

Hiram Township Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2026 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; Craig Brown (NOPEC), Township resident who went unnamed, Jason Groselle.

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 January 20, 2026 meeting. Some corrections were noted. Mr. Pancost motioned to accept the minutes as corrected. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Fiscal Officer:

- Mr. Pancost motioned to follow the OTA (Ohio Township Association) pay scale for 2026 regarding Trustees and Fiscal Officers. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-006**

Public Comment:

Mr. Brown, from NOPEC, introduced himself to the Trustees as he is the new representative for the Township.

A resident asked what kind of Police coverage the Township has. The resident's wife was pulled over near Abbott and Rt 82 and the officer did not identify himself.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Mr. Groselle received a call from a resident regarding cost of leasing garbage cans as the resident was under the assumption that the garbage cans were included with the service agreement that the Township has.

The Trustees discussed a little about the Village Fire Department. It is the understanding of the Trustees that Hiram Village's Mayor wants to go with a different fire district and the Trustees concern was the increased cost doing such a thing. The Trustees concluded the conversation that further research and discussion with the Village was necessary prior to the next Township meeting.

Road:

Unfortunately, no responses to the Maintenance Worker open position advertisement to date. The advert will run for 2 weeks in the Good News. Overall the roads are in great shape given the cold weather and heavy use of Road Salt.

The Trustees will have the County write up specs for bid on the other half of Township roads for Chip & Seal. Mr. Groselle motioned to have Portage County write up the specs for a 2026 Chip & Seal Bid. Mr. Pancost seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-005**

This year Enbridge should start work on updating natural gas lines, and in doing so, connect the main Township facility to the new lines.

Zoning:

Mr. Gano attended a workshop on “Is your web site ADA compliant?” Many additional capabilities need to be taken into account to update the web site to be complaint The Township has around 440 days to become ADA compliant.

It’s been 16 months and no further movement from the County Prosecutors regarding the Amish living in their ag buildings on Winchell.- Some liens will be issued regarding some lots that need cleaned up.

Police:

January 2026: No report provided

Fire:

January 2026: 16 Runs, average response time 6:21

Executive Session:

On this 17th day of February 2026, Trustee Jack Groselle moved to convene an Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22 G-1 for the purpose of considering the following matters:

Employment.

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

At 7:45pm the Township Trustees entered Executive Session.

At 7:54pm 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 7:55pm

02-17-26 Meeting Payments and Receipts

Warrant	Payee	Description	Expenses	Received
12591	Eco-Maxx	re-issue payment	\$225.00	
12592	Charter Communications		\$280.00	
12593	Carstar Preston Collision Center		\$1,035.40	
12594	Mantua Hardware Lawn & Garden		\$54.97	
12595	Bennet Land Title Agency		\$125.00	
12596	Ascendance Trucking		\$666.46	
12597	Portman Electric		\$500.00	
12598	F&S Automotive		\$525.00	
12599	Mars Electric		\$161.84	
12600	The Weekly Villager		\$225.00	
12601	Shawnee Hills CoC		\$75.00	
12602	Morton Salt		\$5,374.76	
12603	Cuyahoga Landmark		\$2,773.77	
12604	Village of Hiram		\$91,450.00	
12605	Village of Hiram		\$283.95	
12606	Centerra Co-op		\$1,960.23	
12607	Industrial Connections		\$52.47	
12608	TL Service Center		\$76.20	
12609	UH Occupational Health		\$125.00	
12610	Mantua Auto Parts		\$70.99	
12611	J&B Fleet Industrial Supply		\$156.81	
12612	Ray's Repair		\$7.95	
12613	Dexter Company		\$2,624.01	
12616	Ohio Edison		\$460.25	
electronic	Payroll		\$16,883.62	
electronic	Windstream		\$120.85	
electronic	United Site Services		\$126.00	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	ACH Service Fees	\$25.00	
electronic	Middlefield Bank	Interest		\$1,719.03