

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Public Hearing of the Trustees of Sycamore Township Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio

May 7, 2020

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the issuance of a Stay-at-Home order by Governor DeWine and the Director of the Ohio Department of Health, and due to enabling legislation (House Bill 197) which permits Ohio governments to meet remotely during this time, this meeting was held via remote video with all participants joining in by videoconference. Video of the hearing was live streamed to the public on the internet. To ensure compliance with HB 197, the Township provided the following public notice in advance of the hearing, along with links to the hearing agenda and to where the public could watch it:

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the issuance of a Stay-at-Home order by Governor DeWine and the Director of the Ohio Department of Health, and due to enabling legislation (House Bill 197) which permits Ohio governments to meet remotely during this time, The Sycamore Township Board of Trustees will hold the May 7, 2020, 6:30 p.m. public hearing for the proposed City of Deer Park/Sycamore Township JEDD via remote video with all participants joining in by videoconference. Members of the public who would like to submit comments or questions prior to the hearing may submit them to Ray Warrick, Administrator, at rwarrick@sycamoretownship.org or by dropping off written comments in the bin at the Sycamore Township Fire Station 92 at 8540 Kenwood Road. **All written comments or questions must be submitted or dropped off by 4:00 p.m. Thursday, May 7th.** The comments/questions will be read aloud during the public hearing.*

*Alternatively, members of the public may register in advance of the public hearing to participate through Zoom. **In order to participate live during the hearing, please register with Beth Gunderson by phone (513) 792-7248 or email bgunderson@sycamoretownship.org no later than 4:00 pm on May 7, 2020. Once registered, you will be sent login instructions to join the video conference or call in to the meeting. Please provide your name, address, phone number and email for registration.***

[Agenda & Video Links followed the notice.]

The Public Hearing for the Proposed City of Deer Park/Sycamore Township JEDD was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Present for the hearing were Chairman LaBarbara, Vice Chairman James, Trustee Weidman, Fiscal Officer Porter, Law Director Desai, Administrator Warrick, and Planning & Zoning Administrator Miller.

Law Director's Comments

Mr. Desai explained the City of Deer Park and Sycamore Township wish to establish a Joint Economic Development District in the Kenwood Area. He displayed a map showing the location of the proposed district. Mr. Desai stated the area is currently under construction to build commercial buildings on the property.

Mr. Desai pointed out the Township had put a notice of the hearing in the newspaper 30 days prior to the hearing. He stated on April 7, 2020 a petition was sent to the property owner to approve the district which the property owner had signed and submitted.

Mr. Desai stated the purpose of the proposed JEDD is a collaborative economic development tool for the City of Deer Park and Sycamore Township. He noted the hearing this evening is to allow public comment to the Board of Trustees for their consideration while deciding whether to approve the JEDD.

Public Comments

Mr. Desai administered an oath to a member of the public who wished to comment.

Ms. Mary Anne Lucas, 4087 Belfast Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45236, addressed the Board. Ms. Lucas asked what the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed JEDD to the City of Deer Park and Sycamore Township would be.

Mr. Desai answered the advantages to both the City and Township are economic growth and job creation. He stated both municipalities commit to providing police and fire services to the development. He said, if the JEDD is approved, there will be a board set up to oversee it which may impose an income tax on the businesses operating in the district. He said the City of Deer Park would collect those taxes, keep a portion, and distribute the remaining tax revenue to the Township.

Mr. James added the other JEDZ the Township had established with partner cities had lines drawn to exclude residential properties. He noted this property is now commercial and the JEDD is the mechanism to be able to impose an income tax.

Mr. Desai administered an oath to another member of the public who wished to comment.

Ms. Nancy Wells, 7837 Quarter Maine Ave., Deer Park, OH 45236, addressed the Board. Ms. Wells stated she had no comment but desired to learn more about the proposed JEDD.

Mr. Warrick read a written comment sent in by a member of the public. Mr. J. Janus, Jr. requested the projected net income for the proposed JEDD.

Mr. Desai stated he will find out and forward that information to Mr. Janus.

There was discussion about the projected estimates the Board members recalled from the Capital Investment Group hearings that took place previously. Mr. Weidman said he thought the estimate was \$375,000 per year based on hotel tax and JEDD income.

Mr. LaBarbara asked if Deer Park High School had received the funds from CIG that they were promised would be sent at the start of construction.

Mr. Weidman stated he believes they did.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to adjourn the hearing, seconded by Mr. James. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

The public hearing adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

/s/ Jim LaBarbara

Jim LaBarbara, Chairman

/s/ Thomas C. James, Jr.

Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee

/s/ Thomas J. Weidman

Thomas J. Weidman, Trustee

/s/ Robert C. Porter, II

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

JEDD Public Hearing Minutes 05/07/2020