

Village of Hiram

Finance/Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2021

Call to Order: Mayor Bertrand called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm following the Special Council Meeting.

Committee Members Present: Lou Bertrand, Mayor
Frank Hemphill, Chairman
David Smith, Councilman
Paul Spencer, Councilman
Chris Szell, Councilman
Susan Skrovan, Fiscal Officer

Committee Members Absent: Rob Dempsey, Councilman

Hiram Officials Present: Brian Gregory, Police 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. Smith with a second from Mr. Szell. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: The meeting minutes to approve are from September 28th since there was not a quorum on October 26th in order to have a meeting. A motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 28, 2021 as presented was made by Mr. Spencer with a second from Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

Guests/Public: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Department Updates:

Police Department: Police Chief Brian Gregory provided his report. The Shop with a Cop event; Crestwood Schools did provide Brian with a list of children. Brian and his wife Lisa shopped for the gifts. The Kiwanis members came in today and wrapped all the presents. The Garfield Schools, he received an email from their school nurse; they have not provided any names yet and are still trying to get them to him by tomorrow. It is very time consuming especially when you are waiting for the information from the school systems.

The status of the body camera grant; it is now four months past due! Have not heard anything on them. Our current body cameras are becoming obsolete and we are unable to purchase batteries and parts for them. This grant, if we are awarded, should be around \$5,000.

An auxiliary officer program, Brian is already looking into it for next year. They are non-commissioned officers; it would save the Village quite a bit of money and they can work College events. It is voluntary, they do not carry a gun, only radios.

Following discussion at our last executive session, discipline was issued for an officer. He has been placed on leave; pending the outcome of his examination.

Village Adm/Utilities: VA James McGee thanked Council members for the approval of Kimble Recycling contract.

Our leaf machine is down and out; the engine went on it. James has calls out to other communities asking for equipment on loan; Macedonia and Aurora. They are waiting to get approval to loan out their equipment. If he does not get a loan, James said we could purchase some leaf bags for residents to help them gather up their leaves. We are going to rebuild the engine; it just currently is unavailable. The box will be welded and fixed. The engine will go out for rebuilding. Would Finance members want them to purchase leaf bags? James also spoke with a contractor to come out with their machine at \$220.00 per hour. It could take a day or two. Open for suggestions. Dave Smith said residents will probably be willing to use the bags to get the leaves off their lawns. Get bags you need for the couple of streets with leaves.

Sidewalk project will not be done until next year; the weather turned. It will be in spring.

Water meter project and an "opt-out" option? Steve did some research and found that other communities did follow PUCO to allow for an opt-out. Some communities went with an additional recurring charge and the cost of additional equipment. Paul asked whether we have to allow for an opt-out policy? Steve said he does not believe we do but felt that would be a Solicitor question. Steve said this would literally be for one resident. The meter has been replaced for Mr. Dunn; Mr. Dunn would not allow the man to hook up the meter reader. Paul felt if we have to go down this road and read his meter manually; it should be \$50.00 surcharge per month! The Mayor felt a 25% surcharge of whatever his monthly bill is should be charged. Chris Szell asked about the process for reading meters and is concerned about setting a precedent. Chris is not in favor of an opt-out policy. Paul agreed with Chris. Steve will check with Mr. Reitz and get something back to Council. More discussion.

Fire Department: Assistant Fire Chief Jason Groselle said Chief Byers provided write-offs for members to sign.

Fiscal Officer/Admin: Susan Skrovan reported working on cleaning up items for year-end; closing purchase orders and cutting off the departments, probably the first week of December for any new purchase orders unless absolutely necessary.

Mayor: The Mayor reported on the upcoming swearing in ceremony for December 10th. We are getting a lot of responses for attendees. The Mayor will have Judge John Eklund present to administer the oaths of office. Mr. Fred Woods, a retired military veteran will lead us in the pledge.

Bills List: We have two lists to be reviewed; one for October 26th and one for November 30th.

A motion to pay the October 26, 2021 bills was made by Mr. Spencer with a second from Mr. Hemphill. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to pay the November 30, 2021 bills was made by Mr. Spencer with a second from Mr. Hemphill. Motion passes unanimously.

EMS Collections: Reviewed and signed.

Any Other Business: The next Finance/Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 28th; do we want to have a December Finance meeting. Members agreed to do everything for Council and Finance on December 14, 2021 and then ratify the past actions of the Fiscal Officer to pay any bills that come due in the meantime. There will be no Finance/Safety meeting in December.

Adjournment: A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Spencer. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Attest:


Susan J. Skrovan, Fiscal Officer


Finance Chairman