

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Tuesday, June 6, 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, Trustee James, Fiscal Officer Deters, Law Director Barbieri, Administrator Kellums, Superintendent Reutelshofer, Planning & Zoning Administrator Uckotter, Fire Chief Penny and Sgt. Sovern from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Vice Chairman Weidman was absent.

The invocation was read by Mr. Kellums.

Pledge to the Flag.

Approval of the May 16, 2023, Trustee Meeting Minutes

The May 16, 2023, Trustee Meeting minutes were presented for approval. Mr. James made a motion to accept them, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann.

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

Public Comments

No members of the public signed up to speak.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Sgt. Sovern reported on a shooting that took place outside of the 312 Bar on Sunday morning, June 4th. He stated it was not a random incident, nor was it directly related to the bar. He reported there was a fight between two individuals at another location, after which one of those individuals walked to the bar, and the other followed. Sgt. Sovern stated they fought outside the bar, a gun was produced, and one individual was shot. He said it was a non-fatal injury, and the subject was caught. Sgt. Sovern reported that there was an arrest made, and the gun was recovered.

Sgt. Sovern stated that the Sheriff's Office is providing free anti-theft devices for the owners of Kia vehicles at District 1, 11021 Hamilton Avenue, District 3, 8871 Weekly Lane, District 4, 6943 Montgomery Road, and District 5, 7954 Beechmont Avenue. He said that in order to qualify for the free device, you must be a resident of a Township or Village patrolled by the Sheriff's Office, and you must be the registered owner of a Kia with a steel key ignition. He said questions about the program may be directed to 513-825-1500.

EMS/Fire Report

Chief Penny reported that the department is in the process of painting fire hydrants and has someone in mind who could complete the project who will be presented to the Board in executive session.

Planning & Zoning Report

Mr. Uckotter reported he had one nuisance resolution for the Board's consideration. He said the complaint was for tall grass and weeds and showed photos of the violation.

Resolution – 12121 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 12121 3rd Avenue, Sycamore Township, Ohio 45249" was presented by Mr. Uckotter. Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann, dispensing with a second reading.

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

Resolution 2023-038 passed this 6th day of June, 2023

Mr. James asked Mr. Uckotter to have Inspector Kevin Clark review a property with very tall grass on Kugler Mill Road.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Reutelshofer reported Music in the Park at Bechtold Park Shelter #3 takes place Saturday, June 10th at 7:00 p.m. with Hi-Fi Honey. He noted there will be two food trucks at the event.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported the township was successful in its application for a Hamilton County small event grant and was awarded \$20,000.00 in grant money to use toward the Festival in Sycamore. He stated that the Festival in Sycamore takes place July 14th and 15th.

Mr. Reutelshofer added a reminder for free Yoga in the Park with NKO Yoga this summer on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at McDaniel Park and on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Bechtold Park.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported that the 2023 Road Improvement Program has been pushed back to mid-July.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported the Montgomery Road Sidewalk Improvement Project from Stewart Road to Ken Arbre Drive began this week. He stated Adleta Construction has begun removing the existing curb on the north side of the road. He noted that the project should take about 12 weeks to complete.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported the Township had solicited RFQ's for engineering services for the Euclid Road Sidewalk Improvement Project from Hosbrook Road to Michael Drive. He stated TEC Engineering was ranked the highest for the project and he has a resolution for the Board's consideration to approve a contract with them. He said the estimated construction cost is approximately \$1 million with an estimated construction start in mid-2024.

Mr. Reutelshofer described the Kenwood Road Improvements Project which would include pavement repairs on Kenwood from Montgomery Road to the City of Blue Ash Corp. line, replacement of pavers between Montgomery Road and Galbraith Road, repairs to stone retaining walls, new curb ramps, and new crosswalks, markings, and signage. He stated the estimated cost

of the project is \$4.7 million, and he has a resolution prepared to authorize the submittal of a SORTA grant application that would cover 90% of the cost.

