

Hiram Township Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM, Hiram Township Complex

Present: Trustees; Chairman Jack Groselle, Steve Pancost, and Dan Ellenberger. Fiscal Officer Eric Hankinson. Road Supervisor Tom Matota. Public; Many Township residents, Hiram Police Chief Clemens, Hiram Fire Chief Tony Murata

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 May 19, 2026 meeting. Some corrections were noted including feedback from the public in attendance. Mr. Hankinson agreed to add in some additional comments by the public. Mr. Pancost motioned to accept the minutes with corrections. Mr. Ellenberger seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes.

Fiscal Officer:

- Accept Chip & Seal Bid from County Prosecutor & County Road Dept. – The contract has not yet been signed from the County Prosecutor so it was not ready for the Trustees to accept.
- Received a Driveway Pavement quote from AWC for **\$109,286.80**. Mr. Matota mentioned that the County Road department can write up specs for the Driveway Repave because the cost is over \$75,000 it will need to go for public bid. Mr. Pancost motioned to have the County Road Dept. write up specs for the driveway repave at the Township Facility. Mr. Ellenberger seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-016**

Public Comment:

None

Old Business:

Mr. Pancost noted some Data Center related information and upcoming meetings with Regional Planning regarding the proposed Data Center on Beck Rd in Shalersville. No meeting dates were noted. Shalersville still has a Data Center moratorium until November 2026.

Mr. Groselle motioned the following: to have the ability to use the County Prosecutor or Chip from Bonezzi Switzer Polito & Perry Co. LPA for legal counsel for Hiram Township. Mr. Pancost seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-017**

Mr. Pancost received a quote for a preliminary architectural design to determine what would need to be done to the Township Facility to be able to host the Fire Department. The proposal for the architectural design is \$6,570. One of the Township residents asked Mr. Pancost what was wrong with the Village's Fire Proposal that was posted in The

Communicator. Mr. Pancost did not agree that Hiram College should be on the Board unless they pay into the Fire Coverage. Mr. Groselle noted that the College is within the limits of the Village of Hiram. He stated that the Village will need to determine how to best handle the College regarding Fire and EMS. Another Township resident noted that the architectural design cost would help gather information to determine if the current Township Facility can be made into a working Fire Department. Another resident summed up some of the concerns as: the residents are concerned about how much money will it cost to move the Fire Station to the Township, to build it out, to staff it with a 3 year and 5 year projected costs and possibly an additional levy if needed. Mr. Ellenberger noted that the Township is engaging in talks with Village Councilman Chris Szell to work through the differences and concerns. Mr. Groselle noted that when the Township's REPLACEMENT levies for Fire and EMS were passed, and the new income was received from taxes, that the Township Trustees voted to increase the amount of funding going to the Fire Department for both Fire and EMS. The current breakdown is that the Township pays 70% and the Village pays 30% into the total budget for Fire and EMS. Councilman Szell noted that the Village moves \$8,000 (80,000??) from the General Fund into a restricted fund for Fire and EMS. The Township Trustees have no intention, at this moment in time, to ask the residents for more money (new levy) and instead use the current millage for the Fire and EMS levies. Mr. Pancost and Mr. Ellenberger have been speaking with various firefighters and chiefs of various area to get input on what pitfalls would need to be considered for a district. Mr. Groselle noted that Mr. Ellenberger and Mr. Szell have been talking. A resident noted one of many outstanding questions is if payroll and cost of equipment keeps going up, how can the Township afford to change the current building to be the home of the Fire Department. Mr. Ellenberger noted that it will cost money to rehab the Rossler Building in the Village, or change the Township Facility building to host the Fire District. The amounts of which are yet to be determined. Mr. Ellenberger noted that the passing zone in Rt 82 right at the hill and Township Facility entrance needs to be changed to increase safety. This would involve the County Road Department and possibly ODOT.

Mr. Ellenberger motioned to accept the architectural proposal for \$6,570. Mr. Pancost seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-018**

Mr. Clemens spoke to the Township residents. He noted that any time there has been contact with the Township residents that they generally receive very positive feedback and thanks. He noted that they Village of Hiram Police has mutual aid contracts with all municipalities in the area. He noted that they are Police Officers first to respond to a call, and control the scene until Fire & EMS arrives. A resident asked the Chief regarding the missing monthly updates to the Township Trustees. Chief Clemens noted he received a letter in February from Mr. Pancost noting that the Township would like to cancel Police coverage. Initially Chief Clemens complied, but then reviewed the Police contract and noted it required a 90 day notification so he resumed the Village's obligation to patrol the Township. A Township resident noted prior commentary that the Village requested yearly payment of Police services upfront at the start of the year. Chief Clemens did not know the details so declined to comment. Mr. Szell noted that there were 2 years that the Village requested payment as such but noted that in 2026 that was not requested (however, the Village originally sent an invoice to the Township for a full year which Mr. Szell was unaware of). A resident of Pioneer Trail commented to Chief Clemens to please patrol Pioneer Trail more often due to the passing and speeding.

The Trustees did comment that for a time at the end of last year the Police reports were not received by Trustees. That was rectified shortly before the letter on February 11, 2026 was sent. After the February letter, no reports were sent until right before this meeting. A resident asked Chief Clemens how long did the Police not patrol the Township. Chief Clemens responded it was the rest of February and March. Mr. Pancost mentioned how bad Allyn Rd can get when accidents on 422 happen. Other residents also mentioned Norton Rd street racing, and Mumford Rd.

New Business:

None

Road:

Tom mentioned that the contact from Melway Paving is waiting on the Melway representative signing the paperwork before the Trustees and Fiscal Officer can sign then the County Prosecutor. Mr. Pancost motioned to accept Melway Paving's Chip & Seal bid contingent on signatures and approval from the County Prosecutor. Mr. Ellenberger seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote on the Motion: All Ayes. **Resolution 2026-019**

Tom mentioned that one of the trucks needs springs replaced and it will be around \$2,900 for the repair. The Road Crew is also doing ditch work on Norton near Mumford and Allyn near Blazek's Drilling.

Zoning:

None

Police:

May 2026: 100 Patrol Hours, 24 citations issues, 725.4 miles driven.

Fire:

May 2026: No report provided until the meeting. Some repair work on gear needs to be done. Quotes are being collected. Mr. Murata inquired about grant writing regarding equipment and was told to come back into the Fall to start that process. A Township resident asked about how approves items for purchase. Chief Murata noted that they items would have to have been part of the original budget requests. Anything past that he has not yet requested and is unsure of the process.

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

Mr. Groselle adjourned the meeting. Meeting ended at 8:57pm

06-16-26 Meeting Payments and Receipts

Warrant	Payee	Description	Expenses	Received
12667	James Mayer		\$1,910.00	
12668	Cuyahoga Landmark		\$474.66	
12669	Cuyahoga Asphalt Materials		\$424.40	
12670	Allied Corporation		\$545.01	
12671	Mantua Hardware Lawn & Garden		\$30.94	
12672	UH Occupational Health		\$33.00	
12673	Rays's Repair		\$13.95	
12674	Dexter Company		\$321.00	
12675	Cleveland Plumbing Supply		\$10.28	
12676	Centerra Co-Op		\$209.65	
12677	Charter Communications		\$144.67	
12678	Thomas S. Matota		\$2,283.44	
12679	Bonezzi Switzer Polito, & Perry Co. LPA		\$1,172.50	
12680	Middlefield Farm & Garden		\$247.80	
electronic	Payroll		\$16,937.13	
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