

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

December 7, 2017

The regular meeting of The Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Weidman.

The invocation from Bethel Baptist Temple was read by Mr. 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 Harry Holbert, Fire Chief Penny and Lt. Smith from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Parks/Recreation Director McKeown was excused.

The minutes of the Board of Trustees meetings held November 15 and 16, 2017 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, to approve these minutes.

Vote: All Aye.

Lt. Smith stated there would be two special deputies present for Luminaria. He also informed the board that the statistics for the month of November would be available next week.

Chief Penny presented the November report. He stated that EMS revenue is up by over \$36,000 since last year.

Chief Penny also reported the frame shop was working on finalizing the estimates for the ambulance chassis and that, at present, the repair is up to \$43,000. He is working with insurance about the potential of totaling the vehicle.

Mr. Bishop asked the Chief if he had an opportunity to comment on the zoning cases that were presented tonight. Chief Penny stated he had no issues with either plan.

Mr. Kellums reported the he had attended a meeting with the Ohio Department of Transportation regarding the locking down of funding for the Montgomery Road Sidewalk and Sycamore Road projects. He also reported that the District Two Integrating Committee awarded a grant to the Township for approximately 50% of the required local match. In addition, Mr. Kellums informed the Board he had also met with the Hamilton County Engineer about a scope of services to hire engineering firms for the Fields Ertel, McCauly, and Conrey Road intersections.

Mr. Kellums stated the Maintenance Department has Bechtold Park ready for Luminaria this Saturday and that the crews are ready for any impending snow as winter looms near.

Mr. Weidman asked about the end of leaf pickup. Mr. Kellums stated that leaves out at the street by 7:30 a.m. on Monday, December 11th would be picked up during the next week.

Mr. Miller reported that Norton had inquired about the potential of partnering with the Township on a digital advertising Gateway sign. Mr. Bishop made a motion, seconded by Mr. Connor, to inform Norton that they were not interested in the request. All votes yes.

Mr. Miller reported the he had met on the potential drainage pilot program with the Hamilton County Prosecutor's office and that the issue of liability would be dealt with under an agreement between the County and Township.

Mr. Bickford reported that the gas aggregation rate has dropped to .476 per CCF. He reminded residents that Sycamore Township will never solicit door to door for the Township's aggregation programs.

Mr. Bickford said he is involved in discussions with consultants about updating the employee handbook and will have cost information in the next few weeks.

Mr. Bickford also reported that, per the discussions at the last Trustees meeting, after two years of waiting for the website to be compatible with our software, the Township is preparing to go online with Ohio Checkbook January 1, 2018. Staff will monitor the website and track the time involved with responding to and maintaining the data.

Mr. Bickford informed the Board that traffic flow in Kenwood has been going well.

Mr. Bickford reported that the draft of the revised zoning resolution is nearly complete and will be released for public review and comment in the coming weeks. He requested a motion to direct the Law Director to prepare a resolution beginning the text amendment process.

Mr. Bishop made a motion, seconded by Mr. Connor, to direct the Law Director to prepare a resolution. All voted yes.

Mr. Holbert reported he had met with Cincinnati Bell regarding small cell towers. He also informed the Board he has been working on the Reading Road Corridor development with interested municipalities.

A communication from Nancy N. Schpatz thanking the Township Departments was read by Mr. Porter. The communication was a thank you "to the many departments and their personnel who maintain the attractiveness of this Township in which I live. While I have had the good fortune to move many times throughout these United States and while many of those localities were well managed communities, our Sycamore Township seems to combine both residential and business enterprises in a remarkably efficient, attractive and cooperative manner."

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bishop, to direct Law Director Miller to prepare a resolution denying the request for zoning Case 2017-14MA. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bishop, to direct Law Director Miller to prepare a resolution approving with the conditions added by Zoning Commission as well as a lighting plan that is as close to the maximum foot candles as possible and approved by staff for zoning Case 2017-13Z. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to direct Law Director Miller to prepare a resolution approving with conditions of the Zoning Commission for zoning Case 2017-15Z. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

The resolution "Providing for and Authorizing Weed Cutting and Debris Removal, Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 11440 Gideon Lane, Sycamore Township, OH 45249" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2017-132 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution "Approving a Petition for Special Assessments for Special Energy Improvement Projects and a Plan for Public Improvements" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2017-133 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution "Approving the Necessity of Acquiring, Constructing, and Improving Certain Public Improvements in the Township of Sycamore, Hamilton County, Ohio, in Cooperation with the Suburban Communities Energy Special Improvement District" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2017-134 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution "Determining to Proceed with the Acquisition, Construction, and Improvement of Certain Public Improvements in the Township of Sycamore, Hamilton County, Ohio, in Cooperation with the Suburban Communities Energy Special Improvement District" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2017-135 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution "Levying Special Assessments for the Purpose of Acquiring, Constructing, and Improving Certain Public Improvements in the Township of Sycamore, Hamilton County, Ohio, in Cooperation with the Suburban Communities Energy Special Improvement District" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2017-136 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution "Authorizing and Approving an Energy Project Cooperative Agreement by and among the Township of Sycamore, Hamilton County, Ohio, the Suburban Communities Energy Special Improvement District, Keller Road Realty Co., LLC, and Greenworks Lending LLC

Providing for the Financing of a Special Energy Improvement Project in Sycamore Township; Authorizing and Approving a Special Assessment Agreement by and between Sycamore Township, the County of Hamilton, Ohio, Keller Road Realty co., LLC, the Suburban Communities Energy Special Improvement District, and Greenworks Lending LLC” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2017-137 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution “Authorizing and Directing Transfers of Funds to Reconcile Budgets and Appropriations in the JEDZ” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2017-138 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution “Authorizing a Contract for the Township Administrator” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2017-139 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution “Authorizing a Contract for the Assistant Township Administrator and Highway/Road Superintendent” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2017-140 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution “Authorizing Payment for Association Dues” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2017-141 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution “Setting Trustee Meeting Dates and Times” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2017-142 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution “Setting the Township Fiscal Officer’s Salary and Benefits” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2017-143 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution “Providing for Compensation to the Township Trustees” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2017-144 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution "Providing Insurance Benefits to the Township Trustees" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2017-145 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution "Establishing Mileage Allowance for Township Employees Providing for Reimbursement Expenses" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2017-146 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The resolution "Requesting the County Auditor to Make Advance Payments of Taxes" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2017-147 approved this 7th day of December, 2017.

The receipts and disbursements of December 7, 2017 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. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, to accept them.
Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Weidman read the schedule of events.

A motion to enter into executive session to discuss Pending Litigation and Collective Bargaining Matters was made by Trustee Connor and seconded by Trustee Bishop.

Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: Weidman: Aye; Bishop: Aye; Connor: Aye.

End regular session: 7:50 p.m.

Begin Executive Session: 7:52 p.m.

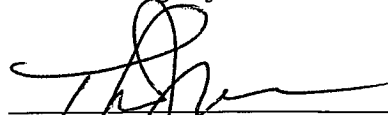
End Executive Session: 8:45 p.m.

The meeting reconvened after the executive session at 8:45 p.m.

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bishop, to authorize Law Director Miller to hire Dinsmore as co-counsel in the Sohi v. Sycamore Township matter at an amount not to exceed \$25,000. Mr. Porter called the roll. All voted yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.


Thomas J. Weidman, President


Cliff W. Bishop, Vice President


Dennis W. Connor, Trustee


Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
Record of Proceedings 12-07-2017