

Hiram Township Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM, Hiram Township Complex

Present: Trustees; Chairman Jack Groselle, Steve Pancost, and Dan Ellenberger. Fiscal Officer Eric Hankinson. Zoning Inspector Rich Gano. Road Supervisor Tom Matota. Public; Judge Melissa Roubic, Hiram Fire Chief Tony Marotta, many residents of Hiram Township – Diane Best, Bill Byers, Tim Kasper, Rosalee Franek, Mark Kozack, Ann Pochedly, Gary Burden, Kim Ule

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 March 19, 2026 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:

- ODOT Salt Contract Winter 2026-27 for 500 tons. Mr. Groselle motioned to participate in the ODOT salt contract. Mr. Ellenberger seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-012**
- NOPEC Energized Community Participation. Mr. Groselle motioned to participate in the Energized Community Grant. Mr. Ellenberger seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-013**

Public Comment:

None

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Judge Melissa Roubic swore in Dan Ellenberger as the new Township Trustee replacing Debra Blake who retired.

Hiram Fire Chief Tony Marotta let everyone know that May 13/14 2026 at 6:30pm Meet & Greet at the Village Hall. He briefly talked about the possibility of additional volunteers for the department. Plans are still developing. Mr. Pancost noted that he had asked the Village Mayor for resumes of Fire/EMS candidates. Unfortunately, those were not provided to Mr. Pancost in a timely manner. Mr. Pancost noted his frustration with the situation of the Fire/EMS given that the Township pays well over the majority of the budget. Mr. Groselle noted that the Village is not following the Fire/EMS Contract. One specific item noted was a committee should consist of a Township Trustee, Village Councilman, and member of the Fire Department. Mr. Groselle would like it to be more specific that the Hiram Fire Department Association selects the members of the committee. Mr. Groselle asked Mr. Marotta if he read the Staff Surveys. Mr.

Marotta has only been able to read a few. Diane Best asked if the Trustees decide to have their own Fire Department, do the residents get an opportunity to vote on it? Mr. Pancost is working on a proposal to provide the Village with regarding the possibility of moving the Fire Department to the Township Facility on SR 82. Bill Byers noted that the Village charges the Fire Department rent, and the idea was to keep the building up to date regarding working heating and cooling, roof, etc. Mr. Groselle noted that Former Chief Byers has saved over \$750,000 towards the purchase of a new Fire Truck since they are over \$1 million dollars. Mr. Kozack noted that the 90 days out clause, if the Village disagrees, it could go to mediation. The Village has not responded in agreement or denial of the Township's 90 day cancellation (which was actually 120 days total) of the Fire/EMS contract. While the Village and Township are working through this situation, both Village and Township will have Fire/EMS coverage. Mr. Ellenberger noted that while the Fire Dept. was "closed" by the Mayor & Village Police Dept., a woman was laying out on the ice outside and needed aid which she did not get from the Hiram Fire/EMS Dept. The Trustees noted that whatever happens, they want a solution that works for everyone involved which means the Village & Township residents and their safety. Mrs. Franek commented that she felt that the Village Mayor needed to be attending this meeting in order to defend herself. Mr. Kozack noted that if the Fire dept doesn't show up with 4 members and a truck to their own fire, and are evaluated by the State of Ohio, then that moves the ISO rating of the area to a provisional 10 rating.

Mr. Pancost motioned that the Township Trustees will extend an invitation to Hiram Village to setup a future working session. Mr. Ellenberger seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-011**

Margaret Masters commented that it would be beneficial to have the meeting at a neutral location. She offered Hiram Christian Church as a meeting location. She was able to confirm later in the meeting that the Church would host the meeting. Mr. Groselle introduced River Kale, member of Dave Joyce's team incase anyone had any questions as Dave Joyce is very supportive of Hiram Township.

Mr. Groselle reiterated the need for a formal Fire/EMS Governing Board of a member of the Hiram Fire Association, a Township Trustee, and a Village Council Member.

Ann Pochedly inquired if the Village and Township maintain the current district, what happens to the new hires. Mr. Pancost noted that nothing should happen to them.

Mr. Groselle noted that the Hiram Community Trust needs a member from the Township. Mr. Pancost motioned for Dan Ellenberger be the representative. Mr. Groselle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Road:

Mr. Matota noted that an estimate for SCA will show up for Mr. Hankinson to road sweep Wrenwood Drive. Mr. Matota asked the Trustees if they would like to make out bid books for the- Chip & Seal of Township Roads for 2026. The possible estimate from the Portage County Engineers Office is around \$322,000. Mr. Pancost motioned to have the County Engineers do the Chip & Seal bid book for 2026. Mr. Ellenberger seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-014**

Zoning:

6448 Winchell – still has a lot of trash and looks deplorable. A letter has been sent by Mr. Gano. Mr. Gano noted it's been about a year since the Township has started going after the Amish on Winchell Rd that are living in their agricultural buildings. Township residents who are concerned are to contact Chris Meduri at the Portage County Prosecutors Office. 7427 Norton Rd has a lot of hoarding going on. Letters have been sent by Mr. Gano, Prosecutors

Office, and- Chad Murdock (independent lawyer). The cleanup has happened and the costs will be assessed to the owners property as a tax lien.

Police:

March 2026: No report provided

Fire:

March 2026: No report provided

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

Executive Session:

On this 21st day of April 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 8:36pm the Township Trustees entered Executive Session.

At 8:59pm Mr. Pancost motioned to exit the Executive Session. Mr. Ellenberger seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. After the Executive Session, Mr. Pancost motioned that the open Road Crew position has been filled with a start date of May 4 2026. Mr. Ellenberger seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Mr. Groselle adjourned the meeting. Meeting ended at 9:04pm

04-21-26 Meeting Payments and Receipts

Warrant	Payee	Description	Expenses	Received
12633	Melway Paving		\$239,154.35	
12634	Ascendance Trucking		\$13,604.46	
12635	Mars Electric		\$160.58	
12636	Hiram RCCA		\$350.00	
12637	Village of Hiram		\$590.07	
12638	Cuyahoga Landmark		\$1,341.44	
12639	Good News		\$150.00	
12640	Mantua Auto Parts		\$62.38	
12641	Mantua Hardware Lawn & Garden		\$133.63	
12642	Centerra Co-Op		\$1,209.57	
12643	Stamm Contracting Co		\$12.25	
12644	Charter Communications		\$9.39	
12645	Ohio Edison		\$1,155.79	
12646	Thomas W. Matota		\$1,928.73	
12647	Steven Pancost		\$1,279.50	
12648	Char Murdock		\$150.00	
12649	James Mayer		\$1,910.00	
electronic	Payroll		\$18,823.48	
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