

**Hiram Village Economic Development Committee
Organizational Meeting**

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

August 18, 2020

Present:

Mayor Lou Bertrand
Tom Bollenbacher, Hiram Village Resident
Rob Dempsey, Hiram Village Council President
Paul Spencer, Hiram Village Councilmember
Ann Haynam, Hiram Village Resident

Official Recorder:

Wendelin Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer

Guests:

Steve Schuller, Hiram Village Asst. Administrator
Nancy Rubin, Hiram College CFO
Crystal ~~Teicher~~, Village resident

Student

General: Tom Bollenbacher called the meeting order at 5:30 p.m.

Rob Dempsey motioned to approve the minutes. Mrs. Rubin corrected the spelling of her surname.

Tom asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Rob Dempsey motioned. Mayor Bertrand seconded. Motion passed.

Nancy Rubin announced Dr. David Haney has been selected as interim college president. Mayor Bertrand asked if there would be an inauguration ceremony for Dr. Haney. Mrs. Rubin mentioned there are things in the works but nothing she could speak to.

Mrs. Rubin was asked if returning students would have temperature checks as they move in to the dorms. She stated at present returning students are being tested for COVID-19. Temperature checks are not being done.

Other Business:


Paul Spencer outlined the State of Ohio Economic Development Guideline manual that had been emailed to the committee members. A hard copy was available at the meeting. Paul had yet to read the all 200+ pages he was able to list a few of the does and don'ts he had read. The creation of an enterprise zone was one of the things he came across. Hiram Village had created an enterprise zone in the past for the purposes of improving street lighting through First Energy.

Paul has been working on legislation for the economic development committee. He has not done any formal drafting of legislation. In his research he has come across information regarding the establishment of development boards in other communities. Generally, these committees or boards consist of a core group as an advisory board and separate dynamic sub-committees that work on specific projects. He also mentioned that some communities had dissolved their economic development committees and then formed business development committees.

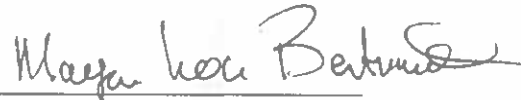
Crystal Teicher asked if any kind of marketing position had been formulated to present to any interested parties. (Crystal has a public relations background.) Tom stated nothing exists as of yet. He thinks the focus of the committee will be more projects driven in the beginning. He does not think the committee is at the point where they can "advertise" any ideas that may be in their infancy. As a new resident, Crystal feels there is potential in the Village for business growth and a relationship to develop between the Village and the college. Tom would like to develop a communication program between Village businesses, the college and community at large. He plans to build a database to do just that. He will also have a discussion with the Garrettsville Chamber of Commerce (of which the Village is a member) to try to get some information on member businesses in Hiram Village. Mayor Bertrand will contact the Portage Parks Department.

The next meeting will be held September 15, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:


Wendelin Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer

Approved:


Mayor Lou Bertrand