

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Tuesday, May 2, 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, Assistant Law Director Katherine Barbieri, Administrator Kellums, Superintendent Reutelshofer, Planning & Zoning Administrator Uckotter, Fire Chief Penny, and Lt. Tarr from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

The invocation was read by Mr. Reutelshofer.

Pledge to the Flag.

Approval of the April 18, 2023, Public Hearing Minutes

The April 18, 2023, Public Hearing minutes were presented for approval. Mr. Weidman made a motion to accept them, seconded by Mr. James.
Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Approval of the April 18, 2023, Trustee Meeting Minutes

The April 18, 2023, Trustee Meeting minutes were presented for approval. Mr. Weidman made a motion to accept them, seconded by Mr. James.
Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Public Comments

No members of the public signed up to speak.

Planning & Zoning Report

Mr. Uckotter reported he had a resolution prepared for the Board's consideration for Case 2023-03MA, which was heard earlier that evening.

Resolution – Zoning Case 2023-03MA

The resolution "Approving a Major Adjustment to a Site Plan for an Approved Planned Unit Development for Reconstructive Orthopedics Properties, LLC at 8099 Cornell Road and Dispensing with a Second Reading" was presented by Mr. Uckotter.

Mr. Weidman requested he read the condition.

Mr. Uckotter read the condition: The Applicant shall submit a landscaping plan compliant with the Sycamore Township Zoning Resolution that shall be approved by Zoning Department staff. The boundary buffer shall be amended to include a similar amount of columnar trees to match the vegetative buffer of the submittal plan originally showing the Black Gums.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution 2023-029 passed this 2nd day of May, 2023.

Mr. Uckotter stated he had four public nuisance resolutions to present for the Board's consideration. He reviewed the violations for each and displayed photos.

Resolution – 8108 School 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 8108 School Road, Sycamore Township, Ohio 45249 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. Weidman asked if the tag on the car was current.

Mr. Uckotter answered staff did not think so, but the plate was not visible.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution 2023-030 passed this 2nd day of May, 2023.

Resolution – 12151 4th Avenue 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 12151 4th Avenue, Sycamore Township, Ohio 45249 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. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution 2023-031 passed this 2nd day of May, 2023.

Resolution – 4056 Limerick 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 4056 Limerick Avenue, 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 2023-032 passed this 2nd day of May, 2023

Resolution – 7294 Chetbert Drive 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 7294 Chetbert Drive,

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 2023-033 passed this 2nd day of May, 2023

Mr. Weidman asked Mr. Uckotter about the property at the corner of Park and 4th Avenue.

Mr. Uckotter discussed a goal of making a text change so that criminal charges would apply to property maintenance so that the Township may take owners to housing court.

Mr. Kellums said we cannot bring these issues to housing court as a civil offense any longer.

Mr. Weidman asked what must be done to change it to a criminal offense.

Ms. Barbieri said the Law Director’s office has worked on proposed amendments to the Zoning Resolution for the Board to consider.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Lt. Tarr stated he had no report.

Mr. James asked if there was anything that could be done about Metro buses stopping in lanes of traffic, which Ms. Schwegmann noted is occurring even though Metro has said it is not acceptable practice.

Mr. Kellums said he has spoken with Lt. Tarr about this issue and reached out to ODOT as it will require some help from them.

EMS/Fire Report

Chief Penny reported the new part-time fire inspector started last week and finished 18 inspections on his first day out in the field.

Chief Penny reported on issues EMS crews had over the weekend at Jewish Hospital with a patient stuck on their cot due to a lack of nurses and patient backlog. There was a discussion about this issue.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Reutelshofer reported shared recycling results he received from Hamilton County for Sycamore Township’s residential recycling program. He stated in 2022, 1,406 tons of material were diverted from landfills due to residential recycling efforts in the Township. He said the diversion rate from the landfill was 18.02 percent and earned the Township \$17,12.80 for the General Fund from the Residential Recycling Initiative Program.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported some early statistics from the Trash Bash and Document Shredding events. He stated the 24 30-yard roll-off dumpsters were filled at the North Trash Bash, and 33 30-yard roll-off dumpsters were filled at the South Trash Bash. He reported the Trash Bash

events collected 350 tires, 450 gallons of oil, and nine Gaylords of e-waste. Mr. Reutelshofer reported 18,250 pounds of paper was shredded at the Document Shredding event.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported the Parks and Maintenance Department has been very busy this mowing and getting parks and sports fields ready for the season. He complimented the maintenance crew saying the parks and facilities all look great.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported the Pollinator Seminar and Plant Sale is Saturday, May 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and the Spring Compost Give-Away is Saturday, May 13th, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Hartzell United Methodist Church.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported maintenance crews have been performing tasks such as catch basin, pavement, and spot curb repairs in neighborhoods, most recently on Kemperknoll Road, in preparation for the 2023 Road Program. He said there are over 30 catch basins in the Township that will be rebuilt before the kick-off of the road program in late May/early June.

