

Village of Hiram

Finance/Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

May 31, 2022

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

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

Committee Members Absent: David Smith, Councilman

Hiram Officials Present: Frank Hemphill, Councilman
Bill Byers, Fire Chief
Brian Gregory, Police Chief @ 6:08 pm
James McGee, Village Administrator
Steven Schuller, Asst. Village Administrator

Others: None

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

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

Guests/Public: None

Department Updates:

Fire Department: Fire Chief Bill Byers said he does have write-offs for tonight. Bill provided pictures of Engine 2 hit by a car. Bill explained what happened and said he would contact our insurance company. No one was injured and our engine is still in service at this time, it will need some work. A failure to yield to emergency vehicles was issued to the driver of the vehicle.

Police Department: Police Chief Brian Gregory reported having 300 vehicles for their Click-it or Ticket campaign on May 21st! It was a huge success!

Memorial Day parade hit 90 degrees! They had 200+ in attendance. The only issue was securing a podium for the event. Mr. Gary Spencer asked that we provide chairs for the service.

Brian brought up HB 472, legislation that would remove immunity defenses provided to political subdivision personnel while operating police or fire vehicles on emergency calls. This would affect Police, Fire and EMS! The impact of this legislation would decrease the response times for police, fire and EMS personnel and dramatically increase the liability exposure to municipalities! The Mayor felt we should do legislation to send to our representatives.

A second HB 677 that is currently pending is a new tax transparency act. This would mandate detailed notifications for future tax levies. The county auditor must send each member of the community subject to the municipal property or income tax specific information about the proposed levy at least 60 days before the election. The cost would be charged to the municipality for such notification! Brian said he would provide this information to Tom Reitz.

A motion to recommend to Council for our Solicitor Tom Reitz to prepare legislation and to send a letter to the Ohio State Legislature and the Governor opposing the proposed HBs was made by Mayor Bertrand and seconded by Mr. Spencer. Motion passed unanimously.

Village Adm/Utilities: VA James McGee reported on the current status of the light plant. James is waiting for estimates; no work done this past month on the building. Paul Spencer felt we should talk to our Solicitor on this property and commented on the property line going right through the building! Paul wondered about adverse possession with regard to the part of the property that the building sits on that is College property. Steve said Pearson Surveying is coming out to survey the cemetery; they can survey the light plant at that time. More discussion followed.

A motion to allow the Village Administrator to have surveyed the pins at the Light Plant property was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Spencer. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve Schuller, Assistant VA, said the water meters and billing are still in progress. Core & Main are coming out tomorrow to do some onsite training of the hand-held units and there are 23-25 meters not transmitting. The billing issues we will also be looking at tomorrow.

Steve said Tom Reitz wants two pieces of legislation prepared for Council; one for the sewer plant drive and the second one for the rear parking lot area. Appropriations will also have to be amended.

James reported conducting several interviews for the open positions. Four came in for the summer help position; two interviews were set up, one came in and no one was hired. Thirteen interviews were conducted for the water/sewer position. One has been notified.

Steve said we did get the Small Government grant to repave Hinsdale/Winrock Roads and repair the drainage by Chris Cobb's house; the grant was around \$300,000, our cost will be \$3,000 per year!

Mayor:

Memorial Day had a great turnout of well over 200! There were not a lot attending the reception following the service.

The Mayor brought up the speed humps; it is an issue on his street. He can get a petition signed by residents on Peckham if needed. The purchase was authorized and we need them! Brian said he spent \$4,300 out of the Police fund; the issue is with the installation of them and trying not to damage our new roadways. Brian and Steve are working on a solution.

Brian is planning on submitting a grant application for speed signs from the Hiram Community Trust next year. He has been unsuccessful in obtaining any other grants! Members would like to see the speed limit lowered on the state highways if that was possible.

Fiscal Officer/Admin: Susan Skrovan reported on the 2023 tax budget to be prepared and passed by Council. Susan passed out the paperwork she received from the County Auditor for members to review. What was sent is what they estimate to come in for tax revenue for next year as it currently exists.

Alger & Associates, the IPA firm for our 2020-21 audit, plan to come out Thursday to begin. There is paperwork that will have to be reviewed and signed by all Council and Mayor. There was some paperwork that our Council President needs to sign as soon as possible including whether or not to have a pre-audit meeting.

A motion to authorize the President of Council and Chair of Finance/Safety and Fiscal Officer to sign the documents to waive the pre-engagement meeting for the 2020-2021 Audit was made by Mayor Bertrand and seconded by Mr. Spencer. Motion passes unanimously.

We received an email confirming a refund from RITA for our retainer reconciliation! It cost 1.9% for 2021 collections; our refund will be \$6,426.00. We figure 3.0% for collection costs.

No unusual spending out of the General Fund this past month. The first column on the bill's list is the General Fund.

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

Unfinished Business:

- a. General Fund and Hiram College Discussion:** The Hiram College contract is coming up for renewal; we have not heard from them. Steve Schuller said he will contact them.
- b. Blighted Properties:** Paul Spencer said they have been in contact with the Couch Farm group, Mr. Don Miles and the Ruby Brown property. We have not heard anything from the house behind Ellenberger's. Susan said their grass has been mowed very recently!
- c. HRA vs HSA (tabled at 04/22 meeting)**

New Business:

- a. Income Tax Increase & Income Tax Regulation Amendment pending legislation (please reference table provided by Solicitor Reitz):** Paul said he is not happy with Tom's table. Susan had copies if anyone wanted one. This should be discussed at Council.
- b. Federal Earmarks:** Steve spoke with Tim Lannon, our engineer with CT Consultants; we are on their radar for next year.
- c. June/July/Aug Finance Schedule given summer vacations:** Chris Szell wondered with people taking vacations whether there were any dates for meetings we should cancel. Members felt no, not at this time. We need to continue to pay bills. Chris said he would not be around for the July Finance meeting. Our next Finance & Safety meeting will be June 28th.

EMS Collections: Were reviewed and signed off.

Any Other Business: None

The next Finance/Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2022.

Adjournment: A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mr. Spencer. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Susan J. Skrovan, Fiscal Officer

Attest:


Chris Szell, Finance Chairman