

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

May 4, 2021

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 404) which extended the ability of local governments in Ohio to meet remotely during this time, this was a hybrid meeting, with some attendees present in the Trustee Meeting Room and some present over Zoom. 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 pm. by Mr. James.

Present for the meeting were Chairman James, Vice Chairman LaBarbara, Trustee Weidman (via Zoom), Fiscal Officer Porter (via Zoom), Law Director Desai (via Zoom), Administrator Warrick, Superintendent / Assistant Administrator Kellums, Planning & Zoning Administrator Miller, Assistant Fire Chief Cooper (via Zoom), Sgt. Sovern from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office (via Zoom), Parks and Public Spaces Supervisor Petty, and Beth Gunderson (via Zoom). Fire Chief Penny was not present.

The invocation was read by Mr. Warrick.

Pledge to the Flag.

Mr. James explained the Board was doing a hybrid meeting with some people present in person and some Board members and the public joining the meeting remotely. He requested approval from Board members for placing electronic signatures on documents approved at this meeting. The Board members then gave consent for their signatures to be added electronically to any documents approved at the meeting.

Approval of the April 20, 2021 Trustees Meeting Minutes

The April 20, 2021 Trustees Meeting Minutes was presented for approval.

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to accept them. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. James invited Mr. Miller to present resolutions he has prepared for the two Zoning Public Hearings held prior to this meeting.

Mr. Miller shared his screen showing potential resolutions for Zoning Case 2021-02MA and requested direction from the Board. He noted the Zoning Commission recommended denial of the proposal by a slim margin and said the Trustees have authority to approve the plan at the proposed density as an S-PUD.

Resolution – Zoning Case 2021-02MA

The resolution “Approving a Major Adjustment to a Planned Unit Development for the Kugler Mill Square LLC, Located at 8495 Vorhees Lane, and Dispensing with a Second Reading” was presented by Mr. Miller. A motion to approve was made by Mr. LaBarbara, seconded by Mr. Weidman.

Mr. Weidman said this is a great improvement to the property noting the applicant had addressed concerns from area residents with the sanitary sewer upgrades, landscaping, privacy fence, and adjustments to the lighting plan.

Mr. LaBarbara agreed saying the applicant went over and above when addressing concerns about the project.

Mr. James agreed as well.

Mr. Miller stated since there are no conditions associated with the approval, Section 2 of the resolution will be deleted, and the subsequent sections will be renumbered.

Mr. Desai requested the motion be withdrawn.

Mr. LaBarbara withdrew the motion.

Mr. Miller read the title of the resolution again, this time the resolution had Section 2 removed since the Trustees had no conditions on the approval.

Resolution – Zoning Case 2021-02MA

The resolution “Approving a Major Adjustment to a Planned Unit Development for the Kugler Mill Square LLC, Located at 8495 Vorhees Lane, and Dispensing with a Second Reading” was presented by Mr. Miller. A motion to approve was made by Mr. LaBarbara, seconded by Mr. Weidman.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution 2021-0 passed this 4th day of May, 2021.

Mr. Miller shared his screen showing potential resolutions for Zoning Case 2021-04LASR noting he had modified conditions and listed those as Exhibit A of the resolution based on the Trustees’ comments during the hearing.

Mr. Miller then read the conditions:

1. A maximum of five (5) building signs near the top facade of the building not to exceed one center anchor sign (100sf), and 4 additional tenant signs (50sf each) shall be permitted as indicated by submitted plans of case 2021-04 LASR;
2. A tenant shall have no more than one (1) sign location on the building façade;
3. No signs shall be permitted on the rear of the building or side facades;
4. The site ground sign shall not exceed 64 square feet in sign surface area, shall not exceed nine (9) feet in overall height including the base, and shall have a base that is constructed of brick or stone to match the principal building;

5. Approval of 2021-04 LASR supersedes 2009-8 LASR;

6. Any sign affixed the building at the time of this approval in excess of 50 sf shall be permitted to remain for the duration of the current tenancy and any renewal by the same tenant.

Resolution – Zoning Case 2021-04LASR

The resolution “Approving a Major Adjustment to an Approved Localized Area Sign Regulation Plan Located at 7755 Montgomery and Dispensing with a Second Reading” was presented by Mr. Miller. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution 2021-026 passed this 4th day of May, 2021.

