

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

August 3, 2021

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, Fiscal Officer Porter, Administrator Warrick, Superintendent / Assistant Administrator Kellums Planning & Zoning Administrator Miller, and Fire Chief Penny. Attorney Terry Donnellon was present for Law Director Desai. Mr. Desai and Sgt. Sovern from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office were absent.

The invocation from Hartzell United Methodist Church was read by Mr. Kellums.

Pledge to the Flag.

Swearing in of New Firefighter

Chairman James swore in new Sycamore Township firefighter Craig Wiederhold.

Approval of the July 13, 2021 Zoning Public Hearing Minutes

The July 13, 2021 Zoning Public Hearing minutes were 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 July 13, 2021 2022 Tax Budget Hearing and Trustees Meeting Minutes

The July 13, 2021 2022 Tax Budget Hearing minutes were 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 July 13, 2021 Trustees Meeting Minutes

The July 13, 2021 Trustees Meeting minutes were 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. Josh Robinson, attorney representing Dr. Paul Sohi, of Thomas H. Bergman & Associates, LLC, 4695 Lake Forest Drive, Suite 200, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242, addressed the Board. Mr. Robinson discussed a settlement agreement regarding signs on Dr. Sohi's property stressing that his client would like to resolve the matter in the most efficient way possible. He stated now that the ODOT law has changed, they may be able to install the back sign on August 11th.

Mr. James said usually counsel will speak to counsel on such issues, so this is a little unusual. He said if ODOT has approved it and they can move ahead with the back sign that is great.

Attorney Terry Donnellon stated it is best to keep it in the courts and not negotiate with the Trustees.

Mr. Robinson said it is not his intent to negotiate, but to make a public statement.

Ms. Kathy Kugler, of 7106 Tenderfoot Lane, addressed the Board. Ms. Kugler said she has been working on safe street on Tenderfoot Lane for six years. She requested Mr. Kellums give a monthly report on the progress of the traffic resolution in the Fields Ertel/Conrey area. She said she found out sidewalks may be added, and she requested Mr. Kellums reach out to others to get sidewalks installed on Conrey so people could walk or ride bikes to area parks. Ms. Kugler said there is a no parking resolution on the agenda for her street and she would like to know who contacted the residents.

Chief Penny said he went and looked at it and determined a fire lane sign should be placed on the inside bend of Tenderfoot Lane. He noted when coming from Fields Ertel Road on McCauly Road, parked cars on the inside of the curb create a blind spot that could be a head on collision.

Ms. Kugler asked if the Township reached out to residents.

Chief Penny said this was initiated by a resident's request.

Mr. Kellums said it is a safety issue with only a small section of the road affected. He stated the Township does not typically consult the residents about safety issues.

Mr. Warrick explained the resolution will be posted in the paper as notice prior to the installation of the no parking signs.

Mr. Joshua Standish Fortin, of 12137 McCauly Road, addressed the Board. Mr. Fortin said the verbiage in the no parking resolution is inaccurate.

Mr. Kellums explained the resolution and confirmed the language is correct.

Mr. James suggested including a diagram with no parking resolutions, so they are clear to the public.

Mr. Fortin distributed handouts to the Board. He stated the embarrassment of Sycamore Township continues. He said Sycamore Township does not rank in the top 34 Townships or the top 75 communities as listed in a local magazine. He stated perhaps it is because of the way the Township treats its residents and listed examples of things he finds embarrassing to Township residents including zoning fines, conduct of Trustees, emergency resolutions, the Board voting not to allow the use of a Township Park for the 4th of July event Mr. Fortin planned, and spending on road improvements.

Sheriff Patrol Report

No report.

EMS/Fire Report

Station Projects Update

Chief Penny thanked the Board for the new firefighter and said it says a lot about the Department's reputation that a firefighter would leave a department he was with for ten years to work here.

Chief Penny reported on difficulties in trying to get estimates for work that needs to be done at Station 92 and Station 93. He stated Lt. Tim Feichtner compiled the information in the packet. He noted some of the quotes will have to go out to bid due to the cost.

Mr. LaBarbara commented how much families enjoyed the firefighters bringing out equipment before the recent movie in the park.

Chief Penny stated Lt. Kelby Thoreson worked with Jason Petty on that and they hope to continue being at the parks before the movies unless they get called out on a run.

Mr. James asked if the items listed in the packet are those Chief Penny showed him and Mr. Warrick on their tour of the stations.

Chief Penny answered the list includes the most important issues that need to be addressed.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Kellums stated Red Hot Riot played at McDaniel Friday night. He stated it was a beautiful night, but the concert was not well attended and, if that continues, we should discuss whether to continue the concerts at McDaniel Park.

