

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

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

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

The invocation was read by Mr. Kellums.

Pledge to the Flag.

Approval of the March 21, 2023, Kenwood Traffic Study Public Meeting Minutes

The March 21, 2023, Kenwood Traffic Study Public 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

Approval of the March 21, 2023, Trustee Meeting Minutes

The March 21, 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

Presentation – SORTA/METRO

Postponed to later in the meeting due to the late arrival of SORTA/METRO representative.

Public Comments

Tracy Hughes, of 4705 Duneden Avenue, addressed the Board in regard to the Kenwood Traffic Study. Ms. Hughes asked for clarification on the notification process for the Kenwood Traffic Study Public Meeting, expressing concerns about only some residents in her neighborhood not getting notice and asking why businesses were not notified. She also asked about how possible development could impact the traffic study recommendations.

Mr. Kellums responded that businesses along Kenwood Road and Montgomery Road were sent notices addressed to the property owner. He stated all residents on Orchard and the neighborhood going back to Duneden. He said the 200 feet limit was not used in this case as the Township wanted to notify more people. Mr. Kellums said TEC Engineering did include possible future development impacts in the study.

Ms. Schwegmann reported that the public opinion survey for the traffic study was mailed to everyone in Ms. Hughes's neighborhood. Mr. Kellums noted the survey was mailed this week.

Ms. Hughes asked about vendor and sponsor solicitation for the Festival in Sycamore and if sponsor information is available to the public. She noted she had not read about it in the minutes.

Mr. Kellums explained how the Township solicits sponsors and noted sponsor information is public. He said the sponsors are solicited through a mailing and instructed to respond to the office so it would not be in the minutes.

Mr. James offered to send Ms. Hughes the Festival in Sycamore vendor list.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Lt. Tarr stated he had no report.

Mr. James stated a resident reported the Five Seasons Club has put up signs diverting traffic through the Somerset neighborhood to access the club due to the Snider Road bridge work. He asked if there was anything that could be done to prevent cars from being diverted through the neighborhood.

Lt. Tarr responded the Sheriff's Office cannot prevent cars from traveling on a public road, but there can be a police presence there to look for traffic violations.

Mr. Kellums addressed this issue also, saying radar and "No Thru Traffic" signs have been placed in both neighborhoods in the area to deter people from going that way.

EMS/Fire Report

Chief Penny reported the Fire Department has been busy gathering information for the Medicare Audit and thanked the Township administrative staff for assistance with it. He said the audit is about 92% complete and recognized Firefighter/Medic Matt Lebhar for taking the lead.

Planning & Zoning Report

Mr. Uckotter reported he had two public nuisance resolutions for the Board's consideration. He went on to present the information on the properties in question.

Resolution – 7198 Kenwood Road Nuisance Vehicle

The resolution "Providing for the Removal of a Junk Vehicle(s) and the Proper Disposal, Storage or Impoundment of a Motor Vehicle(s) for the Property Located at 7198 Kenwood Road, Sycamore Township, Ohio 45236 by Implementing the Procedures Set Forth in Sycamore Township Resolution 2012-14, and Sections §§ 505.173, 505.85, and 505.871 of the Ohio Revised Code" was presented by Mr. Uckotter. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James, dispensing with a second reading.

Mr. James asked if any other attempt was made to contact the owner besides a letter such as a knock on the door.

Mr. Uckotter answered Planning & Zoning Inspector Kevin Clark's practice is to knock on the door when he initially visits the property. He also noted the violation letter is mailed both regular mail and certified mail.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution 2023-022 passed this 4th day of April, 2023.

Resolution – 8566 Plainfield Road 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 8566 Plainfield Road, Sycamore Township, Ohio 45236" was presented by Mr. Uckotter. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James, dispensing with a second reading.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution 2023-023 passed this 4th day of April, 2023

Ms. Schwegmann stated Mr. Reutelshofer was not present and Mr. Kellums would be reporting on his behalf. She then took the opportunity to announce that April 4, 2023 was Mr. Kellum's 40th anniversary with the Township. She congratulated him and thanked him for his service.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Kellums reported on behalf of Mr. Reutelshofer. He stated mulch had been spread at Bob Meyer Park and more will be put down in the coming weeks.

