

Village of Hiram

Finance/Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2023

- Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Szell called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
- Committee Members Present:** Lou Bertrand, Mayor
Chris Szell, Chairman
David Smith, Councilman
Susan Skrovan-DeYoung, Fiscal Officer
- Committee Members Absent:** Beth Greenwood, Councilperson
Paul Spencer, Councilman
- Hiram Officials Present:** Brian Gregory, Police Chief
James McGee, Village Administrator
Steven Schuller, Asst. Village Administrator
- Others:** Anne Haynam; mayor elect, Keith Holmes, Sue Ellen Steffens and Ed Frato-Sweeney.
- Minutes:** A motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 24, 2023 as presented was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.
- Agenda:** A motion to approve the proposed agenda. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.
- Guests/Public:** Chairman Chris Szell asked the public to limit their comments to three minutes and please state your name and affiliation for the record. There were no public comments.

Department Updates:

Police Department: Police Chief Brian Gregory reported our Village Solicitor Tom Reitz prepared a policy for dealing with disruptive individuals at public meetings. We are now video recording our meetings. Council and/or the Mayor need only to let him know at a meeting of a disruptive individual and he will remove the individual. Brian spoke about an incident on November 19th with dispatch and a "resident" of ours; Brian is going to the head prosecutor at Portage County.

Brian reported Peninsula was in the news today regarding the \$100.00 filing fee to appeal a speeding ticket in court. Individuals felt the filing fee was excessive, however, that fee was set by the court, not by Peninsula.

Brian updated Finance members on the next step with the speed camera company. Chris Szell will contact Trevor.

A motion to adopt the suggested Rules of Council and that it be a permanent protocol at Council meetings into the future was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Bill Byers is out of town. The assistant Fire Chief Jason Groselle was called out on a mutual aid call in Nelson Township.

Village Adm/Utilities: VA James McGee reported on the status of the leaf pickup; the company they hired will be back tomorrow or the next day to finish. Some leaves were picked up on Monday. This contractor has a much smaller machine and so it takes him longer. Mayor Bertrand noted that he was in touch with the Mayor of Ravenna, Mayor Seman; they have three leaf machines. Two are out for service right now, the newer ones. The oldest one is in pretty bad shape.

James went around with the gentleman from Sensus today and pulled reads. Only six did not read. They are still working on the issue with the tower and with getting electronic reads. The water tower sanitization will be next week; it will be posted on our website.

Chris Szell mentioned the upcoming Shop with a Cop event and the Police Chief elaborated on the details of the program.

Mayor: The Mayor reported that tomorrow morning at 9:30 am he will be meeting with the new Mayor elect Anne Haynam to start transitioning her to the position. They will be meeting along with the Fiscal Officer and assistant Fiscal Officer. Chris Szell said he will be meeting with everyone tomorrow at 4:00 pm.

Fiscal Officer/Admin: Susan Skrovan-DeYoung reported advertising for the public hearing on December 19th and the Record's Retention meeting on December 12th.

Susan is working to close out purchase orders for 2023; she wants to cut off any new purchase orders from department heads by December 8th unless it is an emergency.

David Smith asked about paperwork for newly elected officials like OPERS or FEMA. Susan said Wendelin has packets for new members with all the documents required to be filled out.

Susan reported no unusual spending in the General Fund for the last month.

Bills List: Bills list was reviewed. A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Smith with a second from Mayor Bertrand. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

New Business:

a. Solicitor Discussion: The Solicitor committee recommends Jennifer as our new solicitor. Members discussed the option for OPERS or as an independent contractor; Jennifer would prefer OPERS. The committee will make two offers, one with OPERS at \$30,000 annually

and one without OPERS at 36,419.50 annually. Chris would like to make the additional hourly court rate \$135.00 instead of the \$139.31 that was in the original solicitor contract. Members also agreed to remove any possible option for health insurance.

A motion to allow our esteemed Council President Chris Szell, to offer two proposals for Village Solicitor to Jennifer Kangas Berendt was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

b. Paid Street Parking Survey: Members are not ready to discuss this topic tonight.

c. Ordinance 2023-24 Establishing Section 351.15: This is on first reading. Members discussed the 2-5 am (the exhibit needs to be amended). This legislation cannot pass until we enter into an agreement. Some members were not in favor of establishing a paid parking program and felt this was just another way to gain revenue from the college after losing the contract with them. The Mayor explained what happened with the college contract. Chris Szell said this should be tabled until we have an agreement.

d. Ordinance 2023-25 Parking Bureau: This is on second reading. Chris Szell said he has not reviewed this yet. Chief Gregory said our Solicitor, Tom Reitz, has also not reviewed it yet and felt Jennifer should probably be the one to review it.

Unfinished Business: The swearing in ceremony will take place on Friday, December 15th at 7:00 pm. Chief Gregory will talk with Hiram College regarding the use of Koritansky Hall.

EMS Collections: None.

The next Finance/Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

Adjournment: A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Attest:


Susan J. Skrovan-DeYoung, Fiscal Officer


Chris Szell, Finance Chairman