

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

January 18, 2018

The Public Hearing for Zoning Case 2017-19MA was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Holbert presented the case.

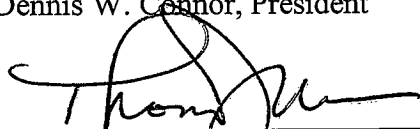
The applicant, Anne F. McBride, FAICP, addressed the Board stating the reason for the variance request was so that the sign would be visible from Montgomery Road.

Mr. Connor opened the floor for public comments, seeing none, the floor was closed.

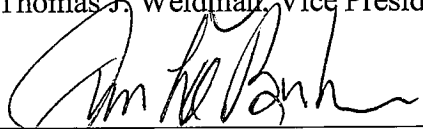
Mr. Connor closed the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.



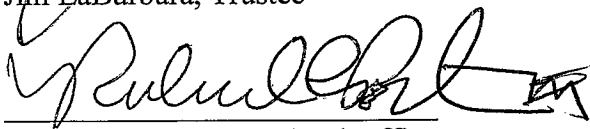
Dennis W. Connor, President



Thomas J. Weidman, Vice President



Jim LaBarbara, Trustee



Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

January 18, 2018

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

The invocation from St. Vincent Ferrer Church was read by Mr. Connor.

Pledge to the Flag.

County Auditor Dusty Rhodes swore in Mr. LaBarbara. Mr. LaBarbara thanked his supporters.

Supreme Court Justice Patrick F. Fischer swore in Mr. Weidman

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

The minutes of the Board of Trustees meetings held December 19 and 21, 2017 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. Connor, to approve these minutes. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Tom Crowthers, of Kendale Court, Sycamore Township, addressed the Board. Mr. Crowthers congratulated Mr. Weidman on the election and welcomed Mr. LaBarbara. He stated he does not want infighting and hopes the Board can work together. He stated he did not understand the function of the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) and wants more information on the website. He also noted that there were only five CIC's in Hamilton County and asked why we need one. Mr. Miller explained that the CIC is used for economic development activities for the benefit of Sycamore Township. Mr. Weidman stated that the CIC's main function right now is to administer the CIC Grant Program for residents who live in Sycamore Township and work in a JEDZ. Mr. Miller also said that he believes there are more than five CIC's in Hamilton County and the information Mr. Crowthers had was probably out of date. Mr. Crowthers stated that the Township meetings should be televised. Mr. Miller stated that the Township does not use GAAP Accounting, but rather fund accounting on a cash basis noting that is the way the State of Ohio has required that Townships report assets and liabilities since everything the Township owns (roads, parks, etc.) are assets and liabilities.

Mr. Standish Fortin, of McCauly Drive, Sycamore Township, addressed the Board. He stated he wants to see more financial information on the website. He also stated that his local public school is failing and wants to know how the Township will address the issue. He said he will provide more information later and it will be in the media.

Mr. Connor stated the Township is in the process of updating its financial reporting, in addition to going live on the Ohio Check Book, therefore, it will be posting more financial information on the website.

Ms. Kathy Kugler, of Tenderfoot Lane, Sycamore Township addressed the Board. Ms. Kugler inquired about the status of the Fields Ertel / McCauly / Conrey traffic improvements. Mr. Kellums stated that the County Engineer has released a scope of services to select a consultant to study the design of the road.

Mr. LaBarbara said he wanted to take a few minutes to thank those who supported him. He said during his term he wants to share his fresh ideas with the Trustees and then spoke about transparency.

Mr. LaBarbara stated that Mr. Miller is researching other potential ways to enforce the civil citation process.

Mr. LaBarbara said that he has concerns about employees working the polls on Election Day. He noted a raise for valued employee Tracy Kellums. He also noted that no Road Superintendent has a three year contract.

Mr. LaBarbara stated the employee handbook says an employee's performance is reviewed once a year.

Mr. LaBarbara stated he wants to stop the working of the polls by employees and wants reviews in each personnel file at least once a year, excluding firefighters and police officers since they have different contracts. Mr. Miller stated that you can't tell an employee what to do with supporting a political candidate. Mr. Miller stated we can discuss this later if you would like.

Mr. Weidman asked Mr. Bickford to explain the process of employee evaluations. Mr. Bickford stated that job evaluations are done by the employee's supervisor and it's up to the supervisor if it goes in the personnel file. He stated that only the most grievous issues go in the file.

Mr. LaBarbara said he wants to discuss and have yearly evaluations. Mr. Connor stated the Board will have those discussions in the future.

Mr. Weidman stated that the raise and review process takes place in December noting the supervisors evaluate the employees and they suggest raises. In some years its 0% up to 4% or whatever it may be. Mr. Bickford stated he presented the Board a comparison chart for all the Administrators in Hamilton County as well as Assistant Administrators.

Mr. Connor stated that not every township is set up the same way and there are none that have an Assistant Administrator who is also the Road Superintendent which could justify higher salary.

Mr. Tom Crowthers addressed the Board again and asked if he could speak at a workshop meeting. Mr. Connor stated that workshops are open to the public and that comments are allowed if relevant to the discussion. Mr. Miller stated there is no public comment section on agenda, but that he can't recall a time where a resident had a comment that it was not allowed.

Mr. LaBarbara stated he wants a Trustees comment section on the agenda. Mr. Bickford said it is already on the agenda as Other Business. Mr. Miller stated it could also be done under new business.

Lt. Smith reported that the December statistics have been released.

