

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:01 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, 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. Kellums.

Pledge to the Flag.

Approval of the August 1, 2023, Public Hearing Minutes

The August 1, 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: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Approval of the August 1, 2023, Trustee Meeting Minutes

The August 1, 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: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Proclamation – Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

“A Proclamation in Recognition of Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month” in Sycamore Township was read by Mr. Weidman. Mr. Weidman made a motion to pass the Proclamation. Mr. James seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

The Proclamation passed this 15th day of August, 2023.

Mr. Weidman added that he is on the Board of the Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, an organization that holds two events a year and just reached over \$2 million raised for Ovarian Cancer research. He stated that this organization is one of the largest providers of research funds to the Ovarian Cancer Research Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Weidman noted that money from the Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Greater Cincinnati started one pretty successful research project that has also been successful in treating lung cancer.

Public Comments

Ms. Susan Bell, of 12093 Snider Road, addressed the Board. Ms. Bell expressed concerns about property maintenance issues on a property at the intersection of Snider Road and Fields Ertel and a snap on truck near there. She said it should not take a complaint from a citizen for the Township to act on such issues. Ms. Bell complimented Planning & Zoning Assistant Jon Ragan and Receptionist Amy Able for their helpfulness.

Mr. Weidman responded that the property Ms. Bell spoke of has been a problem and the Township has cut the grass there many times. He agreed it is an issue with the logs stacked on the property.

Mr. Uckotter stated he will speak to his staff tomorrow and have the inspector go investigate the issues there to get the process started. He noted that the Township has recently approved a text amendment to allow for criminal misdemeanor citations for property maintenance issues adjudicated through Hamilton County Housing Court. He said he is not sure if that is the appropriate course of action in this case, but his staff will look at the property to make that determination. Mr. Uckotter stated it will not be remedied overnight as the Township must follow due process.

Ms. Bell stated in the meantime, the Township could cut the grass.

Mr. Uckotter answered, if it is a tall grass issue, the Township will follow the nuisance resolution process, cut the grass, and then levy a lien on the tax bill.

There was a discussion about the lien and the options the Township has to rectify property maintenance issues.

Ms. Schwegmann thanked Ms. Bell for bringing this problem to the Board's attention.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Lt. Tarr stated he had no report.

EMS/Fire Report

Chief Penny reported the radio system upgrade the Board approved is being installed and should be finished in the next couple weeks.

Planning & Zoning Report

Board of Zoning Appeals Appointment

Mr. Uckotter reported that Mr. Jeff Heidel had recently resigned from the Board of Zoning Appeals and thanked him for his service. He said requested a motion from the Board to elevate Board of Zoning Appeals alternate Micheal Schwartz to Mr. Heidel's vacated seat with a term ending December 31, 2024. Mr. Uckotter recommended Sycamore Township resident Anthony Ramicone, an attorney with Taft, Stettinius, and Hollister, as Board of Zoning Appeals alternate with a term ending December 31, 2023.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to move Mr. Michael Schwartz from alternate to Mr. Heidel's vacated position as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals and to appoint Mr. Anthony Ramicone as the new alternate for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. James seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Reutelshofer reported the large playset at Bob Meyer Park has been closed and will be removed due to safety concerns. He stated he met with playground contractor Gametime to discuss options for replacing the large play set, noting Gametime will submit a proposal which will be evaluated. He stated the current time frame for equipment delivery is eight to 10 weeks;

therefore if the Board chooses to move forward, this would be a late fall or early 2024 project. Mr. Reutelshofer pointed out the swing set and other playset in the park are open and there is a nice new playground behind the Township Administration Building.

Mr. Weidman asked Mr. Reutelshofer to look at some trees at Bob Meyer Park that are encroaching on the play area. Mr. Reutelshofer said he will address that.

Mr. James followed up on his request at a previous meeting for Mr. Reutelshofer to look into ways to provide shade at the new playground behind the Township Administration Building.

Mr. Reutelshofer stated he looked into pricing and the cost would be \$5,000 to \$7,000.

Mr. James asked about putting up a large tailgating tent as a temporary structure.

Mr. Reutelshofer answered that he does not know how a temporary structure could be secured so that it is not blown away in a storm, noting he looked into permanent canopy-type structures.

Mr. James stated he will also look at options and speak to Mr. Reutelshofer.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported there were over 100 participants in the Car Show, the largest in many years. He complimented the Parks and Recreation staff on a job well done.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported that the contract for the 2023 Road Program has completed the south section of the Township and begun work in the north section. He said he had received compliments from residents who said they appreciate the roads being improved, and also some criticism of the quality of the work in some areas and the lack of communication from the contractor. Mr. Reutelshofer stated he is aware of both issues and has been in contact with the contractor daily working to resolve them. He said those issues will be resolved as a punch list after the north section is complete, and noted the contractor will not be paid until the Township is satisfied with the work. Mr. Reutelshofer reported the Township had great success with this product over the last 15 years, noting the Township's road conditions are rated very highly. He said he will meet with Administration once the project is finished about the best ways to use the product in future.

Ms. Schwegmann thanked Mr. Reutelshofer for his diligence in making sure we get a satisfactory finished product from the contractor.

Mr. James said he drove through Sandymar and Lyncris and there are some areas that need a lot of punch list work and others that look very nice.

Mr. Weidman asked about gravel on Sturbridge. He noted the end of Westover looks the worst.

