

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

May 18, 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, Fire Chief Penny, Lt. Tarr from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office (via Zoom), Parks and Public Spaces Supervisor Petty, and Beth Gunderson (via Zoom).

The invocation was read by Mr. Kellums.

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 May 4, 2021 Public Hearing Minutes

The May 4, 2021 Public Hearing Minutes was presented for approval.

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to accept them.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Approval of the May 4, 2021 Trustees Meeting Minutes

The May 4, 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.

Public Comments

Mr. J. Janus, Jr., of 4462 Daffodil Avenue, addressed the Board (via Zoom). Mr. Janus spoke of a plan to plant trees in the right of way in the Township for the Cooper Creek Collaborative and referenced documents he had about the project. He said many of the streets where the trees are to

be planted have absentee landlords and said, in his opinion, it will take a long time to get owners' signatures on the letter requesting permission to plant the trees. Mr. Janus requested the Township send letters out to all property owners on these streets allowing 30 days to respond. He said if people go door-to-door it would be very time consuming.

Ms. Barbara Holwadel, of 6620 Cherokee Drive, Madeira, Ohio, addressed the Board (via Zoom). Ms. Holwadel stated she was present to speak about the proposed Red, White and Booms event during that portion of the agenda.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Lt. Tarr reported the Sheriff's Office is no longer working under COVID-19 protocol.

EMS/Fire Report

COVID-19 Update

Chief Penny reported there are currently three patients quarantined at home in the Township, including two people in one home. He said the Fire Department received more of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine which was used for the homebound residents who registered to be vaccinated. He said there is some of that vaccine left which will be used to vaccinate additional homebound residents as well as four firefighters who had Covid-19 earlier and could not be vaccinated with the rest of the department.

Firefighter Replacement

Chief Penny reported one of the full-time firefighters has accepted a position with the Cincinnati Fire Department and will be leaving the Township in June. He requested approval from the Board to begin the process to hire a replacement.

Chief Penny also discussed plans for the V.F.W. Memorial Day Parade taking place at 10:00 a.m., Monday, May 31, 2021, through Deer Park, Silverton, and Sycamore Township.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to proceed with the hiring of a new firefighter to fill the position to be vacated by Joseph Homan. Mr. LaBarbara seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Kellums responded to Mr. Janus' comments about the Cooper Creek Collaborative. He said it is the Cooper Creek Collaborative's responsibility to obtain the signatures from the homeowners. He said if there are people volunteering to do that, they are volunteers for the Cooper Creek Collaborative.

Red, White & Booms Fireworks Event

Mr. Kellums shared a letter and map from Mr. Standish Fortin in regard to his request to hold a fireworks event at McDaniel Park. He said this year Mr. Fortin requests an area for music, an area for beer, hospitality tents, and food trucks. Mr. Kellums stated he and Mr. Warrick met with Mr. Fortin and Ms. Barbara Holwadel about the proposed event. He noted last year it was a private event and this year they want to open it up to the public. He said Mr. Fortin requested to use the park free of charge and for the Township to publicize the event this year using the same communications as the Sycamore Township Car Show which is a Township event.

Ms. Holwadel stated she could answer any questions and said Mr. Fortin was trying to get in the meeting.

There was a discussion about the field rental charges and possible conflicts with sports teams renting the fields. Mr. Petty noted cleanup from the event would have to be complete by Monday evening.

Mr. Kellums stated this would be a private event and it would set a precedent if the Township were to give fields away for free and publicize a private event.

Mr. James stated this is a private event, although it is not invitation only, and commented there are no pandemic concerns this year and it will not be the only event in town as the City of Blue Ash is doing fireworks this year also. He then asked Ms. Holwadel if she had anything to add.

Ms. Holwadel stated it is her understanding there is not a conflict with sports teams using fields at the same time and asked why they should have to pay for the entire park if there is not a conflict. She noted the event operated in the black last year and they would like to build on that for the sake of the community and the businesses around the community. She said it is a promotion of Sycamore Township.

Mr. Weidman stated it is important to understand the facts. He said last year, Mr. Fortin was extended a permit to use the park with six conditions; then five of the six conditions were violated. Mr. Weidman stated Mr. Fortin came to speak at the July 13, 2020 Trustees Meeting just after his event. He said we expect people to follow rules and act responsibly and this is what happened at the July 13, 2020 Trustees Meeting. Mr. Weidman then shared a video clip of Mr. Fortin attempting to speak at that meeting.

