

Hiram Township Trustees

Regular Meeting Agenda

November 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM, Hiram Township Complex

Present: Trustees; Vice-Chairman Steve Pancost and Debra Blake. Fiscal Officer Eric Hankinson. Zoning Inspector Rich Gano. Road Supervisor Tom Matota. Public; Kay Ziska, Roger & Nancy Shepard, Hiram Fire Chief Bill Byers (late to the meeting), Joe Bodnar (Director, Portage County Building Dept.), Marlin Kaufman, David Schumacher

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

Reading of the Minutes:

Mr. Hankinson read the minutes from the October 15, 2024 meeting. Some corrections were noted. Ms. Blake motioned to accept the minutes with corrections. Mr. Pancost seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Fiscal Officer:

- EMS 3mil Replacement Levy passed on November 5th election
- Road & Bridge 3mil Replacement Levy did not pass (by 8 votes). Mr. Hankinson will start the process over to get the levy onto the next possible ballot

Public Comment:

Kay Ziska of 11355 SR 88 Garrettsville addressed the Trustees. She requested a “No Engine Brake” sign to be erected South of intersection of SR 88 and SR 305. The brake noise is an ongoing problem for residents in that area. She also inquired as to why she was not able to be transported to a Cleveland Clinic (CCF) hospital instead of a UH Hospital. Her medical records and doctors are located at CCF. She noted that the distance difference is not significant. At UH, she was told that her information would be sent to her Primary Care Physician (PCP) via EPIC. Unfortunately, her PCP did not receive the information. She requests that the Township consider allowing patients to choose the hospital they are transported to. Ms. Blake mentioned that her understanding is the 911 dispatch determines where the patient will be taken to due to availability. Ms. Ziska mentioned that she was only offered UH Ravenna or UH Geauga. Ms. Blake mentioned that there are 4 counties involved. Ms. Blake will be following up with the Hiram Fire Chief who is involved with the Hiram EMS. She will ask that the Chief contact Ms. Ziska regarding this situation.

Roger & Nancy Shepard of 5509 Pioneer Trail addressed the Trustees. Mr. Shepard mentioned that there is a lot of speeding on the street after it has been repaved. An issue noted by the Trustees is that the Township does not have its own Police Department. Coverage of the area is spotty because the Village Police only have one cruiser out and they are not patrolling at all hours of the day within the Township. The residents noted a neighbor is an Aurora Police Officer (Officer Bill Byers) that has stopped someone from doing donuts in the intersection of Limeridge and Pioneer Trail. Ms. Shepard has noted issues with drivers passing busses that are stopped to pick up / drop off children on the road. Ms. Shepard mentioned that she spoke to the Village Police Chief regarding cameras to be erected. The Chief noted that it

would be up to the Township Trustees to pay for traffic cameras. The Shepards also spoke to Larry Jenkins at the County regarding the issue. Mr. Pancost asked the Shepards if they know of other residents of Pioneer Trail that have noticed the same issues. Mr. Pancost noted that cameras are not always admissible for prosecution unfortunately.

Old Business:

Rich asked that Joe Bodnar (Director, Portage County Building Dept.), Marlin Kaufman, David Schumacher please attend the meeting. Mr. Kaufman and Mr. Schumacher are the residents on Winchell Rd that have agricultural buildings used as living spaces. Mr. Pancost asked Mr. Kaufman and Schumacher about the septic systems. The septic systems are functional but not code compliant. One also has a well, the other has a spring. Ms. Blake asked Mr. Gano if there was such a thing as a temporary permit until the codes are brought up to be compliant. Mr. Gano noted that this situation has not been something he has had experience with.

Mr. Bodnar attended the search warrant at the time it was served (October 3rd 2024). Mr. Bodnar noted that there is a path, for the Building department only, that both Mr. Kaufman and Mr. Schumacher can follow to get into compliance with the Zoning requirements of the County Building Dept. Mr. Bodnar noted that the code path is for a special inspection provision for dwelling construction. This would supersede the Agricultural designation of the building. The inspector would look for “serious hazards only” in each building. If no issues are found, then the County would write a Certificate of Occupancy for the building. If hazards are found, then the County will provide an action plan on remediating those hazards. If the residents build a permanent home, then there would be an opportunity to revert the buildings back to the Agricultural Zoning Designation after all remnants of the temporary living space are removed from the barn building. There would need to be inspections for both HVAC and Electrical of the temporary space (wood/pellet burners are inspected), and also of the planned permanent home yet to be built. Mr. Bodnar also noted that if the route for “special inspections” is not followed, then the other option is to appear before the Township’s Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Pancost noted that the Trustees should spend additional time researching the issue at hand before a decision is made. Ms. Blake commented that the Board should “wait in good faith” while the process to move forward is determined. The residents could apply for the “special inspection” to get the process going, however the County Building Dept. would not issue any Certificate of Occupancy until the Board of Trustees determine what plan they want the residents to follow as part of the code compliance remediation.

Mr. Pancost noted that Todd Peetz and his team will review the Township Zoning Book using hours already paid for by the Township.

New Business:

None

Road:

May’s Plumbing will order pipe to start on the new city water line to the Township Facility. Mr. Matota will order t-shirt uniforms for the Road Crew.

Zoning:

45 permits issued to date. Mr. Gano visited the Quonset hut on Herr Drive. Rich researching on what to do next given the resident is claiming ag exemption but on a 1 acre lot. Mr. Gano has unfortunately had a lot of frustration with the County Prosecutor not being prompt to respond on inquiries. There is activity with the Moore Farm on the corner of Pioneer Trail and Asbury.

Police:

October 2024: 100.5 patrol hours, 11 traffic stops, 2 citations issued

Fire:

October 2024: 21 runs for the Township, average response time is 5:26.

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

Mr. Pancost adjourned the meeting. Meeting ended at 8:21pm

11-19-24 Meeting Payments and Receipts

Warrant	Payee	Description	Expenses	Received
12337	Ohio Edison		\$1,144.52	
12338	Gee-Ville Auto Parts		\$111.97	
12339	Ascendance Trucks Midwest		\$60.60	
12340	Cuyahoga Landmark		\$421.70	
12341	Ohio CAT		\$79.42	
12342	Charter Communications		\$279.96	
12343	Industrial Connections		\$23.00	
12344	Quick Service Welding & Machine		\$553.00	
12345	Municipal Signs & Sales Inc		\$158.60	
12346	Carter Lumber		\$27.96	
12347	Centerra Co-Op		\$998.19	
12348	Advance Auto Parts		\$56.27	
12349	Mantua Hardware Lawn & Garden		\$50.23	
12350	Powerplan		\$98.59	
12351	Medical Mutual of Ohio		\$162.00	
12352	Thomas Matota		\$914.30	
12353	Steven Pancost		\$2,974.16	
12354	Hiram Fire Association		\$170.00	
electronic	BWC		\$142.81	
electronic	Wages		\$21,087.36	
electronic	Windstream		\$106.92	
electronic	United Site Services		\$128.49	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	ACH Service Fees	\$25.00	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	Interest		\$1,803.19