

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Trustees of Sycamore Township
Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio
September 3, 2020

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the issuance of guidelines to limit public gatherings to ten people or less by Governor DeWine and the Director of the Ohio Department of Health, and due to enabling legislation (House Bill 197) which permits Ohio governments to meet remotely during this time, this meeting was held without members of the public physically present. Members of the public were given the opportunity to participate live in the meeting remotely via Zoom audio. Video of the meeting was live streamed to the public on the internet.

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

Mr. Warrick gave the invocation.

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 Cpl. Kidd from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Lt. Tarr was absent.

Proclamation – Designating September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

The proclamation "Designating September Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in Sycamore Township" was read by Mr. Weidman. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. James, to pass the Proclamation. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye. The Proclamation passed this 3rd day of September, 2020.

Mr. Weidman said he is on the board of Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Greater Cincinnati. He went on to explain the work of that 100% volunteer organization. He said COVID-19 has cut short the group's fundraising efforts this year. He said the disease has very subtle symptoms, therefore, often it is in stage 3 or 4 before diagnosed, at which point the five-year survival rate is only 35%. Mr. Weidman said this organization educates women to recognize symptoms, provides mentoring to newly diagnosed women, and funds research. He spoke about the Ovarian Cancer Caucus in Congress and about the groundbreaking research being done. He thanked the board for passing the proclamation.

Public Comments

Mr. J. Janus, Jr., of 4462 Daffodil Avenue, addressed the Board remotely via Zoom. He discussed a packet he had sent to the Trustees and Mr. Warrick which included a 2004 study by Brandstetter Carroll. He asked a question about an address listed in the study and commented he had made a public records request for the resolution approving the study and explained his concern when he was told there is not a resolution. He requested follow up on his questions saying it is his understanding the Board has to pass a resolution to contract with a company. He also said he would like the Board's thoughts on current or future development of the nature park.

Mr. Janus also asked if there will be Trick-or-Treating on Halloween this year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. He then requested the numerical address for Bechtold Park be re-installed at the Sycamore Road entrance. Mr. Janus spoke about the park rules most recently updated in 2012 and asked questions about a definition written in Section 21 of those rules.

Mr. James asked Mr. Weidman what he knows about the Brandstetter Carroll study.

Mr. Weidman answered that was before his tenure.

Mr. James asked Mr. Kellums what he knows about the Brandstetter Carroll study.

Mr. Kellums said he would have to look into it.

Mr. LaBarbara said he told Mr. Petty the 16-acre nature park would make a nice walking area saying it would be a nice project for the Parks Advisory Committee. He said Halloween is too far out to decide about.

Mr. James said the Township should follow Hamilton County Public Health's direction for Trick-or Treat this Halloween.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Corporal Kidd stated he had no report.

EMS/Fire Report

Chief Penny reported he had nothing new to report since the Workshop.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Kellums reported on sign options for the Administration Complex. He showed three renderings for monument sign designs saying he likes the all brick option. He noted the dimensions of that sign.

Mr. James commented the rendering shows the sign facing the road.

Mr. Kellums said a photo of the existing sign was taken for the rendering, but the new sign will be installed perpendicular to Kenwood Road. He said the cost of this all brick sign would be \$16,357.00.

Mr. Warrick asked if it would be lit with ground lights.

Mr. Kellums answered yes noting there is already electric out there. He went on to review the other two design options which were both a brick base with an aluminum sign. He said the price for option two is \$12,623.00 and the price for option three is 13,140.00. Mr. Kellums said, in his opinion, the first design is a much better-looking sign and if we put a spotlight on it on both sides it would look great.

Mr. Weidman asked if the color of the brick would match the building.

Mr. Kellums answered yes.

There was discussion about the options and there was a consensus to choose option one.

Mr. Warrick requested motion to proceed noting he will come back to the Board for approval of a purchase order.

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to move forward with design option one, the all brick design.

Mr. James suggested adding the building address on the sign.