Mr. James requested Mr. Weidman describe what is going on or get to the point as the audio on the video he was showing was not audible.

Mr. LaBarbara also asked that he describe what is going on in the video.

Mr. James again said the audio can not be heard and requested Mr. Weidman state his point.

Mr. Desai stated he could describe the incident as he remembers it very well. He said Mr. Fortin attended the July 13th Trustees Meeting to speak but was not wearing a mask when one was mandated by the State of Ohio. Mr. Desai said he asked Mr. Fortin to wear a mask and he responded he had copy of the constitution in his pocket and knew his rights. He said he told Mr. Fortin he would have to wear a mask and one was procured for him from the lobby; instead of putting it over his nose or face, Mr. Fortin wrapped the mask underneath his neck. Mr. Desai said he asked Mr. Fortin if he had a disability that prevented him from wearing a mask and Mr. Fortin responded his only disability was from Mr. Desai. Mr. Desai stated Mr. Fortin refused to wear a mask, so he recommended that Mr. LaBarbara, who was Chairman at the time, not permit Mr. Fortin to speak which Mr. Fortin said was a violation of first amendments rights. Mr. Desai said he told him it is not a violation if he is not going to comply with the law when everyone else was complying. Mr. Desai stated, after discussion among the Board members, Mr. Fortin was not permitted to speak. He then asked Mr. Weidman if that was an accurate summary of what occurred.

Mr. Weidman said Mr. Desai's description was accurate except it did not include Mr. Fortin's final comments of "Sieg heil" as he left the room and did not note that Mr. Fortin tore the sign off the Administration door that explained the mask requirements. Mr. Weidman stated he is not in support of subsidizing or advertising a private event saying it sets a horrible precedent and policy. He also stated the infantile behavior exhibited by Mr. Fortin should not be rewarded and stated Mr. Fortin thinks rules apply to everyone except him. Mr. Weidman said he is opposed to renting out the entire park without a significant liability insurance policy in place especially when alcohol is being sold and consumed. He said if the rest of board wants to approve this request, they should require a \$2 million liability insurance policy to prevent the residents of the Township from being exposed to this kind of liability.

Mr. LaBarbara asked Mr. Weidman what rules were not followed by Mr. Fortin in 2020.

Mr. Weidman read all five conditions that were violated the previous year. He said Ms. Holwadel suggested the Board was not being patriotic if we do not allow them to hold the event. He said the reality is, we have to be able to count on people to follow the rules and not only did Mr. Fortin fail to follow the rules for his event last year, he also did not follow them afterward at a meeting when masks were required because there was a state mandate. Mr. Weidman requested again if this board approves the permit for this event, that they require a \$2 million liability insurance policy because the Board cannot expose our residents to liability.

Mr. James asked Mr. Desai if he is concerned about liability.

Mr. Desai said he is concerned and would recommend an insurance policy. He stated the Township's insurance policy picks up liability for small events such as shelter rentals. He said this would be a large event involving fireworks and alcohol. He said he presumes Rozzi has insurance for their actual handling of fireworks; but the requirement of at least a one-million-dollar policy would be prudent for the Township to enforce.

Mr. James asked if Mr. Fortin was on the call and would like to speak.

Ms. Holwadel explained how the idea for the private party came about last year and stated it was a good time to let bygones be bygones. She said it is a good idea to let the community heal and to come together to celebrate. Ms. Holwadel pointed out that last year they pulled back food trucks per the Board's request and said if a mailing about the event went to Symmes Township, it was a mistake. She said it is her understanding only neighborhoods in the north side of Sycamore Township received letters. She noted she had already purchased a band for a party and when she could not hold that in her backyard, she was hoping the community would allow them to have music in the park that night. She said they social distanced and held a very low-key event last year. She said they are trying to find a way to celebrate our independence from government, they did a good job last year trying to comply with the guidelines last year. She said she wants to build this event for the good of the community and she hates to see this is a contentious situation. She said she hopes the Township will promote this in the newsletter and on the website.

