

**Village of Moreland Hills**  
**Roads and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

**August 1, 2023**

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**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am

**Establish Quorum:** The following members of the Roads and Safety committee were present: Council Person David Emerman; Service Director Ted DeWater; Mayor Ethan Spencer; Village Engineer Jeff Filarski; Mayor Spencer; Police Chief Dietzel, Council Person Rick Vincent

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

A motion and a second was made to approve the June meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resident Concerns:**

1) Hiram Trail Traffic Concerns – Stacy Feiner

Ms. Feiner raised concerns related to traffic on Hiram trail. She grouped her concerns in three categories: 1) speed (indicating recklessness); 2) volume of traffic; and 3) the type of traffic. She brought up the increase in traffic on Hiram trail since the freeway entrance/exit was built and since Pinecrest and other development was constructed. One suggestion she raised was a permanent speed meter on Hiram trail. The Chief stated that the two units we have are mobile and primarily used for data collection. Ms. Feiner suggested that most of the traffic on Hiram trail is driving through the Village not necessarily residents and that it indicates that are speeding in other parts of the Village as the pass through. Ms. Feiner suggested that we borrow speed signs from other municipalities or that we seek funding from the municipalities for additional speed signs because she says their commercial developments are the cause of the increased traffic. She also suggested increased ticketing. The Chief stated that the police already monitor the speed on that road and the police officers have discretion on when to issue tickets. Ms. Feiner requested that we increase ticketing and also increase police presence, including the motorcycles.

The Mayor stated that we do borrow signs from other municipalities when needed. He also stated that Hiram is one of the priority streets for the speed signs. He also stated that he agrees with ticketing and stated he will look at the state of the level of enforcement and have a discussion with the Chief. Lastly, he emphasized the importance of police visibility. And stated that the Village will be developing a strategy that includes other streets as well.

Ms. Feiner suggested using ticketing as a means of generating revenue for more signs. Mr. Emerman stated that reducing speeding is a psychological game and that it is not also increasing ticketing or keeping the speed signs up my negative effects and create fatigue and not further reduce speeding. He stated he believes police visibility probably reduces speeding the most. The

Chief stated that the department does not use ticketing to generate revenue and would not support that. Ms. Feiner stated she appreciated the Chief's comments and said he comments made sense.

Mr. Vincent asked what success would look like to her. Ms. Feiner stated that furthering the discussion and having a long term look and plan to address speeding and traffic, including a series of town halls.

#### 2.) Line of Sight Issue at 400 Chagrin Blvd. – Sam Belkin

Mr. DeWater reported that Mr. Belkin was having trouble turning out of his driveway because of shrubs in the right of way in the neighboring property. The service department went and talked to the neighbor, who was a new resident. He told the Village to go ahead and clear all the shrubs in the right of way. So the issue was addressed.

### **Police Updates:**

#### 1.) Posted job vacancy.

The Chief stated that the job vacancy has been posted on the village website. The posting will remain open until August 21. It was also shared on social media pages.

#### 2.) Motorcycles

The Motorcycles have been developed and now we are waiting for them to have graphics and be fully outfitted

#### 3.) New SRO

The SRO position has been approved by the school board. Officer Bennett completed the needed training and will start on August 28

#### 4.) School Security Officer

The school requested the continuation of the SSO for 8 hours a day. Which brings the total number of officers at the Orange Campus to 3 officers per day.

### **Village Engineer Updates**

#### 1) 2023 Drainage program

Mr. Filarski reported we will have bids for council for the September meeting.

#### 2) 2023 Asphalt program

Mr. Filarski reported that the work has been substantially completed. They just need to do some berming and MSIC cleanup work. For the Jackson and Chagrin River project, the bid opening is Friday.

3) 2023 Paving Marking

Bid opening is Friday. Since the total is under \$50K, it will not go to council but can be signed off by the Mayor and council president.

4) Retaining wall painting

We received two close bids on the retaining wall painting. The two bids were about \$2K apart on a roughly \$300K contract. Mr. Emerman asked if there would be an impact to traffic. Mr. Filarski stated that the road will be narrowed but there will not be any closed road for the project. Mr. Emerman asked if we should consider going with the higher bid because are estimated a 21 day project completion vs 70 days for the lower bid. Mr. Filarski stated there should not be a cost difference to the village between the two timeframes. He also stated that the 21 days does not seem realistic. Mr. Vincent asked how they get to the back of the wall. Mr. Filarski stated that these companies paint bridges and have creative ways to get to the tough spots.

### **Service Department Updates**

1) Equipment/Truck Repairs

The Chipper was delivered and is now in use. The CV515 truck is now delayed until end of October.

2) Drainage

Service department is working on a drainage issue on Murwood and has been doing cleanup work on the ditch on Miles. There was then a general discussion on the size of the recent 25-year storm.

3) In House paving

The service department stated they would be starting their in-house patchwork on spot issues through the village.

4) Road-side pruning

DeWater stated he has been getting calls about plantings that are overhanging the roadways. The Village is giving residents until August 25 to prune their own shrubs. Then the village will mow down the right of ways where there are line of site issues in the right of way.

### **Miscellaneous Business and updates**

1) Private Street Plowing

Mr. DeWater suggested that we use CPI every five years to index the charge for private street plowing. The justification for this is that the other ways (such as gas cost) are too volatile. Using CPI the charge for private street plowing will go up by 25%. Members of committee generally agreed with this approach.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned 9:30 am.

**Next meeting: September 5, 2023**