Mr. Reutelshofer described the Finley Lane Improvements Project, which would install approximately 400 feet of sidewalk on the north side of Finley Lane from Montgomery Road to Lyncris Drive, connecting residents in that area to the Montgomery Road sidewalk system to access Moeller, All Saints, Township businesses and the retail district. He stated the estimated cost of the project is \$262,000.00, and he has a resolution prepared to authorize the submittal of a SORTA grant application that would cover 90% of the cost.

Mr. James asked what the odds were of receiving those grants upon applying.

Mr. Reutelshofer answered that it is a competitive process noting that we preliminarily scored the Kenwood Road Improvements grant application based on best estimates of the criteria, and it looked like we have a good chance at getting that funded. He said the Finley Road SORTA grant may be more difficult to get as the buses don't go that far, although it is within the parameters to apply.

Resolution – Engineering Services Euclid Road Sidewalk Improvements

The resolution “Authorizing a Contract with TEC Engineering, Inc. for Engineering Services and Dispensing with a Second Reading” was presented by Mr. Reutelshofer. He noted the contract price is \$109,065.00, which is within 11% of the construction cost and is a little below the average cost for engineering services. Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye
Resolution 2023-039 passed this 6th day of June, 2023

Resolution – Kenwood Road Improvements

The resolution “Authorizing the Township Maintenance Superintendent to Prepare and Submit an Application to Participate in the Transit Infrastructure Program(s) and Also Authorizing the Township Administrator to Execute Contracts as Required, and Dispensing with a Second Reading” was presented by Mr. Reutelshofer. Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye
Resolution 2023-040 passed this 6th day of June, 2023

Resolution – Finley Lane Sidewalk Improvements

The resolution “Authorizing the Township Maintenance Superintendent to Prepare and Submit an Application to Participate in the Transit Infrastructure Program(s) and Also Authorizing the Township Administrator to Execute Contracts as Required, and Dispensing with a Second Reading” was presented by Mr. Reutelshofer. Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye
Resolution 2023-041 passed this 6th day of June, 2023

Mr. James thanked the Maintenance Department, particularly Dan Lehane and Brian Weinel, for taking care of some vandalism on Bayberry Drive over Memorial Day weekend. He then asked about the status of the Orchard Lane sign and requested Mr. Reutelshofer look into pricing for the sign. He noted that many residents are concerned about that intersection. Mr. James also requested Mr. Reutelshofer circulate a Festival budget update and list of vendors to the Trustees.

Law Director Report

Mr. Barbieri stated he had nothing to report.

Administrator Report

Mr. Kellums reported the Township had been contacted by Emily Davis, of Pinot's Palette, seeking to occupy a space at 7714 Montgomery Road at the Shoppes of Kenwood and looking for a liquor permit transfer. He stated the Board must approve the transfer of the liquor permit. Mr. Kellums noted the business was previously in this location.

Ms. Schwegmann made a motion to approve the application for the liquor permit for Pinot's Palette. Mr. James seconded the motion. He then asked for an explanation of the process.

Mr. Kellums stated the State of Ohio wants a signature from a local official before they approve it.

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

Mr. Kellums reported that Hamilton County established an office of economic development last year as part of the 2023 general fund budget and instituted a small event grant to help smaller communities outside of the City of Cincinnati. He stated that the Township has been awarded a \$20,000.00 grant for the Festival in Sycamore because it will support local food vendors and hotels.

Mr. James noted that pays for almost the entire cost of the Spin Doctors.

Mr. Kellums reported he had spoken to each of the Trustees individually about the Solid Waste Plan that was developed by Hamilton County. He said they have contacted the Township requesting a resolution to approve or disapprove the Solid Waste Plan.

Resolution – Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan

The resolution "Disapproving the Update of the Solid Waste Management Plan of the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District and Dispensing with a Second Reading" was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann.