Mr. Standish Fortin, of 12137 McCauly Road, addressed the Board (via Zoom). Mr. Fortin said due to severe drama he will be forced to file a slander lawsuit against Mr. Weidman noting anyone can go back to recorded meetings in June and July 2020 regarding what was actually

approved. He said he and others in the community have dedicated their time and fortune to put on an event for the community. He said last year as a result of their effort, the township received almost \$2,000.00 in various forms and the Parks Committee this year recommended that the Township not charge them to rent the park so that the citizens could have more fireworks to watch. He said it would be nice if a Township sitting on tens of millions of tax dollars would not reduce the amount of fireworks we get to see by charging him for using the park. Mr. Fortin then thanked the Board for their consideration.

Mr. James said the request is for a permit and for the fees to be waived and asked Mr. Petty if he needs the Board's approval to proceed with the permit.

Mr. Warrick said the other request is to promote the event and we should be clear about where we stand on that.

Mr. Desai said there is also the issue of whether the permit fee should only apply to the hours of operation or would apply to the time they are staging the event.

Mr. Weidman noted the park cannot be used during the time they are staging the event.

Mr. James said there is a suggestion by Mr. Weidman that the Board should not rent to Mr. Fortin at all regardless of the plan and he asked Mr. Desai, in terms of renting the parks, if that was the sort of discrimination the Trustees have discretion to do.

Mr. Desai said he would not describe it as discrimination. He said Mr. Weidman's points are valid in terms of what he viewed as non-compliance with the original granting of his request and certainly the corollary behavior that was displayed at the July meeting of which he showed the video clip. Mr. Desai said legally, we have a permit process which applies to everyone equally and we have a parks administrator who has come to the Board for very specific guidance in regard to this request. He said guidance is needed on the rental fees and liability insurance requirement for an event of this magnitude which are specific issues that are not part of the normal application process.

Mr. James asked what would happen if the Board did not to act. He asked if the permit could be approved or if deciding on this was outside Mr. Petty's discretion.

Mr. Petty answered this is outside his discretion due to the size and scope of the event saying he would feel more comfortable if the Trustees made the decision.

Mr. James entertained a motion. There was no motion.

Mr. LaBarbara expressed concerns about setting a precedent if we allow them to use the fields free of charge and said there are also the issues of a stage, security, event promotion, and insurance. Mr. LaBarbara said they had insurance last year.

Mr. Kellums said Rozzi's Fireworks had the insurance.

Ms. Holwadel said they had a \$1 million policy last year.

Mr. James asked if there was a plan for security.

Mr. Warrick answered no, not yet.

Mr. James said he is not opposed to renting the park, but it does put us at some risk, there is a need for insurance, and he is not interested in subsidizing the event. He said it is not a Township event saying one of the things he likes about living in Sycamore Township is other communities around us spend taxpayer dollars to entertain our residents, which we do not typically do, and he does not plan to start that with this event.

Mr. James made a motion to rent the Township park space to the organization making this request, for rent covering the entire period, requiring a minimum \$1 million insurance or more if the Township Administrator in his reasonable discretion determines more is prudent, permitting the private hospitality tent, food vendors, alcohol, and fireworks as proposed.

There was no second for the motion.

Mr. James then stated if the proponent wants to come back before the Board with more detail, maybe the Board's view will be different, maybe not. He said there is no consensus. Mr. James thanked Mr. Fortin and Ms. Holwadel for the proposal and their enthusiasm.

Mr. Kellums reported Mr. Petty and the Parks Advisory Committee have done a great job setting up movies and music in the parks this summer.

Mr. Petty said the movie *The Princess Bride* will be the first movie in Bechtold Park on June 19th. Mr. Petty then went on to review the schedule of events for the summer including guided nature walks, a volunteer event at Kenwood Gardens, and yoga, outdoor movies, and music at both Bechtold and McDaniel Parks. He reported the 11th Annual Sycamore Township Car Show will take place the first Saturday in August.

Mr. Petty thanked Lisa Hodge from the Park Advisory Committee for doing a tremendous amount of work securing the bands for Music in the Park. He said COVID-19 made it difficult to plan things until recently and in the last month the committee, especially Ms. Hodge and Mr. J. Janus, Jr. had done a lot of work on the bands and movies.

Mr. James said he is thrilled with the events planned and noted this is a good and relatively inexpensive way to get people together in our parks.

Mr. Kellums reported the Kugler Mill Road Project is moving along at a very good pace with excavation beginning for curbs and sidewalks.

