

Village of Hiram

Special Council/Finance/Safety Committee Video Conference Meeting Minutes May 26, 2020

- Call to Order:** Mayor Bertrand called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
- Council Members Present:** Lou Bertrand, Mayor
Rob Dempsey, President
Frank Hemphill, Councilman
David Smith, Councilman
Paul Spencer, Councilman
Chris Szell, Councilman
- Council Members Absent:** Michael Greenwood, Councilman
- Hiram Officials Present:** Tom Reitz, Village Solicitor
Susan Skrovan, Fiscal Officer
Brian Gregory, Police Chief
Bill Byers, Fire Chief
James McGee, Village Administrator
Steven Schuller, Asst. Village Administrator
- Others:** Ed Frato-Sweeney with Hiram College
- Audit Report:** **A motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:05 pm to discuss the 2018/2019 audit findings was made by Mr. Spencer with a second from Mayor Bertrand. Motion passed unanimously.**
- A motion to reconvene into Regular Session at 6:40 pm was made by Mr. Spencer with a second from Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously.**
- A motion to not require an exit audit meeting from the auditors was made by Mr. Smith with a second from Mr. Szell. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Solicitor Tom Reitz would like to present a resolution at the next Council meeting to name Wendelin Taylor as Hiram Village's records representative and attend the Ohio Sunshine Laws class as needed and/or required. Chris Szell sent a link to everyone for a web class on the Ohio Sunshine Laws.
- Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda for Finance as presented was made by Mayor Bertrand with a second from Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously.
- Minutes:** A motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 25, 2020 as presented was made by Mr. Spencer with a second from Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously.
- Guests/Public:** Ed Frato-Sweeney has left the video meeting.
- Old Business:** None

New Business:

A. 2021 Budget: Finance members discussed the 2021 budget with the potential revenue losses given the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. Paul stated to keep on the side of safety, we should reduce the budget wherever possible. He went onto speak about how he felt the Village is top heavy with our personnel! We may have to look at cuts in part-time personnel and with our spending. There was further discussion on the businesses located in the Village and any potential income tax loss. We do not see any losses at this time. We are cautious.

Rob said our department heads have been watching their budgets and expenses regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. We may be able to recoup some of our costs.

Department Updates:

Police Department:

Chief Brian Gregory reported that due to all this uncertainty, his department is holding the hours as they are now with Hiram Township and Hiram College.

Traffic stops had been down due to the pandemic; traffic enforcement in Hiram has resumed.

May 31st marks the re-opening of daycares; however, playgrounds and parks remain closed.

Contact tracers in Ohio for the COVID-19; these are scammers posing as contact tracers. Never click on a link or respond to a text or link that says you have been exposed to COVID-19!

Fire Department:

Chief Bill Byers reported his department is running as smooth as it can be during this pandemic. They have had maintenance performed on several vehicles. For write-offs, he has a couple of them currently in a file, nothing for tonight.

Village Adm/Utilities:

James McGee reported that the solid waste trash bids have been received and opened. He is having a spreadsheet created with all the figures for Council's review.

His department has been working diligently on getting the cemetery ready for Memorial Day. The street sweeper will be out during the day to clean off the roadways.

The light plant has been cleared out; ready for fire department training and/or police. Paul spoke on the Ohio Edison easement on the property. James will look into a deed search for any easements on the property. Mayor Bertrand would like to see a trade with the college. James will check on the value of the property and with any possible EPA concerns. Paul stated that we need to maintain our property! The Village Administrator and Assistant VA should present costs to maintain. Dave felt we should use it for training for now.

James also reported they are hydrant flushing.

James brought up the baseball coach requesting to begin using the ballfield behind Jagow Park. Members discussed whether or not to open up the park ballfield given the current COVID-19 pandemic. How do you manage to maintain the proper social distancing at that location. The Mayor asked James about an ACORD from their insurance for liability. James said he receives one every year. More discussion and concerns about keeping people safe. Finance members would like to see the coach come to the next Council meeting.

Dave Smith asked James about the Rhododendrons at Fairview Cemetery and why they were all cut down. James explained why they were removed along Ryder Road. They had a waterline break along the road and several of the plants were dying already. Dave would like the Beautification Commission to approve any removal of trees and/or bushes first. James said sometimes it has to be done quickly and is within his responsibility to manage. Dave spoke about other items that have been removed.

Fiscal Officer/Admin: Susan Skrovan reported the Fairview Cemetery veteran flags were all placed by volunteers. Her assistant Wendelin, past assistant Rosemary Yukich, Stacy Turner and two friends: Wendy and Debbie all helped straighten markers and install U.S. flags. She thanked all that helped.

Regarding the special audit for the Fire/EMS departments, the auditor is finishing up with it.

Mayor: The Mayor reported that for Memorial Day, plans have been made for a special observance. There will not be a parade and no public gathering this year.

Our estimated resources are anticipated to be down; it is very unusual time for all of us.

The Mayor thanked the volunteers for their help with the veteran's flags and the flowers!

Bills List: The list was reviewed. A motion to pay the bills with one strikeout on the August 2019 Lifeforce invoice was made by Mr. Smith with a second from Mayor Bertrand. Motion passed unanimously. Susan will contact Gary and Karen Alger for direction on the Lifeforce invoice.

EMS Collections: There was none to review.

Any Other Business: None

The next Finance/Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 30, 2020.

Adjournment: A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hemphill with a second from Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Susan J. Skrovan, Fiscal Officer

Attest:


Robert Dempsey, Finance Chairman