

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Tuesday, August 29, 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 Barbiere, 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 15, 2023, Trustee Meeting Minutes**

The August 15, 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

#### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **Sheriff Patrol Report**

Lt. Tarr stated he had no report.

#### **EMS/Fire Report**

Chief Penny reported Ohio Task Force One was deployed to Florida this morning but so far no Fire Department employees who are members have been called to service.

#### **Planning & Zoning Report**

##### **Resolution – 8285 Fields Ertel Road Nuisance Property**

Mr. Uckotter reported he had a resolution for the Board's consideration for the property that Ms. Susan Bell brought to the Board's attention at the last meeting. He displayed photos and reviewed the conditions of the property. He stated there was some wood on the property that was cut down by Duke Energy. Mr. Uckotter reported he contacted the Hamilton County Engineer's Office to have them remove the wood and Duke Energy's contractor removed a spool of wire left there also. He then described the work that would be done to clean the property should the Board approve the proposed resolution.

The resolution "Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage, Refuse, and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 12185 Snider Road (8285 Fields Ertel Road), Sycamore Township, Ohio 45249 Parcel ID 600-0015-0008-00" 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: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye  
Resolution 2023-065 passed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023

### **Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report**

Mr. Reutelshofer reported on the 2023 Road Program. He stated the contractor, Strawser Construction, has completed the south Section and the north Section of the Township. He stated a punch list of items to repair and/or repave was presented to their foreman and project manager early last week. He reviewed the timeline for notification to residents and repairs. Mr. Reutelshofer reported after the first section of repairs was performed on Monday, the Township immediately stopped the work due to concern that the method being used to perform the repairs was not satisfactory. He said a meeting was held today with the contractor's management team from Columbus to discuss the method of repairs and other concerns.

Mr. Reutelshofer gave the following summary of the meeting:

1. We are going to give the product more time to cure and to let the air temperatures cool off. This will help prevent the large equipment used from damaging the road.
2. Strawser is committed to doing all repairs. We will meet in a few weeks to go over the punch list items, and field visit those areas and a determination on the repair method will be presented to us.
3. Strawser has not been paid a dime yet. Once all repairs have been completed to our satisfaction, and an invoice for payment is submitted a retainage will be withheld for a mutually agreed-upon amount and term.
4. The work is covered by the ODOT Spec Item 421 and is warranted for two years.

Mr. Reutelshofer noted these types of discussions with contractors can be very difficult and challenging. He reaffirmed that Strawser is willing to do what it takes to complete the project to our satisfaction, and he thanked everyone who has reached out with concerns. He added that we are doing everything in our power to ensure that the work is completed satisfactorily.

Mr. James said that was good to hear noting he inspected Sturbridge earlier that day and ran into Assistant Superintendent Mike Gould inspecting the area also. He said it sounded like a lot of progress was made in the meeting with the contractor which is good news for the neighborhood. Mr. James said a lot of people in Sturbridge are upset as Mr. Reutelshofer knows.

Ms. Schwegmann thanked Mr. Reutelshofer for jumping in on it and staying engaged.

### **Resolution – Authorizing a Contract for the Purchase of a 2023 Toro Workman HDX**

The resolution "Authorizing a Contract for the Purchase of a 2023 Toro Workman HDX with a High Flow Hydraulic Kit and a HDX Rahn Groomer with Spring Tine Scarifier and Dispensing with a Second Reading" was presented by Mr. Reutelshofer. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James.

Mr. James asked what the Spring Tine Scarifier was.

Mr. Reutelshofer answered it is used to drag the ball fields. He pointed out the one his staff is currently using is a 2002 and has 4,661 hours on it.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye  
Resolution 2023-066 passed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023

Mr. James asked Mr. Reutelshofer if he had received a proposal from Gametime for the Bob Meyer Park playground equipment.

Mr. Reutelshofer answered he had not received it yet. He said Mr. Kellums did obtain some quotes for sunshades which Mr. Kellums will discuss.

### **Law Director Report**

Ms. Barbieri reported the oral argument was held for the Landmark litigation early last week in front of Magistrate Judge Beridon. She said the arguments lasted a total of an hour and a decision should be rendered by October 13<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Barbieri stated if the Township does not agree with the decision, there will be a 14-day appeal period.