Mr. Kellums said the 2021 Road Program which includes four years of paving in one year to take advantage of our ability to use 25% of unencumbered TIF funds is going very well. He said paving is finished in the northern section of the Township and Heitmeyer subdivision should be finished by the end of the day Saturday, weather permitting. He said there will be no problem getting the project done this year.

Mr. Kellums said he has received concerns from residents about nighttime construction work due to the paving on Montgomery Road and ODOT has changed that, so they are now working during the day.

Mr. Kellums reported the bid opening for the Montgomery Road crosswalks will take place on Friday, May 21st at 10:00 a.m. at the Township Administration Building.

Mr. James asked Mr. Kellums questions about potholes on Montgomery Road and Kenwood Road.

Planning & Zoning Report

Resolution – 8715 Wicklow Avenue Nuisance Property

Mr. Miller reported he had a nuisance property resolution for the Board’s consideration for tall grass and weeds and displayed photos of the property in question. He said the property appears to be vacant. He said he plans to begin creating a basic information sheet for the Trustees’ and the public’s reference for nuisance properties and displayed the information sheet for 8715 Wicklow Avenue on the screen.

Mr. Desai asked Mr. Miller procedural questions about the Property Maintenance Code and O.R.C. being referenced for such violations. Mr. Miller answered his questions.

The resolution “Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage Refuse and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 8715 Wicklow Avenue, Sycamore Township, OH 45236” was presented by Mr. Miller. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with a second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution 2021-030 passed this 18th day of May, 2021.

Bids & and Purchase Order 3684 E. Galbraith Road Property Cleanup

Mr. Miller reported the Board declared 3684 E. Galbraith Road a nuisance earlier this year. He said he received two bids for cleanup higher than \$2,500.00 and thus requiring Trustees’ approval. He displayed the bids and said Mr. Warrick will have a purchase order for the lower bid during his report.

Resolution – Declaring a Nuisance and Providing for Notice to Parties in Interest and an Opportunity for a Hearing, Authorizing Building Removal for the Properties Located at 8100 Reading Road, 8109 Reading Road, 8001 Reading Road, 7979 Reading Road, Sycamore Township, Ohio, Auditor’s Parcel Numbers 600-0360-0025, 600-0360-0012, 600-0360-0007 and Dispensing with a Second Reading

Mr. Miller reported the former Drake Motel and Carrousel Inn properties are in foreclosure. He noted the courts have assigned a Receiver to manage these properties. He said he, Chief Penny, Fire Inspector Doug Morath and Planning & Zoning Inspector Kevin Clark met with the Receiver who agrees the property is unsecure and unsafe. Mr. Miller reported the receiver said they do not have the funds to remedy the situation. He said there was discussion about the Township providing funds to do this. Mr. Miller stated he advised them the Township would be considering putting a demolition order on the properties to either properly secure them or to fully demo the site and they requested the Township move forward with the following resolution to give them more leverage and put more pressure on the system.

Mr. James stated he discussed this with Mr. Desai and agreed this seems to be a logical first step.

Chief Penny said this is a definite life safety issue and gave a description of the buildings' condition.

Mr. Weidman asked Mr. Desai where the Township would stand in line for reimbursement should we incur any expense attempting to remedy this issue.

Mr. Desai explained the order of payment would be chronological, although receivership sales are akin to bankruptcy sales in which some of the liens could be stripped and effectively bump up. He said the question is would our lien get stripped. Mr. Desai said he spoke to another attorney who had gone down this path who said he did not think it would be stripped. He said he also had his associate do independent research on this and she found a case, Williams vs. Schneider, in which a special assessment was stripped. Mr. Desai concluded there is not a clear answer to Mr. Weidman's question.

Mr. Desai said those are the issues we have to consider and stated the best approach is to take this first step and allow us to evaluate whether it is better for us to go on our own or go to court and ask what can be done creatively to make sure costs are paid.

Mr. James suggested using the structures for firefighter training as a controlled burn.

The resolution "Declaring a Nuisance and Providing for Notice to Parties in Interest and an Opportunity for a Hearing, Authorizing Building Removal for the Properties Located at 8100 Reading Road, 8109 Reading Road, 8001 Reading Road, 7979 Reading Road, Sycamore Township, Ohio, Auditor's Parcel Numbers 600-0360-0025, 600-0360-0012, 600-0360-0007 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 2021-031 passed this 18th day of May, 2021.

