

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

January 2, 2020

The Public Hearing for Zoning Case 2019-21MA was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Miller presented the case noting it is a request by the Taziki's Mediterranean Café on Kenwood Road to modify the location of the monument sign on the property. He noted the size of the proposed sign is reduced compared to the original approved sign and it is also a flat sign as opposed to a V-shape. Mr. Miller showed the proposed location of the sign compared to the location that was previously approved. He went on to discuss the clear sight triangle to allow for safe ingress and egress at the site. Mr. Miller stated the applicant requests a five feet encroachment into the required ten feet setback from the right of way. He noted Zoning Commission recommended approval of a two and a half feet encroachment into that setback making the setback from the right of way seven and a half feet.

Mr. Ray Conn, the property owner, of 10410 Weil Road, Cincinnati, OH 45243, addressed the Board. Mr. Conn discussed the importance of the sign being aesthetically pleasing and noted the hardship of the location. He went on to discuss the reasons for the requested location for the sign five feet from the right of way.

Mr. Weidman asked questions about the location. Mr. Miller and Mr. Conn clarified.

Mr. James asked how this sign lines up with other existing signs. Mr. Conn stated there are other signs much closer than that to the right of way that are grandfathered.

Mr. Desai asked why the Zoning Commission recommended the two and a half feet encroachment rather than the requested five feet.

Mr. Miller stated it was a compromise and noted there are other signs along Kenwood that are significantly larger and closer to the right of way.

Mr. Conn stated he would like for the sign to be even closer to the right of way but had requested five feet as a compromise.

Mr. Weidman asked if there was any visibility issue with the proposed location.

Mr. Miller answered there is no safety concern noting the proposed sign is outside of the clear sight triangle.

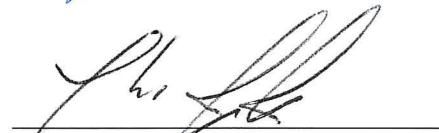
Mr. LaBarbara asked if anyone present from the public wished to comment on the case.  
No response.

Mr. LaBarbara closed the public hearing at 6:55 p.m.



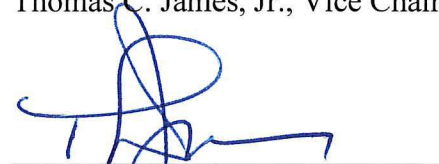
---

Jim LaBarbara, Chairman



---

Thomas C. James, Jr., Vice Chairman



---

Thomas J. Weidman, Trustee



---

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

01/02/2020

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

January 2, 2020

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

Judge Curt Hartman swore in Trustee Tom James. Mr. James introduced his family and thanked his supporters.

The invocation was then read by Mr. James' son.

Pledge to the Flag.

Present for the meeting were Chairman LaBarbara, Vice Chairman James, Trustee Weidman, Fiscal Officer Porter, Law Director Desai, Administrator Warrick, Superintendent / Assistant Administrator Kellums, Planning & Zoning Administrator Miller, Fire Chief Penny and Lt. Smith from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. LaBarbara made a statement and introduced the members of the Board.

The minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held December 5, 2019 were presented for approval. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to approve them. Mr. Porter called the roll. All voted yes.

Ms. Marissa Pherson, of the U.S. Census Bureau, addressed the Board about the 2020 Census stating the Census forms will be in the mail in March and noting the Census Bureau is hiring.

Mr. Gavin O'Neill, addressed the Board in regards to Zoning Case 2019-21MA.

Mr. Tom Crowthers, of 4 Kendale Court, addressed the Board thanking the Trustees and Fiscal Officer Porter as well as Mr. Kellums and the Maintenance Department. Mr. Crowthers went on to say he was disappointed after listening to last month's meeting and hopes there will be a change. He discussed the lack of handicap accessibility in the parks and stated he would like to have budget line items given out at the meetings.

Mr. J. Janus, Jr., of 4462 Daffodil Avenue, addressed the Board promoting voter registration. Mr. Janus also requested Township maps be updated and put out for the public. He discussed the issues with having multiple meetings on one night. He discussed handicap access and lighting at the north fire station. Mr. Janus stated meeting agendas should be posted outside the administration building and expressed concern about last minute changes to the agendas. He stated Highpoint Neighborhood Watch meeting dates should be on a specific night of the month for planning purposes. He went on to discuss issues with the doors and fire codes. Mr. Janus suggested a "free market" festival. Mr. Janus requested name tags for the Park Board, Land Use Planning Committee and for those attending bid openings.

Ms. Becky Ganis, of 4687 Largo Drive, addressed the Board requesting they restrict construction times for the CIG project. She also requested Happiness Way be open in the evenings and stated a sidewalk is needed on Galbraith Road in front of Jewish Hospital.

Mr. Standish Fortin, of 12137 McCauly Road, addressed the Board asking why there are no longer nightly Trustees meetings twice a month. He requested additional speed signs. Mr. Fortin discussed the need for a Planning Commission. Mr. Fortin also stated Parks and Recreation meetings are needed. He requested the Township Administration Building be a voting location again. He then said he had photos and videos submitted by Kathy Kugler who was unable to attend the meeting but had some concerns about a property that was formerly a trailer park.