Mr. James thanked the maintenance crew for their work on the Trash Bash events. He then stated he saw we have about \$9,000.00 additional sponsorship money and asked how donations are so far.

Mr. Kellums answered we have \$22,000.00 in sponsorship total.

Mr. James asked about a new street sign for Orchard Lane.

Mr. Reutelshofer said he drew up that contract and had asked Mr. Kellums what to do about Orchard with the traffic study out.

Mr. Kellums said the cost is about \$20,000.00 per intersection, so the prudent thing was to wait to put it up until the traffic study was finalized.

Law Director Report

Ms. Barbieri stated there was no report from the Law Director.

Administrator Report

Mr. Kellums reported he was unable to obtain a rendering for the Snider Road Bridge signage. However, he said he was able to find out that the fabric and the fencing are black, and the sign will look the same as the previous rendering; it just will not be on decorative poles. He said if the Board chooses to participate in this, the cost to the Township will be \$81,036.29, which is much less than the \$250,000.00 for the sign with the decorative fencing. He said the fence on our side with the sidewalk will be 12 feet tall, and on the Symmes Township side, it will be eight feet tall.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to enter into a contract for the Sycamore Township ID sign on the Sycamore Township side of the Snider Road overpass at a cost of \$81,036.29 using TIF funds. Ms. Schwegmann seconded the motion.

Mr. James asked if the price was for the 12-foot fence side.

Mr. Kellums said our cost is 50 percent of the total, noting Symmes will pay the other 50 percent.

Ms. Schwegmann spoke about the sign design.

Mr. Weidman noted the Township's Land Use Plan does call for dedication to Township ID, and this is a great opportunity to get Township ID out there for considerably less money than the previous plan. He stated the sign is not directional but purely for ID, so having it on the 12-foot side is better for the Township.

Ms. Schwegmann stated it is important to give a nod to the northern business district in Sycamore Township.

Mr. Weidman noted these are TIF dollars, not general fund dollars, so it is appropriate to put those funds back into promoting the business district in northern Sycamore Township.

Mr. James stated he was glad to see the money will come from TIF funds, but he thinks any sign on highway bridges is an extravagant waste of money that suggests to taxpayers that we have money to burn. He said he is against this saying it is a "you're now leaving Sycamore" sign where it is placed, and he would rather see us put identity things within the Township. He concluded he does not think it is a good use of taxpayer money and said he is opposed to it.

Mr. Kellums asked Ms. Barbieri if the Township could use TIF funds to pay for a sign on the other side since that is not in Sycamore Township.

Ms. Barbieri said she would have to look into that.

Mr. Weidman said the sign is not directional, and he does not think it will confuse people. He said he agreed with Tracy and did not think we could spend the money in Symmes Township.

Mr. James said he had asked Law Director Larry Barbieri that question earlier and was told we could spend TIF money outside of the Township to promote the Township.

Mr. Deters called roll. Mr. James: No; Mr. Weidman: Aye; Ms. Schwegmann: Aye

Mr. Kellums reported that due to reports of cut-through traffic on Happiness Way, a traffic study was ordered. He stated the results just came in and will be posted on the Township's website. Mr. Kellums said the study showed there is neither a cut-through problem nor a speeding problem. He stated the study showed that 85 percent of the traffic is going 29 MPH or less on one of the roads and 30 MPH or less on the other. He said the amount of traffic is consistent with the number of homes in the area, which means there is minimal to no cut-through traffic.

Mr. Kellums reported that Duke Energy was in the Heitmeyer Farms subdivision on May 2nd and 3rd removing foliage and problem trees, and the work required a planned power outage. He stated the Township tried to communicate that to the residents through social media and the website.

Mr. James reported Duke Energy also posted door hangars to notify the neighbors.

Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00

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

23-64-1	Blanket Vendor	Fire Bunker Gear	\$5,000.00
23-120	US Bank	Tax Increment Revenue Note	\$211,187.50
23-121	Choice One Engineering	ROW Kemper Rd. Sidewalks	\$28,340.00
23-122	US Bank	Series 2014 TriHealth Bond Pymnt	\$51,462.50
23-123	US Bank	2016 Various Purpose Bond Pymnt	\$114,950.00
23-125	CDW Government Inc.	Brother Printer Sheriff Vehicle	\$9,102.04
23-126	Blanket Vendor	Festival in Sycamore 2023	\$20,000.00
23-127-1	US Bank	Balance to Port Authority	\$758,275.51
23-128	River City Entertainment	Audio & Lights Festival 2023	\$21,500.00
23-129	Kaffenbarger Truck Equip	Hydraulic Tailgate Spreader	\$11,179.00
23-130	E-Pak Manufacturing	12 Yard Heavy Duty Roll-Off Cont.	\$6,990.00
23-66-3	Blanket Vendor	Fire Vehicles	\$8,000.00

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve purchase orders over \$5,000.00. Mr. James seconded the motion.

Mr. James commented that the printers for printing tickets in the Sheriff's vehicles are expensive. He asked what happens now with tickets, how many are written, and what revenue is brought in from the tickets.

Lt. Tarr answered he did not have those numbers. He said Hamilton County is moving to an e-citation system in order to streamline processes by filing it electronically right away with the Clerk of Courts. He said Hamilton County is the only County in the State of Ohio not already doing this, so the County is catching up with the times.

Ms. Schwegmann asked if it was for one printer or a printer per vehicle.

Lt. Tarr answered the purchase order amount would cover a printer for each vehicle.

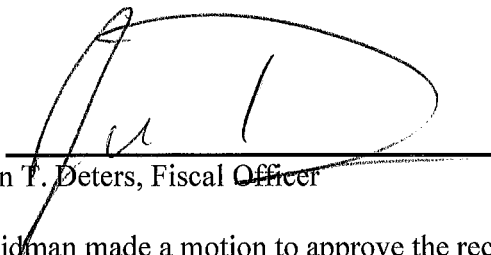
Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Fiscal Officer Report

Pay Bills and Read Receipts

The receipts in the amount of \$171,296.87 and disbursements in the amount of \$1,803,696.14 for May 2, 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.

Trustees Comments

Mr. Weidman reported last week, he attended a meeting with the Sheriff and all of their Captains to talk about some of the technology the Sheriff's Office is implementing. He stated the Snider Road bridge is coming along great, and the Lucke Office and Kids First construction projects are moving a lot of dirt. Mr. Weidman gave a shout-out to Mr. Reutelshofer and the Maintenance Department crews for the great catch basin work they are doing and for making Township facilities look great.

Mr. James thanked staff and crew as well and thanked Duke Energy for their work in Heitmeyer and everyone who helped make that happen.

Announcements

Ms. Schwegmann made the following announcements:

- National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 4, 2023, 12:00 p.m., Township Administration Building (front parking lot)
- Pollinator Seminar & Plant Sale, Saturday, May 6, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Road.
- Canceled – Zoning Commission, Monday, May 8, 2023
- Spring Compost Give-Away, Saturday, May 13, 2023, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Hartzell United Methodist Church, 8999 Applewood Drive
- Canceled – Board of Zoning Appeals, Monday, May 15, 2023

She then referred people to the Township's website for information about meetings and events.

Executive Session

Ms. Schwegmann made a motion to adjourn into executive session as permitted by Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) to consider the employment and compensation of a public employee. Mr. Weidman seconded the motion.

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

End Regular Session:	7:46 p.m.
Begin Executive Session:	7:48 p.m.
End Executive Session:	8:00 p.m.
Back in Regular Session:	8:02 p.m.

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

Mr. Weidman made a motion to hire Michael Gould as Project Manager and Assistant Road Superintendent. Mr. James seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution – Setting the Rate of Pay for a Newly Hired Township Employee

The resolution “Setting the Rate of Pay for a Newly Hired Township Employee” was presented by Mr. Kellums. 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 2023-034 passed this 2nd day of May, 2023.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to adjourn. Mr. James seconded. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



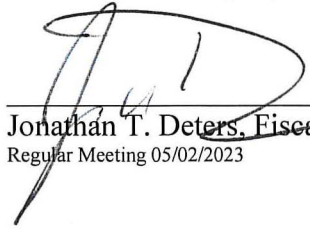
Tracy Schwegmann, Chairman



Thomas J. Weidman, Vice Chairman



Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee



Jonathan T. Deters, Fiscal Officer

Regular Meeting 05/02/2023