

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

November 1, 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, Law Director Barbieri, Fiscal Officer Porter, Administrator Kellums, Fire Chief Penny, Planning & Zoning Administrator Miller, and Sgt. Losekamp from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office reporting on behalf of Lt. Tarr.

The invocation from Bethel Baptist Temple was read by Mr. Kellums.

Pledge to the Flag.

Approval of the October 18, 2022 Trustees Meeting Minutes

The October 18, 2022 Trustees Meeting minutes were presented for approval. Mr. James made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann, to accept them.

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

Proclamation – In Recognition of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

A Proclamation designating November, 2022 Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in Sycamore Township was read by Ms. Schwegmann. Mr. James made a motion to pass the Proclamation. Mr. Weidman seconded the motion.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

The Proclamation passed this 1st day of November, 2022.

Public Comments

None

Planning & Zoning Report

Mr. Miller reported he had a draft resolution prepared approving the request for Zoning Case 2022-14MA for the Board's consideration if they would like to proceed with an approval.

The resolution "Approving Case Number 2022-14MA for a Zone Change and Major Adjustment to a PUD for Cincinnati United Contractors, LLC in Sycamore Township and Dispensing with a Second Reading" was presented by Mr. Miller.

Mr. Weidman noted this resolution is for the zoning case that was the subject of the public hearing earlier that evening at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann, dispensing with a second reading.

Mr. Weidman said the applicants did a great job and it will be an awesome project.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution 2022-106 passed this 1st day of November, 2022

The resolution "Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage, Refuse and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 6510 Kugler Mill Road, Sycamore Township, OH 45236" was presented by Mr. Miller. Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann, dispensing with a second reading.

Mr. Miller displayed photos of a nuisance property for the Board and described the property maintenance code violations on the property.

Mr. James asked if the property was occupied.

Mr. Miller answered he believes it is occupied but the Zoning Department has been unsuccessful getting a response from the owner.

Mr. Kellums asked if this is the owner who is overseas a lot; saying he had a difficult time getting a hold of them during the Kugler Mill Road Project.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution 2022-107 passed this 1st day of November, 2022

Mr. Miller reported there are two cases scheduled for public hearings before the Zoning Commission on November 14, 2022. He said the first one is a PUD2 for Robert Lucke Group which will come before the Board of Trustees in December. He said the request is for a mixed-use development at the corner of Northlake Drive and E. Kemper Road including office, retail and a restaurant or café. Mr. Miller reported the second case is unusual as it is a PUD1 for a property on 1st Avenue in Highpoint that is zoned commercial but has been historically used for residential purposes.

Mr. Miller reported CIG is looking for zoning approval so they can get a final certificate of occupancy from Hamilton County. He said he has been working with them to have issues on site addressed so that all zoning standards are met.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Sgt. Losekamp reported Car 80, the last of the vehicles that were purchased by Sycamore Township, has been placed into service. He also reported there have been incidents at Bechtold Park over the last two weeks. He said Mr. Miller had assisted the Sheriff's Office with obtaining security video. He reported an arrest has been made in one of the incidents and the person involved in an auto accident there had been located.

EMS/Fire Report

Chief Penny reported Halloween went well and the crews passed out candy without any runs or interruptions. He then stated he had received a letter with a \$250 donation from a patient in appreciation of EMS services provided.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Kellums reported the ball field rentals and restrooms are closed for the season.

Mr. Kellums said at the last meeting there was discussion about the Special Events Committee's recommendation to bring back the Festival in Sycamore. He reported since then he has spoken with Parks Supervisor Jason Petty and some committee members who are excited about getting involved and helping to secure sponsorships which is key to holding the event. Mr. Kellums distributed a list of possible bands and asked the Board for direction on a budget. He said the committee recommends having one national act on Saturday night only and the remaining bands would be regional or local.

Mr. Weidman stated he would like to focus on the national act first.

Ms. Schwegmann stated she is pleased to see there are many bands listed at a lower price range and spoke about getting a good mix of bands to bring people to the event.

Mr. Kellums noted the national act needs to be selected in a timely manner before they are booked elsewhere.

Mr. James said he prefers that the Township stick with local bands but if the consensus is to bring in a national act, he would like to limit the cost.

There was continued discussion about the best way to proceed and a price range to focus on for a national act. It was decided to set a maximum of \$30,000.00 for a national act with the hopes of negotiating that lower.

