

Village of Hiram

Finance/Safety Committee Video Conference Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2021

Call to Order: Mayor Lou Bertrand called the meeting to order at 7:58 pm following the Special Council Meeting and Workshop

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

Committee Members Absent: Rob Dempsey, Chairman

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

Others: None

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 May 25, 2021 as presented was made by Mr. Smith with a second from Mr. Szell. Motion passed unanimously.

Guests/Public: None

Old Business: Fire Chief Bill Byers informed Finance members the billing information for mutual aid calls has been forwarded to our Village Solicitor to construct a document. Paul Spencer commented on what he has heard around Garrettsville. They find it easier and cheaper to have Hiram cover for them when they are short. It gives warrant to the idea of charging for mutual aid. Paul felt we are becoming a crutch for other communities who are under staffed.

New Business: None

Department Updates:

Police Department: Police Chief Brian Gregory reported on his department's involvement with the ongoing construction projects. They have utilized one of our police cruisers onsite; we do charge.

The Ohio Collaborative; we are now certified in all four groups as of June 28th.

The bike rodeo and parade for the Fourth of July is ready to go. Brian commended Jason Groselle on a great job with organizing the event.

We have a new officer; Rodney Terry was sworn in earlier tonight. He has 23 years of experience from Mantua Village and has instructor certification, which will be a great help to us.

Paul Spencer asked Brian with the declining enrollment in police forces; we had a police academy at one time, can we initiate a training academy again. Brian said with our current climate, we could not start one for three to five more years. Dave Smith added that when we had the academy, we were able to pull the cream of the crop out of those classes. It is much more difficult now to do. Brian said many academies now have their own instructors.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Bill Byers reported sending his squads to F & S Automotive for preventative maintenance.

As Chief Gregory reported, the fireworks are set for this Friday, July 2nd.

The Fire Department has received a tool grant from Firehouse Subs. The tools did arrive.

Bill met with Hiram Township Trustees; if the Village does receive more CARES Act funds and sees fit to contribute to a new squad, the Township will support us and will also contribute. Dave said he looked at the approved uses for that funding; he did not see a specific line item that said we could purchase a vehicle. Chief Byers said it is very vague.

Village Adm/Utilities: James McGee reported on the Garfield Road watermain project; we were live as of Friday. The contractor missed one tap-in connection; no water to the day care building. They will take care of it and have started working on the sidewalks.

James brought up a possible cost of living increase for employees; he is going to be working on some numbers.

Dave Smith asked about the sidewalk repair in front of Maggie's, can it be repaired while doing these other sidewalks? Steve Schuller said the sidewalk for Maggie's is part of the Alba contract. Alba has avoided contact with us. Alba left a message saying they want more money to finish the work because of the delay with COVID. Our Solicitor Tom Reitz is working on it. We have \$59,000 left on the project. The Mayor asked if Gradeline could do it. Steve said we have to get out of the contract with Alba first, then we can get a quote from Gradeline.

The Mayor asked James if there was a possibility of putting up some American flags? James and Steve spoke on the ongoing Ohio Edison work with replacing the poles. Mayor Bertrand said we are the only community that does not have them up; he would really like some flags up!

Fiscal Officer/Admin: Susan Skrovan reported on the Ohio Budget & Management webinar she participated in regarding the next round of funding; nothing is clear at this time. We will have to register with the U.S. Treasury Department. We will receive an NEU recipient number and then have to report. There is a Senate Bill 111 with the State of Ohio that must pass even before the portal is set up to register. We will have to set up another special revenue fund. The interest this time will not need to be receipted back into that special fund; the interest is ours.

Right now there are four buckets of allowable programs for funding; there needs to be more details provided. A second webinar will be offered the end of July.

Susan is currently working to finish the budget for 2022.

Mayor:

The Mayor reported on a Town/Gown Mayor's conference with our college presidents, it will be virtual on July 14 and 15. It is sponsored by Ohio University.

He did receive a call today about Netflix; there is nothing more to report on Netflix in our community except he would endorse getting Netflix, it is great!

Bills List:

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

EMS Collections:

None to review at this time; we are all caught up.

Any Other Business: Chris Szell mentioned he added some photos for the water project to our website. He also added a link for the video on our Memorial Day parade. It is under "About Us" in the community events.

The next Finance/Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 27, 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 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Attest:


Susan J. Skrovan, Fiscal Officer


Lou Bertrand, Mayor