Mr. Kellums reported the Special Events Committee approved the Festival in Sycamore vendors at their last meeting. He stated Saturday, May 6th is the Pollinator Seminar & Plant Sale at Bechtold Park. He stated the Cincinnati Zoo, Cincinnati Nature Preserve and Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative are also involved with that event, noting the Cincinnati Nature Preserve will hold a plant sale there.

Mr. Kellums reported he had a resolution for the Board's consideration later in the meeting for engineering for a shelter at Bechtold Park. He explained the last old wooden shelter at Bechtold Park needs to be replaced to bring it up to date with the rest of the shelters at the park that look so nice.

Mr. Kellums reported that a preconstruction meeting with Ford Development was held for the Gideon Lane Culvert Project, stating the project is estimated to begin in July. He said the start date is later than hoped due to a wait of 12-18 weeks for the box culvert. Mr. Kellums said the project should be completed by September.

Mr. Kellums stated the start date for the Montgomery Road Sidewalk Project (Stewart to Ken Arbre) had been pushed back to mid-May.

Mr. Kellums reiterated that the Kenwood Traffic Study public opinion survey was mailed to residents in the area.

Mr. James asked if it was mailed to those living in the Aspire apartments. Mr. Kellums indicated it was not. Mr. James suggested putting a sign up to notify them.

Ms. Schwegmann suggested notifying the management of the apartment and requesting they disperse that information out internally.

Law Director Report

Mr. Barbieri Landmark Recovery has filed an Administrative Appeal of the Board's decision to deny their request for a Major Adjustment to a PUD. He said the appeal has been assigned to Judge Beridon and a case management conference has been scheduled for the morning of May 8th in which he anticipates getting a schedule to brief the issues.

Mr. Barbieri stated there was a resolution on the agenda for the Board's consideration to approve and apply for funds by virtue of an opioid national settlement the State of Ohio has opted into with Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart. He said assuming the resolution is approved, the releases must be signed by the Township Administrator and sent in by April 18th.

Administrator Report

Mr. Kellums reported he had received estimated service fees from the Hamilton County Storm Water District in the amount of \$208,932.00 for Sycamore Township residents in 2024. He stated it is a glorified tax that the Township has never agreed with and requested permission from the Board not to sign it. The Board agreed and said that could be an administrative decision with no vote necessary.

Resolution – Bechtold Park Shelter

The resolution "Authorizing a Contract with Brandstetter/Carroll, Inc. for Engineering, Design, Bidding, and Construction Administration for a Bechtold Park Shelter 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. Kellums said the cost will be \$12,000.00.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution 2023-024 passed this 4th day of April, 2023

Resolution – Opioid Settlement

The resolution "An Emergency Resolution Providing Authority to the Township Administrator to Execute the Subdivision and Special District Settlement Participation Forms for the Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart Settlement Participation Agreements Pursuant to the OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding and Placing any Received Funds in the Township's OneOhio Fund" 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 2023-025 passed this 4th day of April, 2023

Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00

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

23-66-02	Blanket Vendor	Fire Vehicles	\$20,000.00
23-111	Deer Park Schools	1 st Half School Payment	\$893,562.90
23-112	Great Oaks	1 st Half School Payment	\$200,312.12
23-113	Princeton Schools	1 st Half School Payment	\$357,274.00
23-114	Sycamore Schools	1 st Half School Payment	\$93,220.44
23-115	Indian Hill Schools	1 st Half School Payment	\$3,267,931.61

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

Fiscal Officer Report

Pay Bills and Read Receipts

The receipts in the amount of \$811,580.66 and disbursements in the amount of \$5,122,804.54 for April 4, 2023 were read by Mr. Deters 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: 
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.

Presentation – SORTA/METRO

Mark Samaan, Short Range Planning Manager for SORTA, and Allison Jeffries, Service Planner for SORTA, addressed the Board about the proposed enhanced transit service and the bus rapid transit service on Montgomery Road. Ms. Jeffries gave updates on service changes to Sycamore Township since the fall, including a new Route 5, which she stated is now running on Plainfield Road.

