

Village of Hiram

Finance/Safety Committee Video Conference Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2021

Call to Order: Chairman Rob Dempsey called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

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

Committee Members Absent:

Hiram Officials Present: Frank Hemphill, Councilman
Michael Greenwood, Councilman arrived at 6:44 pm
Brian Gregory, Police Chief
Bill Byers, Fire Chief
Jason Groselle, Asst. Fire Chief
James McGee, Village Administrator
Steven Schuller, Asst. Village Administrator

Others: Ed Frato-Sweeney and Crystal Teicher

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

Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 23, 2021 as presented was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Spencer. Motion passed unanimously.

Guests/Public: Ed Frato-Sweeney informed Finance members the application deadline for the next Hiram Community Trust grants is May 10. Ed also wished to inform everyone that the next Planning & Zoning Commission meeting next week, Hiram College would attend. This would be regarding the new signs for the College.

Crystal Teicher had nothing to bring before the committee.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Rob Dempsey attended a Zoom meeting with the Ohio Municipal League. For the next round of the CARES Act funding, the Federal Government will be sending the money; ours will be distributed through the State. They will have split payments, the first payment in a couple months and the second payment within twelve months. Rob said they will be more lenient on what you can use the funds for; hazard pay is allowed up to \$13.00 per hour.

Department Updates:

Police Department: Police Officer Devin Brown gave the police report, which included a report on vandalism at the Hike & Bike trail, our new park and on College property. The report also covered the speed trailer, saturation patrol and updates to our dispatch communication equipment.

Police Officers are receiving their second dose for the COVID-19 vaccinations.

Parking fines/tow release revenue for the first quarter is at \$3,145.00. Court fine disbursements for the first quarter are at \$5,857.00.

Devin spoke about Council revisiting the possibility to purchase the old township garage. It could make a great police department.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Bill Byers said his report would be brief tonight. The weather is keeping them busy with many brush fires so far this year. Bill updated members on the tornado sirens.

Village Adm/Utilities: James McGee reported working on new signage for the Village's four corners. The quote received for four signs with installation would run \$5,575.00. These would be 30" x 36" or 30" x 42". James presented an example of the signs. Paul Spencer questioned having Hiram College on the Village signs? The Mayor and others agreed it should remain on the signs. Chief Bill Byers felt James A. Garfield should be on the top. Paul asked James to check State regulations for sign height and setbacks. Paul felt the new signs looked busy. Rob felt they looked classy. Michael Greenwood felt they should be left as they are; they look great. James said they would all be placed within existing right-of-ways. The Mayor asked James to make sure they have permission of the property owners.

James reported their Utility Supervisor, Adam Beal, has achieved his Wastewater License. James would suggest a \$4.00 per hour wage increase; he is at \$21.71 per hour now. James explained the going rate for someone with a wastewater license and that he could go anywhere else and start much higher than he is currently.

Motion made by Paul Spencer to have the Village Administrator bring this request before Council with the recommendation from the Finance/Safety Committee with a second from Chris Szell. Motion passed unanimously.

James brought up the cell phone usage by employees. To get cell phones through the Village the cost would run \$150.00 per month per cell phone. James would recommend a stipend to the employees of \$40.00 per month. This would be for eight phones, a total of \$320.00 per month. Members felt this was rather high and discussed other options. Susan brought up the discussion department heads had with the option to cover a \$1.00 per day for when each employee is on duty or scheduled to work or on call. For some this would be \$30.00 per month; for others it would be \$20.00 or less.

Motion made by Paul Spencer to take before Council the option to supply \$1.00 per day based on the employee's schedule as recommended by the Finance/Safety Committee with a second from Chris Szell. Motion passed unanimously.

James said they are beginning a bunch of projects in the water department. Because of this, they will not have any students this year for summer help. James and Steve are talking with a landscaper to mow the cemetery just during the early spring period. This would allow them to work with the agencies for the water projects. The Mayor felt this decision should be the department heads.

Dave Smith asked James about the old telephone poles; does he know when they plan to remove them? Steve replied they are in the process of getting the other entities utilizing the poles such as cable and phone companies out to move their lines. Once that is completed, the old poles can be removed; it could take as long as a year to get this all done.

Fiscal Officer/Admin: Susan Skrovan reported on our Liability Insurance renewal will be April 1st. There is a 6% increase in costs, which had been reduced through the negotiating power of the Ohio Municipal Joint Self Insurance Pool. We are members of OMJSIP. Finance members wanted this brought to Council and have the agent present, if possible, to explain the coverage.

Susan also reported the health insurance renewal for May 1. Finance asked that this be brought before Council as well. The agent wishes to attend the meeting. Members asked that Susan forward the health insurance renewal documents to all of Council tomorrow for their review.

Mayor: The Mayor reported at present, there is no Fourth of July committee. Hopefully that will change before too long.

The Mayor also mentioned that we have about \$227,000 potentially coming from the Federal Government for the CARES Act funding!

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, they have been signed off.

Any Other Business: None.

The next Finance/Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

Adjournment: A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mr. Spencer. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Attest:


Susan J. Skrovan, Fiscal Officer


Robert Dempsey, Finance Chairman