Mr. Kellums asked if the Township should board up the building.

Mr. Miller said we do have authority to do that.

Chief Penny noted the issues with that and gave some other ideas of what the Township could do to show an attempt at keeping people out of the unsafe structures.

Purchase Order Microsoft Office 365

Mr. Miller reported he believes we have an active purchase order that would cover the Microsoft Office 365 license; therefore, he does not need it approved tonight.

Law Director Report

Mr. Desai reported oral arguments in the House of Browns case are scheduled for a week from tomorrow. He said the judge will consider the Township's motion to enforce the settlement agreement.

Mr. Desai reported there is still no settlement reached in the Moeller High School / Willis Board of Zoning Appeals Case appeal. He noted the Township's brief is due June 4th and there is still ongoing discussion between the appellant and Moeller.

Administrator Report

Resolution – Amending 2021 Appropriations

Mr. Warrick reported he had a resolution for the Board's consideration amending appropriations to take care of the spending for three departments (maintenance, fire, and police) for the 2021 portion of their five-year capital plans. He noted the expenses are all TIF eligible.

Mr. Weidman asked how much of the money is appropriated for maintenance and what was originally allocated in the beginning of the year for maintenance.

Mr. Warrick answered capital budgeting was not done in December as it was not ready; only operational budgeting was done.

Mr. Weidman asked what Mr. Warrick meant when he said it was not ready and what we spent last year in maintenance on capital.

Mr. Warrick answered we did not have it together yet for it to be appropriated.

Mr. Kellums said capital spending for last year was about the same as this year.

Mr. Weidman said he was curious why there was not some kind of allocation at the beginning of the year.

The resolution "Amending 2021 Appropriations, 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 2021-032 passed this 18th day of May, 2021.

Mr. Warrick said maintenance is ready to move ahead with capital purchases and the first resolution for consideration is for the purchase of two 2021 Chevrolet Silverados.

Mr. Kellums explained the details of the purchase and proceeded to read the resolution.

Resolution – Authorizing a Contract for the Purchase of Two 2021 Chevrolet Silverado 6500 HD Cab & Chassis

The resolution "Authorizing a Contract for the Purchase of Two 2021 Chevrolet Silverado 6500 HD Cab & Chassis and Dispensing with a Second Reading" 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 2021-033 passed this 18th day of May, 2021.

Mr. Warrick said the next resolution is for the equipment for the two new trucks.

Resolution – Authorizing a Contract for the Purchase of Equipment for Installation on Two 2021 Chevrolet Silverado 6500 HD Trucks

The resolution “Authorizing a Contract for the Purchase of Equipment for Installation on Two 2021 Chevrolet Silverado 6500 HD Trucks and Dispensing with a Second Reading” 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 2021-034 passed this 18th day of May, 2021.

Purchase Orders Over \$2,500.00

Mr. Warrick presented the following purchase orders:

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|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Purchase Order 113 | | |
| Funflicks Outdoor Movies | Movies in the Park | \$5,284.44 |

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the purchase order. Mr. LaBarbara seconded.

Mr. LaBarbara asked if this money is just allocated for the movies and if something changes, we do not have to spend it all.

Mr. Petty answered that is correct.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

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|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Purchase Order 114 | | |
| Criterion Pictures | DVDs for Movies in the Park | \$3,500.00 |

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the purchase order. Mr. LaBarbara seconded.

There was a discussion about the cost of the licenses and possible size of the crowd watching the movies.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

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|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Purchase Order 123 | | |
| Jerry McDaniel | 3684 E Galbraith SYCC210020 | \$2,945.00 |

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the purchase order. Mr. LaBarbara seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Purchase Order 120 | | |
| McCluskey Chevrolet Inc. | Two 2021 Chevy Silverados | \$109,722.00 |

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the purchase order. Mr. LaBarbara seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

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|--------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Purchase Order 121 | | |
| Kimco | Salt Conveyor and Hopper | \$8,727.59 |

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the purchase order. Mr. LaBarbara seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Purchase Order 122

W.A. Jones Truck Equipment 2021 Chevy 6500 \$103,500.00

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the purchase order. Mr. LaBarbara seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Purchase Order 127

Carpetile Carpet for Community Room \$9,300.00

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the purchase order. Mr. LaBarbara seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Warrick said the next Trustees Meeting will take place on June 1st and noted the quarterly JEDZ Board Meetings are also that evening. He suggested continuing the hybrid style meetings that day since there are so many people involved with the JEDZ Boards.

