

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Schwegmann.

The invocation was read by Mr. Kellums.

Pledge to the Flag.

Fiscal Officer Oath of Office

Law Director Barbieri administered the Oath of Office for Fiscal Officer to Jonathan T. Deters.

Present for the meeting were Chairman Schwegmann, Vice Chairman Weidman, Trustee James, Fiscal Officer Deters, Law Director Barbieri, Administrator Kellums, Superintendent Reutelshofer, Planning & Zoning Administrator Uckotter, and Sgt. Sovern from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Fire Chief Penny was absent.

Ms. Schwegmann asked Mr. Deters to note all three Trustees were present and welcomed Jeff Uckotter, the Township's new Planning & Zoning Administrator, to the Board.

Approval of the January 17, 2023, Trustee Meeting Minutes

The January 17, 2023, Trustee meeting minutes were presented for approval. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to accept them.

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

Public Comments

No members of the public signed up to comment.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Sgt. Sovern stated he had no report.

EMS/Fire Report

Chief Penny was not present to report.

Planning & Zoning Report

Mr. Uckotter reported he had two nuisance property resolutions for the Board's consideration. He then displayed photos of the violations on the property.

Resolution – 12098 3rd 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 12098 3rd Avenue, Sycamore Township, OH 45249" was presented by Mr. Uckotter.

Mr. Weidman noted this is a repeat offender.

Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weidman, dispensing with a second reading. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution 2023-003 passed this 7th day of February, 2023

Resolution – 12129 1st 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 12129 1st Avenue, Sycamore Township, OH 45249” was presented by Mr. Uckotter. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James, dispensing with a second reading.

Mr. Weidman noted for the record this is a repeat offender.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution 2023-004 passed this 7th day of February, 2023

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Reutelshofer reported he had a resolution for the Board’s consideration.

Resolution – Approving a Contract for the 2023 Reclamite Road Repair Project

The resolution “Approving a Contract for the 2023 Reclamite Road Repair Project and Dispensing with the Second Reading” was presented by Mr. Reutelshofer. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution 2023-005 passed this 7th day of February, 2023

Mr. Kellums asked Mr. Reutelshofer to report on the upcoming Cape Seal project.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported there will be an extensive pavement preservation program. He stated he has solicited a proposal from our contractor and expects to have a proposal back within the next couple of weeks. He reported the program will cover roughly 11.5 miles of Township roads and cooperation from residents will be necessary.

Ms. Schwegmann asked what areas of the Township would be impacted.

Mr. Reutelshofer answered the program will impact about six and a half miles in northern Sycamore Township and about five miles in the southern portion which is 25% of our road network.

Mr. James reported Sycamore Township’s Kugler Mill Road Project was mentioned as an example of good use of grant money at the Ohio Township Association conference in January. He credited Mr. Reutelshofer and Mr. Kellums for their work in securing those funds.

Law Director Report

Mr. Barbieri stated he had nothing to report.

Administrator Report

Mr. Kellums reported there was a big fire on Montgomery Road in which 75-100 golf carts were lost. He said the firefighters did a great job noting no buildings were damaged, and all the damage was contained to the golf carts that were outside.

Mr. Kellums reported the electric aggregation program was suspended due to the inability to secure a rate that could compete with Duke Energy's default rate. He said the last rate we had during the aggregation was 5.19 cents per kWh, and we are trying to secure a rate before usage goes up in the summer. He said Duke's default rate is now 9.5 cents per kWh, and it looks like we can get a rate of about 7.5 cents per kWh. Mr. Kellums requested a motion to allow him to sign an aggregation agreement with whatever supplier is suggested by Energy Alliance at a rate not to exceed 7.5 cents per kWh and for a term not to exceed 24 months beginning in May 2023.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to allow the Administrator to sign an agreement with Energy Alliance for a rate not to exceed 7.5 cents per kWh. Mr. James seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Kellums reported there was a meeting that evening with Duke Energy's Government Affairs Liaison, their vegetation specialist, and the Director of Operations regarding the power outages in the Heitmeyer Farms subdivision. He said they have done a thorough seven-year study and determined there are an average of 3.5 power outages per year in the area in question. Mr. Kellums reported in speaking with Amberley Village was previously determined to have had 12 power outages per year and was, therefore, eligible to have power lines moved underground.

Mr. Kellums said Duke Energy has already done some tree trimming in the area and will be doing more. He noted there is one large dead tree that they know must be removed. He said Duke's report shows out of 13 sustained events, 12 were caused by vegetation. Mr. Kellums said Duke Energy will also start a full circuit assessment for the whole area beginning in April.

Mr. Kellums said Mr. Weidman has been working with Adam Kocher, the point of contact for the residents in Heitmeyer, and Chad Schaefer of Duke Energy. He reported at the time of the last power outage, Mr. Kocher called Mr. Weidman, who called Duke Energy, and was able to get it taken care of right of way.

Mr. Weidman said after many years of not getting very far, we now have a good working relationship with Duke Energy on this issue. He said Mr. James had suggested residents contact PUCO.

Mr. James stated the email said that in his email to Duke's Regional President, he noted that had been his recommendation in the past.

Mr. Weidman discouraged the residents from contacting PUCO because we have made an agreement with the President of Duke that we would withhold a formal request to PUCO based on her willingness to go out of her way to address this problem. He said there is now a good working relationship with her, and social media rants undermine the process. He asked the residents to be patient noting the Board is working hard on this and hopes to have a good resolution.

