

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Trustees of Sycamore Township Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Weidman.

Present for the meeting were Chairman Weidman, Vice Chairman Schwegmann, Trustee Kellums, Fiscal Officer Deters, Law Director Barbieri, Administrator Bickford, Superintendent Reutelshofer, Planning & Zoning Assistant Jon Ragan, Inspector Kevin Clark, Fire Chief Penny, and Lt. Tarr from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Planning & Zoning Administrator Uckotter was absent.

The invocation from Bethel Baptist Temple was read by Mr. Kellums.

Pledge to the Flag.

Approval of the February 6, 2024 Trustee Meeting Minutes

The February 6, 2024 Trustee Meeting minutes were presented for approval. Mr. Kellums made a motion to accept them, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: Kellums: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Public Comments

Mr. Brian Haigh, of 4106 Jud Drive, addressed the Board. Mr. Haigh requested the Board look into repealing the Home Rule Township zoning law. He also expressed concerns about the Township's process to hire the Township Administrator after he was fired, commenting he did not understand how Rob Porter did that because he was only one vote. He went on to discuss violations on his property.

Mr. Weidman addressed Mr. Haigh's comments about the hiring of the Administrator, stating Rob Porter had nothing to do with the termination of Greg Bickford's employment as he was the Fiscal Officer and had no vote. He said there were two votes by Jim LaBarbara and Tom James to terminate Mr. Bickford with a separation agreement. Mr. Weidman noted he voted no on that, and Mr. Bickford was hired back.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Lt. Tarr stated he had no report.

EMS/Fire Report

Chief Penny reported that Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Kramer went through a course called AVERT, Active Violence Emergency Response Training, and is now certified to provide the training. He said the fire department will now be offering this course to businesses in the Township, which will teach people how to handle a situation in which there is an active shooter and also include stop-the-bleed training.

Planning & Zoning Report

Resolution – Imposing a One Year Moratorium on Digital Signs Within Sycamore Township, Ohio

Mr. Clark reported he had a resolution for the Board's consideration to impose a moratorium on digital signs in the Township.

Mr. Bickford stated the current code prohibits flashing or moving signs but does define digital signs. He said the moratorium will allow the Planning and Zoning Department time to study this topic and determine the best language to regulate them moving forward.

Mr. Clark showed examples of digital signs and then presented the resolution.

The resolution "Imposing a One Year Moratorium on Digital Signs Within Sycamore Township, Ohio" was presented by Mr. Clark. Ms. Schwegmann made a motion to approve the resolution dispensing with a second reading. Mr. Kellums seconded the motion.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: Kellums: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Resolution 2024-020 passed this 20th day of February 2024

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Reutelshofer reported he had two resolutions for the Board's consideration.

Resolution – Authorizing a Contract for the Purchase of a Plasma Cutter and Mobile Welder with Included Options and the Disposal of an Existing Plasma Cutter

The resolution "Authorizing a Contract for the Purchase of a Plasma Cutter and Mobile Welder with Included Options and the Disposal of an Existing Plasma Cutter and Dispensing with a Second Reading" was presented by Mr. Reutelshofer. He stated this would replace the existing plasma cutter, which will be disposed of, and upgrade the welder. He stated the purchase had already been budgeted and appropriated.

Ms. Schwegmann made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Kellums seconded the motion.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: Kellums: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Resolution 2024-021 passed this 20th day of February 2024

Resolution – Authorizing a Contract for the Purchase of a T770 T4 Bobcat Compact Track Loader with Included Options

The resolution "Authorizing a Contract for the Purchase of a T770 T4 Bobcat Compact Track Loader with Included Options and Dispensing with a Second Reading" was presented by Mr. Reutelshofer. He stated this purchase will be made through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchase Program at 30 percent off MSRP and has been budgeted and appropriated.

Mr. Kellums made a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Schwegmann seconded the motion.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: Kellums: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Resolution 2024-022 passed this 20th day of February 2024

Law Director Report

Mr. Barbieri stated he had nothing to report.

Administrator Report

Mr. Bickford stated he had no purchase orders over \$5000.00 to present for approval.

Mr. Bickford reported he and Mr. Reutelshofer attended the SORTA check signing in which the Township was presented with a \$4.7 million reimbursement grant for two projects, the Kenwood Road Improvement Project and the Finley Lane Sidewalk Project. He noted the funds were from money generated by Issue 7, which passed several years ago. He said there is a deadline of May 31st to apply for funding in round four of this offering, and the Township will be submitting additional projects for consideration.

Mr. Bickford reported he has been meeting with staff to learn what has changed in four years and determine how to make improvements.

Fiscal Officer Report**Pay Bills and Read Receipts**

The receipts in the amount of \$2,326,353.57 and disbursements in the amount of \$224,088.24 for February 20, 2024 were read by Mr. Deters and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

I hereby certify that the money for payment of these bills is in the fund provided and duly and properly appropriated.

Signed: 
Jonathan W. Deters, Fiscal Officer

Mr. Kellums made a motion to approve the receipts and disbursements. Ms. Schwegmann seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: Kellums: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Trustees Comments

Mr. Kellums reported there was a public open house earlier that evening regarding the Euclid Road Sidewalk Improvement Project. He stated the residents who attended gave positive feedback and thanked Mr. Reutelshofer for organizing and Ed Williams of TEC Engineering for attending the open house. He also thanked Mr. Reutelshofer and Mr. Gould for their work in obtaining the SORTA grant Mr. Bickford discussed in his report. Mr. Kellums also thanked the maintenance department for their work clearing the snow over the weekend.

Ms. Schwegmann reported the Trustees and some Township staff attended the annual Ohio Township Association Winter Conference in Columbus, which was a good opportunity to attend seminars and connect with other Townships in Ohio.

Announcements

Mr. Weidman announced that the Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. He referred people to the published calendar on the website for information on other meetings and events.

Executive Session

Mr. Weidman requested a motion to adjourn into Executive Session as permitted by ORC 121.22(G)(8) to consider confidential information relating to specific business strategy and to

discuss negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance and as permitted by ORC 121.22(G)(1) to consider the employment of a public employee. Mr. Kellums made the motion and Ms. Schwegmann seconded the motion.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: Mr. Kellums: Aye; Ms. Schwegmann: Aye; Mr. Weidman: Aye

Mr. Deters, Mr. Barbieri, and Mr. Bickford were invited into the executive session with the three Trustees.

End Regular Session: 7:28 p.m.

Begin Executive Session: 7:30 p.m.

End Executive Session: 8:26 p.m.

Back in Regular Session: 8:28 p.m.

Mr. Deters called roll. All three Trustees indicated they were present.

Mr. Kellums made a motion to make a conditional job offer to hire Nicholas Miracle to the maintenance department as a full-time employee with a 12-month probationary period.

Ms. Schwegmann seconded. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: Kellums: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

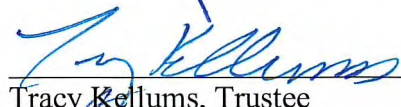
Resolution – Setting the Rate of Pay for a Newly Hired Township Employee

The resolution “Setting the Rate of Pay for a Newly Hired Township Employee” was presented by Mr. Bickford. Mr. Kellums made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: Kellums: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye
Resolution 2024-024 passed this 20th day of February 2024

Mr. Kellums made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann. Vote: All Aye
The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Thomas J. Weidman, Chairman

Tracy Schwegmann, Vice Chairman

Tracy Kellums, Trustee

Jonathan T. Deters, Fiscal Officer
Regular Meeting 02/20/2024