

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

May 2, 2019

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

The invocation from Bethel Baptist Temple was then read by Mr. Connor.

Pledge to the Flag.

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

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to hire Joseph Homan as a full time firefighter. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

The resolution "Setting the Rate of Pay for a Newly Hired Township Employee" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-54 passed this 2nd day of May, 2019.

Mr. Weidman then swore in Joseph Homan as a full time Sycamore Township Firefighter.

The approval of the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held May 2, 2019 were presented for approval. Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve them. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Ms. Karen Cheyne, of 8530 New England Court, Sycamore Township, OH 45236 addressed the Board against Board of Zoning Appeals Case SYCB190003, the proposed maintenance facility and salt dome. Ms. Cheyne commented residents should have been asked for input sooner.

Ms. Helen McAninch, of 4560 Sycamore Road, Sycamore Township, OH 45236 addressed the Board in favor of Board of Zoning Appeals Case SYCB190003 noting the Township deserved to have proper storage for equipment.

Mr. Joe Stephen, of 8541 New England Court, Sycamore Township, OH 45236 addressed the Board against Board of Zoning Appeals Case SYCB190003. Mr. Stephen also stated the Township should have notified residents earlier in the process so that they could have provided input.

Mr. Tom James, of 5784 Whitechapel Drive, Sycamore Township, OH 45236 addressed the Board. Mr. James stated the Township should notify residents further than 200 feet from proposed projects and stated signs should be on properties that are the subject of public hearings. Mr. James thanked Mr. Weidman for his work to scale back water rates. He went on to ask if the Trustees had any comment

about proposed changes in state law for tax increment financing that would allow Townships to approve TIF money by majority vote of the Trustees instead of unanimously.

Mr. Weidman stated the change would be for only 26 Townships out of 1308 Townships in Ohio; noting those 26 Townships are urban, home rule Townships with over 15,000 residents.

Mr. Standish Fortin, of 12137 McCauly Road, Sycamore Township, OH 45241 addressed the Board. Mr. Fortin requested funds be used for videotaping public meetings. Mr. Fortin went on to discuss Festival Sponsorships. He then brought up the contract with Jacobs for the Zoning Resolution and citizen input into the Planning and Zoning Process.

There was discussion about the Land Use Steering Committee and the Zoning Resolution updates.

Mr. Fortin went on to state he would like the Township to permit residents to keep chickens in residential neighborhoods.

Ms. Tracy Hughes, of 4705 Duneden Avenue, Sycamore Township, OH 45236, addressed the Board. Ms. Hughes stated she applied to be on the Land Use Steering Committee and asked about the process.

Mr. Bob Clark, of 4860 Marieview Court, Sycamore Township, OH 45236, addressed the Board saying he lives across the street from the Kenwood Baptist Church. He complained about the church bells ringing every hour and playing hymns.

Mr. Mark Phillips, of 5169 Autumnwood Drive, Sycamore Township, OH 45242, addressed the Board requesting more communication from the Township to the residents.

Ms. Sidney Singer, no address given, addressed the Board stating she loves where she lives and wants to keep it green.

Ms. Christina, no last name given, of 6033 St. Regis Drive, addressed the Board saying she had a "secret master plan" and provided a copy to the Board.

Mr. Bickford stated the plan was a concept plan to ease congestion on Montgomery Road that was completed over 10 years ago. He also noted that the plan had been altered by someone to say "Master Plan." The concept plan was never implemented.

Lt. Smith stated he had nothing to report.

Chief Penny reported the monthly statistics for the Fire Department had been distributed and were available on the website for the public to view. He said the new medic unit was working out well noting new radios for it had arrived and were in the process of being installed.

Mr. Kellums reported he had found another stone mason to finish the work on shelter #2 in Bechtold Park and there would be a purchase order presented for it later in Mr. Bickford's report.

