

Village of Hiram

Finance/Safety Committee Video Conference Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2021

Call to Order: Chairman Rob Dempsey called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Committee Members Present: Rob Dempsey, Councilman
Lou Bertrand, Mayor
David Smith, Councilman
Paul Spencer, Councilman arrived at 6:06 pm
Chris Szell, Councilman
Susan Skrovan, Fiscal Officer

Committee Members Absent:

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

Others: Ed Frato-Sweeney

Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda for Finance/Safety as presented was made by Mr. Smith with a second from Mr. Szell. Motion passed unanimously.

David Smith asked if Frank Hemphill was still on the Committee? He should be if he plans to attend meetings and make motions. Frank said he would like to remain on the committee.

Mayor Bertrand appointed Frank Hemphill to the Finance & Safety Committee retroactive to the first time Mr. Hemphill was present this year; the February 23, 2021 meeting.

Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 27, 2021 as presented was made by Mr. Hemphill with a second from Mr. Szell. Motion passed unanimously.

Guests/Public: Ed Frato-Sweeney provided updates on the Hiram Community Trust applications.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Department Updates:

Police Department: Police Chief Brian Gregory reported the construction projects going on in the Village have caused a mess with traffic. No accidents have occurred. Ohio Edison is pulling lines.

The Police Chief is applying to the Justice Assistance grant for new portable personal body cameras which totals \$4,658.00. This is a 10% local match grant.

Brian is also applying for the Step Outside ODNR grant to pay for the Cops & Kids Fishing day.

The bike rodeo is set and good to go.

Memorial Day activities were discussed. The Mayor has a parade going on for the day. Brian reached out to other agencies in Portage County for personnel to walk in the parade; he has had no responses back from first responders.

Unit #12, our new police cruiser is down and at Klaben Ford; it would not start. Daystar in Garrettsville did not have time to look at it. We need it back before Memorial Day.

Hiram College graduation, two weekends ago, no major issues. College locked down everything really well and it worked.

We had some issues with the Sheriff's office dispatch. 911 dispatch was having issues.

Ohio Collaborative today came up with a new standard – officer wellness program.

Rob Dempsey said the Kiwanis Club plans to set up food at the Hiram Christian Church during the bike rodeo.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Bill Byers reported emailing some numbers out to Finance members.

Dispatch is up and running; fiber optic line was chewed through! The dispatch was diverted to Kent with no interruptions.

David Smith brought up for discussion a possible appropriate use of the next round of the CARES Act funding; to replace the fire squad. Chief Bill Byers said that squad is a 2008; it has some rust along the windshield. Bill said, based on their squad rotation, it is due to be replaced every 12 to 15 years depending on finances. David felt with the new safety equipment placed in the unit, the load system is paramount! And, with COVID not going away any time soon, he said the lion share should go to a squad. Chief Byers said, based on what he has read, felt this would be a great use of the money! Rob Dempsey said how would that work with Hiram Township. Chief Byers said that would be up to the committee. The Mayor would like to appoint David Smith and Chief Bill Byers along with a Township Trustee on the committee to take a look into this possibility for the funding. The Mayor sent everyone the report from the Ohio Municipal League on the latest information for the CARES Act funds. The committee could report back at our next Finance Committee meeting. Chris Szell asked if the other departments have any ideas for the use of those funds. Steven Schuller spoke about our rear parking lot needing work, which would benefit all departments. Susan added concerns over issues recently with our drains in the fire bays and with the water cooler line out to the park. This would be the time to look into fixing these drainage issues. Rob said that would definitely be infrastructure.

Finance members discussed the numbers provided by Chief Byers regarding the mutual aid calls. Finance would like to move forward with legislation to charge for mutual aid calls. Susan said quarterly payments to us from mutual aid calls would be fine; just like payments we get from Hiram Township.

Motion made to allow the Fire Department to move forward with actions for mutual aid charges was made by Paul Spencer, seconded by Frank Hemphill. Motion passed unanimously.

Village Adm/Utilities: James McGee reported the water projects are running smoothly.

His department is working on Memorial Day preparations. Plants will be put out, however, very few flags will be able to be placed due to the telephone pole replacement project.

Water and sewer department had a leak at the cemetery; a hydrant sprung a leak. It will be replaced.

Sewer pump issues on Winrock Road; his department is dealing with the manufacturer.

Storm water issue at the water plant; they are working to remedy.

Fiscal Officer/Admin: Susan Skrovan reported plans to place the veteran's flags and markers at the cemetery for Memorial Day are set for Thursday, May 27th. We have some volunteers to help.

Susan has received the tax estimates from the Portage County Auditor for 2022. We will be setting a budget workshop and then a hearing to approve the tax budget by July 15, 2021.

There was a question from Paul about the next round of the CARES Act funds and whether we need to apply for them? We are a Non-Entitlement Unit or NEU. No, we do not, the allocation comes from the State to the County to us. More discussion on possible uses for those funds.

Mayor: The Mayor reported on the National League of Cities and the Ohio Mayor's Association.

The Mayor wants a press release sent out to everyone of our first responders for the Memorial Day parade. Our Fire Department will be driving a fire truck and hopefully a classic car for the parade marshal! The Mayor provided information about the Memorial Day program. He will be having the event videotaped, at his own expense.

Do we have a Fourth of July committee? No volunteers have stepped up! The Fire Association is handling the event.

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

EMS Collections: None to review at this time. They are in the Fiscal Officer's office.

Any Other Business: Chief Byers said Stacy Turner from the Weekly Villager has offered to help with the Fourth of July event.

The next Finance/Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 29, 2021.

Adjournment: A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Spencer with a second from Mr. Szell. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Attest:


Susan J. Skrovan, Fiscal Officer


Robert Dempsey, Finance Chairman