Mr. Weidman stated the Township needs to support business partners in the community during COVID-19. He said he does not think this request is onerous, there has been a good trade off allowing the additional signs at the top and giving up the signs on the first floor. He said this is a good thing for the Township and the applicant and we need to allow it so they can fill the 20 percent vacancy.

Mr. LaBarbara agreed.

Mr. James agreed saying it was an excellent trade off to remove the option of the retail signage at the bottom the building for the additional signs at the top. He said it is tastefully presented and if we can help one of our businesses get more tenants in the building that is a good thing.

Public Comments

Mr. Standish Fortin, of 12137 McCauly Road, addressed the Board (via Zoom) saying he never received any response to his previous query about the Safe Routes to School Plan. Mr. Fortin shared two emails he had received from his neighbors who attended in support of his fireworks event at McDaniel Park. They both praised the event that was held last year.

Mr. James asked for input on the Safe Route to School Plan.

Mr. Kellums said as he mentioned in previous meetings, the City of Sharonville has put together a Safe Route to School Plan. He said there is no funding for that yet. He said Sharonville has applied for funding, but it does not look like they are going to get it this time. Mr. Kellums said the plan calls for sidewalks on Conrey and through the roundabout. He said the Township has met with them and given them support while they continue to pursue it.

Mr. John Abraham, of 4978 Elmcrest addressed the Board. (via Zoom) He thanked the maintenance crew for picking up limbs that came down during the recent snowfall and said he is looking forward to the results of the street resurfacing taking place. Mr. Abraham said serious issues were raised in a recent Enquirer article, saying it is interesting to see who is credible and who is withholding information. He said writing a fake email in someone else’s identity is scurrilous and the developer admitted to this and had a lot to gain if the property was sold undervalued and not for the purpose originally intended by the Township. He said he believes the Ohio Auditor’s investigation is credible. Mr. Abraham stated he was curious when he read the developer asked to have coffee with newly installed Trustee James when he never approached Mr. LaBarbara in 2019, and Mr. James brings the topic to authorities. He said it appears the

developer made a \$3,895 donation to Mr. James' campaign. M. Abraham went on to discuss the Township Administrator suing 38 taxpayers who complained of how this Township is handling its affairs, saying Township authorities filing lawsuits against their complaining citizens is another scurrilous act.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Sgt. Sovern reported on recent parking complaints which the Sheriff's Office is addressing. He noted at least one of those appears to be parked on private property. Sgt. Sovern reminded the Board the Board of Motor Vehicles has given an extension on license plate expirations due to covid-19 and those expired March of last year through the end of April this year have until July to renew.

Mr. LaBarbara thanked Sgt. Sovern and Lt. Tarr for follow up on residents' complaints.

EMS/Fire Report COVID-19 Update

Assistant Chief Cooper reported three additional COVID-19 cases in the Township since the last meeting. He reported all of the Township's homebound residents, about nine people, were received vaccines. He said the Fire Department had leftovers because of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine issues, and once the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was released to use again, they were able to vaccinate some homebound residents in Deer Park and/or Silverton.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report Parks Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Petty reported the Parks Advisory Committee had crafted a mission statement and displayed it for the Board.

Mr. Petty said Parks Advisory Committee Member J. Janus Jr. had done a great job researching and finding companies to show movies in the park. He said the plan is to hold the first movie in Bechtold Park in June and future dates will be locked down if that goes well.

Mr. Petty reported the Parks Survey is final and the Committee is going through responses.

Mr. Petty said NKO Yoga in Deer Park has agreed to lead yoga on Saturdays at McDaniel Park and asked the Board for permission to spend \$20 per session. He said he would like to pay the yoga instructor teaching at Bechtold the same amount.

Mr. Desai asked about workers compensation and other issues with paying yoga instructors.

Mr. Warrick said they will receive IRS Form 1099.

Mr. Desai asked if there would be a contract.

Mr. Petty answered yes and explained there will be waivers for attendees to sign.

Mr. Desai said he would like to review the agreement.

Mr. Petty reported on concerts in the park, saying they did well on the Parks Survey, and the Committee is looking at different scenarios for stages. He said one committee member is contacting local bands and said he would like to schedule bands on opposite weeks of the movies. He said he got a variety of quotes from stage companies.

