

Village of Hiram

Finance/Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2022

Call to Order: Chairman Chris Szell called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

Committee Members Present: Lou Bertrand, Mayor
Chris Szell, Chairman
Beth Greenwood, Councilperson
David Smith, Councilman
Paul Spencer, Councilman at 6:05 pm
Susan Skrovan, Fiscal Officer

Committee Members Absent:

Hiram Officials Present: Brian Gregory, Police Chief
Bill Byers, Fire Chief
James McGee, Village Administrator
Steven Schuller, Asst. Village Administrator

Others: Frank Hemphill, Councilman

Agenda: A motion to approve the proposed agenda for Finance/Safety was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mrs. Greenwood. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 27, 2022 as presented was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mrs. Greenwood. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Guests/Public: None

Department Updates:

Police Department: Police Chief Brian Gregory reported he really has nothing except the discussion of the Police & Fire Contract with Hiram College and fees.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Bill Byers had a question to discuss with Finance members on the pay range ordinance. It lists an "instructor" and the fact that anyone being an instructor would be paid an additional .50 cents per hour on the new legislation that is proposed before Council. The current legislation allows for .25 cents per hour, Ordinance 2020-02. Lt. Jason Daily is a VES certified instructor and is our EMS vehicle instructor; Bill would like to see him receive this allowance. It would be up to the committee whether they wish to clarify "instructor" moving forward on the legislation. VES is defined as, Vent-Enter-Search. The original legislation is probably twelve years old. Lt. Daily does other stuff like being our EMS coordinator.

Motion to allow the Fire Chief to provide the bump up in pay to Lt. Jason Daily for the EMS vehicle instructor of .25 cents per hour currently and at .50 cents per hour should the legislation proposed pass was made by Mr. Smith with a second from Mr. Spencer. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

The Mayor stated the hours our Police Chief is putting in are unsustainable! We need to either increase his budget or not have a third shift! Let the sheriff handle the third shift. Paul asked if we could terminate third shift on a random schedule? Chief Gregory said if he is asked, he is going to say 24/7 coverage. Council needs to tell him what they want to do. What is the right thing to do; he and Steve have argued this point over and over again; he doesn't have the answer. Steve Schuller passed out documents for review. We have a possible 280 parking spaces including on the state route, which we are allowed to charge for within our Village! Chris Szell said, before we jump into this, is there anything further from the Mayor. No.

Fiscal Officer/Admin: Susan Skrovan reported no unusual spending for our General Fund. The garage doors for the fire bays are on a PO but have not been done yet and the roofs probably not until next year.

Susan had a question on the paperwork we sent out on the water tower. For the escrow agreement, a gentleman from CT asked Susan to fill out the "escrow agent" or the bank? Would that be our bank, Susan has never done an escrow account. Steven will talk with Tim about it; since they hold the grant money, they have it right now. The funds come from OPWC/OWDA.

Bills List:

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

New Business:

a. Halloween: It is set for October 31st from 5-7 pm.

b. College Safety Services Contract update and proposed billing rates for Fire and Police: Asst. Village Administrator Steve Schuller handed out a packet and explained the figures. The parking tickets, we can raise those rates again. The sample sheet is from Peninsula Village. We can do some or we can do all. Members reviewed the packet of information. Steve pulled information on snow bans from Mount Union and will forward it to Tom Reitz for his review. The parking permits are also from Peninsula; they are \$100.00 per year. The College has a permit for \$65.00, however, none of the faculty or staff pay! This would be for all street parking. Peninsula has an "app" pay. So, if someone comes in from out of town, they would download the app and then pay the parking fee. Chris said that would require signage on the streets for the app pay, correct? Yes. Paul is for paid parking, he is also for having an area that people can park and not have to pay as well. Steve asked where that would be? A good question. The last thing would be to install an impound lot and having the vehicles towed right to our own lot and collect those fees. Chief Gregory said this may seem drastic but in reality, we have to find a way to recover what has been lost over the last six years with the contract! Weekend parking is something we need to think about. Many times, residents have people coming in to visit and need a place to park. Business parking is another issue to be considered. Beth Greenwood felt we need to partner with Hiram College so it does not look retaliatory! Chief Bill Byers felt it is going to get worse before it gets better. Beth said if we are going to think about putting a street permit requirement in place, it would be reasonable to talk with the College just to say, hey this is what we are doing. So, we write the legislation, disburse it to Council on first read and send it to the College for review.

Steve brought up revoking our Ordinance 2013-02 regarding Winrock Road and the College. When the townhouses were built, the Village gave the College an easement for the three parking sections on Winrock across from the townhouses. Steve spoke with Tom Reitz, the College has not upheld their portion of the agreement; they have not maintained it, have not plowed it or patched it. We can take it back. The College owns the townhouses. The Mayor asked if the Police Department would like parking tickets & parking permits increased on State highways and on Village streets? Brian said we are being forced to do it. More discussion followed on the status of the police department and having coverage.

The Police Department reserve officers should be more. The Mayor felt the department heads should set these rates understanding that they have their budgets to consider. Any changes will be brought before Council for their approval. Chris would like to see reserve officers brought up and part-time patrol officers brought up. Finance members want part-time patrol range to be bumped up to \$15.00 - \$25.00 per hour. Paul asked that Council be given the old and/or current salary range legislation and the new pieces of legislation to compare.

With regard to raises, Paul Spencer felt we should table that discussion until next month. Chris Szell felt he is having a hard time talking about raises overall and would like to see them take a look at their part-time personnel first. Susan said she looked back to see when a raise was given, it was a 2.0% raise in January of 2019 for everyone. Department heads received merit raises at the beginning of this year. Any other raises came from police and fire departments raising their part-time personnel as they saw fit within their budgets.

Unfinished Business: None

EMS Collections: None

Any Other Business: None

The next Finance/Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 29, 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 7:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Attest:

Susan J. Skrovan, Fiscal Officer

Chris Szell, Finance Chairman