

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

August 16, 2022

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. by Chairman Weidman.

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

The invocation was read by Mr. Miller.

Pledge to the Flag.

Approval of the August 2, 2022 Trustees Meeting Minutes

The August 2, 2022 Trustees Meeting minutes were presented for approval. Mr. James made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann, to accept them.

Mr. Kellums called roll. Vote: Mr. James: Aye; Ms. Schwegmann: Aye; Mr. Weidman: Aye

Gas Aggregation Program – Dan Deters, Energy Alliance

Mr. Dan Deters, of Energy Alliance, addressed the Board in regard to the Gas Aggregation Program. Mr. Deters reported a contract for Gas Aggregation had been executed at a cost of \$0.839 per ccf. He said this was a little bit higher than he had hoped and explained that is due to the volatility of the market. He pointed out Duke's rate next month is about \$1.22 per ccf. Mr. Deters stated this rate will begin in October.

Mr. James reported the debit cards given to people for the overcharge on their energy bill expired in July. He noted some of them are still outstanding and asked for an update.

Mr. Deters stated he will generate a list, get it to Mr. Kellums, and figure out a way to get the refund to people. Mr. Deters added that the \$0.839 per ccf rate is a fixed rate so people will know what they are paying through the winter.

Ms. Schwegmann stated with the volatility of the market, it is fantastic that Energy Alliance was able to take advantage of a dip in the price and lock in a rate for the Township's program.

Public Comments

No members of the public signed up to address the Board.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Lt. Tarr stated he had no report.

EMS/Fire Report

Chief Penny reported the Fire Department had received a \$2,000.00 donation from Lyondell Chemicals who requested the donation be used for the good of the community. He stated the department plans to use the money to purchase smoke detectors which will be made available to members of the public who need them free of charge.

Chief Penny reported he will not be present at the next meeting so he wanted to mention the Fire Department will use the ladder truck to assist with the Golf Ball Drop at the St. Saviour Church Festival on Sunday, September 12, 2022.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Kellums reported the 12th Annual Sycamore Township Car Show was a good turnout despite the weather.

Mr. Kellums reported Soul Pocket played a concert at Bechtold Park on Saturday, August 13th which had a very good turnout. He stated the food trucks at the concert did well and everyone seemed to have a good time.

Mr. Kellums reported the next Movie in the Park will be Spies in Disguise on Saturday, August 27th at dusk at McDaniel Park, 11797 Old Solzman Road.

Mr. Kellums reported as part of the Township's partnership with the Cooper Creek Collaborative, there will be a Free Tree Giveaway. He stated residents within the Cooper Creek Demonstration Watershed Area may register for free trees by September 1st. He reported there will be a seminar on September 8th about how to plant and care for your tree and noted the trees must be picked up in the rear of the Administration Building at 8540 Kenwood Road on September 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He said deer protection fencing is included.

Mr. Kellums stated if you do not live in the Cooper Creek Demonstration Watershed Area, you may purchase trees at a discounted price through the Hamilton County Conservation District's Tree & Shrub Sale. He said people may register for trees at a cost of \$23.00 each and pick up for those trees is also on September 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Township Administration Building at 8540 Kenwood Road or at the Hamilton County Maintenance Facility on Burlington Road.

There was a discussion about what species of trees are available for each program.

Mr. Kellums noted information on these programs is available on the Township's website and social media.

Mr. Kellums reported the new playground is being installed behind the Township Administration Building and should be complete in two or three weeks.

Mr. Kellums reported the transfer platform ordered for Bob Meyer Park has finally come in so that playground will be open again soon.

Mr. Kellums reported the Township's Road Projects on Larchview Drive and Kenwood Meadows are moving along well.

Mr. James gave a shout out to Parks Supervisor Jason Petty for the hard work he has put in to make all these things, such as the Car Show and Music in the Park, happen. Mr. James stated for the public's reference he had asked about the cost to the Township for the Street Food XPO held in June and reported it was under \$10,000.00. He noted that was a good value for an event which included live music.

Mr. James stated some residents in Heitmeyer Farms are concerned about the frequency of Rumpke's recycling pickup. He noted Mr. Kellums was instrumental in negotiating with Rumpke to get recycling included in the trash plan for residents. He said he does not know if it is practical to step it up, but Mr. Kellums may be hearing from some residents.

Planning & Zoning Report

Mr. Miller reported the Sycamore Township Zoning Commission heard two cases the week before. He noted one case, Case 2022-11Z for Landmark Recovery, was tabled to a future meeting due to concerns the Zoning Commission had with parking calculations and availability. He said the applicant requested the case be continued to allow them time to address those issues. Mr. Miller reported the second case, Case 2022-12P1 for Arku, Inc., was approved for an expansion of their manufacturing facility.