### **Administrator Report**

Mr. Kellums stated Mr. James had asked for a quote for playground shades. Mr. Kellums reported he had received a quote in the amount of \$13,892.00 for two 12-foot by 12-foot umbrellas made with material that lasts five to seven years.

Mr. James stated he was thinking of something inexpensive such as two nice-looking steel poles sunk in concrete with a triangular sail-type cover. He said it would be a short-term solution. He noted people have asked him about it.

Mr. Kellums said the problem with a short-term solution is it's short-term. He said there are four other parks and 14 other benches that aren't shaded and asked if Mr. James would want shade for all of them or just for the one in Kenwood.

Mr. James stated this is the one people have asked him about and pointed out that other parks at least have some greenery for shade. He said it was worth asking about but \$13 thousand is too much.

As a follow-up to a discussion at the last meeting, Mr. Kellums reported he had spoken to Flock about the camera data and found that the Township will not have access to it. He said it will be stored by the Sheriff's Office so any public record requests will go through them. He said with that confirmed he proceeded with the payment for the Flock cameras.

### **Resolution - Brittany Chase Lighting District Renewal**

The resolution "Renewing and Upgrading to LED Lights the Brittany Chase Lighting District 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: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye  
Resolution 2023-067 passed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023

### **Resolution - South Kenwood Lighting District Renewal**

The resolution "Renewing and Upgrading to LED Lights the South Kenwood Lighting District 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: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye  
Resolution 2023-068 passed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023

### **Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00**

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

23-69-3	Blanket Vendor	Fire Contract Services	\$8,000.00
23-147	Blanket Vendor	Property Maintenance Cleanup	\$10,000.00

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 \$531,660.77 and disbursements in the amount of \$144,696.44 for August 29, 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 stated in 2019, as Sycamore Township Trustee and President of the Hamilton County Township Association, he worked with the State Legislature to get approval for extensions on expiring TIFs. He stated we were able to get an extension on the three biggest ones in Kenwood which will equate to about 75 million additional dollars for the Township over 15 years. Mr. Weidman said the Administrator in the role prior to Mr. Kellums was not fond of TIFs. He stated although we had an opportunity at the time to be involved in some legislation that would have allowed us to extend our remaining TIFS for 30 years and extend the three biggest ones an additional 15 years, which would have equated to probably over \$125 million for the life of the TIF, unfortunately, that did not happen. Mr. Weidman reported he and Mr. Kellums are meeting with George Glover and the Speaker of the House on Thursday to try to put some legislation together to extend the two large TIFS for 15 more years and the remaining TIFS for an additional 30 years.

Ms. Schwegmann said that is a good opportunity.

Mr. James said it was a good opportunity to explore but, to be clear, there was not already legislation in place at the time, the Township didn't lobby for a change in state law. He asked Mr. Weidman if that was what he was saying.



Mr. Weidman answered we did lobby, and we had the legislature pass a narrow amendment that included Sycamore Township and eight other Townships to take advantage of the 15-year extension.

Mr. James said that was in 2019. He said the one Mr. Weidman referenced the previous Administrator about would have required a change in state law at the time.

Mr. Weidman said state law was included in that, but we didn't have the language to include Sycamore Township. He said had it been executed properly; we could have been included in that legislation.

Mr. James asked if other large urban townships were included that year.

Mr. Weidman answered he believed so.



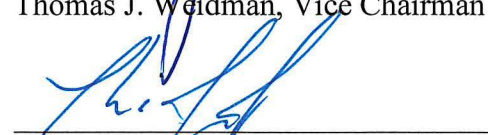
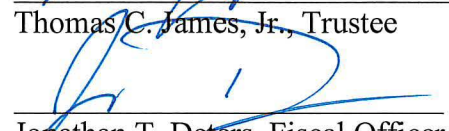
Mr. James stated he wished Mr. Weidman had brought that to the Board's attention at the time but he is glad we have the opportunity now. He wished everyone a happy and safe Labor Day weekend.

#### **Announcements**

Ms. Schwegmann noted Monthly Brush Chipping is moved to the second Saturday of September due to the Labor Day Holiday weekend and the Fall Compost Give-Away had been canceled. She then encouraged people to see the website calendar for other meeting and event information.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. James. Vote: All Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

  
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Tracy Schwegmann, Chairman  
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Thomas J. Weidman, Vice Chairman  
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Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee  
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Jonathan T. Deters, Fiscal Officer  
Regular Meeting 08/29/2023