Mr. James stated he read through the plan and his has a lot of good things in it but also a lot of nonsense that has nothing to do with waste management and creates a lot of bureaucracy to administer all sorts of justice programs that have nothing to do with collecting waste and disposing of it in an environmentally conscious fashion. He said he would vote yes to the resolution to disapprove the plan.

Ms. Schwegmann agreed for exactly the same reason. She stated the plan does some good things and said Sycamore Township stacks up pretty well in its achievements in a lot of the categories noted, such as how we dispose of waste and the programs that we offer. She said there are a lot of initiatives in the plan that have nothing to do with the appropriate removal of solid waste therefore she would vote yes to disapprove the update to the solid waste plan.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye
Resolution 2023-042 passed this 6th day of June, 2023

Resolution – Amending 2023 Appropriations

The resolution “Amending 2023 Appropriations and Dispensing with a Second Reading” was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann.

Mr. James asked Mr. Kellums to explain the changes to appropriations. Mr. Kellums explained the changes, such as moving the Finance Director’s salary to the Fiscal Office, a pass-through for street lighting, and school payments, which skyrocketed due to property re-evaluations. He noted there is also an additional \$1.4 million appropriated for Fire Department personnel that was not appropriated at the beginning of the year, pending getting more money from the JEDZ.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye
Resolution 2023-043 passed this 6th day of June, 2023

Resolution – Authorizing and Directing Transfers of Funds to Reconcile Budgets and Appropriations

The resolution “Authorizing and Directing Transfers of Funds to Reconcile Budgets and Appropriations and Dispensing with a Second Reading” was presented by Mr. Kellums.

Mr. Kellums explained that this is a transfer from the General Fund to the General Obligation Fund for the payment of loans. Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye
Resolution 2023-044 passed this 6th day of June, 2023

Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00

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

23-135	TEC Engineering, Inc.	Euclid Rd. Sidewalk Engineering	\$109,065.00
23-136	Leader Machinery Co.	Polypatch (curb repair)	\$15,223.32

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

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

Fiscal Officer Report
Pay Bills and Read Receipts

The receipts in the amount of \$507,664.77 and disbursements in the amount of \$410,366.73 for June 6, 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. James made a motion to approve the receipts and disbursements. Ms. Schwegmann seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye

Trustees Comments

Mr. James stated that today is the 79th anniversary of D-Day, an important day in our history. He said it was a privilege to participate in the Memorial Day parade and say a few words afterward while the other two Trustees were out of town.

Announcements

Ms. Schwegmann announced Music in the Park with Hi-Fi Honey takes place on Saturday, June 10th at 7:00 p.m. at Bechtold Park. 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 of a public employee and as permitted by Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3) to conference with the Law Director to discuss pending or imminent litigation. Mr. James seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Uckotter, Mr. Kellums, and Mr. Barbieri were invited into the executive session with the Trustees and Fiscal Officer.

End Regular Session:	7:35 p.m.
Begin Executive Session:	7:38 p.m.
End Executive Session:	7:58 p.m.
Back in Regular Session:	8:01 p.m.

Mr. Deters called roll. James: Present; Schwegmann: Present

Mr. James made a motion to hire Payton Koebbe as a part-time maintenance worker for the fire department. Ms. Schwegmann seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye

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

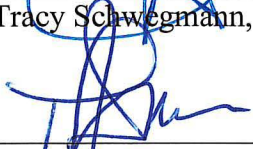
The resolution “Setting the Rate of Pay for a Newly Hired Township Employee” was presented by Mr. Kellums. He noted the pay rate for Ms. Koebbe will be \$15.00 per hour. Mr. James made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann, dispensing with a second reading. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye
Resolution 2023-045 passed this 6th day of June, 2023.

Mr. James made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Schwegmann.
Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



Tracy Schwegmann, Chairman



Thomas J. Weidman, Vice Chairman



Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee



Jonathan T. Deters, Fiscal Officer
Regular Meeting 06/06/2023