Mr. LaBarbara asked about having bands play in a shelter.

Mr. Kellums answered, yes, we can start with that right away.

Mr. James said he spoke to the Parks Advisory Committee to encourage them to bring events into the parks and thanked Mr. Petty and Mr. Janus for their hard work.

Mr. Kellums said the events will be advertised on the website.

There was discussion about having ice cream trucks and about staffing for these events.

Mr. Petty presented the permit application submitted by resident Mr. Standish Fortin for his proposed Red, White & Booms Fireworks event.

Mr. James asked if anyone would be bumped from using the fields if this event were permitted.

Mr. Petty said there is a soccer organization on both soccer fields on Saturday. He stated last year Mr. Fortin was charged for all fields for the entire weekend. He noted this time his application is written for specific times. There was continued discussion.

Mr. Warrick suggested Mr. Fortin sit down with Mr. Petty, Mr. Kellums, and himself to iron out details and then present it to the Board.

Mr. Weidman stated that last year when Mr. Fortin was permitted to use the park, he broke all the conditions the Trustees had placed on the event. He showed postcards mailed out advertising the event when Mr. Fortin was specifically told not to advertise. Mr. Weidman noted Mr. LaBarbara suggested at the last meeting that we should be a good neighbor and not have fireworks the same day as the City of Blue Ash and he agrees with Mr. LaBarbara. He said he is opposed to rewarding someone who does not follow the rules.

Resolution – Authorizing a Contract with Carpenter Marty Transportation, Inc. for Engineering Services

Mr. Kellums reported he had a resolution for the Board's consideration to authorize a contract with Carpenter Marty for the Dillonvale Culvert Project at a cost of \$48,600.00.

The resolution "Authorizing a Contract with Carpenter Marty Transportation, Inc. for Engineering Services, Dispensing with a Second Reading and Declaring an Emergency" was presented by Mr. Kellums. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution 2021-027 passed this 4th day of May, 2021.

Motion to Advertise for Montgomery Road Crosswalks

Mr. Kellums reported the next item in the packet is information on Montgomery Road crosswalks noting at a previous meeting he said ODOT would be repaving Montgomery Road from Stewart Road to Galbraith Road. He said ODOT will not replace existing decorative brick. He reported ODOT went through some of the existing crosswalks on Galbraith and, without communicating to the Township, tore out all the curb and handicap ramps that we just put in four or five years ago. He said he gave a list of the crosswalks to the Trustees and said the cost for them will be about \$182,000.00.

Mr. Weidman asked if this project is eligible for TIF funds.

Mr. Kellums answered yes.

Mr. James asked what the durability of these are.

Mr. Kellums answered they are durable and requested a motion to advertise.

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to allow Mr. Kellums to advertise for bids for the Montgomery Road Crosswalk Pavement Marking Program.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Kellums reported water main work is complete for the Kugler Mill Road Project.

Mr. Kellums said the 2021 Road Program has begun and must be completed this year to use the 25% of unencumbered TIF funds. He stated Jurgenson is moving quickly saying they are milling in Heitmeyer right now and have done curb work in other areas.

Mr. Kellums reported the Spring Compost Give-Away will take place May 8th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Hartzell United Methodist Church.

Mr. Kellums reported the South Trash Bash at Bechtold Park was a success.

Mr. James thanked the maintenance crew for working Trash Bash in the rain.

Mr. Kellums reported the Larchview Drive / Plainfield Road Improvements Project open house took place last week. He said almost all of the feedback from those who attended was positive except for one comment that Plainfield should remain four lanes with no parking.

Mr. Kellums stated he met with the Hamilton County Engineers and the two engineering firms about the Fields Ertel Road intersections project. He said they are looking to install sidewalks where possible. He said the City of Sharonville was also in the meeting due to logistics. He explained the proposed location of the sidewalks on the north side of Fields Ertel Road. Mr. Kellums said hopefully Sharonville will be successful with their Safe Routes to School and the sidewalks can all be connected together.

Mr. James asked about grant possibilities available through Issue 7 saying the Kenwood area is potentially eligible since it is close to bus routes.

Mr. Kellums answered he is looking into putting a grant together for sidewalks on Montgomery Road from Stewart Road to Ken Arbore Drive.