Mr. Kellums asked if he could proceed with the directional signs also. The Board said yes.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Planning & Zoning Report

Mr. Miller stated he had nothing to report.

Mr. LaBarbara said a resident from Michael Drive is concerned about potential mosquito problems because of the property under construction next to him.

Mr. Miller said he drove by the property in question, but he hasn't yet had time to draft an email response to the resident. He said he doesn't see a violation on site. He said there are small puddles there. Mr. Miller stated he doesn't want to belittle the neighbor's concerns and said if the area doesn't dry up in the next couple days, he will push for cleanup. He stated as of now, the contractors are making progress and have the proper permits. He said this is not what residents around them want to hear, but these are the pains of redevelopment.

Mr. James asked if the sign is out on the property on Montgomery Road that is the subject of the zoning open house.

Mr. Miller answered yes.

Law Director Report

Mr. Desai reported on the Ohio Sunshine Law and questions that may be raised about public records, the Open Meetings Act, and technology. He gave the example of the Parks Advisory Committee sharing files and ideas using Microsoft Teams. He said information gathering is not subject to the Open Meetings Act or notice requirements, therefore, the parks committee members sharing files and ideas would not trigger the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Desai stated, if the committee members start emailing each other and discussing things, that would be a public meeting and members of the public would have to be given the opportunity to comment. He pointed out sometimes people run afoul of rules without meaning to. Mr. Desai cautioned the parks and finance committee members that if they use their personal email accounts for those

groups, the Ohio Public Records Act may allow the public access to items in their personal email having to do with public business.

Fiscal Officer Report and Communications

Mr. Porter stated he had no communications to read.

The Receipts in the amount of \$736,949.40 and Disbursements in the amount of \$1,211,455.10 for September 3, 2020 were read by Mr. Porter and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

Note: Mr. Porter misread the disbursement amount at the meeting. The correct amount was \$1,241,455.10 and that is the amount of the check run for September 3, 2020 that was approved by the Trustees.

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. James to accept them. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye; James: Aye; Weidman: Aye; LaBarbara: Aye

Trustee Comments

Mr. Weidman wished everyone a happy, healthy, and safe Labor Day weekend.

Mr. James noted election day is coming up and coincides with the first Workshop Meeting in November. He suggested the Board may want to move that meeting. He noted the Board of Elections is desperate for poll workers and the Board should encourage Township employees to be poll workers. Mr. James also encouraged members of public to vote.

Mr. Weidman stated in the past the Board has either eliminated that meeting or held it on Monday.

Mr. Miller asked if there is still time to train to be a poll worker.

Mr. Warrick answered yes.

Mr. LaBarbara pointed out residents may go to the first page of the Township's website to sign up for email blasts to keep them informed. He stated those email blasts are not intended to replace the regular email subscriber lists for meeting agendas or the printed newsletter.

Announcement Changes

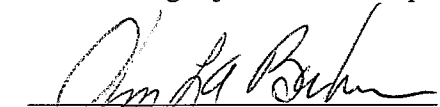
Mr. LaBarbara reported Brush Chipping for residents takes place Saturday, September 5th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. behind the Township Administration Building. He said the Fall Compost

Give-Away will take place Saturday, September 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Hartzell United Methodist Church, 8999 Applewood Drive.

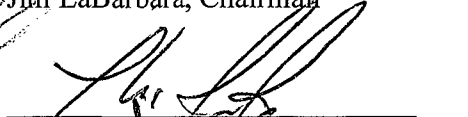
Mr. LaBarbara stated the next Trustees Workshop Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 15th at 9:00 a.m.

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

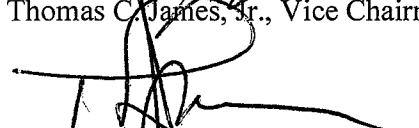
The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.




Jim LaBarbara, Chairman



Thomas C. James, Jr., Vice Chairman



Thomas J. Weidman, Trustee



Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
09/03/2020