

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

October 4, 2018

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

The invocation from Second Baptist Church of Rossmoyne was read by Mr. Connor.

Pledge to the Flag.

Present for the meeting were President Connor, Vice President Weidman, Trustee LaBarbara, Fiscal Officer Porter, Law Director Miller, Administrator Bickford, Superintendent / Assistant Administrator Kellums, Fire Chief Penny, Zoning Administrator Holbert and Lt. Smith from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Parks / Recreation Director McKeown was excused.

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weidman, to hire the following full time firefighters: Justin Brehm, Benjamin Fudala, Gregory Lang, Joseph Lowry, Brandon Manor, Sean Mesley, Bryan Schmidlapp and Noah Sidley. Mr. Porter called the roll. All voted yes.

Mr. Connor swore in new full time firefighters Justin Brehm, Benjamin Fudala, Gregory Lang, Joseph Lowry, Brandon Manor, Sean Mesley, Bryan Schmidlapp and Noah Sidley.

The minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held September 6, 2018 were presented for approval. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Connor, to approve them.

Mr. LaBarbara read a prepared statement noting his objections to the September 6, 2018 meeting minutes. His objections included the lack of inclusion in previous minutes of comments made regarding the Ohio Checkbook on April 3<sup>rd</sup> which he argues are controversial. He also objected to comments made about the former Taco Bell site and his request for an agenda item about property acquisition and the public versus private sector not being noted in the minutes.

Mr. Connor responded none of the three subjects noted related to a vote. However, he said he would like to amend the September 6th minutes to reflect the request for the agenda items regarding property acquisition and the public versus private sectors.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to amend his original motion to approve the September 6, 2018 meeting minutes including the language noted by Mr. Connor. Mr. Connor seconded.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: LaBarbara: No; Weidman: Yes; Connor: Yes

The minutes of the Board of Trustees special meeting held September 12, 2018 were presented for approval. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Connor, to approve them.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: LaBarbara: Yes; Weidman: Yes; Connor: Abstain

Mr. Standish Fortin, of 12137 McCauly Road, Sycamore Township, OH 45241 addressed the Board. Mr. Fortin expressed concern about a flag owned by DDR being flown at full mast on 09/11/2018. He then discussed the local fee on cable television bills and requested one of the Trustees make a motion to eliminate it.

Mr. LaBarbara made a motion to reduce the fee from five (5%) percent to three (3%) percent. There was no second to the motion, therefore the motion failed.

Mr. Fortin asked if the Township has a policy for Township businesses who deal with marijuana based products. Mr. Fortin then asked questions about the street lights and the process for conversion to LED lights, department income and expenses and the keeping of minutes. He went on to ask questions about an agreement between Capital Investment Group and Deer Park Schools. Mr. Fortin then asked about the Land Use Plan and updates to the Zoning Resolution.

Mr. Fortin asked when there would be another Parks and Recreation Board Meeting and requested that a recreation center be included in the new Land Use Plan. Finally, Mr. Fortin asked about deaths in the Township related to heroin.

Mr. J. Janus, Jr., of 4462 Daffodil Ave., Sycamore Township, OH 45242, addressed the Board. Mr. Janus asked questions about a barbed wire fence and a possible land swap with Deer Park, adding the City of Deer Park's name to JEDZ reports, the contact person at Duke Energy for lighting districts, someone from Capital Investments calling in to a public hearing and the Trustees' names on the new doors at the Administration Building. Mr. Janus then urged the Board to vote no on the Resolutions for the Kenwood Road median landscaping. Mr. Janus also discussed the expenses incurred by the Township to put on the Festival in Sycamore.

Mr. Tom James, of 5784 White Chapel Dr., Sycamore Township, OH 45236, addressed the Board. Mr. James thanked the Board for items put on the website at his suggestion. He asked how often Ohio Checkbook data is updated.