Planning & Zoning Report

Resolution – Authorizing a Contract with Velevator Services for IT Services

Mr. Miller reported it is time for the Township to renew its contract with IT services and he shared a resolution and contract on the screen. Mr. Miller said the Township has done quite a bit of hardware upgrades due to COVID and Velevator has been a great partner. He said Velevator is offering two options: a one-year contract or a three-year contract. He stated with the three-year contract there is about a \$5,000.00 per year savings on contract cost.

Mr. Weidman stated we should go with the three-year contract to save money.

Mr. James noted issues with a three-year commitment.

There was discussion about whether to choose the one year or the three-year contract.

Mr. Miller noted there is a 90-day clause.

All agreed it would be worth signing a three-year contract as long as the Township can pull out of it with 90 days' notice.

The resolution "Authorizing a Contract with Velevator services for IT Services and Dispensing with a Second Reading" was presented by Mr. Miller. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye. Resolution 2021-028 passed this 4th day of May, 2021.

Mr. Desai requested a motion to approve a three-year contract.

Mr. Weidman made a motion approve a three-year contract with Velevator Services. Mr. LaBarbara seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Miller reported there will be a request for an LASR at 8044 Montgomery Road heard by the Zoning Commission on May 10, 2021.

Mr. Miller gave an update on the Reading Road properties saying Zoning Inspector Clark received a voicemail from the receiver who would like to meet for remediation. Mr. Miller requested a call with Mr. Desai first to discuss the issue.

Mr. Miller reported there has been a delay in selecting a meeting date for the Land use Steering Committee due to conflicting schedules. He said they hope to meet next week.

Mr. James asked for a status update on text amendments to the Zoning Resolution.

Mr. Miller answered that is included in the package for the Land Use Steering Committee noting the language is 95% complete.

Law Director Report

Mr. Desai reported on the Moeller High School / Willis Board of Zoning Appeals Case appeal. He said apparently the parties have been unable to settle yet. He stated Ms. Willis filed a brief yesterday and the Township and Moeller must file briefs next month. He said he is not optimistic the parties will settle since they have been negotiating for four months without an agreement.

Mr. Desai reported on the House of Browns court case which will be heard by Judge Alan Triggs on May 26th. He said the judge will hear all motions with the hope to have resolution by the end of the hearing or a couple weeks afterward.

Mr. Desai reported on the issues with the Blue Tide properties saying Mr. Miller sent him the violation letters. Mr. Desai said he wanted to pen a personal letter to the receiver to encourage him to get back to the Township quickly. Mr. Desai said he attached to that correspondence a 2016 notice that the Township had sent pursuant to O.R.C. 505.86. That revised code section allows the Township to initiate a process to raze dangerous structures. He said he was curious why the buildings are still standing and learned from the former Law Director that Blue Tide came in and made a proposal to put up veterans housing there. He said that is why the 2016 abatement efforts came to a halt. He explained why the receivership could take some time and suggested the Board consider reinitiating proceedings under O.R.C. 505.86 at the May 18th meeting.

Mr. James stated he received a text about 25 minutes earlier which he'd just now seen, indicating that a member of the public had wanted to speak earlier over Zoom but was unable to do so then. She was still waiting and he invited her to speak.

Public Comments (continued from earlier)

Ms. Barbara Holwadel, of 6620 Cherokee Drive, Madeira, OH addressed the Board. (via Zoom) Ms. Holwadel asked that the Red, White and Booms event be allowed to move forward. She stated the mailer did not go out until after the 4th of July and the ads that were run were not run by anything to do with Red, White and Booms but had to do with other entities. She requested to be invited into the meeting about Red, White and Booms. She said there was a food tent and was a private event last year. She said it was very popular and this year is a good time to step out and celebrate the freedom we have in our country. She said last year they tried to keep the event very measured and be as respectful as they could of the situation.

Mr. James said he is sure Mr. Fortin and Mr. Warrick can accommodate her request to be in the meeting.

Mr. Weidman said for the record the post cards came two days before the event and he received a phone call from two people in Symmes Township who also received it prior to the fireworks. He said he cannot speak to when they were received in the rest of the Township.

Ms. Holwadel said they were mailed on Monday and it was her understanding it took a week for people to receive them.