There was a discussion about attendance and promotion of such events.

Mr. James stated this is an experiment and noted the expense is low.

Mr. Kellums said the expense is greater at McDaniel Park because we have to rent a stage.

M. James asked how it was promoted.

Mr. Kellums answered the bands are advertised in the newsletter, on the website and Facebook, and with signage.

Mr. Kellums reported the movie Robots will be shown on August 7th starting at dusk at McDaniel Park and the Fire Department will be there at 7:30 p.m. He said, also on August 7th, is the Sycamore Township Car Show at Schuler Sports Complex. He reported Music in the Park will be back at Bechtold Park with String Theory from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on August 14th.

Mr. James said the expense for renting a screen isn't much more than purchasing one.

Mr. Kellums stated it is a good idea, but recommended waiting until we see how attendance is for the remaining movies before investing in a screen.

Mr. Kellums reported on the Kugler Mill Road Project stating the section from Blue Ash Road to Kenwood Road is complete except for a small punch list. He stated construction has moved to the other side of Kenwood Road. Mr. Kellums said some trees had been removed from the intersection noting there was some concern about them creating a sight issue. He said there was a wreck there last week and he received an emailed from a concerned resident, but the accident was not due to the trees or construction. Mr. Kellums said there will be about a month of work on storm sewer and water line and then they will start on the curbs. He said the project should be finished this year. He noted drivers should avoid the area if possible.

Mr. Kellums reported there are two bid openings on August 12th, one for the Larchview / Plainfield Project and one for the Dillonvale Culvert Project.

Mr. Kellums addressed Mr. Fortin's comments that the 2021 Road Program was a tax and spend project noting it was not paid for with taxes from our residents, it was all paid for with TIF funds.

Mr. Kellums said Dillonvale curb work is finished and the whole project should be completed by the end of the month if the weather is good.

Mr. James asked about roads decaying at the same time since we have accelerated maintenance and asked Mr. Kellums to come up with a schedule for future maintenance.

Mr. Kellums pointed out the Township does a lot of preventative maintenance so the roads should last close to 20 years.

RFQ Montgomery/Kenwood Roads Traffic Impact Study & Economic Impact Study

Mr. Kellums reported he is waiting on comments on the RFQ for the Montgomery / Kenwood Roads Traffic Impact Study & Economic Impact Study from the County Engineer because Kenwood is a county road and from ODOT traffic engineers because Montgomery is a state road.

Mr. Kellums responded to Ms. Kugler's comments about Fields Ertel saying he had a meeting with the County and Sharonville about the grant application for this project. He said he asked them to put in sidewalks and they have added sidewalks within the project limits. Mr. Kellums said he has talked to Sharonville about more sidewalks, and they have applied for a safe route to school grant to add more sidewalks. He said Hamilton County is reluctant to add sidewalks outside the project limit as it could affect the ability to get the grant.

Mr. James stated the Township has grant applications pending for money from Issue 7.

Mr. Kellums stated the grant application for Miami Road did not get in because the church property is actually in the City of Madeira. He said he did get it in for Montgomery Road sidewalks. He reported he has not heard back yet.

Resolution – Designating No Parking on Portions of McCauly Road and Tenderfoot Lane in Sycamore Township

The resolution “Designating No Parking on Portions of McCauly Road and Tenderfoot Lane in Sycamore Township” was presented by Mr. Kellums. 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 2021-056 passed this 3rd day of August, 2021.

Mr. James asked about the status of the crosswalks on Montgomery Road.

Mr. Kellums answered the project is waiting on materials which should be in within two weeks.

Planning & Zoning Report

Mr. Miller reported he had nine nuisance property resolutions for the Board’s consideration. He said, in the majority, they are tall grass and noxious weed violations. He noted the first three are vacant properties owned by the same property owner. He then displayed the photos of each property and briefly pointed out the issues with each. He noted he will continue to work with these residents but said at times they need a little push.

Mr. LaBarbara asked if any of the owners had been responsive.

Mr. Miller said some have been a little responsive and noted if they do respond his department will continue to work with them.

Resolution – 8308 St. Clair Avenue Nuisance Property

The resolution “Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage Refuse and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 8308 St. Clair 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 2021-057 passed this 3rd day of August, 2021.

Resolution – 3684 E. Galbraith Road Nuisance Property

The resolution “Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage Refuse and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 3684 E. Galbraith Road, 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 2021-058 passed this 3rd day of August, 2021.

