

Hiram Township Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2025 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; Todd Peetz (Portage County Regional Planning), Devin Zadier, Steve Conley

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 April 22, 2025 meeting. Mr. Pancost motioned to accept the minutes. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes

Fiscal Officer:

- ODOT 2025 Salt Program Participation Resolution Submitted for 500 tons

Public Comment:

Mr. Zadier had a question about Kimble Recycling pickup and pricing. He asked if there was a Senior Citizens Discount. Mr. Groselle there is no such thing. The combined recycling & trash pickup ends up being cheaper than the previous contract of Trash only.

Mr. Zadier also brought to the Trustees attention that Freedom Twp Zoning & Trustees are planning to pass a zoning change from Rural Residential to Residential/Commercial. This would affect Hiram Township residents on roads such as Hankee Rd since they live just across the line. Mr. Peetz mentioned that Bonner bought a Turkey Farm in Nelson Twp greatly reduced the overall operations greatly reducing the Rural/Industrial area. Mr. Zadier had concern that the Zoning change would directly affect his property value. Mr. Peetz noted that some Townships are re-zoning to Home Based Business (instead of Commercial) to allow residents to run businesses out of their homes (but should still not look like a Commercial Business). Mr. Steve Conley mentioned to Rich Gano that a neighbor (off of Nichols) is running a large trucking business & mowing service from his home. The Neighbor has been purchasing additional vehicles and property to host the businesses. Mr. Conley contacted the County Prosecutors Office (Chris Meduri) and it appears the end result is the Freedom Twp Zoning change to be voted on. Freedom Twp Zoning will hold the meeting on May 21, 2025.

Mr. Peetz addressed the Trustees regarding reviewing the Zoning Book. The Zoning overall is very short compared to other Townships because of only 2 different districts in the Township. Mr. Pancost mentioned that the Zoning code in some cases requires residents to go before the BZA when the overall footprint of the house isn't changed. Mr. Peetz has mentioned that there is a lot of discussion in the County regarding an Inlaw suite (accessory dwelling unit) because what happens once the family passes away or moves, now that dwelling is vacant. Mr. Peetz mentioned that the discussions also include requiring the primary land owner to reside on the property if it contains an accessory dwelling unit. Mr. Peetz mentioned that the Township has plenty enough Zoning Review hours banked with Regional Planning to have the

Zoning Book reviewed and suggestions given. Mr. Pancost noted that Inlaw suites and Amish Dwellings are a concern that he has regarding the current Township Zoning code.

Mr. Peetz also discussed with the Trustees how the Census affects Hiram Township and surrounding townships because of how the area are lumped together and how funds are distributed.

Mr. Pancost motioned for Regional Planning to review the Township's Zoning Book. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes

Old Business:

Mr. Pancost received a report from the County about Road and Bridges that he left for anyone to read.

New Business:

None

Road:

Mr. Matota addressed to the Trustees about the Cemetery Tree removal quotes. Davey Tree was \$8,800. Weaver Tree was \$4,300. Mr. Pancost motioned to use Weaver Tree to handle the removal and cleanup. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes

Mr. Matota had a discussion with the Trustees around example pricing for road resurfacing of Wrenwood Drive and Village Gate.

Mr. Pancost motioned to accept the Melway Paving Chip & Seal contract for both the Base and Alt quotes. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes

Mr. Matota spoke to Mike Collins at the County Road Department. Mr. Hankinson signed the pages related to the contract to then go to the County Prosecutors Office before returning for the Trustees to sign.

The water connection at the Township Facility is almost finished. Once the connection is finished, Blazek Well will be contacted to properly cap the water well on the property.

Mr. Matota spoke to the Trustees about a drainage situation on Cadec Rd. He said that a driveway was shifted around in relation to a ditch that has been there for over 30 years. Many years ago the resident was told that the drainage pipe needed to be replaced and the resident refused to do so. The pipe cost would be about \$400 or so and stone & labor of the Township Road Crew is \$600.

Zoning:

Mr. Gano sent letters to Chris Meduri, Brett Bencze about the hoop building on Herr Drive. He has also drove around the Township. Chris Meduri sent letters to the Amish owners on Winchell Rd. The County Health Depart sent a letter to the owners explaining to them that the existing septic systems are not permitted, the systems needs to be abandoned and replaced with a permitted system using a licensed contractor and a soil evaluation. The system needs to be able to support the home once it is built. Mr. Gano will send a letter to a home on Udall Rd regarding inoperable vehicles sitting in the yard. Mr. Gano contacted the County Health Department about a home on Norton Rd reported as having manure in the front yard. A representative from the Health Department inspected the property and did not find any violations. Mr. Gano will show the letter to the resident that is reporting the other property.

Police:

April 2025: 114 patrol hours, 20 traffic stops, 7 citations issued

Fire:

April 2025: Report not received

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

Mr. Groselle adjourned the meeting. Meeting ended at 8:15pm

05-20-25 Meeting Payments and Receipts

Warrant	Payee	Description	Expenses	Received
12447	Gannet Ohio LocaliQ		\$213.50	
12448	Centerra Co-Op		\$762.34	
12449	Ray's Repair		\$87.50	
12450	Carter Lumber		\$86.94	
12451	Oscar Brugmann Sand & Gravel		\$117.19	
12452	Ohio Dept. of Transportation		\$13.10	
12453	Hiram RCCA		\$175.00	
12454	Allied Corporation		\$432.82	
12455	Cuyahoga Ashpalt Materials		\$281.70	
12456	Tom Matota		\$306.19	
12457	George Firtik		\$2,186.96	
12458	Ohio Edison		\$737.42	
12459	Village of Hiram		\$91,450.00	
electronic	Wages		\$15,922.24	
electronic	Windstream		\$113.85	
electronic	United Site Services		\$128.49	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	ACH Service Fees	\$25.00	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	Interest		\$1,713.55