Mr. LaBarbara directed Mr. Warrick to set up a Parks and Recreation Board.

There was discussion about the speed signs and the plan for how they are being used. Mr. James suggested putting information about the speed signs on the website and social media so that citizens are aware the Township has them available.

Mr. LaBarbara asked new Township Administrator Ray Warrick if he'd like to make any comments.

Mr. Warrick stated he is honored to fill the role noting he previously lived in Sycamore Township for 13 years and he appreciates being part of the team.

Mr. LaBarbara then asked new Township Trustee Tom James if he'd like to make any comments.

Mr. James thanked those who came to witness his swearing in and stated he looks forward to serving the community. He asked for patience while some of the things he promised in his campaign are implemented. He went on to describe some of the things he hopes to accomplish including videotaping the meetings, better communication and improvements to the meeting room among others.

Lt. Smith reported on the parent/guardian restrictions at Kenwood Towne Center. He stated there were no major incidents over the holidays but there were three arrests for criminal trespassing. Lt. Smith stated he will have the department's statistics for 2019 available at the February meeting. He then reported there were no official complaints on deputies or injuries to deputies in the line of duty in Sycamore Township in 2019.

Mr. James asked about access to the Community Room for Highpoint Neighborhood Watch since it will be taking place on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and for an update on the incident at the Hampton Inn.

Lt. Smith answered he will contact P.O. Bittermann about the block watch meeting. He stated the investigation into the events that occurred at the Hampton Inn is progressing nicely, however, he is unable to comment further as it is an on-going investigation.

Chief Penny welcomed Mr. James and Mr. Warrick. He reported the new cot had been delivered and is in the process of being mounted in the Medic Unit at the north fire station. He stated he is working on the Fire department's year-end report and noted there were 4,462 runs in 2019.

Mr. Kellums reported on the Bechtold Park Retrofit Project stating the County had requested \$10,000 from the Township to pay for trees for the citizens that are in the Cooper Creek Project area. He stated it could be a problem as it is on private property. There was discussion about this request with Mr. Desai looking into the legality of it.

Mr. Kellums noted there will be a Public Meeting regarding the Fields Ertel Road Intersection Improvements Project on January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Schuler Community Room.

Mr. James asked Mr. Kellums to look into the lighting issue at the north fire station brought up by Mr. Janus.

Mr. LaBarbara asked Mr. Kellums to have the bushes cut down in front of the Administration Building monument sign. Mr. Kellums responded that he plans to have a plan before the Board soon for a new monument sign perpendicular to Kenwood Road which would have more visibility.

Mr. Desai addressed the Board with information on the Ohio Sunshine Laws and the Ohio Open Meetings Act. He then distributed a handout to the Board members. Mr. Desai discussed the rules and regulations surrounding public meetings, the discussion of public business, what constitutes a meeting and notification of meetings.

Mr. Warrick presented the 2020 blanket purchase orders for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. James, to approve these requests.

There was discussion about the blanket purchase orders.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye

Mr. Miller reported all meetings, including the Land Use Steering Committee meetings, will be held in the Trustee Meeting Room. He said the next Land Use Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Miller also reported the Township has an opening for a new Planning & Zoning Assistant.

Mr. Miller reported on upcoming Board of Zoning Appeals and Zoning Commission meetings.

Mr. James inquired about the Kugler Mill Road zoning case being continued. Mr. Miller answered the Kugler Mill Road Board of Zoning Appeals case has once again been continued and he is working with Legal Counsel on it.

Mr. James made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weidman, to direct Law Director Desai to prepare a resolution approving a sign with an electronic reader board requested in Zoning Case 2019-16MA with the following conditions:

1. The digital reader board copy must be amber color only.
2. The digital reader board copy may not strobe or flash.
3. The brightness of the sign and digital reader board must comply with the other requirements of the zoning resolution regarding signs
4. The digital reader board copy may change only once per day (24 hour period).

There was discussion about the conditions. Mr. Weidman noted the location in the cul de sac is not obtrusive and the conditions imposed are a reasonable compromise. Mr. James stated his office is on this property therefore he will abstain from voting.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: James: Abstain; LaBarbara: Aye; Weidman: Aye.

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to direct Law Director Desai to prepare a resolution approving Zoning Case 2019-21MA as submitted with the sign setback five feet from the right of way.

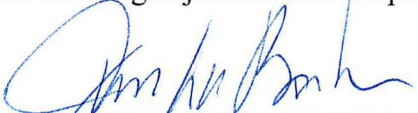

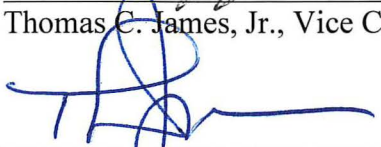
Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: James: Aye; LaBarbara: Aye; Weidman: Aye.

Mr. LaBarbara read the schedule of events.

Mr. Porter said the receipts and disbursements will be available in the office tomorrow.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim LaBarbara, Chairman  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas C. James, Jr., Vice Chairman  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas J. Weidman, Trustee  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer  
01/02/2020