Resolution – 3700 E. Galbraith Road Nuisance Property

The resolution “Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage Refuse and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 3700 E. Galbraith Road, 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 2021-059 passed this 3rd day of August, 2021.

Resolution – 8566 Plainfield Road Nuisance Property

The resolution “Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage Refuse and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 8566 Plainfield Road, 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 2021-060 passed this 3rd day of August, 2021.

Resolution – 12133 Bear Valley Court Nuisance Property

The resolution “Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage Refuse and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 12133 Bear Valley Court, Sycamore Township, OH 45241” 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 2021-061 passed this 3rd day of August, 2021.

Resolution – 7700 Styrax Lane Nuisance Property

The resolution “Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage Refuse and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 7700 Styrax Lane, 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 2021-062 passed this 3rd day of August, 2021.

Resolution – 4456 Daffodil Avenue Nuisance Property

The resolution “Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage Refuse and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 4456 Daffodil Avenue, Sycamore Township, OH 45242” 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 2021-063 passed this 3rd day of August, 2021.

Resolution – 4458 Daffodil Avenue Nuisance Property

The resolution “Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage Refuse and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 4458 Daffodil Avenue, Sycamore Township, OH 45242” 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 2021-064 passed this 3rd day of August, 2021.

Resolution – 4520 Sycamore Road Nuisance Property

The resolution “Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage Refuse and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 4520 Sycamore Road,

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 2021-065 passed this 3rd day of August, 2021.

Mr. Miller reported Zoning Commission will be reviewing text amendments to the Zoning Resolution, Case 2021-12T, and the Land Use Plan, Case 2021-11LU, on August 9th at 6:00 p.m. He also reported the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting was cancelled due to lack of an agenda after he worked with an applicant to revise plans to help them meet code.

Mr. James asked about the construction of the 11 homes on Kugler Mill Road and if Mr. Miller had contacted the developer about the condition of the property.

Mr. Miller answered he and Mr. Warrick had met with the developer about it. He said they are moving forward after receiving final subdivision approval from Hamilton County. He said at this point we need a Zoning Compliance Plan.

Mr. James asked if Mr. Miller knew about a settlement agreement with Moeller High School.

Mr. Miller answered he has not seen the Settlement and stated Mr. Desai would have to report on that.

Mr. James asked Mr. Miller about Mr. Fortin’s comment about a resident fined \$100 for fixing a fence.

Mr. Miller answered fence applications are free provided applications are submitted prior to doing work. He said that may have happened a few times since he has been with the Township.

Mr. James asked about live streaming the Zoning Commission meetings about the Land Use Plan and Text Amendments.

Mr. Miller answered the meeting will be recorded but there are not plans to live stream it noting the meetings are open to the public.

Mr. James requested the meeting be publicized on social media.

Law Director Report

Mr. Donnellon stated he will ask Mr. Desai to report on the Moeller Settlement Agreement.

Administrator Report

Public Records Policy

Mr. Warrick reported he had a Public Record Policy that was discussed in the meeting with the auditor for the Board’s consideration.

Mr. Donnellon stated a motion would be sufficient.

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to update the Township's Public Record Request Policy to the document presented by Mr. Warrick.

Mr. Weidman stated this is more definitive and he is in favor of it.

Mr. James said there are members of the public present who are frequent requestors and asked if they would like to comment.

Mr. J. Janus, Jr, of 4462 Daffodil Avenue, addressed the Board saying he spoke with Trustee James about the proposed policy. He said he is in support of the updates to the policy.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Accounting Controls Review

Mr. Warrick reported at the last meeting Mr. Weidman had asked him to address some questions about the transition to UAN. He said the transition to UAN was never meant to be a cost cutting program. He said his comments about cost savings had to do with years out after the transition because the transition itself certainly has costs. Mr. Warrick said previously the CPA had to do a lot of work to get the books in order so that the audit could be completed so that is where the savings will come.

Mr. Warrick reported Debbie Campbell will be gone the second half of August noting she will do the close for July by herself and the contractor from Robert Half will watch a second close. He pointed out there are other things that have made this transition very difficult that could have been avoided. Mr. Warrick stated the contractor from Robert Half should be working on this through the end of the year with fluctuating hours.

Mr. Warrick reported the check issued twice happened in transition from old to new software because it was on a blanket purchase order without a specific vendor name which leads to a lot of problems. He said the township will still use blanket purchase orders in UAN but not without a vendor name.

