

Village of Hiram

Finance/Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2023

Call to Order: Chairman Chris Szell called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm following the Special Council meeting.

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

Committee Members Absent:

Hiram Officials Present: Frank Hemphill, Councilman
James McGee, Village Administrator
Steven Schuller, Asst. Village Administrator
Jason Groselle, Asst. Fire Chief

Others:

Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 30, 2023 as presented was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mrs. Greenwood. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Agenda: Chris Szell said the agenda was already approved at the Special Council meeting.

Guests/Public: None.

Department Updates:

Police Department: Police Chief Brian Gregory was not present so there was no police report.

Fire Department: Asst. Fire Chief Jason Groselle reported everything is set up and ready for fireworks. Permits are done. Jason thanked the Village and Hiram Township for funding through NOPEC and the Hiram Community Trust grant for their support. Cost of fireworks this year is \$7,200.

David Smith asked about having a controlled burn training at the Couch Farm house they discussed during the Special Council meeting? Jason said it would cost them more to get the property abated for asbestos first; it is not a viable option!

Members discussed the mutual aid billing and legislation; did that come before Council? Susan will let Tom Reitz know that we need legislation to rescind the mutual aid billing at the next Council meeting.

Village Adm/Utilities: VA James McGee reported Hinsdale Street extension has been milled; it is ready for patch and paving. The contractor, Grade Line, was out and completed the storm pipe. Chris Szell asked if the gas line has been dealt with. Steve said yes, they moved it.

James said his summer student help is here and working, mowing.

Asst. VA Steve Schuller spoke with CT Consultants regarding solar panels. Paul Spencer said we are not in an optimal area for solar energy! It seems to be different below the turnpike; we seem to have issues with cloud cover around here. Solar panels have a life expectancy of 25 years with an efficiency curve diminishing after 10 years. Paul felt it is a bad investment.

David Smith asked about our fire hydrants? James said they are flushing hydrants to see what is wrong with any of them. Dave was concerned with the hydrant sitting outside our fire bays; it is the one closest to our Village Hall and it has been down for over a year. It is our fire protection here! Steve said their plans are to install this hydrant and fix the storm before winter.

James said his department has completed the maintenance on all of our police vehicles at a cost of about \$2,000.

David Smith asked about the status of the water tower? Steve said as far as we know, they are building it. We had to set up a work order for new electric service at that location.

Mayor:

The Mayor attended the Mayor's Conference with Chris Szell for one day; found it very interesting. He spoke with Linda Mihalick with the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) regarding our local government funds; they are going to increase it by a very small amount. The Mayor spoke more about the conference. Cyber security is free with the State. They talked about the legalization of marijuana; he is not in favor of that! Paul Spencer said in the past, he had invested a lot in the marijuana industry!

Chris Szell said he spoke with the Mayor of Maple Heights; they were in fiscal emergency! He said it was hard to come out of it!

Fiscal Officer/Admin: Susan Skrovan-DeYoung reported an audit for the Hiram Energy Special Improvement District (ESID) is set up for July 19th at 9:00 am. It should only take an hour or two to complete.

Susan reviewed with members the General Fund expenses. For June, we had the balance of the hanging baskets; ½ came out of our General Fund of \$947.00. The payment for the codified updates was \$5,000.

Bills List:

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

New Business:

a. 2024 Budget: First, members reviewed Steve Schuller's spreadsheet as of today with our current budget numbers. Members reviewed the General Fund 2024 budget figures. Susan explained what she and our Police Chief went over with his personal services. Finance members agreed with Susan to increase the part-time personnel line item under police to account for the hours agreed upon with Hiram Township. The increase will be to \$23,000.

b. 4th of July: We are ready to go.

c. ODOT Speed Study: Legislation passed.

Unfinished Business: Finance members wanted to forego any discussion on unfinished business.

EMS Collections: None.

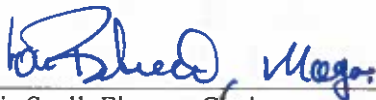
The next Finance/Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

Adjournment: A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mr. Szell. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Attest:


Susan J. Skrovan-DeYoung, Fiscal Officer


Chris Szell, Finance Chairman
Chair Finance Committee
Ro Team