Chief Penny presented the statistics for the month of December. He noted that the department averaged 12 EMS runs per day and that the average age of the patient was 81-90 years old.

Chief Penny reported that, per previous discussion, the portable radios that the Township uses have reached the end of their life and Motorola will no longer support them in the near future. He stated the cost of new radios will be approximately \$123,000, noting this expense was already included in the budget.

Mr. McKeown reported that an offer was made to Night Ranger for the Festival in Sycamore noting he had heard from a promoter that the offer was well received. He also reported that Atkins and Stang has become a first time \$500 sponsor and is the first donation for this year.

Mr. Kellums requested a motion to renew the lawn care services agreement with Team All Sport. He stated the price had not changed from last year and was still \$16,631.05. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve the expense. All voted yes.

Mr. Kellums reported that Jerry and Melissa Payne, who have a current revocable street privilege, have requested permission to place a natural gas service main into the right-of-way of the Harrison paper street. Mr. Miller stated the request would require a resolution along with a waiver of liability for the gas line. He stated he would research the issue and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Miller asked the Board if they would like to purchase title insurance for the Plainfield Road property purchase. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to obtain the title insurance. All voted yes.

Mr. Bickford reported that he has been working with a resident about their high electric bill and Duke Energy will be assisting them with an energy audit. He noted that this resident averaged over 3,000 kw/H per month. As a result, they are probably not a good candidate for aggregation.

He also advised the residents that Sycamore Township and Duke Energy will never solicit anyone for the aggregation programs.

Mr. Bickford stated that he is working with a consultant on the Trustee Hearing Room audio upgrade and hopes to have it in place sometime in February. He also advised the Board that, after researching what other communities have done for employee handbooks, there are two potential firms which could assist the Township. He will be reaching out to the firms in the coming weeks and will report back to the Board.

Mr. Bickford advised the Board that Phase 1 of the Fiber Interconnect Plan has been completed and Phase 2, which will involve connectivity to the Township parks, is currently in the design phase.

The following purchase orders were presented for approval:

Patricia Evans	Sycamore Road Easement	\$5,400.00
Courtney Huwel	Sycamore Road Easement	\$3,561.00
Joyce F. Ziegler	Sycamore Road Easement	\$3,076.00
Mobilecomm	Fire Department Radios	\$123,056.82

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve these requests.
Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Holbert reported that the McDonalds PUD2 hearing will take place on February 15, 2018.

A communication from Eileen Dolman of Woodlawn Avenue thanking the Maintenance Department for work on a drainage ditch was read by Mr. Porter. She stated it was going to overflow on the street and the department's response was wonderful.

A communication from Jonie Hinton of Ester Marie Drive thanking the Township for the awesome job on our streets was read by Mr. Porter.

A communication from Oscar Williams of 4329 Sycamore Road thanking Tracy Kellums for helping with his questions on the Sycamore Road Project was read by Mr. Porter.

A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to direct Mr. Miller to prepare a resolution approving the PUD modification request for Case 2017-19MA as submitted.
Vote: All Aye.

The resolution "Authorizing a Contract for the Purchase of a 2018 Kobelco Mini-Excavator" 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. 2018-02 approved this 18th day of January, 2018.

The resolution "Authorizing and Directing a Transfer of Funds for Economic Development Purposes to Sycamore Township CIC, Inc., the Designated Community Improvement Corporation of Sycamore Township" 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. 2018-03 approved this 18th day of January, 2018.

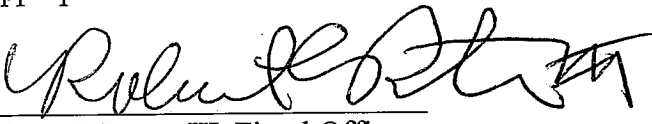
The resolution "Imposing a Temporary Moratorium of Ninety Days upon the Processing, Approval, and Issuance of any Permits Relating to the Construction or Installation of, and/or Modification to, Micro Wireless Telecommunications Facilities within the Rights-of-Ways and Residential Areas of Sycamore Township, Ohio" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. Connor, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2018-04 approved this 18th day of January, 2018.

Mr. Connor stated this is the part of the agenda reserved for Trustee comments. He stated that he had received correspondence from the NOPE group about a change in the pipeline status and

timeframe. Mr. Miller stated he had not received any information from the attorney working with the group but he will look into the matter.

The Receipts and Disbursements of January 18, 2018 were available in the Fiscal Officer's Office and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

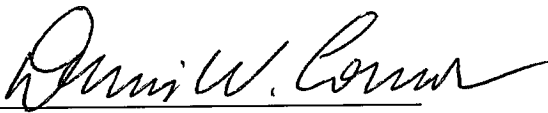
I hereby certify that the money for payment of these bills is in the fund provided and duly and properly appropriated.

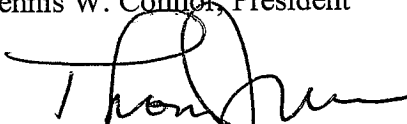
Signed: 
Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

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

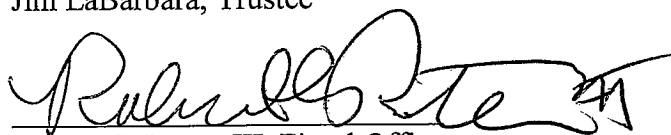
A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to adjourn the meeting.
Vote: All Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.


Dennis W. Connor, President


Thomas J. Weidman, Vice President

Jim LaBarbara, Trustee


Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
01/18/2018