Mr. James presented handouts to the Board showing festival expenditures over the past 10 years. There was discussion about similar events put on by other municipalities and the expense of the event versus the benefits of it to the community. It was noted that Sycamore Township spends less per capita than surrounding communities for similar events. Mr. Weidman stated while he is not in favor of doing away with the event, the Board should discuss it further at a Workshop in regards to cutting costs.

Mr. Al Early, of 8120 Glenmill Ct., Sycamore Township, OH 45249, addressed the Board. Mr. Early thanked the Board for the increased staffing in the Fire Department. Mr. Early also discussed curb replacement, the Festival budget and language on the Trustee Resolutions.

Ms. Kathy Kugler, of 7106 Tenderfoot Ln. Sycamore Township, OH 45249, addressed the Board regarding absentee landlords and rental registration.

Ms. Janet Farist, of 4651 Largo Drive, Sycamore Township, OH, 45236 addressed the Board regarding drug problems and zoning violations in Highpoint and other areas of the Township.

Lt. Smith addressed the residents who brought up concerns about heroin and there was continued discussion about this issue. Notably, Lt. Smith indicated that there are actions being taken that are not part of the public record or process and they will not be. He explained how heroin is unlike anything law enforcement has ever seen and law enforcement is behind on the issue. He explained that High Point is not unique and its rate of heroin use is no higher than other parts of the Township. He noted that heroin has been decriminalized and users and their companions cannot be arrested for use of heroin unless they have a large quantity on their person.

Mr. Connor then reported on a meeting he attended of the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition.

Mr. Ed Shelton, of 11937 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Sycamore Township, OH 45249, addressed the Board requesting the Township pay for heroin signs in Highpoint.

Lt. Smith reported patrol officers will be passing out candy to area children on Halloween.

Chief Penny thanked the Board of Trustees for hiring the new full time firefighters. He went on to explain the issues with part time firefighters. Chief Penny also reported that the new medic unit had been ordered.

Mr. Kellums presented the bids for the Phase II Interconnect Project. Mr. Kellums noted the low bid is a great price, however, he was informed by the State the bid would not be accepted because the required paperwork was not completed.

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to throw out the bids received for the Interconnect Project Phase II. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to advertise for rebids for the Sycamore Township Interconnect Project Phase II. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Miller discussed the Township's property acquisition procedure. He stated property acquisition is initiated in a variety of ways, but the typical process is the property is appraised, a price is negotiated and a contract prepared for the Board of Trustees to approve. Mr. Miller also explained public sector is the government or quasi-governmental entities and the private sector is not. Mr. Miller stated the Township must follow procedures set by the State of Ohio.

Mr. Bickford reported on the Deer Park Schools potential property swap and indicated that the Holmes School property is zoned single family residential and would permit the construction of a subdivision that contained approximately quarter acre sized lots. A zone change would be required if the property owner sought to plat lots that were smaller than that. He also indicated that the former Plas Plumbing building could be used as a school service and maintenance facility.

Mr. Bickford stated he would discuss the comments regarding the festival budget with Mr. McKeown and add it as an item on a future agenda.

Mr. Bickford reported on a zoning application for the construction of a new house on a property on Orchard containing a public storm sewer and potentially other utilities. He stated he would continue to investigate the issue and would report back as necessary.

Mr. Bickford reported the Zoning Commission will meet on Monday to continue their discussion of the amendments to the Zoning Resolution. He stated High Point residents should send addresses of property maintenance issues to Mr. Holbert and to him as well.

Mr. Bickford responded to Mr. James' comments about the contracts associated with the resolutions and the minutes and indicated that older contracts and attachments would be added over time. He asked Mr. Fortin to send him the information he had regarding street lights.

Mr. Bickford stated the opt-out letters have gone out for the aggregation programs.

Mr. Bickford reported he had met with the City of Silverton and Symmes Township regarding alternatives to the Hamilton County Sheriff's contract. He spoke about proposed rate changes to the Sheriff's contract.