Ms. Schwegmann commented it is good to have one point of contact for the residents and for the Township. She said this helps to keep a clean line of communication and respect the agreements that have been made with Duke Energy as we work to resolve the issues. She noted she was not present for the meeting with Duke Energy, but it sounds as though we are making headway and she thanked those involved for their efforts.

Mr. James added he does not disagree with that and he recommended to residents they refrain from complaining to PUCO. He said it was not clear that Mr. Weidman had made an agreement to that effect and requested Mr. Weidman share information with the Board.

Mr. Weidman stated he had communicated that to Mr. Kocher in Mr. James' neighborhood and Mr. Kocher said he had told Mr. James. He read a portion of Mr. James' email to the residents about submitting complaints to PUCO and said it undermines the process. He said Mr. James can do as he pleases but he requests the residents refrain from torpedoing Duke Energy on social media and complaining to PUCO.

Mr. James agreed and said that the email contained a quote of what he sent to Duke's president that morning having not gotten a report from Mr. Kocher as to what Mr. Weidman had told him. He said the recommendation in a prior meeting had been to complain to PUCO.

Ms. Schwegmann asked if the Board members now felt that there is a clear path to resolution. The Board nodded in agreement.

Mr. James requested communication about this process be made to all the Board members.

Mr. Kellums stated he had a couple of resolutions for the Board's consideration.

Resolution – Requesting the County Auditor Make Advance Payments of Taxes

The resolution "Requesting the County Auditor Make Advance Payments of Taxes and Dispensing with a Second Reading" was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye. Resolution 2023-006 passed this 7th day of February, 2023

Resolution – Authorizing and Directing a Transfer of Funds to the CIC

The resolution "Authorizing and Directing a Transfer of Funds for Economic Development Purposes to Sycamore Township CIC, Inc., The Designated Community Improvement Corporation of Sycamore Township, and Dispensing with the Second Reading" was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye. Resolution 2023-007 passed this 7th day of February, 2023

Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00

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

23-83 Northstar Artists LLC	Deposit for Spin Doctors 07/15/23	\$12,500.00
23-84 Music of the Spin Doctors, Inc.	Balance for Spin Doctors 07/15/23	\$12,500.00

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve purchase orders over \$5,000.00. Mr. James seconded. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

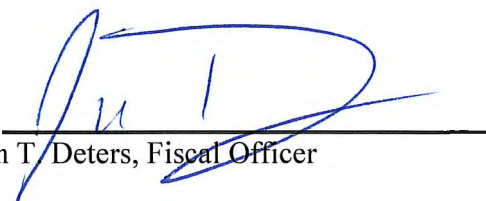
Fiscal Officer Report

Pay Bills and Read Receipts

The receipts in the amount of \$4,489,229.27 and disbursements in the amount of \$572,424.26 for February 7, 2023 were read by Mr. Deters and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Deters stated he would like to thank former Fiscal Officer Rob Porter for all his help as he transitions into this role. He thanked the Trustees and the residents for trusting him to do this job.

I hereby certify that the money for payment of these bills is in the fund provided and duly and properly appropriated.

Signed: 
Jonathan T. Deters, Fiscal Officer

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the receipts and disbursements. Mr. James seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Trustees Comments

Mr. Weidman stated there is a new community bank in Sycamore Township, Heartland Bank in the Redstone Building. He said he had lunch with the President of the bank who is interested in engaging in activities in Sycamore Township.

Ms. Schwegmann said she attended the ribbon cutting for Heartland Bank and we are glad to have them in Sycamore Township.

Mr. James stated things do not have to be contentious and asked the Board to all work together and communicate. He welcomed Mr. Deters and Mr. Uckotter to the Board.

Ms. Schwegmann also welcomed the new members of the Board. She stated many of the Board members attended the Ohio Township Association Winter Conference a couple of weeks ago and heard a lot of good information about best practices.

Announcements

Ms. Schwegmann stated the offices of Sycamore Township will be closed on Monday, February 20th in honor of Presidents' Day and the February 22nd Board of Zoning Appeals meeting has been canceled. She encouraged people to see the Township website calendar for all other meetings and events.

Executive Session

Ms. Schwegmann stated the next item on the agenda is to adjourn into executive session as permitted by Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) to consider the compensation of a public employee.

Mr. Weidman made the motion, seconded by Mr. James.

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

Ms. Schwegmann invited Mr. Kellums, Mr. Deters, and Mr. Barbieri to the executive session with the three Trustees.

End Regular Session: 7:27 p.m.

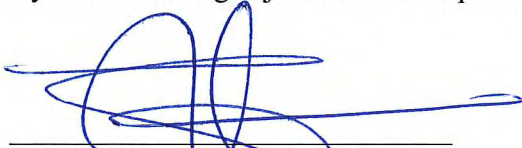
Begin Executive Session: 7:30 p.m.

End Executive Session: 8:45 p.m.


Back in Regular Session: 8:47 p.m.

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

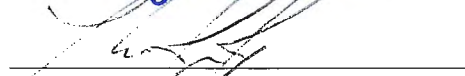
Mr. Weidman made a motion to adjourn. Mr. James seconded. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.



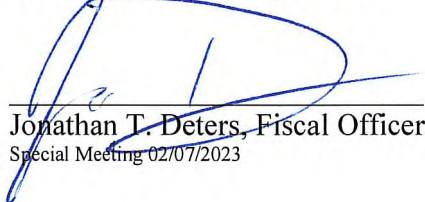
Tracy Schwegmann, Chairman



Thomas J. Weidman, Vice Chairman



Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee



Jonathan T. Deters, Fiscal Officer
Special Meeting 02/07/2023