

Hiram Township Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 17, 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; Hiram Fire Chief Bill Byers

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 November 19, 2024. Mr. Pancost motioned to approve the minutes as read. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Fiscal Officer:

- Need Resolution of Necessity to place Road & Bridge 3ml Replacement Levy onto May 6th 2025 Ballot. Ms. Blake motioned to place the 3mil levy on the May 6, 2025 ballot. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: Blake: AYE, Pancost: NAY, Groselle: AYE. **Resolution 2024-023**
- Schedule a special meeting to close out year on Monday December 30, at 7:00pm
- Portage County Regional Planning Member Appointment form. Mr. Groselle motioned that Mr. Pancost is the primary contact for Regional Planning. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Public Comment:

None

Old Business:

Ms. Blake attended former County Prosecutor Victor Gallucci's retirement party.

Mr. Pancost contacted Portage County Road Department about some Jake Brake signs to possibly be erected near SR 88 and SR 305 per some residents request. He also noted that Portage County Regional Planning sold their previous building. Regional Planning will also review the Township's Zoning Book.

New Business:

Portage Parks asking for a survey to be filled out claiming possible grants available for the community. Mr. Pancost will follow up.

Mr. Groselle noted that Mr. Roger Monroe is retiring from the Zoning Board. Ms. Blake motioned that Zoning Alternate Jason Groselle be his replacement. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2024-024**

Mr. Groselle motioned to renew Tim Kasper on the Zoning Board. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2024-025**

Mr. Groselle motioned to move Sheri Keefe at 1st Alternate for Zoning Board. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2024-026**

Mr. Groselle motioned to renew Janet Pancost as a Board of Zoning Appeals member. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2024-027**

Mr. Pancost motioned to renew Judy Zidonis as a Board of Zoning Appeals member. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2024-028**

Mr. Pancost motioned to renew John Groselle and Craig Smith as BZA Alternates. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2024-029**

Ms. Blake motioned to give the NOPEC Energized Community Grant of \$1,000 to the Fire Department for use during a Community Event. Mr. Pancost seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2024-030**

Road:

Mr. Matota asked Mr. Hankinson regarding the First Energy plan to replace the fixtures with LED because a few lights were out. First Energy did NOT replace the fixtures with new LED fixtures.

The water tower removal is still in progress. Once that is finished, then May's Plumbing will start work on the new water line to the Township Facility from the new water tower.

Mr. Matota did voice some concerns about the County Engineering Department's disparity on the Chip & Seal bid estimates from them versus the estimates provided by various contractors.

Zoning:

Mr. Groselle asked the Trustees about the Ag buildings on Winchell Rd. Mr. Gano talked to the County Prosecutor about the building with the minimum missing square footage. There was a subsequent debate about what to do to move forward with the situation. Mr. Gano and Mr. Byers are setting up a meeting with the local Amish bishops to get the word out on following Zoning Codes of Hiram Township for any Amish coming into the Township. Mr. Pancost commented that the Township needs to accept the Amish on their own terms and possibly have the Zoning Board look at any accommodations that make sense for the Amish. Mr. Gano noted that the Trustees need to set a time limit on the remediation of the 2 Ag buildings on Winchell. Mr. Groselle noted it will be discussed at the next regular Trustees meeting (January 2025).

Mr. Gano noted that Brett Bencze should be sending a letter to the owner of the Quonset hut on Herr drive that is oversized for the lot. There is some neighbor activity regarding the Moore Farm Airstrip. Mr. Gano has reviewed the historical paperwork from the Board of Zoning Appeals records. Rich has a few residents he is helping work through variance applications.

Police:

November 2024: 102.75 patrol hours, 14 traffic stops, 3 citations issued

Fire:

November 2024: 21 runs for the Township, average response time is 5:30. Mr. Byers noted everything going well at the Fire Department. Mr. Byers provided Mr. Hankinson the 4th Quarter 2024 invoice for Fire & EMS Services to be paid to the Village of Hiram. He noted that he is working with the new Village Fiscal Officer to send the quarterly bills out sooner than in previous years.

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

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

12-17-24 Meeting Payments and Receipts

Warrant	Payee	Description	Expenses	Received
12355	Powerplan		\$317.40	
12356	TL Service Center		\$22.49	
12357	Mantua Hardware Lawn & Garden		\$156.98	
12358	Gee-Ville Auto Parts		\$84.90	
12359	F & S Automotive		\$1,120.00	
12360	Medical Mutual of Ohio		\$162.00	
12361	Gannet Ohio LocaliQ		\$22.00	
12362	Portage County RPC		\$2,217.20	
12363	UH Occupational Health		\$63.00	
12364	Charter Communications		\$139.68	
12365	Stanwade Metal Products		\$16.10	
12366	Centerra Co-Op		\$728.06	
12367	Advance Auto Parts		\$15.99	
12368	Village of Hiram		\$276.87	
12370	Thomas Matota		\$1,400.60	
12371	Thomas Matota		\$47.94	
12372	Village of Hiram		\$76,620.03	
12373	Ascendance Trucks Midwest		\$5,845.50	
12374	Cross Truck Equipment		\$13.23	
12375	Catalyst Life Services		\$514.50	
12376	Cuyahoga Landmark		\$697.55	
12377	Ohio Edison		\$1,385.67	
12378	Melway Paving Co Inc		\$167,400.68	
12379	Stryker Medical		\$803.40	
electronic	BWC		\$142.81	
electronic	Wages		\$16,212.53	
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