Mr. Kellums also stated the Sycamore Road project was progressing and the Bechtold Pavilion is now down except for the stone structure.

Mr. Bickford reported gas aggregation program opt-out notices had been sent to residents. He stated the three year locked in rate is .369 Ccf. He noted the program beat Duke Energy's rate 22 of the last

24 months, however, residents are free to opt-out of the program if they choose. Mr. Bickford reminded everyone that Sycamore Township does not solicit for the aggregation programs.

The following purchase orders were presented for approval:

DJ Stone Company	Stone Masonry Bechtold Shelter #2	\$6,720.00
US Bank	2018 Road Improvement Bonds	\$272,437.50

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve this request. Vote: All Aye.

The resolution "Authorizing an Amendment to a Contract with Ridge Structures LLC for Construction Services" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-55 passed this 2nd day of May, 2019.

The resolution "Authorizing the Purchase and Closing of the Real Property Located at 8622 Plainfield Road in Sycamore Township" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading.

Mr. Connor commented this is a property adjacent to Bechtold Park and will allow for the expansion of green space in Bechtold Park.

Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-56 passed this 2nd day of May, 2019.

Mr. Connor stated the Township is working with PreventionFIRST! to sponsor a community forum in regard to the opioid crisis. He noted the date for the forum had been set for August 28th at Deer Park High School. He said there will be representatives present speaking about prevention, treatment, harm reduction and supply reduction.

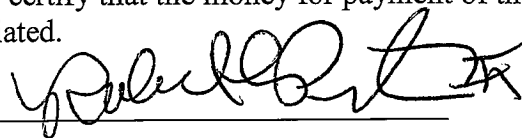
Mr. LaBarbara thanked the Sycamore Township Civic Association for participating in a Great American Cleanup initiative.

Mr. Weidman stated Cincinnati Water Works had attempted to increase water rates for Townships by 18% without increasing rates for cities or villages. He stated the Hamilton County Township Association was successful in getting a temporary restraining order against Cincinnati Water Works and is in the process of trying to get a permanent injunction against them to keep them from raising the rates for the Townships in Hamilton County. Mr. Weidman noted he is the President of the Hamilton County Township Association and said he has been working with Mayor Cranley to get the Township a fairer rate on water. Mr. Weidman went on to explain what part of the water rate pays for and said it appears that they will be able to negotiate a net decrease instead of an 18% increase in the water rate.

Mr. Weidman noted a date change for the next Trustee Workshop Meeting to May 21st and commented the annual Memorial Day parade with Deer Park and Silverton will again take place on Memorial Day beginning at Bechtold Park.

The Receipts and Disbursements of May 2, 2019 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: 

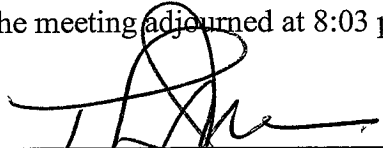
Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

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

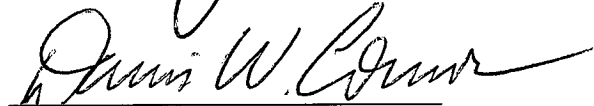
Mr. Porter noted the real estate tax from the County came in this month for the first time since January. He explained when that comes in, the Township has to give approximately half of it back to the schools as TIF payments.

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

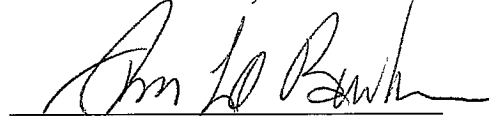
The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



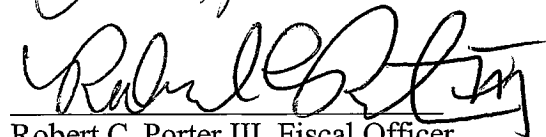
Thomas J. Weidman, Chairman



Dennis W. Connor, Vice Chairman



Jim LaBarbara, Trustee



Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

05/02/2019