

Hiram Township Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 19, 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; Nick Desario – Portage County Sherriff's Office, too many Township Residents to list here...

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 21, 2026 meeting. Some corrections were noted. Mr. Pancost motioned to accept the minutes with corrections. Mr. Ellenberger seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Fiscal Officer:

- Review Chip & Seal Bids 2026
Melway Paving - \$190,594.55
Geauga Highway - \$221,233.74
Ronyak Paving - \$194,762.10
Henry W. Berman - \$239,324.40

Mr. Pancost motioned to accept the bids to send to the County Prosecutor and County Road Dept. Mr. Ellenberger seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-015**

Public Comment:

Nick Desario from the Portage County Sherriff's office came to talk to the Trustees and residents about what types of additional paid services the Sherriff's Office can provide to the Township over and above the normal patrolling and other services that the Sherriff's Office already performs. Residents asked various questions of Mr. Desario, and he clarified his statements, and prefaced that the numbers he provided were estimates based on usage by other neighboring Townships. Mr. Groselle asked if a contact person would be available incase of specific requests by the Township Trustees (with a contract). Mr. Desario said the Trustees can just call for anything specific (specific road patrol, etc). Mr. Groselle clarified that the Township currently pays the village of Hiram for Police Patrol. The Township is looking at other possible options for Police Patrol services. Mr. Desario noted that a budget would be figured out with the Township, and agreed upon. That budget would then be drawn upon for patrol schedules and any other requests. The Trustees will again request that the Village of Hiram Police Chief provide the monthly reports of activity and services provided to Hiram Township.

The Township residents asked various questions of the Township Trustees on how the Fire & EMS discussions are progressing. There was a lot of back and forth during the Q&A session. A Township Resident stated that he would not

vote for a Joint District unless Hiram College kicks in money towards the support of the District. There was extensive discussion about cost with Township Residents and concerns that they voiced. Other Township Residents voiced their support of a Fire District.

Mr. Ellenberger stated that he was able to talk to Councilman Chris Szell to further communication. Mr. Ellenberger noted that the Township and Village need to get their collective 25 sq mile house in order so that everyone is on the same page and what does everyone agree to. Mr. Ellenberger assured the Township residents that the Trustees are working on a plan and that communications with the Village will continue when possible.

The residents asked if the Trustees would invest in another 20 chairs for the Township Meeting Hall. The Trustees said that they would do so.

Old Business:

Mr. Groselle asked Mr. Ellenberger if he has been in contact with the Hiram Community Trust. Mr. Ellenberger stated he has been since he will be the Township's representative to the Trust.

New Business:

Mr. Ellenberger noted that the Township Website will soon undergo a re-design. Also, the Trustees will start releasing a newsletter in PDF format on the web site.

Mr. Pancost received a report from Regional Planning from their attorney regarding Data Centers. He left a copy of the report on the meeting table.

Mr. Groselle received a call from Frank Ruehr of Shalersville Township regarding the price per mile of chip & seal. Mr. Matota stated, using the numbers provided in the bids, that the average works out to around \$16,000 per mile.

Road:

None

Zoning:

6517 Winchell Rd (2 farm structured used as homes). The Residents were having a meeting with all County Departments. The residents still have yet to seek special inspections with the Portage Building & Health Departments. The septic systems done by the residents (without specifications and inspections) will need to be redone. However, the residents can't currently afford the "redo" so they are seeking time allowances.

Police:

April 2026: No report provided

Fire:

April 2026: No report provided

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

Mr. Groselle adjourned the meeting. Meeting ended at 9:15pm

05-19-26 Meeting Payments and Receipts

Warrant	Payee	Description	Expenses	Received
12650	Quaker City Concrete		\$375.00	
12651	Mars Electric		\$42.74	
12652	Morton Salt		\$4,510.99	
12653	George Love		\$260.00	
12654	Cleveland Plumbing Supply		\$9.32	
12655	Stamm Contracting Co		\$24.50	
12656	Mantua Hardware Lawn & Garden		\$37.98	
12657	Gee-Ville Auto Parts		\$58.49	
12658	Stanwade Metal Products		\$114.00	
12659	Mantua Auto Parts		\$39.03	
12660	Centerra Co-Op		\$971.93	
12661	Gannet Ohio LocalQ		\$60.75	
12662	Ohio Edison		\$946.04	
12663	Thomas S. Matota		\$4,872.34	
12664	Village of Hiram		\$21,342.00	
12665	Allied Corporation		\$272.05	
electronic	Payroll		\$19,455.44	
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