Mr. Warrick asked the Board to consider cancelling the July 6th Trustees Meeting, noting that is a holiday week and a lot of people are on vacation. He suggested holding one meeting in July only on July 13th instead of the regular meetings on July 6th and July 20th. He said the timing of that would work well with the tax budget presentation.

There was discussion about how to handle the July meetings. It was decided to cancel the July 6th meeting, schedule a meeting for July 13th, and decide at that time if the July 20th meeting is needed.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to cancel the July 6th meeting and move it to July 13th. Mr. LaBarbara seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Fiscal Officer Report

Pay Bills and Read Receipts

The receipts in the amount of \$554,256.63 and disbursements in the amount of \$1,011,102.90 for May 18, 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 information from the Hamilton County COVID Defense Team meeting, noting the committee agreed to disband at the end of the month as the County opens back up per CDC and State guidelines. He reported Hamilton County is now seeing an average of 55 cases a day over the last week compared to 716 cases a day in December. He noted there are 34 patients in the ICU with a third of them on ventilators. Mr. Weidman stated this is extremely manageable for hospitals. He reported nearly 80% of Ohioans aged 65 and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Mr. Weidman said those who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine may go to healthcollab.org/vaccine-info which will show every location that has vaccines and which vaccine you can get at that location.

Mr. Weidman reported the Hamilton County Town Association will meet on Thursday, May 27th at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom with State Representative Bill Seitz speaking to the group.

Mr. Weidman reported the grand opening of the new Graeter's Ice Cream location on Montgomery Road is next week and will be a fantastic addition to our business district.

Mr. Weidman thanked Mr. Petty and the Parks Advisory Committee for work getting movies and music in parks and adding yoga on Saturdays.

Mr. LaBarbara reported he was on the Hamilton County Public Health call with Commissioner Greg Kesterman. He reported, as Mr. Weidman said, we are down to 55 cases a day compared to 716 cases a day previously which is incredible. Mr. LaBarbara said the best defense is to get vaccinated. He reported Hamilton County is transitioning to orange on the State's health advisory map and the end of the public health orders is June 2nd. He noted for those who are not vaccinated, it is still recommended to wear a mask and although the mask order is no longer enforceable as a health order, businesses may still require it. Mr. LaBarbara stated vaccinated people can go to www.ohiovaxamillion.com to register for drawings to win a million dollars.

Mr. Weidman addressed the topic of federal money going to townships. He said townships with a population of 50,000 and over will be directly funded by the federal government. He stated those with a population under 50,000 will receive money based on a certain formula. Mr. Weidman concluded we are going to get money; the question is how it will be distributed by the State.

Mr. James stated he reviewed that initial regulation too and it looks like population will be used to determine how the funds will be distributed saying the good news is we will be getting money.

Mr. James also thanked the Parks Advisory Committee for planning the events in the parks noting it is exciting that the world is re-opening.

Mr. James stated he hopes we can all be together soon in the meeting room. He agreed it makes sense to hold the next meetings, including the JEDZ, as a hybrid and he encouraged those Board members not in the room to consider joining the next meeting in person.

Mr. James thanked Mr. Weidman for getting the HCTA meeting organized and thanked the Township staff for the hard work they do.

Announcement Changes

Mr. James noted there will be a Bid Opening for the Montgomery Road Pavement Marking Program on Friday, May 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. He stated the Land Use Steering Committee Meeting will take place on Monday, May 24th at 9:00 a.m. at the Administration Building. He then referred people to the website calendar for information on other events.

Executive Session

Mr. James noted that there was an Executive Session agenda item. It concerned an offer to purchase Township property which the Board had been asked to consider. A motion was made by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Weidman, to adjourn the meeting to executive session with Law Director Deepak Desai as permitted by Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 to discuss sale of Township property.

Mr. James invited Fiscal Officer Porter, Law Director Desai, Mr. Warrick, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Kellums into the executive session with the Trustees.

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

End Regular Session: 8:47 p.m.

Begin Executive Session: 8:52 p.m.

End Executive Session: 8:55 p.m.

Back in Regular Session: 8:56 p.m.

Mr. Porter called roll. All three Trustees indicated they were present.

A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: All Aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 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
05/18/2021