Mr. James said he thinks there was mention in a prior meeting that they may have been hand delivered to mailboxes in certain neighborhoods.

Administrator Report
Five-Year Capital Plans

Mr. Warrick presented drafts of the five-year capital plans for the Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, and Maintenance Department. He noted the majority of the expenses would be TIF eligible expenses. He said will come back at the next meeting with an appropriation resolution for the 2021 items.

Mr. James asked if all the CARES Act money has all been allocated.

Mr. Warrick answered yes, for the most part.

Health Plan Review

Mr. Warrick reported on the first quarter health plan recap noting the Township had a large deficit noting it net claims year to date are lower and the Township is paying a higher premium thus lowering the deficit. He said this is the direction we want to be going and reviewed the new programs that have been instituted which are also saving the Township money. Mr. Warrick said there are six months left on the fiscal year and if we continue to move in the right direction, we should be in the position to negotiate a lower premium rate with Jefferson Health Plan.

Resolution – Authorizing and Directing the Transfer of Monies from the JEDZ Funds to Various Other Funds

Mr. Warrick reported he had a resolution for the Board's consideration to move the JEDZ funds at this time instead of at the end of the year as was past practice. He gave the reasoning behind that strategy including taking down the cost of the CPA and providing a better year to year comparison.

The resolution "Authorizing and Directing the Transfer of Monies from the JEDZ Funds to Various Other Funds, Dispensing with a Second Reading and Declaring an Emergency" was presented by Mr. Warrick. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution 2021-028 passed this 4th day of May, 2021.

Reopening Plans

Mr. Warrick reported the Board is trying a hybrid meeting tonight with some people present in the Trustees Meeting Room and staff has been talking about reopening the building to the public on June 1st.

The Trustees agreed June 1st seemed like a good target date to reopen.

Resolution – Authorizing and Directing the Transfer of Monies from the JEDZ Funds to Various Other Funds

The resolution "Authorizing and Directing the Transfer of Monies from the JEDZ Funds to Various Other Funds, Dispensing with a Second Reading and Declaring an Emergency" was presented by Mr. Warrick. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution 2021-029 passed this 4th day of May, 2021.

BUCS Annual Maintenance Fee

Mr. Warrick reported Mr. Porter asked him for a purchase order for BUCS noting he is not in agreement with this as the UAN transition is going well. Mr. Warrick said the parallel work being done by Debbie Campbell might need some more thought.

Mr. James asked if we let the maintenance agreement with BUCS what is the cost of reupping later if we do not renew the contract now.

Mr. Warrick answered we would have to pay the same if we did it later.

Mr. Porter asked about the status of the check run through UAN.

Mr. Warrick said the checks will go out on Friday pending getting checks from Deluxe that have the account numbers on them.

Mr. Weidman asked if we have been printing our own checks.

Mr. Warrick answered yes and said that is what will happen.

Mr. Porter expressed concerns about glitches such as this with the change to UAN and suggested keeping BUCS would be an inexpensive way to keep running smoothly. He said he was under impression we would be running parallel for a year until UAN is totally integrated.

Mr. James said April 1st was the agreed upon cutoff date to switch to UAN.

Mr. Warrick said the State said they do not want checks done the way they were with BUCS. He said they want them to have the account number and the routing numbers preprinted on them.

Mr. James said there is no need to pay it now if we can pay for it later if needed. Mr. LaBarbara agreed with Mr. James. Mr. Weidman agreed with Mr. Porter that we should keep BUCS.

Mr. Porter said he does not agree with Mr. Warrick that we can just call BUCS for help when we have not paid our annual maintenance agreement. He expressed concerned about foul ups such as this issue with the checks.

Mr. Warrick said the glitch is not catastrophic and if we call BUCS for help, we will pay them at that time.

Mr. Porter disagreed with Mr. Warrick's comment that expenses will be less this year with the accountant. He said if you compare what we spent with the accountant this year, it is going to be a lot higher than previous years. He noted we still have to use BUCS for CIC because we would have had to get a separate license fee to put the CIC in UAN.

Mr. James commented why pay thousands of dollars now if we can pay when we need it and we might never need it. He said he does not see the advantage to it. After further discussion, he asked whether anyone wished to bring a motion as to the purchase order and there was no

response. Mr. James noted that no one on the Board had made a motion to approve that purchase order and then instructed Mr. Warrick to by-pass it.

