

# Village of Hiram

## Finance/Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2022

**Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Szell called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

**Committee Members Present:** Lou Bertrand, Mayor  
Chris Szell, Chairman  
Beth Greenwood, Councilperson  
David Smith, Councilman  
Paul Spencer, Councilman  
Susan Skrovan, Fiscal Officer

**Committee Members Absent:**

**Hiram Officials Present:** Brian Gregory, Police Chief  
Bill Byers, Fire Chief  
Jason Groselle, Asst. Fire Chief  
James McGee, Village Administrator

**Others:** Frank Hemphill, Councilman, Lucia Rose (Niece of Chris Szell)

**Agenda:** A motion to approve the proposed agenda for Finance/Safety was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mr. Spencer. Motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 26, 2022 as presented was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mr. Spencer. Motion passed unanimously.

**Guests/Public:** None

**Department Updates:**

**Police Department:** Police Chief Brian Gregory provided his report.

K-9 Guapo will be retiring, there is legislation before Council at this evening's special meeting.

Fishing with a Cop was a huge success! Patrolman Yoder did an excellent job in broadcasting it out everywhere! They had 73 children this year, over 100 with the adults.

Paul Spencer asked the Chief about the Hiram College traffic control the day of the fishing? Chief Gregory said the students were moving in. Paul felt we should be controlling that ala-cart. Chief Gregory explained the procedures for traffic on move-in day. The contract usually asks for five officers; they requested none this year! We are currently without a contract, it renews on June 30<sup>th</sup> each year. Brian would prefer to go ala-cart; he loses money every year with the contract! Paul said this is the time to discuss it, during Finance, and if it is not working, we need to fix it! Chris Szell said the contract automatically renewed on June 30<sup>th</sup> for he thought another three years. Paul said we have an out in the contract. Brian thought it runs to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2023. Paul felt if we are not happy with the current contract, we need to back out of the contract and tell them what we need to have or go ala-cart.

*Reported That Stone*

SJS

James spoke with Nancy Rubin, the CFO with Hiram College; they are considering a 3-5% increase on the contract and gift the property to the Village for \$1.00. They hoped that the increase would allow us to provide third shift police protection. This would be the triangular piece of property that is near the water plant. More discussion on the parcel and its value at the County as well as keeping these two issues separate. Finance members went onto discuss the option for ala-cart services for Police and Fire/EMS and what it would entail. Paul said legislation would have to be passed.

Chief Brian Gregory noted the Hiram College mural was "officially" acknowledged yesterday in a ceremony. Paul was surprised that it had lighting!

**Fire Department:**

Fire Chief Bill Byers reported that what the Police Chief touched on with regard to staffing issues, his department is in the same boat. Council will see more overtime because of the staffing shortage. They may need to appropriate a little more in EMS to get us through year end.

The chassis for the new squad is at the factory; we may see it by November.

The 2017 squad #2 is back in service and has been for the past two weeks.

E2 damage to its bumper; the parts had finally arrived and they are not correct! The dealer is ordering a second one. The truck is still in service.

They have (1) write-off from a resident on S.R. 305, a gentleman that is deceased for \$1,404.00. Paul felt it should be written off.

**A motion to write off the ambulance charges of \$1,404.00 was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.**

Chief Bill Byers said he plans to have Lifeforce here at our next Finance & Safety meeting.

The MARCS radios are all in; VASU Communications took care of setting them all up.

**Village Adm/Utilities:** VA James McGee reported the electrical work to wellhouse #2 is done; they are working on wellhouse #1. These were the violations from the Ohio EPA that needed to be addressed.

During the surveying of the cemetery near the old Hiram Township garage; it was determined that part of their building is on Village property! There is also a lot of trees and brush that need to be cleaned up. Finance members discussed the township building and property. Paul felt the Township should be notified of the infringement so that they do not go into negotiations with someone to sell it and get blindsided. The Mayor will contact Jack Groselle.

The Street Department has received three roof bids. For the light plant the best quote for the roof was from Litzinger for \$15,000. A quote from Windows, Doors & More came in at \$14,000. They are waiting for another quote for making the windows smaller and using glass block; there are nine windows. They are waiting on two more quotes; one for the drainage and one for two new garage doors. The survey for the light plant has started. Finance members asked whether the windows can just be blocked up? Yes. More discussion followed. James said they were hoping to get all the quotes back for the light plant so they could present the total costs to Council all at one time. We can move forward with the roof if that is what Finance wants to do.

His department has begun working on the drainage in the parking lot behind Village Hall. Paving should begin this week or next.

**A motion to move ahead with the roof repairs on the old Light Plant building from the General Fund was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Mayor:** The Mayor brought up the depository agreement we have with Middlefield Bank; we had one in 2006 and one in 2020 that goes to 2025! We should be able to have electronic deposits, ACH and to scan checks for residents! He is checking with Ohio Municipal League for information. James spoke on the new water billing system and that once all the issues are resolved with the new meter system, we will be looking into electronic payments.

The Mayor plans to meet with Hiram College President David Hancy on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully Chris Szell will be able to attend the meeting.

**Fiscal Officer/Admin:** Susan Skrovan reported the updates to the Codified Ordinances are in; do Council members want the updates on a flash drive or a CD? Members would like them on a flash drive.

Susan went over the General Fund; there was no unusual spending. The savings to move part of the Fiscal Officer and Assistant Fiscal Officer's pay into water & sewer is \$21,427.00 annually.

**Bills List:** Bills list was reviewed. A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Spencer with a second from Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

**ew Business:** a. **NOPEC-electric and gas rates.** Paul mentioned the improvements being made to the grid and those costs carried over to the consumer!

**Unfinished Business:** None

**EMS Collections:** Were reviewed and signed off.

**Any Other Business:** None

The next Finance/Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2022.

**Adjournment:** A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mrs. Greenwood. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

**Attest:**

  
Susan J. Skrovan, Fiscal Officer

  
Chris Szell, Finance Chairman