Mr. Warrick noted the other difference is the whole purchase order process is started with a requisition request by the department head. He explained the person who is spending the money breaks down accounts unlike in the past when decisions about money were made after the fact without the involvement of the person spending the money. He stated now the person spending the money has full control over where that money is allocated and will pay attention to appropriation levels. He stated this allows staff to request approval from the Board to adjust appropriations proactively instead of waiting until the end of the year to adjust appropriations after staff has already spent the money. Mr. Warrick said the controlling factor to avoid duplicate checks is making sure you put an invoice number in as UAN won't allow for duplicate invoice numbers.

Mr. Warrick reported there were very old outstanding checks we are in the process of cleaning up and in speaking to the vendors we have been told that it was not cashed because it was a duplicate check. He said this is a mistake that has happened in the past that will be prevented

with the new processes. Mr. Warrick reported department heads have adjusted their accounts and made intra-fund adjustments and now have a much clearer picture of where they stand.

Mr. Weidman said he listened to the videos when Mr. Warrick presented UAN to the Board and Mr. Warrick clearly said the transition would save money. He said including the payment to be approved tonight in the amount of \$6,303.50, the Township will have paid \$61,536.65 to Robert Half so far to transition our software from BUCS to UAN with no end in sight. He said Debbie Campbell has told him she is still not prepared to close a month, number one, and number two, Mr. Warrick suggested the consultant will remain on until the end of the year which could potentially out us in the \$110,000.00 range to transfer from one accounting software to another. Mr. Weidman said based on that, everyone in this room will long be dead before we break even on this project. He stated we will not be saving money on this project, and he just wants to clarify that.

Mr. Weidman stated Mr. Warrick had said everything that could be done by BUCS could be done by UAN. He noted that is not true because we are still using BUCS for the CIC to avoid an additional \$4,300.00 cost from UAN to add the CIC into the UAN system.

Mr. Weidman said he spoke to Ms. Campbell about the duplicate check for Velecor and she did enter the invoice number and, since that time, the consultant has fixed the system to prevent a duplicate. He said prior to that, she could have entered the same invoice number 20 times and it would have paid it 20 times because whoever was doing it did not have anything in place to stop those additional payments. He said Ms. Campbell advised him at least four companies, not just Velecor, had been paid duplicate checks. He asked Mr. Warrick how he will report back to the Board on an accurate number of duplicate invoices paid.

Mr. Warrick said he was not aware of additional duplicate invoices paid and said Ms. Campbell should talk to him about it and not Mr. Weidman.

Mr. Warrick said the savings will be after the transition is over noting the transition has been more costly because there was a lot of confusion and a lack of cooperation in the beginning, not because of the staff, which made it more difficult.

Mr. James said the transition has also included accounting control processes in conjunction with software.

Mr. Weidman asked if there was an option to have UAN help with the transition instead of an outside agency.

Mr. Warrick answered there was no one available and it still would have cost money.

Mr. Weidman said the Township is paying the consultant \$75.00 per hour and asked Mr. Warrick to find out what it would have cost to have UAN help with the transition.

Mr. James asked Mr. Warrick if Mr. Weidman has contacted him outside of a meeting about any of this.

Mr. Warrick answered no, saying Mr. Weidman doesn't talk to him but he talks to everybody on his staff.

Mr. James said the purpose of the meetings is not to beat up on employees and encouraged Mr. Weidman to sit down with Mr. Warrick about this outside of the meeting. He said staff members report to Mr. Warrick.

Mr. Porter stated Mr. Warrick has not spoken to him about his office for which he is ultimately responsible. He said Ms. Campbell is his employee and as he stated at the very beginning UAN is problematic, but his opinion didn't count. He said in the past at the end of the year there was one meeting in which adjustments were made to appropriations. He noted this is first meeting we are not adjusting appropriations. Mr. Porter stated the paying of bills is much more cumbersome, taking a tremendous amount of time. He said he has not been consulted about any of this and noted Mr. Warrick did not bring UAN in to make the transition because he wanted it done as soon as possible. Mr. Porter stated he knows the Robert Half consultant personally and he is a good and honest man, but he thinks that is an expense that could have been avoided if there hadn't been such a hurry to cram this UAN system down his throat. He said he doesn't know what the purpose of it is and it is costing a lot of money.

Mr. James stated Mr. Porter's opinion does matter and he did take it into account. He encouraged Mr. Porter to discuss this with Mr. Warrick and said if one looks at the records of Ms. Campbell's hiring, Mr. Porter would see it is not exactly what he thinks in conjunction with the statute.

Mr. James said the transition to UAN is part of putting in more modern accounting controls and better reporting for the Township. He stated the reporting is better and noted the purchase orders are easier to read and that matters in terms of understanding. He said ease of information is important in terms of managing finances. Mr. James said of course there is a transition fee; there are costs in putting accounting controls in place. He noted the Township is a huge operation run on a skeleton staff with a massive budget and we need to have controls in place and ultimately Mr. Porter is responsible for those finances as are the Trustees, so it is important to have checks in place.