The following PO was presented for approval:

Board of County Commissioners	Dispatch Fees	\$46,921.00
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Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve this request.  
Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Holbert reported on the progress of the review of the proposed amendments to the Zoning Resolution. He noted he attended an OKI Planning & Zoning seminar in which the heroin epidemic was discussed.

Mr. Weidman gave an update on the water rate problem and indicated that the Judge has kept the restraining order in place while the case is litigated. The continuation of the hearing is scheduled for next week.

Mr. LaBarbara stated his objections to the resolution passed Tuesday on the proposed landscaping in the Kenwood Road median saying he does not believe the median should be there and it should be removed. He noted that he looked through the files and read the letters from various property owners. He noted that a group was set up to discuss alternatives to the median and their last meeting was in June and they haven't met since. He also stated the County Engineer Ted Hubbard said the median could be cut to accommodate turns. He believes this project was pushed through without adequate study and this resolution should be tabled until there is further study.

Mr. Kellums indicated that he was concerned about an investment in landscaping on the median if it were to be removed. Mr. Kellums said he spoke with Mr. Hubbard who told him the median would not be cut nor be removed. He said Mr. Hubbard expressed interest in being involved with the process to examine the discussed U-turn or proposed round-a-bout as alternatives in order to preserve the safety and flow of the corridor.

Mr. Bickford added that the Township did try to convene the group several times since June, but each time parties were unavailable to meet.

Mr. Miller indicated there is a developer who may have a solution to the problem. He said he advised Mr. Trauth about this, noting it is preliminary at this point, and Mr. Trauth said he was ok with it. Mr. Miller also clarified that a resolution was not passed on Tuesday, but rather a motion to create a resolution.

The resolution "Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission & authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.  
Resolution No. 2018-107 approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.

The resolution "Setting Rates of Pay for Newly Hired Township Employees" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.  
Resolution No. 2018-108 approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.

The resolution "Expressing Concern for the State of Ohio to Strengthen Requirements for Siting Natural Gas Pipelines to Include Public Safety Criteria" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.  
Resolution No. 2018-109 approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.

The resolution "Authorizing a Cooperative Working Agreement for a Storm Sewer Retrofit in Bechtold Park" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.  
Resolution No. 2018-110 approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.

The resolution "Authorizing a Contract with Site Scapes Co. LLC for the Kenwood Road Median Landscaping Project" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. Connor, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Weidman asked if this would be funded out of TIF. Mr. Bickford indicated that it would be funded out of JEDZ. Mr. Weidman noted these funds would be reinvested into the district. Mr. LaBarbara noted that he has already made his points. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: Connor: Aye; Weidman: Aye, LaBarbara: Nay  
Resolution No. 2018-111 approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.

The resolution "Authorizing a Contract with Adleta Construction for the Kenwood Road Median Landscaping Project" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. Connor, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. LaBarbara stated that he had already made his points and objections. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: Connor: Aye; Weidman: Aye, LaBarbara: Nay Resolution No. 2018-112 approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.

Mr. Connor referred those in attendance to the printed agenda for the schedule of events.

The Receipts and Disbursements of October 4, 2018 were available in the Fiscal Officer's Office and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

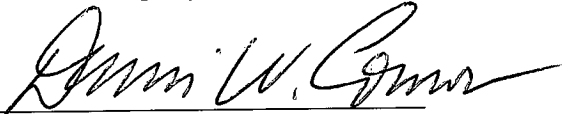
I hereby certify that the money for payment of these bills is in the fund provided and duly and properly appropriated.

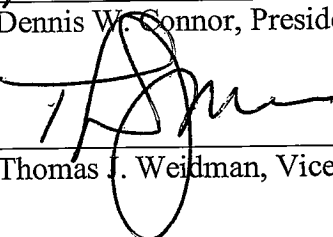
Signed:   
Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. Connor, to accept them.  
Vote: All Aye.


A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to adjourn the meeting.  
Vote: All Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

  
Dennis W. Connor, President

  
Thomas J. Weidman, Vice President

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Jim LaBarbara, Trustee

  
Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer  
10/04/2018