Mr. James asked Mr. Miller about issues with Deer Park Auto parking vehicles on residential streets.

Mr. Miller answered Deer Park Auto has been in violation with Zoning and the Fire Department for at least three months. He said the Township is working to get the site cleaned but it has been a slow process. Mr. Miller noted Mr. Barbieri assisted him with obtaining documentation of the settlement agreement with the owner of Deer Park Auto which will help with enforcement through the courts. He reported Fire Inspector Doug Morath, Zoning Inspector Kevin Clark and Hamilton County Public Health have been inspecting the property regularly. Mr. Miller said he understands the complaints on NextDoor have to do with parking on the street, and unfortunately that is something the Township has no way to regulate.

Mr. Weidman asked if the tires may be chalked if the vehicle sits too long.

Lt. Tarr answered no saying there was a court decision a couple of years ago that prevents the Sheriff's Office from chalking tires.

Mr. Kellums reported Mr. Roger Bien, owner of Deer Park Auto, called the Township earlier that day saying he realizes there had been complaints on NextDoor about vehicles from his shop being parked on the residential streets. He stated Mr. Bien said he is taking care of that immediately.

Mr. Miller added that Mr. Bien's son reached out in an attempt to establish better lines of communication with the Township.

Mr. James reported a resident had emailed all the Trustees about changes in state law preventing Homeowners' Associations from prohibiting solar panels and asking if the Township had any interest in regulating them. He asked Mr. Miller if the Township has the ability to regulate solar panels.

Mr. Miller answered the Township could regulate them, but in his opinion unless you are looking at a historic district, he does not necessarily think we should. He pointed out that would be up to the Board as a policy decision. He went on to describe the ways in which solar panels could be regulated.

Law Director Report

Ms. Barbieri stated she had no report.

Administrator Report

Mr. Kellums reported the Township received the results of the 2021 JEDZ audits from the State of Ohio. He said there were no findings and no exceptions.

Mr. Kellums reported he had two resolutions for the Board's consideration having to do with rates of pay for Township employees.

Resolution – Amending the Rate of Pay for a Township Employee

The resolution “Amending the Rate of Pay for a Township Employee” was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann, dispensing with a second reading. Mr. Kellums called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution 2022-085 passed this 16th day of August, 2022

Resolution – Amending the Rate of Pay for Part-Time Firefighters

The resolution “Amending Resolution 2022-001 to Increase the Rate of Pay for Part-Time Firefighters to \$21 Per Hour and Dispensing with a Second Reading” was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann. Mr. Kellums called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution 2022-086 passed this 16th day of August, 2022

Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00

Mr. Kellums presented the following purchase order over \$5,000.00 for approval:

22-272 Dennis A. Ziccardi & Assoc., LLC Montgomery Road Easement Acquisition \$5,600.00

Mr. James made a motion to approve purchase order 22-272 as presented. Ms. Schwegmann seconded. Mr. Kellums called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Fiscal Officer Report

Pay Bills and Read Receipts

The receipts in the amount of \$159,568.30 and disbursements in the amount of \$95,545.05 for August 16, 2022 were read by Mr. Kellums 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. James, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann.
Mr. Kellums called roll. Vote: Mr. James: Aye; Ms. Schwegmann: Aye; Mr. Weidman: Aye

Trustee Comments

Ms. Schwegmann congratulated the Parks and Recreation team for a job well done over what has been a busy month.

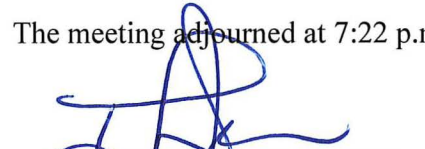
Mr. James said he had already thanked Jason Petty for his hard worked and also thanked Beth Gunderson for the work she does behind the scenes for our employees.

Announcement Changes

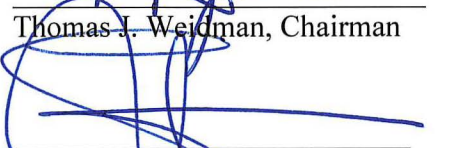
Mr. Weidman stated there are no announcement changes and referred people to the website calendar for details on all meetings and events.

A motion was made by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann, to adjourn the meeting.
Mr. Kellums called roll. Vote: All Aye.

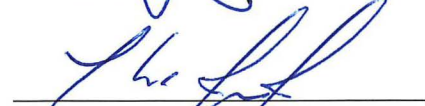
The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.



Thomas J. Weidman, Chairman



Tracy Schwegmann, Vice Chairman



Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee



Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
08/16/2022