Mr. James stated we are not paying the maintenance fee for BUCS to continue using it for the CIC noting technically we are not the CIC; the CIC is a corporation the Township set up.

Mr. Weidman stated we still have accounting obligations for the CIC.

Mr. James said of course we do and stated of course Mr. Porter's opinions matter. He said he knows some didn't want it, but UAN is now in place, and it is important to make it work. Mr. James said it is our duty to the public. He said if Mr. Weidman has other concerns, he encourages Mr. Warrick and Mr. Weidman to discuss them.

Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00

Mr. Warrick presented the following purchase orders for approval.

399-2021 Bastin & Company, LLC 2020 State Audit \$10,200.00

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve this request. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

401-2021 Surdyk, Dowd & Turner Co. LPA Services through 06/30/2021 \$5,977.80

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve this request.

Mr. James said this is for over \$5,000.00 in attorney fees for burdensome subpoena requests and said there were other earlier expenses for this which did not exceed \$5,000.00. He asked Mr. Warrick what the cost has been so far.

Mr. Warrick answered between \$9,000.00 and \$10,000.00.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Warrick said the following purchase order is for the purchase of three sheriff vehicles which was part of the capital plan, and the money has been appropriated.

426-2021 Lebanon Ford Ford Explorers (HCSO) \$86,132.00

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve this request. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

446-2021 Veleanor, LLC Microsoft Licensing \$6,800.00

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve this request. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

481-2021 Cummins Bridgeway LLC Work on E92 \$8,486.91

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve this request. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Fiscal Officer Report

Mr. Porter reported there was a meeting earlier with the Auditor who presented the audit report. He stated it was a totally clean report with no findings, but the Township did not get five stars because he mentioned the need to update the Township's Public Record Policy which the Trustees took care of by adopting it tonight. He said the staff can be proud of a long line of clean audits.

Mr. James said Mr. Porter should be proud also.

Mr. Porter said it is his job to take care of the Township's finances and he is grateful for the confidence of the voters.

Pay Bills and Read Receipts

The receipts in the amount of \$1,141,542.40 and disbursements in the amount of \$186,811.06 for August 3, 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: 
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

Mr. James congratulated Mr. Porter and staff on clean audit.

Trustee Comments

Mr. LaBarbara said he was on a call with Hamilton County Public Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman about COVID-19. He reported the Delta variant is affecting our area with an increase in hospitalizations and more younger people infected. Mr. LaBarbara said 97% of those hospitalized are unvaccinated. He said there is not a mask mandate but wearing masks indoors is recommended in public places. He said they recommend students wear a mask indoors, but it is up to each school district. Mr. LaBarbara stated PPE is available if needed. Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus sent an email the federal eviction moratorium has expired, and Hamilton County has rental assistance funds available through the American Rescue Plan for those at risk of losing their homes.

Mr. LaBarbara stated he attended the July 24th ICON Music Center celebration for the founding inductees to the Black Music Hall of Fame.

Mr. LaBarbara said the children love the Movies in the Park with the free popcorn and visit with the Fire Department. He noted the 11th Annual Sycamore Township Car Show is Saturday, August 7th at the Schuler Sports Complex.

Mr. James stated Mr. Fortin in his public comments handed out a ranking list from Cincy Magazine of the top 75 neighborhoods. He said the rankings are meaningless with mysterious ranking. He said Sycamore Township is a great place to live with low taxes and neighborhoods with different names like Kenwood. He said the fact that we are not ranked in some meaningless ranking is silly because we know we are number one we do not need Cincy Magazine to tell us.

Mr. James reported on the WCPO I-team investigation about the City of Morrow having to pay a lot of money to an employee who filed suit against them for elected officials publicly shaming the employee. He said the city will have to pay \$1.1 million if it is upheld. Mr. James stated this

is a reminder of how the pettiness of politics can have devastating financial consequences to taxpayers and a useful reminder to remain publicly respectful of others, even of those with whom we disagree. He said treating others with decency and kindness goes a long way.

Announcement Changes

Mr. James noted there is a Movie in the Park this weekend. He reported there are bid openings and the August 16th Board of Zoning Appeals meeting is canceled. Mr. James referred people to the website calendar for other meetings and events and encouraged people interested in Township events to share them on social media.

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


The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.



Thomas C. James, Jr., Chairman



Jim LaBarbara, Vice Chairman



Thomas J. Weidman, Trustee



Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
08/03/2021