Mr. Kellums reported the Maintenance Department is working hard trying to keep up with leaf collection which is a struggle due to the lack of temporary labor. He stated Plainfield Road is set to be milled on Thursday with paving for Plainfield Road and Larchview Drive scheduled for next week.

Mr. James said a resident reached out to him complimenting Assistant Superintendent Steve Reutelshofer on his quick response when a pothole was reported.

Law Director Report

Mr. Barbieri stated he had nothing to report.

Administrator Report

Mr. Kellums reported he had received an email about SORTA coming in to do a presentation at a future Trustee Meeting.

Mr. Weidman said, for the record, there was a bus parked in front of Nordstrom backing up traffic on Montgomery Road at 4:00 p.m.

The resolution "Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission & Authorizing the Necessary Levies & Certifying them to the County Auditor" was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann, dispensing with a second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution 2022-108 passed this 1st day of November, 2022

Mr. Kellums reported he had a couple of resolutions prepared having to do with property and casualty insurance. He stated the Township is currently with OTARMA. He said this year the Township received two offers. He said two other companies had issues; HCC would not cover the Sheriff vehicles and Zurich would not cover the liability due to lawsuits. Mr. Kellums said we are down to either OTARMA or The Ohio Plan.

Mr. Kellums reported he had put a committee together, which included Mr. Miller and Chief Penny, other department heads and himself, to review the two proposals. He said the proposals are apples to apples as far as coverage and cost. Mr. Kellums said the big difference and one concern the committee had, which was brought up in last year's discussion also, is that if you leave OTARMA with an open liability claim they will not continue to cover it, or if the Township received a claim for that coverage year after we leave, they will not cover it. He noted they will cover open property claims after you leave. Mr. Kellums said The Ohio Plan has made all liability retroactive to November 1, 2021 when the Township contracted with OTARMA, so there is no lapse in coverage.

Mr. Kellums reported the cost of coverage with The Ohio plan is \$137,237.00 and with OTARMA is \$137,828.00 and the coverage is the same. He said the committee was unanimous in its concern about OTARMA's liability clause noting, if we were to leave OTARMA, now is the time as we have no open claims.

Mr. Weidman stated when we switched from HCC to OTARMA last year he had expressed concerns about the liability clause. He said he does not believe the previous Township Administrator had The Ohio Plan come in because of litigation he had with The Ohio Plan from a previous employment with another Township. Mr. Weidman said the liability clause issue with OTARMA is frightening to him based on past history and, since neither HCC nor Zurich will cover us after the last litigation thereat from our previous Administrator, he is in favor of moving to The Ohio Plan. He concluded we should not risk the liability exposure with OTARMA and now is a good time to leave because we do not have any open liability claims and The Ohio Plan has made the liability coverage retroactive.

Ms. Schwegmann agreed and pointed out OTARMA had to obtain a quote from a third party for cyber coverage.

Mr. Kellums said OTARMA quoted the cyber, but the coverage was insufficient.

Ms. Schwegmann stated the appropriate amount of cyber coverage is included with The Ohio Plan.

Mr. James agreed going with The Ohio Plan makes sense but said we were having trouble getting quotes last time because of litigation threats made while our former Administrator was still here. He stated those threats were not made by the former Administrator. He said there was other pending litigation as well that caused our exposure to go up making it difficult to get quotes. He said for whatever reason the Board chose to go with OTARMA at the time, he thought unanimously, but The Ohio Plan certainly makes sense here.

The resolution "Authorizing the Township Administrator to Approve a Contract for Property and Casualty Insurance" 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 read Section 1 of the resolution which stated, "The Board hereby authorizes the Township Administrator to approve a contract with The Ohio Plan for the provision of property and casualty insurance for a premium in an amount not to exceed \$137,237.00."

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution 2022-109 passed this 1st day of November, 2022

The resolution "Final Resolution Enacted by the Board of Trustees, Hamilton County, Ohio, Hereinafter Referred to as the Legislative Authority/Local Public Agency (LPA), in the Matter of the Stated Described Project" was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. Kellums read the description of the stated project from the resolution saying it "consists of rehabilitating Bridge No. HAM-71-1858 (SFN 3107620) located on Snider Road over I.R. 71, including parapets, vandal protection fence, minor bridge repairs/upgrades, approach work, guardrail, sidewalk, signage, and pavement markings, lying within Sycamore Township." He pointed out for the Board this is in regard to the decorative vandal fence. He said Mr. Barbieri did a great job with ODOT to make sure the Township is liable for nothing but the vandal fence.

Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann, dispensing with a second reading.