Mr. Reutelshofer explained the reason for the gravel on Sturbridge and discussed the cleanup timeline. He said most of the problem areas had a lot of work done by hand as the paving machine could not get in those areas.

Mr. Kellums said there is now an inspector watching the contractor's work. He said the Township always receives complaints when we use this product but in the long run it is a great

product that greatly extends the life of the roads. Mr. Kellums commended Mr. Reutelshofer for staying on the contractor and said the rough areas will be improved.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported the contractor for the Montgomery Road Sidewalk Project is waiting on two caps for the retaining wall at the intersection of Stewart and Montgomery Road that are on back order for three weeks.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported that the Gideon Lane Culvert Project has been finished. He also reported he has approved the permit for the fiberoptic work in that area.

Law Director Report

Mr. Barbieri stated he had nothing to report.

Administrator Report

Mr. Kellums stated the Board should have received the Flock Camera Agreement which is \$12,500.00 for the first year which includes a setup fee. He said this was discussed in a previous meeting and asked if the Board had any questions before making a motion. Mr. Kellums noted that the whole Kenwood triangle is covered by the cameras.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the Flock Camera Agreement. Mr. James seconded the motion.

Mr. James asked who would have access to the data collected by the Flock cameras.

Lt. Tarr answered the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

There was a discussion about the data and images collected and who would be responsible for public record requests.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Weidman thanked Lt. Tarr saying he had lunch with Sheriff McGuffey who said Lt Tarr had requested Flock cameras in Highpoint. He said the Sheriff promised we would get them next year.

There was discussion about neighboring jurisdictions that have Flock cameras also.

Mr. Kellums reported he called George Glover of Focused Capital Solutions after the last meeting's discussion about their billing. He said their billing department dropped the ball and we just received the bill for the first eight months of the year. Mr. Kellums discussed the Veterans Memorial Project and Mr. Glover's help with getting local legislators involved in assisting with project funding.

Mr. James said the contract did not require them to bill us it required us to pay them and asked if the Township does not have any other obligations stacking up unpaid.

Mr. Kellums answered we do not.

Mr. James asked if Mr. Glover shared any handouts or other information in the meeting with Mr. Kellums and Mr. Weidman.

Mr. Kellums answered no but said Mr. Glover will be providing a third-quarter update which he will distribute to the Board. He stated they spoke about TIF extensions noting that unfortunately, the Township missed an opportunity for 30-year TIF extensions in 2020 and 2021. He said that at the time, the Township was not using Mr. Glover's services and had some people in Administration who were not fond of TIFs, so we were unaware that a 30-year extension was offered. He said Mr. Glover is now working on this to try to get our TIFs extended, as they are a vital part of our budget.

Mr. James asked if TIF funds could be used for the playground at Bob Meyer Park discussed earlier.

Mr. Kellums answered yes, that is how we always pay for them.

Mr. Kellums reported the Sturbridge HOA President called him and said the playset was not safe and that there are a lot of lawyers in that neighborhood if someone gets hurt the Township will be sued. He said that is why the playset was shut down. He said we don't want any child to get hurt, but there was nothing dangerous about it. He said being unsafe and not being compliant with new playground rules are two different things.

Mr. Kellums noted that playground compliance rules change constantly. He reported that the Township sent Jason Petty to school to become a certified playground inspector and Mr. Petty inspected the playset and did find items that were not compliant. He said the playset will be torn down in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Kellums said the Township is working with Gametime on a proposal but due to the grade at the park, the playset will have to be different than what is there now to meet current compliance regulations.

Ms. Schwegmann said closing it is the right and prudent move and we will see what we can replace it with that will be compliant and safe.

Mr. James asked if it would be cost-prohibitive to grade the ground and construct a retaining wall.

Mr. Kellums explained what would have to be done saying it would be cost-prohibitive.

Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00

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

23-25-2	Blanket Vendor	Park Utilities	\$10,000.00
23-142	Stryker Medical	Cot Maintenance	\$8,673.30

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the purchase orders as listed. Mr. James seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Fiscal Officer Report
Pay Bills and Read Receipts

The receipts in the amount of \$167,728.52 and disbursements in the amount of \$832,705.68 for August 15, 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: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Trustees Comments

Mr. Weidman thanked Mr. Reutelshofer for doing a great job on the Gideon Lane Culvert Project and Mr. Petty for all his work putting on the Car Show.

Ms. Schwegmann thanked Mr. Kellums and Mr. Reutelshofer for their responsiveness to residents' concerns and issues. She also thanked Ms. Bell for coming to the meeting to express her concerns and thanked Mr. Uckotter, Mr. Ragan, and Ms. Able for doing a good job.

Mr. James thanked staff as well, especially Mr. Reutelshofer for responding to residents' concerns about the 2023 Road Program. Mr. James said the Car Show was a great success attended by all the Trustees who were there judging.

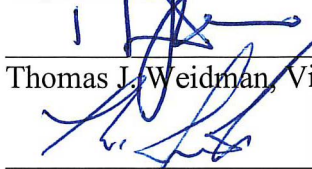
Announcements

Ms. Schwegmann encouraged people to see the website calendar for meeting and event information.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.


Tracy Schwegmann, Chairman


Thomas J. Weidman, Vice Chairman


Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee


Jonathan T. Deters, Fiscal Officer

Regular Meeting 08/15/2023