

# Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building  
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

September 10, 2019

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Hemphill, Mr. Smith, Mr. Spencer and Mr. Szell. The following were also present: Mayor Lou Bertrand, Village Solicitor Tom Reitz, Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan, Fire Chief Bill Byers, Village Administrator James McGee, Asst. Village Administrator Steven Schuller and Police Officer Dennis Pongracz.

The following persons were present: Debra Blake; Hiram Township Trustee, Retired Fire Captain Gary Bott and Dan Burdecki.

Mayor Bertrand called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Mayor asked that all cell phones be silenced. There was a moment of silence in memory of September 11, 2001 followed by the pledge to the flag.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 8/13/2019. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda. A motion to approve the proposed agenda as presented was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

## GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

\*Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report for tonight. Their report was also emailed to everyone.

The annual Fire Association Reverse Raffle fundraiser is coming up on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. This year, Jake's Restaurant in Mantua Village will be catering a prime rib dinner. Tickets are still available.

An article in the Record Courier spotlighted a man that went into full cardiac arrest in the back of our squad; he was saved by our EMS department. Chief Byers is very proud of his department!

E2 is currently out for routine maintenance.

\*Village Administrator James McGee presented the monthly water/sewer report.

Fifteen headstones in Fairview Cemetery have been refurbished with the aid of the Hiram Community Trust grant.

The air compressor in the street garage went down; it has been replaced along with some new plumbing.

Regarding the bid renewal for our garbage contract; Kimble does not wish to continue with their current contract. James reached out to Hiram Township officials for any comments or suggestions. The township prefers to stay with Kimble for 2020. Being that Kimble does not wish to keep the current contract pricing; James believes the Village has to go out for bid. Solicitor Reitz said it does for us; however, the Village does not control what the Township wishes to do. Trustee, Debra Blake said she advised the other trustees about this and asked them to read it. The Trustees can come to the next Finance meeting and discuss the options further. The Mayor spoke about Kimble having problems with the College costs. The Village originally went into this agreement due to five different garbage haulers coming into the Village every day of the week. Historically, the Village and Township have gone out for bids together to provide services for the best possible price. The contract is not going to be renewed by Kimble. We can discuss this at our next Finance/Safety meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Project Supervisor, Steven Schuller, said the road paving project is 99% completed. We are just waiting for Karvo to get the final numbers into CT Consultants so we can get the final billing done. Paul Spencer asked about the work on Ryder Road? Steve said they have done some repairs and the ditching. We did get a quote for the work, Steve spoke with Susan about how to pay for it. Susan spoke with Tom Reitz about whether we could utilize our capital funds to pay for it. The quote was for around \$16,600. Chris Szell said it needs to be fixed. Council decided to hold a special meeting at Finance/Safety to pass emergency legislation for Ryder Road. Susan will advertise the special meeting.

Steve reported that Alba, the contractor for the sidewalk project, will be returning to finish up in 2-3 weeks.

Water tower project update; our engineers, CT Consultants, want to perform geo technical studies on the ground.

Water meter project update; the Village was awarded a grant from OPWC with funds available after July 1, 2020. This is a \$300,000 50/50 grant and loan at zero percent interest.

Water main replacement project we were not awarded; missed it by four points! They will keep working to fund it. What should help is the fact that our driveway was in the original grant application; it will drop our funding request.

An AMATS application is being submitted for the intersection project. This is a 1.2-million-dollar project; an 80/20 grant, 20 percent is the Village's share. We can go after other monies for our share. This would be awarded in 2022.

David Smith asked Steven about the water tower construction timeline. Steven said probably the end of 2020.

**\*Police Officer Dennis Pongracz provided their monthly report.** There were a total of 262 offense reports for August. Dennis provided some details on the report.

Cops and Kids Fishing day was held on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. They had 50 participants.

Hiram College move in day was August 22<sup>nd</sup>; there were no major issues except a few traffic snarls.

Distracted Driver Awareness was held on August 28<sup>th</sup> at the Kennedy Center. They had a good turnout.

The Police Department has received four MARCS radios; officers are carrying them now to get familiar with them.

Hiram College agreed to keep the Village contract for safety services the same as last year.

Internet Fraud/Scam class will be September 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm at the College Dining Hall in conjunction with AAA. Rob Dempsey said the Kiwanis Club members plan on attending this class.

## **SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL**

### **PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:**

The Commission did not meet in August as no business and/or zoning applications were pending.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF 35% REDUCTION IN HIRAM COLLEGE'S TUITION:**

Yesterday, Hiram College PRESIDENT LORI VARLOTTA, announced that the College's tuition fees have been reduced by 35% or over \$13,200 per year from \$37,710 to \$24,500 beginning in the fall of 2020, together with two (2) free summer courses each year. The complete Hiram College news release is attached as Exhibit "A" to this report.

### **OML 68<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION:**

The Ohio Municipal League's 68<sup>th</sup> annual convention in Columbus, Ohio will run from Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The announcement and schedule were emailed to each Council member on August 26, 2019. I encourage your participation.