Purchase Orders Over \$2,500.00

Mr. Warrick presented the following purchase orders:

Purchase Order 8814

US Bank	2016 Various Purpose Refunding Bond Payments	\$132,350.00
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Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the purchase order. Mr. LaBarbara seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. All Aye.

Purchase Order 8815

US Bank	2014 Tri-Health General Obligation Bond Payment	\$53,375.00
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Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the purchase order. Mr. LaBarbara seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. All Aye.

Purchase Order 8817

Carpenter Marty Transportation	Dillonvale Culverts	\$48,600.00
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Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the purchase order. Mr. LaBarbara seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. All Aye.

Purchase Order 8819

Capital Electric Line Builders	Fiber for Testing Parks	\$4,146.78
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Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the purchase order. Mr. LaBarbara seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. All Aye.

Purchase Order 8821

US Bank	2020 Road Bonds Renewal	\$4,341,078.44
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Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the purchase order. Mr. LaBarbara seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. All Aye.

Mr. James asked the status of the map of the fiber in the Township.

Mr. Kellums answered we are still working on that.

Fiscal Officer Report

Pay Bills and Read Receipts

The disbursements in the amount of \$4,613,492.27 and receipts in the amount of \$381,021.51 for May 4, 2021 were read by the Fiscal Officer 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: /s/ Robert C. Porter III

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara.
Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: LaBarbara: Aye; James: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Trustee Comments

Mr. Weidman reported on the status of COVID-19 in Hamilton County saying we now have a large number of vaccines and a limited number of arms to put them in. He encouraged people who have not yet received the vaccine but want to receive it to go to [TestandProtectCincy.com](https://www.TestandProtectCincy.com) to find a vaccine location close to their home. He reported Kroger is now taking walk ins at many locations and stated the lowest vaccination rates are in the core of the city. Mr. Weidman said demand for PPE has dropped significantly and encouraged anyone in need of PPE to call 513-263-8200.

Mr. Weidman stated President Biden's American Recovery Act left Townships out as non-entitlement units of government. He reported Senator Portman is set to meet with the Treasury this week about this issue noting 35% of Ohioans live in townships. He said if there are no changes in this designation, townships will have to secure funds from their respective county or state.

Mr. Weidman said the 2021 Road Improvement Program has begun which will include 20% of our total roads or ten linear miles. He said this project is being funded using 25% of unencumbered TIF funds generated from past economic development and allows the Township to do four years of road projects in one year without using taxpayer money. He thanked Mr. Kellums for holding the Plainfield / Larchview open house meeting.

Mr. LaBarbara thanked Steve Reutelshofer for contacting the Metropolitan Sewer District on behalf of a resident.

Mr. LaBarbara reported he was on the COVID Defense Team call with Hamilton County Public Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman. He stated there are plenty of vaccines available. He reported Hamilton County is down to 81 cases per day with 143 COVID patients in the hospital, none of whom have had completed the vaccines. He noted many places who are offering the vaccines locally. He reported the problem in India is the lack of vaccines. Mr. LaBarbara said the American Rescue Plan was brought up again and we should know what the Treasurer will do soon.

Mr. James asked Mr. Weidman if he had made any progress in getting Hamilton County Township Association Meeting set.

Mr. Weidman discussed the issues he has had with selecting a date and reported the tentative meeting date is May 27th. He reported he is working on holding the September meeting at the Sharonville Convention Center.

Mr. James reported he took the opportunity to visit the Parks Advisory Committee and Citizen Finance Committee during their meetings and said he appreciates these volunteers helping us out to do better things for the Township. He stated if others are interested in serving on committees, it would be great to hear from them too.

Announcement Changes

Mr. James noted there will be no Yoga in the Park at Bechtold Park on May 9th due to Mother's Day. He reported there are also two nature walks planned May 18th and May 29th and those interested should meet at Shelter #4 in Bechtold Park. He then referred people to the website calendar for information on other events.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

/s/ Thomas C. James, Jr.
Thomas C. James, Jr., Chairman

/s/ Jim LaBarbara
Jim LaBarbara, Vice Chairman

/s/ Thomas J. Weidman
Thomas J. Weidman, Trustee

/s/ Robert C. Porter III
Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
05/04/2021