.00	
12213	George Firtik		\$1,362.49	
electronic	Wages		\$15,779.88	
electronic	Windstream		\$106.92	
electronic	United Site Services		\$141.13	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	ACH Service Fees	\$25.00	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	Interest		\$1,535.32
electronic	Bureau of Worker's Comp		\$142.81	
	Portage County Auditor	Taxes		\$33,866.34
	Zoning Permits			\$800.00
	OTARMA	MORE Grant		\$500.00