Respectfully submitted,

**MAYOR LOU BERTRAND**

*\*The Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan presented some monthly financial reports for August.*

**The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:**

The August Bank Reconciliation balanced with the UAN with no adjusting factors and is available for signing by Mayor & Council.

Cash Summary by Fund as of August 31, 2019 was provided in Council packets.

The list of bills as of September 6, 2019 was provided in Council packets.

Council meeting minutes for August 13, 2019 were provided in Council packets.

R.I.T.A. income tax receipts YTD report was provided in Council packets.

The Comparison of Budgeted and Appropriated YTD report was provided in Council packets.

Susan received a galley proof from the Board of Elections for our EMS 2 mil renewal levy. Everything looked good.

Chief Bill Byers asked that I put together an invoice for the down payment from Hiram Township for their 60% portion of the new mini pumper purchase.

Susan sent out emails to Council regarding the special audit review. We are planning to discuss this in detail at the special meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Susan received three estimates; the third party would be Perry & Associates. They are all coming in at about the same price per hour; they just differ in the amount of hours that will be needed. All three of these agencies wondered whether this special audit was going to do us any good given the complicated overhead costs for the Fire and EMS departments. Gary Alger, our auditor, recommended Perry & Associates. Their suggestion was to do a "cost allocation plan". Gary felt this was an excellent idea; we should not do an audit, just move forward with a cost allocation plan. Prices ranged from \$4,000 to \$10,000; which would be split equally. More discussion followed on the budgets for both Fire & EMS and the other operating costs associated with them. Solicitor Tom Reitz said you all need to make it clear this is a contract for services; Hiram Township is a customer.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Officer's report was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

A motion to approve the bills list was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

## **HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT**

Trustee Debra Blake reported on several items. NOPEC; they are still in the process of obtaining warrants for the new garage; the funds from 2018 and 2019 have been escrowed to 2020.

The Township hired a new part-time employee for their road crew.

Portage County Regional Planning has a new website for every public park in Portage County. It provides the amenities and information for each one and their locations. They are linking it with the township website.

## **LEGISLATION**

### ORDINANCES

**2019-27: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART 5 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM REGARDING TALL GRASS AND WEEDS. 1<sup>st</sup> READING.** Village Solicitor Tom Reitz spoke on where the language for this ordinance came from: Windham Village. It has worked really well for Windham. Chris Szell asked what the purpose was for this legislation? The Mayor had requested from Tom Reitz to write some language. Council had concerns that this was too broad. Paul Spencer felt it was a double edged sword. Chris felt this should only cover noxious weeds, and it should only address nuisance and/or abandoned properties. More discussion followed on changes or exceptions. Tom Reitz felt these concerns should be taken up in committee.

**2019-28: AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT CHAPTER 1303 OF THE HIRAM VILLAGE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING ABANDONED STRUCTURES AND UNOCCUPIED LOTS. 1<sup>st</sup> READING.** More discussion followed on this piece of legislation which originated from the Village of Garrettsville. Tom Reitz recommends that this too should go to committee for further discussion.

**2019-29: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE KIDS AND COPS FISHING DAY FUND (2274) BY \$320.50 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

**2019-30: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND (4901) FOR FIRE/EMS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Smith. Susan explained that our trade in of \$4,000 was on the 1988 pumper that we originally purchased from the City of Aurora. That is all we got for our trade. This is a wire transfer that Middlefield Bank paid directly to Finley Fire Equipment. Appropriations still need to be amended to cover the transaction. The same goes for the down payment from Hiram Township, when we receive it. Mr. Spencer called the question. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

## RESOLUTIONS

**2019-26: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FISCAL OFFICER TO ENTER INTO A ONE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH HIRAM COLLEGE FOR THE HIRAM FIRE DEPARTMENT AND HIRAM VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO HIRAM COLLEGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. Paul Spencer is strongly opposed to this agreement; it should be a fee schedule! We keep discounting ourselves every year. We are worth what we say we are worth and should be getting it. It is an injustice to both of our departments! Chief Byers spoke about his fee schedule and how the overall costs would come in much higher. More discussion on some of the items that both departments would be billing for. Paul asked who negotiated the contract? Rob said he was involved, the Mayor and Police Chief. Paul said he was expecting legislation to come before Council for a fee schedule, coming out of our last finance meeting? More discussion. Mr. Smith called the question. The result of the voice vote was 5-1 in favor with a no vote from Mr. Spencer.

**2019-27: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL [SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) OR TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE SET ASIDE (TASA)] FUNDS PROGRAMMED BY THE AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (AMATS) TO IMPROVE SR 82-700-305 INTERSECTION AND RATIFYING PAST ACTIONS WHICH ARE NOW AUTHORIZED BY THIS RESOLUTION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

**2019-28: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

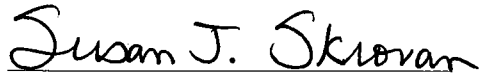
None.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.**

These minutes are pending approval by Council.

  
Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:

  
Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan