

**Hiram Village Special Council Workshop
Meeting Minutes on the 2021 Budget**

July 8, 2020

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

Mayor Bertrand called the budget workshop to order at 6:05 pm. Mr. Smith acknowledged by email that he would not attend due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus and social distancing requirements.

Paul Spencer spoke about the overspending since 2018 in several funds including the General Fund 1000, the Street Fund 2011, 2081 and 2272. Susan clarified that several of those funds are used for special grants and are supposed to be spent down. More discussion followed on the budget concerns and ways to correct it including possibly reducing the income tax credit and/or placing a levy on the ballot for safety services (police) and/or moving capital funds.

Michael Greenwood spoke about the shortfalls we could see next year by maybe two times what they projected! Council and Fiscal Officer went down through the funds.

Mayor Bertrand stated 92.6% of Ohio's income comes from sales tax and income tax combined!

Chris Szell felt the Fire/EMS contract needs to be fixed and agrees with Susan and Chief Byers.

The Mayor pointed out that the "in-kind" numbers in the Fire/EMS contract like insurance and space rental have not changed in 10 years; even due to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases. If you factor the CPI over these last 10 years, it comes to a 21.43% increase! Chief Byers explained to Council that he felt the Township sees it as a contract for funding while the Village sees it as a contract for services. Rob Dempsey likes the idea of a police levy. Bill said, for the record, he is focused on the future, not looking at any potential shortfalls from the past. Bill is not 100% behind a district; they cost more to operate and may not run any better. The Mayor felt if it is not broke, do not fix it!

A motion to prepare the paperwork necessary to move Capital Funds back to General Fund except Fire Department Capital and rescinding all prior Resolutions and Ordinances to allow for the transfers out was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

Paul wants to set up another workshop for reviewing the Fire/EMS funds and contract with Village Solicitor Tom Reitz at our next Finance & Safety meeting on July 28. He asked that Susan pull the last three fire contracts and send them to all of Council & our Solicitor prior to this meeting for their review.

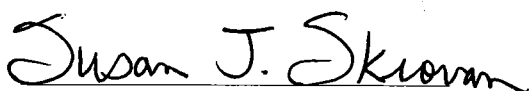
A motion to close the 2021 Budget Workshop meeting was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:



Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan