

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

December 21, 2021

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:18 pm. by Mr. James.

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

The invocation from St. Vincent Ferrer Church was read by Chief Penny.

Pledge to the Flag.

Approval of the December 7, 2021 Trustees Meeting Minutes

The December 7, 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.

Approval of the December 9, 2021 Special Trustees Meeting Minutes

The December 9, 2021 Special 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. Al Early, of 8120 Glenmill Court, addressed the Board thanking Mr. LaBarbara for his service to the Township on the Board of Trustees and Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Early also thanked the other Board members for their service.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Sgt. Crider requested residents to make sure not to keep valuables in their cars as vehicle break-ins continue to be a problem.

EMS/Fire Report

Station Repair Update

Chief Penny reported the new windows were installed in the north fire station and floors will be installed next week. He said the HVAC person will be doing another walk through.

Hydraulic Rescue Tools Purchase

Chief Penny stated hydraulic rescue tools are used for extrication of victims from cars. He reported the Township's hydraulic rescue tools are 20 years old and the Fire Department has been told that parts are not available for them anymore, so the tools are out of service and in need of replacement. He stated the new tools are lighter weight and stronger.

Mr. Weidman asked if Chief Penny is speaking about the “Jaws of Life.”

Chief Penny answered yes and stated that Mr. Kellums has a purchase order for the Board to consider purchasing the new tools at a cost of \$73,850.00.

There was discussion about whether that would have to go out to bid or if it is already State bid. Mr. Desai concluded the purchase order could be approved with the condition that Chief Penny confirm it is a State bid.

Chief Penny reported Mr. Kellums will also have a resolution for the Board’s consideration to dispose of surplus and obsolete Fire Department property, and old pickup truck and trailer.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Kellums reported curbside leaf pickup has ended and noted the maintenance crews worked extremely hard this year which was a rough one due to temporary labor shortages.

Mr. Kellums reported construction on Larchview has begun with the water main portion of the project. He said there is a road closure there and noted the plan is to get the utility work done in the winter so that reconstruction of the road may begin in the spring.

Mr. James asked Mr. Kellums if he had seen an email from a resident on Kugler Mill Road about a water pooling concern.

Mr. Kellums answered he had seen the email and reported they were ahead of it before the email. He said the engineer has looked at the issue and because it may involve asphalt work it may not be able to be fixed right away due to temperatures.

Mr. James stated there was another email from a resident on Kugler Mill about lighting.

Mr. Kellums stated he did answer her she lived on New England Court.

Mr. James stated that would have to be a lighting district which is in the power of the residents to pursue.

Mr. Kellums answered yes that is correct. He said the lights on Galbraith Road the resident referenced were part of a very large underground improvement project in the business district paid for by TIF. He said this would be a neighborhood lighting district.

Planning & Zoning Report

Mr. Miller stated the resolutions on the agenda will not be considered tonight and instead there will be another public hearing scheduled for January 18th for the Land Use Plan and Text Amendments to the Zoning Resolution.

Mr. Miller reported both Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals meetings are canceled in January due to lack of an agenda.

Mr. Miller reported the Port Authority closed on the Carrousel and Drake properties on Reading Road on December 9th. He stated the Port has been working with the Fire Department and

Zoning as well as Hamilton County Building Department to secure the buildings and site. He said they plan on weekly law enforcement inspections and have their own people on site weekly. He reported they have contracted with an environmental assessment group and have been in the buildings doing asbestos abatement. Mr. Miller said the ultimate goal is to demolish the building as soon as possible.

There was discussion about people who were in the abandoned buildings and one in particular thought to be responsible for fires there.

Law Director Report

Mr. Desai reported there is a lot of legislation moving through the General Assembly right now that are of interest. He said two have to do with the vaccine mandate and one has to do with restricting local governments ability to challenge property valuations. He reported there is also legislation having to do with the right to carry knives. He encouraged those who wish to comment on any of the legislation to do so by contacting their State Representatives as soon as possible.

Administrator Report

Mr. Kellums reported he had the resolution for the Board's consideration which Chief Penny mentioned earlier. He pointed out there is an attachment listing the Fire Department equipment the Township would like to declare obsolete.

Resolution – Declaring Township Property as Surplus and Obsolete and Authorizing Its Disposition

The resolution "Declaring Township Property as Surplus and Obsolete and Authorizing Its Disposition, Dispensing with a Second Reading and Declaring an Emergency" was read by Mr. Kellums. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve the resolution. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution 2021-110 passed this 21st of December, 2021

November Financial Reports

Mr. Kellums reported the Board had been sent copies of the November financial reports. He asked if anyone had any questions about them and pointed out the negative in the revenue summary for the Larchview Capital Project. He said the total budget for that project is \$4,650,831.00. He stated Greater Cincinnati Waterworks is responsible for \$1,326,000.00 of that amount. Mr. Kellums went on to note the Township has received \$1,270,000.00 of the money from Greater Cincinnati Waterworks and \$807,000.00 from Hamilton County for their share. He reported the Township will pay the final 15% for Greater Cincinnati Waterworks and they will reimburse us for that amount when the job is complete. Mr. Kellums stated the Township's share of the project is \$1,560,000.00 and we received an LTIP grant from for 50% of that amount leaving the Township paying only about \$860,000.00 for the \$4.5 million project.

Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00

Mr. Kellums presented the following purchase order for approval:

858-2021	Bound Tree Medical, LLC	Gloves	\$6,305.00
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Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve this request. Mr. LaBarbara seconded the motion. Mr. James noted it is purchase order number 858-2021.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Kellums presented the following purchase order for approval saying this is the one we want to make sure is State bid:

876-2021	Howell Rescue Systems, Inc.	Hydraulic Rescue Tool	\$73,850.00
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Mr. Miller reported he had clarification on that saying there are no rescue tools on the State bid, however, this would fall under sole source as Howell Rescue Systems, Inc. is the only distributor of this manufacturer in the State of Ohio, and we can get a verified sole source letter from the manufacturer.

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

Mr. James asked Mr. Desai if the motion should be made on the condition that we get a sole source letter.

Mr. Desai asked if Chief Penny was certain he could obtain a letter.

Chief Penny answered yes, the information came directly from the sales representative.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. James stated at the Special Trustees Meeting on December 9th, the Trustees approved a motion to begin an immediate search for a new Township Administrator. He asked Mr. Kellums if he had many any progress on the search.

Mr. Kellums said he had received some job descriptions and he and Mr. Miller are taking the lead on putting this together and publicizing the opening.

Mr. James asked if the Township had heard back from Dynegy about how many people were affected by their billing error.

Mr. Kellums answered he had not heard back from Dynegy, but he will check on it.

Fiscal Officer Report

Pay Bills and Read Receipts

The receipts in the amount of \$689,405.39 and disbursements in the amount of \$687,597.96 for December 21, 2021 were read by Mr. Porter 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

Trustee Comments

Mr. Weidman stated he had the opportunity to participate in two neighborhood Luminaria events held on the same evening. He said Jason Petty did a great job on the Dillonvale Luminaria held at Bechtold Park and reported there was also one in the northern part of the Township in its second year. He said he has spoken to Mr. Kellums and Mr. Petty about the Township cooperating with the neighborhood in the north to do something similar to what we do at Bechtold next year.

Mr. Weidman thanked Mr. Kellums and his staff for a great job with leaf pick up.

Mr. Weidman noted this was Mr. LaBarbara's last meeting as Trustee and thanked him for his service wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

Mr. Weidman wished Sycamore Township staff and residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. LaBarbara wished staff and residents a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year also. He then thanked the residents of Sycamore Township and said it has been an honor and a privilege to serve them as a Sycamore Township Trustee.

Mr. James wished Mr. LaBarbara a happy birthday tomorrow. He also thanked Mr. LaBarbara for his service to the Township both as a Trustee and on the Board of Zoning Appeals. He said it has been an eventful several years and he appreciates the work Mr. LaBarbara has done. He encouraged Mr. LaBarbara to stay active in the community saying he has a lot to offer.

Mr. James also stated it has been an honor and a privilege for him to serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees this year.

Mr. James stated all of the Trustees were able to participate in the Grand Opening of the new Deer Park Branch Library recently which is the largest library in Hamilton County other than the main branch downtown. He encouraged people to go check it out in the old TJ Maxx space in the Dillonvale Shopping Center in Sycamore Township. He said a representative of the library has contacted the Board and asked to speak about it at a Trustees Meeting in January.

Mr. James then wished Sycamore Township staff, fellow Trustees, and residents a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy New Year and happy any other holiday you choose to celebrate.

Announcement Changes

Mr. James noted the Township offices will be closed December 24th and December 31st for the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. He also said both the Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals Meetings in January are canceled due to lack of an agenda. He then referred people to the website calendar for other events.

Executive Session

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

consider the compensation of public employees, to consider the employment of a public employee or official, and to discuss imminent litigation.

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

Mr. James invited Mr. Porter, Mr. Kellums, Chief Penny, Mr. Miller, and, to the extent possible, Ms. Schwegmann, into the executive session with the Trustees and Law Director.

End Regular Session: 7:46 p.m.

Begin Executive Session: 7:50 p.m.

End Executive Session: 9:40 p.m.

Back in Regular Session: 9:44 p.m.

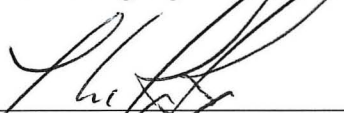
Mr. Porter called roll. All three Trustees indicated they were present.

Resolution – Establishing Rates of Pay and Benefits for Township Employees

The resolution “Establishing Rates of Pay and Benefits for Township Employees” was read by Mr. Kellums. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve the resolution, dispensing with a second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye. Resolution 2021-111 passed this 21st of December, 2021


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

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.




Thomas C. James, Jr., Chairman

Jim LaBarbara, Vice Chairman



Thomas J. Weidman, Trustee



Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
12/21/2021