

Hiram Township Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2026 at 7:00 PM, Hiram Township Complex

Present: Trustees; Chairman Jack Groselle, and Steve Pancost. Fiscal Officer Eric Hankinson. Road Supervisor Tom Matota. Public; Gary Burden

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 meeting minutes from the December 30, 2025 meeting. Some corrections were noted. Mr. Pancost motioned to accept the minutes with corrections. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Fiscal Officer:

- Year-end Resolutions for start of next year:
 - Mr. Pancost motioned to hold 2026 Trustees Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-001**
 - Mr. Pancost motioned for nomination of Mr. Groselle to be the Chairman of the Trustees. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-002**
 - Mr. Groselle motioned for nomination of Mr. Pancost to be the Vice-Chairman of the Trustees. Mr. Pancost seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-003**
 - Mr. Groselle motioned for nomination of Mr. Pancost to be the Hiram Township Representative to Portage County Regional Planning. Mr. Pancost seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-004**
- Mr. Hankinson noted that The Village of Hiram sent the Township an invoice for Police Patrol for the year of 2026. The Trustees discussed and decided to postpone paying the invoice. They will contact the Village of Hiram and have a discussion about the yearly payment in the near future.

Public Comment:

Mr. Burden provided some information regarding a Portage County resident and his observations about electricity through NOPEC versus directly from Ohio Edison. The Trustees had a discussion with Mr. Burden about Hiram Township's experience with NOPEC. In the near past, when NOPEC was much more expensive than Ohio Edison, NOPEC opted out the entire Township so that the rates would lower for residents. Mr. Groselle is working on meeting with the new NOPEC representative and having that individual come to a future Trustees Meeting.

Old Business:

Todd Peetz from Regional Planning notified Mr. Pancost that a few things will need to be updated in the Township's Zoning code. He will get the suggestions to Mr. Pancost as soon as they are ready.

Via email, Ms. Blake was able to get the Village of Hiram Police Department to send the Police updates to the correct individuals as there were a few months that some of the Trustees, and the Fiscal Officer, did not receive those updates.

The Weekly Villager will run the Maintenance Worker Advertisement in an upcoming edition. Mr. Hankinson will contact The Good News to run the ad as well.

New Business:

None

Road:

Staying on top of the snow plowing and the freezing weather. Ryder Road has been having a lot of trouble with snow drifts across the roadway. Mr. Matota noted that Ohio Edison replaced a light pole with an LED fixture at the corner of Vaughn and Pioneer Trail.

Zoning:

Mr. Rich Gano was unable to attend but sent an email with updates to the Trustees.

“Regarding the resident on Norton Road with the manure in the front yard: With the wind spreading the across the street, that is Portage County Soil & Water, not the Health Department. Mr. Gano reached out Bennet Title Agency asking for a title search for liens against the property prior to possibly cleaning up the property. Mr. Gano reached out to The County Prosecutors for more info regarding the residents on Winchell Road living in their Ag Buildings with no septic systems. No further news there.”

Police:

December 2025: 103 Patrol hours, 864.7 miles driven, 13 traffic stops, 9 citations issued

Fire:

December 2025: 22 Runs, Average Response Time 5:33

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 7:33pm

01-20-26 Meeting Payments and Receipts

Warrant	Payee	Description	Expenses	Received
12577	Centerra Co-op		\$1,961.12	
12578	Gee-Ville Auto Parts		\$137.74	
12579	Charter Communications		\$280.00	
12580	Mantua Hardware Lawn & Garden		\$53.37	
12581	Powerplan (Murphy)		\$355.29	
12582	Gannet LocalIQ		\$18.25	
12583	Airgas USA, LLC		\$235.98	
12584	Portage County Treasurer		\$55.35	
12585	Ohio Edison		\$677.57	
12586	Steven Pancost		\$5,132.50	
12587	Sherwin Williams		\$26.94	
12588	Ascendance Trucking		\$969.44	
12589	Cuyahoga Landmark		\$558.42	
12590	Morton Salt		\$9,974.70	
electronic	Payroll		\$5,315.35	
electronic	Windstream		\$120.85	
electronic	United Site Services		\$128.49	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	ACH Service Fees	\$25.00	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	Interest		\$1,719.03