

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Public Hearing of the Trustees of Sycamore Township Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio

September 20, 2022

The Public Hearing for the proposed retirement and rehire of Tracy Kellums in the role of Sycamore Township Administrator was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Present for the hearing were Chairman Weidman, Vice Chairman Schwegmann, Trustee James, Law Director Barbieri, Fiscal Officer Porter, Interim Administrator / Superintendent Kellums, and Planning & Zoning Administrator Miller.

Mr. Weidman stated the public hearing was due to the request by Interim Administrator Kellums, an employee of Sycamore Township for nearly 40 years, to formally retire and be rehired by the Township as Administrator. He reported per Ohio Revised Code Section 145.38, prior to any employee retiring and being rehired to the same position, a public hearing must be called between 15 and 30 days before reemployment.

Mr. Weidman stated Mr. Kellums has been a dedicated employee of the Township since 1983 and has served 16 years as Roads Superintendent, five years as Assistant Administrator and has been the Interim Administrator since December of 2021. He said tonight the Board will hear public comment on Mr. Kellums' proposed retirement and rehire with comments limited to five minutes each.

Mr. John Abraham, of 4978 Elmcrest Lane, addressed the Board. Mr. Abraham noted Mr. Kellums will be coming in at the same salary which is good for the budget. He stated if Mr. Kellums chooses to take his pension that is his business as it is his money. Mr. Abraham pointed out there will be no learning curve, this is good business and good continuity, and he thinks it is a good move for the Township.

Ms. Pauline Barthel, of 5953 Winnetka Drive, addressed the Board. Ms. Barthel stated she thinks Mr. Kellums will be a very good Administrator noting he has been here for 40 years. She said she has never had any interactions with him that were not pleasant, and the outcome was always good. Ms. Barthel said she thinks this is a good thing and she has no objections.

Mr. John O'Shea, of 7802 Keller Road, addressed the Board. Mr. O'Shea echoed what the other two people said. He added that, having been a member of OPERS, he knows that he and Mr. Kellums were told they would have health care for themselves and their spouses for the rest of their lives. He said the State of Ohio broke that agreement. He said Mr. Abraham mentioned the term double dipping, which has become a pejorative, which he thinks is unfair. He added it has been used as a political cudgel when it is a net wash for the Township. Mr. Kellums has earned the money by paying into it; fulfilling his end of the bargain while the State of Ohio has not. Mr. O'Shea said Mr. Kellums is a great worker and the Township benefits from him agreeing to continue working after 40 years; he has earned the pension; and there is absolutely no downside to the Township.

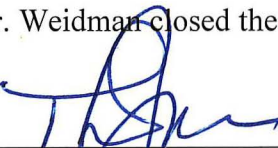
Mr. Dennis Lovitt, of 8611 Plainfield Road, addressed the Board. Mr. Lovitt said he has known Mr. Kellums for 40 years. He said Mr. Kellums was a great help when the roundabout went in his front yard, noting he appreciated the communication from Mr. Kellums that he and his neighbors received. Mr. Lovitt stated having Mr. Kellums as Administrator would be a great a benefit to the Township noting he has always been pleasant and very professional.

Mr. Weidman asked if anyone else present from the public would like to comment. There was no response.

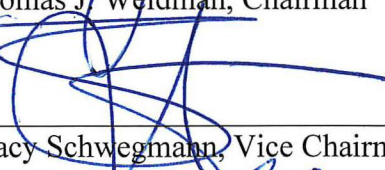
Mr. James stated the Board had received an email from former Sycamore Township Administrator Greg Bickford that Mr. Weidman may want to read for the record.

Mr. Weidman read Mr. Bickford's email for the record. The email was in support of Mr. Kellums' request. Mr. Bickford stated in the email that the Board will not find another more dedicated public servant than Mr. Kellums; Mr. Kellums has knowledge of the Township from both the administrative side and day-to-day operations; and this is a rare opportunity to continue with someone who has proven their loyalty, worth, professionalism, and dedication to Sycamore Township.


Mr. Weidman closed the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.



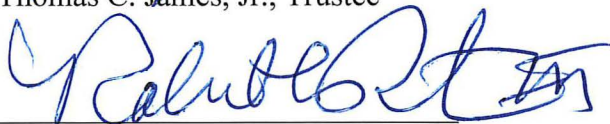
Thomas J. Weidman, Chairman



Tracy Schwegmann, Vice Chairman



Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee



Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
09/20/2022