

Village of Hiram

Finance/Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2022

Call to Order: Chairman Chris Szell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Committee Members Present: Lou Bertrand, Mayor
Chris Szell, Chairman
Beth Greenwood, Councilperson
David Smith, Councilman
Paul Spencer, Councilman at 6:03 pm
Susan Skrovan-DeYoung, 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
Steven Schuller, Asst. Village Administrator

Others: None.

Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 29, 2022 as presented was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mr. Szell. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Agenda: Chris Szell asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda as presented for Finance/Safety was made by Mr. Smith with a second from Mayor Bertrand. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Guests/Public: None.

Department Updates:

Police Department: Police Chief Brian Gregory provided an update on the liquor permit requested by the College. Scott, the athletic director with Hiram College, was supposed to come two weeks ago and drop off their application to have Brian sign off on it. Brian told him he would not be signing off on anything until Finance and Council could review the application. Brian spoke with the State Liquor Board; the Village is only allowed one F5 permit and it is already held by the Hiram Inn! Their application also must list the actual location of the liquor establishment; it cannot only list the address! When a license is given, it is for that exact location, not just a "building". The State has not received any paperwork from Hiram College. An F4 or F3 would be for different hours of operation; more restricted hours. They are talking about putting this bar in the basement of the Kennedy Center where the kitchen is located.

Brian reported on the data received off the speed sign. From October 1 – October 31st we have had 80,172 vehicles pass through Hiram! That is coming and going. The average speed was 32

MPH with a high speed of 82 MPH! Brian is going to put it out again across from Maggie's. Paul offered his front yard if the Chief wants to place it there. Chris Szell said he also has a lot next to his house to the west; they can park it there if Brian wants.

Brian is planning to apply for some grants for individual speed signs on a pole at our four corners of the Village; it does slow the traffic down.

Brian said he has spent the last five weeks working with Garrettsville Police and Garfield Schools setting up an active shooter communications training for public schools along with Hiram College.

Chris Szell wanted to discuss the police department's budget numbers. Susan had the numbers and copied them for Finance members to review. Chris said we have done our temporary appropriations and of course Council discussed an option to reduce the Police budget in order to look at saving the General Fund. Chris wanted all the numbers before Finance. Brian said he was not looking for any increase in 2023; just trying to maintain where he is now with his budget. Steve said his budget comes in at \$327,000. Brian said next year he will not have the K-9 program and he is doing everything possible to try and eliminate the compensatory time payout which is an extra \$6,000 – \$8,000. It still would not be providing raises for officers or providing 24-hour/7-day coverage. Finance discussed the coverage that would be required should the College be successful in obtaining an F5 liquor permit. Susan passed out and went over the police budget numbers from 2020, 2021 and 2022. Brian said his fuel costs are still very high! Brian also said that he and Chief Byers still do not know if their dispatch costs are going to be raised from the Portage County Sheriff's; they have not said anything about it.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Bill Byers reported that VASU Communications was able to come out today and install the radios in the new rescue squad despite the gentlemen becoming light headed and needing medical attention! The old squad was advertised for sale online; they received one bid of \$15,000 from a company in New Jersey. The trade in value was \$10,000. Bill reached out to UH to notify other departments to see if anyone needs a squad. University Hospital would like to buy it for \$15,000 to utilize it at the Portage County Airport. Bill would like to sell it to UH.

Motion to allow the Fire Department to sell the 2008 Rescue Squad to University Hospitals for \$15,000 was made by Mr. Spencer with a second from Mayor Bertrand. Motion passed unanimously.

EMA is predicting a "bomb cyclone" with 40-50 MPH winds and below zero temperatures!

Santa on the truck this year; we could not pull off. There were only three volunteers. They will try again earlier next year to recruit volunteers.

Village Adm/Utilities: VA James McGee has been off. Assistant VA Steve Schuller passed out their updated 5-year plan. It provides a loan breakdown, what their department is doing now, projected funds coming in along with possible projects in the future.