Mr. James stated there is a \$150,000.00 cap the Board of Trustees voted to impose and if the cost of the fence exceeds that, the Administrator has been instructed to turn that down. He said there is a process in which the Township has three days to decide to either proceed or reject the bid. He said he is not in favor of spending any money on this fence, noting this does not obligate us to do it; but it does move the project along.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution 2022-110 passed this 1st day of November, 2022

Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00

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

22-135-1	Blanket Vendor	Admin Contract Services	\$75,000.00
22-165-14	World Fuel Services	Fuel – Roads	\$17,500.00
22-295	Stryker Medical	Lucas Equipment Maintenance Agreement	\$14,320.80
22-296	Ohio Treasurer	Ohio Public Works Loan	\$37,499.18
22-297	US Bank	2014 TriHealth Payment	\$137,525.00
22-300	US Bank	2016 Refunding Payment	\$568,850.00
22-301	Cincinnati Schools	School Payment After Payment	\$259,857.13

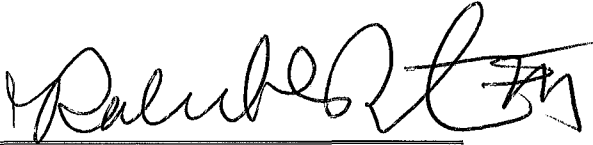
Mr. James made a motion to approve the purchase orders as presented. Ms. Schwegmann seconded. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Fiscal Officer Report

Pay Bills and Read Receipts

The receipts in the amount of \$118,881.86 and disbursements in the amount of \$1,733,007.78 for November 1, 2022 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. James, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann.
Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: Mr. James: Aye; Ms. Schwegmann: Aye; Mr. Weidman: Aye

Trustee Comments

Ms. Schwegmann thanked Township staff for their work on leaf collection. She reminded people next Tuesday is Election Day and encouraged people to vote. She noted next Friday is Veterans Day and if you see a Veteran, thank them for their service.

Mr. James echoed Ms. Schwegmann’s comments and added that election workers are also desperately needed by the Board of Elections and each of the major parties. He encouraged people to consider helping if they have the time.

Executive Session

Mr. Weidman made a motion to adjourn into executive session as permitted by Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) to consider the employment, dismissal, discipline, or compensation of a public employee with the Township Law Director.

Mr. James seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Weidman invited Mr. Kellums, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Porter into the executive session with the Trustees and Law Director.

- End Regular Session: 7:43 p.m.
- Begin Executive Session: 7:48 p.m.
- End Executive Session: 8:35 p.m.
- Back in Regular Session: 8:38 p.m.

Mr., Porter called roll and all three Trustees indicated they were present.


Mr. James made a motion that the Township continue with the current group health plan in 2023 subject to the committee recommendations embodied in this document which will be placed in the minutes.

Group Health Plan Committee Recommendations:


- 1) Eliminate the High Deductible Plan Option 1 (HSA 1) with the \$2,000/\$4,000 deductible as a plan option. Members of the plan who are already enrolled in that plan will be grandfathered but that option will no longer be offered to new employees, nor may a member of the Standard Option Plan (HRA) choose to change to the High Deductible Plan Option 1 (HSA 1).
- 2) Eliminate the Standard Option Plan (HRA) as a plan option. This option will no longer be offered to new employees, nor may a member of either of the other plans choose to move to Standard Option Plan (HRA).
- 3) There will be no change from the 2022 rates to the employees' portion of the premium for any of the plan options.
- 4) The HSA deductible will be fully funded one last time for any employee who chooses to move from the Standard Option Plan (HRA) to the High Deductible Plan Option 2 (HSA 2). The Township will seed the Health Savings Account as follows: 100% in 2023, 75% in 2024 and 50% the 2025. This will be the last time this incentive to move from the HRA will be offered. It is the Township's intention starting in year four to match HSA contributions dollar for dollar up to 50% of the plan deductible, as finances allow.
- 5) There will be two co-pays added to the Standard Option Plan (HRA): \$100.00 co-pay for emergency room visits and \$50.00 co-pay for outpatient imaging services at the hospital.
- 6) MedBen will assign a designated representative to serve as a primary point of contact for the Township's Group Health Plan.

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

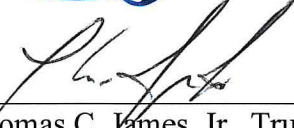
The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.



Thomas J. Weidman, Chairman



Tracy Schwegmann, Vice Chairman



Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee



Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

11/01/2022