

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

August 16, 2017

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

The invocation from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was read by Trustee Connor.

Pledge to the Flag.

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

The minutes of the Board of Trustees meetings held August 1 and 3, 2017 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, to approve these minutes. Vote: All Aye.

The Resolution "Honoring Daniel Luongo" was read by Trustee Weidman. Mr. Bishop made a motion, seconded by Mr. Connor, to approve the resolution. Mr. Porter called the roll, all voted yes.

Trustee Weidman presented a certificate to Colette Miller honoring her and her husband Roger as one of the winners of the 2017 Beautification Awards.

The Resolution "Honoring the 2017 Moeller High School Lacrosse Team" was read by Trustee Weidman. Mr. Bishop made a motion, seconded by Mr. Connor, to approve the resolution. Mr. Porter called the roll, all voted yes. Mr. McKeown presented the resolution to the team.

The Proclamation "Designating September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" in Sycamore Township was read by Trustee Weidman. Mr. Weidman presented the proclamation to Dianne Weidman, of the Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Greater Cincinnati.

Joshua Standish Fortin, of 12137 McCauly Drive, Sycamore Township, OH 45241 addressed the Board. Mr. Fortin suggested the Township purchase a podium for the meeting room. Mr. Standish also discussed a possible roundabout in his neighborhood and inquired as to the status of the project and if funding is available. Mr. Kellums stated that Hamilton County is preparing to hire a qualified engineer and the application for funding will not be submitted until the design is complete.

Lt. Smith stated that the monthly report had been submitted.

Chief Penny reported on the difficulties of treating pediatric patients. He said that Children's Hospital brought a pediatric simulator to Jewish Hospital and the Township EMS crews participated in training on it.

Chief Penny also reported that the Fire Department will assist with the St. Saviour Golf Ball Drop, which will be held on September 12.

Mr. McKeown reported the Bob Meyer Park play structure is scheduled to be repaired next week. He stated the repairs had been delayed due to insurance and shipping difficulties.

Mr. Kellums reported that the electric for the light towers at Schuler Park is in the process of being evaluated. The electric and irrigation system for the park have been repaired and we are working with the insurance company on the claim.

Mr. Kellums said the Donna Lane and Estermarie Drive paving project is in the final stages and Charter Oak paving has begun.

Mr. Kellums stated a radar detector which can perform traffic counts has been purchased and will be used by the Township.

Mr. Miller reported on a notice of deposition for the Duke Energy Central Corridor Pipeline case that was sent to all parties who intervened. The date of the public hearing has been set for September 11, 2017 in Columbus.

Mr. Bickford reported the new Township website is scheduled to go live on August 28th. He stated the Township is moving forward with a new document management system.

Mr. Bickford reported that Hamilton County will be moving forward on engineering for the "flashy" flood management project as discussed at the workshop and they will be getting an opinion from the Prosecutors office on the Township's liability, if any.

Mr. Bickford stated the Schuler Park scoreboard had been damaged in the lightning strike and we are working with insurance to get that repaired.

Mr. Holbert presented the report received from Peter Koenig regarding the Blue Ash Road nuisance property.

Mr. Porter read a communication from Melissa Rodgers, Executive Director of the Ohio Dental Association of Minority Dentists, regarding a complaint by Dr. Paul Sohi that Sycamore Township was discriminating against him by denying public records requests.

Mr. Weidman asked Mr. Miller for any comments related to this communication. Mr. Miller stated that Dr. Sohi is involved in litigation against the Township and his deposition was taken last week as a part of that litigation. Mr. Miller explained that he believes Dr. Sohi feels the

deposition did not go well for him and since the litigation has started, the Township has received several massive records requests asking for multiple documents. In each case, the Township has prepared the documents, but Dr. Sohi has not picked them up when notified that they are ready. Mr. Miller further explained that the Township is in the process of sending the documents again, as requested, as well as converting them to digital files. However, they are too large to be sent via standard email. In addition, the requests span several years and include files that were closed out years ago.

Mr. Miller further stated he wouldn't go as far as to call it harassment as anyone is entitled to the documents, however, he pointed out that in all the years we have been providing public records, we have never had any issues until this litigation started.

Mr. Miller stated that the Township complies with the request process but the requests are so numerous that staff is spending all their time on these requests. Dr. Sohi also editorializes the requests in ways that make them difficult to determine what records are requested, but nevertheless, the Township continues to follow the process and comply with the requests as best that we can.

Mr. Holbert stated in reference to the Rodgers request, he had asked her to be more clear as her request was vague and could not be fulfilled as originally stated. In addition, Mr. Holbert has spoken with the Attorney General's Office and they concurred that the original request was vague. In response, Mrs. Rodgers has narrowed her request to a specific time frame that makes it more practical to find the documents. Mr. Holbert also stated that he has included Mr. Miller and the Attorney General's Office in the loop with these requests.

Mr. Connor stated it was interesting to note that the wording of the communication seems to indicate that there are multiple people seeking records when in fact it is the same person. It is Dr. Sohi requesting records as president of the Minority Dentist Association and Dr. Sohi requesting records as a private citizen.

Mr. Holbert stated the Attorney General's Office has also stated that we have the ability to require pre-payment for digital copies if they are not able to be sent electronically and required to be put on a CD or other digital media.

Mr. Weidman noted various items on the upcoming schedule.

The Receipts and Disbursements of August 16, 2017 were read by the Fiscal Officer 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. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, to accept them.
Vote: All Aye.

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Bishop and seconded by Trustee Connor. Vote: All Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Thomas J. Weidman, President

Cliff W. Bishop, Vice President

Dennis W. Connor, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
Record of Proceedings 08-16-2017