Mr. Samaan said METRO has chosen Reading Road Corridor and Hamilton Corridor as the two corridors for Bus Rapid Transit, and the project is moving on to the planning and design phase. He reported Montgomery Road will be part of a plan for enhanced corridor service, which will determine the best routes to northeastern Hamilton County and bus stop improvements.

Ms. Schwegmann asked how they determine the best routes and where people want to go.

Mr. Samaan answered that they use surveys from their own ridership and regional travel models from OKI for traffic patterns throughout.

Mr. Samaan said they are prioritizing highly used bus stops for improvements. He said that in Sycamore Township, the most used bus stop is on Montgomery Road at the Kenwood Towne Centre near Nordstrom.

Mr. James noted one of the points made in the Township's Kenwood Road Traffic Study was that some of the placements of bus stops are not optimal for traffic flow and asked if the location of the bus stops will be looked at also.

Mr. Samaan answered yes, METRO will be looking at bus stop locations. The Board asked additional questions about the plans for bus stop improvements and what input the Township may have in those plans.

Mr. Weidman requested ridership data from Mr. Samaan for routes 2, 3X, 4, 5, Metro Plus, and 67. Mr. Weidman noted there are probably two buses an hour on Route 67, but he has never seen a person riding on the bus. Mr. Weidman asked why METRO would run that many buses on that route when there is no ridership.

Mr. Samaan answered Route 67 begins in Fields Ertel in Symmes Township and ends in Forest Park and gave some history on the route. He said since December 4th, as part of the Reinventing METRO plan, it has been an all-day cross-town local route to connect east and west on Kemper Road. He said the route would be assessed after six to 12 months to look at ridership and if resources are where they need to be. He said most of the ridership is from Blue Ash to the west on that route and noted they do not want to have buses that are empty for a significant amount of time. He said all of the buses are equipped with passenger counters. Mr. Weidman requested ridership data for routes in the Township.

Mr. Weidman brought up issues with buses stopping on the road with blinkers on in areas that already have traffic issues. He reiterated Mr. James' comment about the bus stop locations, noting that the bus stop on Montgomery Road causes major issues with the Montgomery Road/Kenwood Road intersection.

Ms. Schwegmann discussed how many buses she sees in that already congested area that do not seem to have the ridership to justify their benefit to the community.

Mr. Samaan stated he would send the Board ridership data by stop.

Mr. James brought up driver safety issues and described an incident in a traffic circle.

Mr. Weidman asked about the bus he described that had stopped in front of Arby's on Montgomery Road.

Mr. Samaan answered bus drivers are not supposed to be stopping in a travel lane.

Mr. Kellums asked if METRO would be offering more buses on Montgomery Road as an enhanced corridor.

Mr. Samaan answered no, it would remain generally at the frequency it is now. He said enhanced means looking at the whole Montgomery Road corridor and assessing what is needed. He said he would address concerns about the buses stopping in traffic lanes and would like to see how they can mesh with the Township's traffic study.

The Board asked additional questions about the routes in the Township and the number and frequency of buses going through Kenwood. Ms. Schwegmann emphasized the importance of optimizing mass transit. The Board also clarified that the ridership data they would like METRO to provide to them for routes 2, 3X, 4, 5, Metro Plus, and 67, noting they would like the data hourly by bus stop.

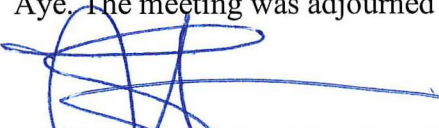
Trustees Comments

Mr. Weidman stated the National Weather Service had issued a storm warning, so there was bad weather coming. He reported the North Trash Bash will be on April 14th and 15th, the South Trash Bash on April 28th and 29th, and document shredding will be on April 22nd. He noted that these events are for residents only.


Announcements

Ms. Schwegmann referred people to the Township's website for information about meetings and events.


Mr. Weidman made a motion to adjourn. Mr. James seconded. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.



Tracy Schwegmann, Chairman



Thomas J. Weidman, Vice Chairman



Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee



Jonathan T. Deters, Fiscal Officer
Regular Meeting 04/04/2023