They have a grant application out for AMATS to re-do the intersection; it could be five years out or more. It would probably be an 80/20 grant with ODOT and possibly going after a small government grant to cover our 20% match at a total cost of 1.2 or 1.3 million dollars which by the time we might get it, it may be 2.4 million! James said that ODOT listed on their schedule plans to re-do State Route 82 and State Route 305 intersection in 2024 for paving. We might be able to talk with Tim Lannon and piggyback on their project.

David Smith asked about our street lighting; we rent them or do we pay for them? Steve said we pay for the electric. The Village owns the light; they own the poles. They started doing a lighting survey and may do some upgrades to our street lighting which could be applied for through NOPEC. Chris asked about our ESID? Susan said, yes, we can use our Hiram ESID program to go after energy improvement projects. Steve said it would be for the whole Village.

More discussion on street department equipment and replacement versus rental.

Mayor:

The Mayor attended the AMATS meeting recently. They did a study of all the fatal traffic accident areas in Summit and Portage Counties. He provided this information to our Chiefs.

The Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fiscal Officer/Admin:

Susan Skrovan-DeYoung was asked about any large outstanding purchase orders in the General Fund that will roll into 2023; we have two for Jim Litsinger Roofing totaling \$21,775.00. Those PO's will remain open and carryover, which will reduce the amount available for appropriation next year. Unless she is instructed otherwise to close them. She is working hard to close as many as possible that are no longer needed. Utilities run behind.

On the bill's list, Susan did not show the purchase of the new squad; it will be paid this year.

Bills List:

Bills list was reviewed. A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Spencer with a second from Mrs. Greenwood. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

New Business:

a. Discuss Ordinances 2022-18; 19; & 21 – suggested changes: Chris Szell commented that he does not like exhibit B for Ordinance 2022-18, the snow emergency parking ban. Exhibit A was taken from Alliance; exhibit B was from Mantua & Burton. Finance members reviewed the exhibits and proposed changes to exhibit A and agreed with Chris. Exhibit B will be removed. Finance members struck “accumulated” and just put “a depth”. Chris will make the suggested changes to exhibit A and send it out to Council for review.

Ordinance 2022-19; Parking Fines: On the exhibit A, members discussed the no parking on tree lawns or devil's strip? How are these defined? Members wanted to strike out #8. Members questioned #15, parking violations not listed? Steve said this is defined in the parking ordinance. David Smith did reach out to the Village of Peninsula. They now have a “parking bureau”. David wanted to find out how it is administered and how much revenue has come in for them since they began the parking fees. David also wanted to know what the cost was to administer the program. David filed a record's request, however, at this time he has not heard back from them.

We need to have our Village Solicitor Tom Reitz update section 351.15 with this legislation. Chris Szell will contact Tom.

Ordinance 2022-21 Enacting a New Section for Road Closure Permits: Steve said Tom Reitz removed all the permit fees? That was the whole point! Council will need to establish them. The Mayor said 311.02 is for parades and assemblies so we are going to repeal all of that and replace it with this new ordinance? Steve said yes, it would repeal 311.02.

The Mayor asked Finance if they wanted to make this a new number. Members felt the numbering should be changed to 311.04, for a new section.

Chief Brian Gregory said currently our soliciting permit is \$25.00. Finance members discussed how this would work and what has been done in the past. Finance has to determine the application fee? We are also missing a "fee" for the road closing; whether by parking spots or an hourly fee. This one may have to be tabled in January until the details can be worked out.

b. Discuss Ordinance 2022-20 – Street Parking Permit Ideas: Paul Spencer felt they should be set up by the app; pay by phone.

Unfinished Business: None

EMS Collections: Were reviewed and signed off.

Any Other Business: None.

The next Finance/Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

Adjournment: A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Spencer with a second from Mr. Szell. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Attest:


Susan J. Skrovan-DeYoung, Fiscal Officer


Chris Szell, Finance Chairman