

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Tuesday, November 14, 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 Sgt. Losekamp from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

The invocation was read by Mr. Kellums.

Pledge to the Flag.

Approval of the November 1, 2023 Public Hearing Minutes

The November 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 November 1, 2023 Trustee Meeting Minutes

The November 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

Public Comments

No members of the public signed up to speak.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Sgt. Losekamp reported on an incident at Moeller High School in which a student was thought to be in possession of a firearm. He stated it turned out to be a very realistic-looking BB gun. Sgt. Losekamp said both Moeller and the Sheriff's Office did a great job getting the situation under control quickly. He said it did not appear that the student was threatening anyone, he just made a bad decision to bring it to school and show it to others. Sgt. Losekamp reported students overheard it and reported it to the principal.

EMS/Fire Report

Chief Penny thanked all the residents who have sent thank you notes to the Department in appreciation of what they do.

Chief Penny reported he conducted a safety presentation at Seasons Retirement Home earlier that day.

Planning & Zoning Report

Mr. Uckotter reported he had two nuisance resolutions for the Board's consideration. He reviewed the inspector's notes on the properties and showed photos of the nuisance violations.

Resolution – 4333 Sycamore 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 4333 Sycamore Road, Sycamore Township, OH 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: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Resolution 2023-089 passed this 14th day of November, 2023

Resolution – 11903 4th 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 11903 4th Avenue, Sycamore Township, OH 45249" 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 2023-090 passed this 14th day of November, 2023

Mr. Uckotter stated earlier in the fall, the Board had approved demolition resolutions for unsafe structures. He reported the dilapidated house on 6th Avenue had been razed and stated he had received a low bid of \$5,900.00 for tearing down a garage at 4701 Kugler Mill Road and was working on getting that down.

Mr. Uckotter stated at the last meeting, the Board voted to appoint him to the Energy Special Improvement District (ESID) Board. He then reported on the ESID Board meeting he attended. He said at the meeting, the ESID Board approved Springfield Township as a member and approved a plan to benefit High Grain Brewery, who, along with two other tenants, is going into a former bowling alley in Springfield Township.

Mr. Weidman asked about a property at 4th Avenue and Park.

Mr. Uckotter answered that the property was listed for a complaint to housing court, and that complaint had been served.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Reutelshofer provided an update on the 2023 Road Program. He reported Township officials met with Strawser Construction on November 12th. He said everyone in attendance at that meeting agreed that the project was not performed per the Township's expectations. Mr. Reutelshofer reported that leadership from the Township and Strawser Construction will visit those roads the Township has deemed unacceptable in December, and Strawser Construction has committed to submitting a plan of action in the first quarter of 2024.

Mr. Kellums added that this was a very large project and Mr. Reutelshofer and Assistant Superintendent Mike Gould did a fantastic job spending a lot of time inspecting every single road and developing a rating system to rate each road. He said 46% of the roads are acceptable; 36% are marginal and 18% really have problems. Mr. Kellums discussed the plan moving

forward which would include meeting with Strawser in December to go over the roads one by one. He noted the invoice for the program is outstanding and Strawser asked if the Township would pay 50% of the \$869,500.00 cost.

Mr. Weidman said he sat in on the meeting and, based on the rating program, about 50% of the roads were rated either eight, nine, or ten on a scale of one to ten. Therefore, he is not opposed to paying the contractor 50% of the money the Township owes them. He stated until the rest of the work is completed, he is not in favor of paying them any more than that.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to pay 50% of the invoice from Strawser Construction. Mr. James seconded the motion.

Mr. James said he listened to their presentation as well and thinks they are making a good-faith effort to engage and get this fixed. He said, unfortunately, due to the time of year it will have to wait until spring. Mr. James said much of their work was of good quality and agreed that paying half was good.

Ms. Schwegmann said she is amenable to paying 50% but asked about the two-year warranty on the project.

Mr. Kellums answered that the warranty is supposed to begin two years after acceptance.

Mr. Weidman said that was not totally clear in the meeting.

Mr. Kellums said, in his opinion, the two years should not start until they do the repair work and all the remedial work, and we accept the roads.

Mr. James suggested the 50% payment be contingent on them accepting the warranty does not begin until we accept the full project.

It was decided that Mr. Kellums would negotiate the terms of the 50% payment to include the two-year warranty starting now for the 46% of the project we have accepted only.

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

Mr. Reutelshofer announced leaf pickup will continue until December 18th. He reported the Maintenance Department is now running four trucks with the goal of servicing each street in the Township weekly.

Law Director Report

Ms. Barbieri stated she had no report.

Administrator Report

Mr. Kellums reported the Finance Committee is on the website and will be included in the December electronic newsletter. He said the Township Administrator position has been posted as open until filled and several resumes had been submitted.

Mr. Kellums discussed the search for bands for the Festival in Sycamore 2024. He said Bachman-Turner Overdrive usually books for between \$75,000.00 and \$125,000.00 but has agreed to play as part of a routed tour for \$50,000.00. He went on to discuss the sponsorship money from Tire Discounters and others. He then reported he met with Brent James who has agreed to solicit sponsorships for the event. Mr. Kellums requested the Board consider authorizing negotiations with Bachman-Turner Overdrive.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to allow Tracy Kellums to negotiate up to \$50,000.00 with the Festival band for next year. Ms. Schwegmann seconded the motion.

Mr. Weidman commented bringing the Festival back last year was a great deal for Township residents. He said there was a great response, and it is a great two-day family event which has been a real success. He said we should move forward with it and getting Bachman-Turner Overdrive at \$50,000.00 would be a real coup because they are getting a lot more at other locations. He said he is in support of it.

Ms. Schwegmann said she got a lot of positive feedback from families for the rides for \$5 and people in the community were really glad we brought the event back. She said she thinks with sponsorships, we were able to do that in a cost-effective manner. She noted we were grateful to Hamilton County who also felt this was a valuable endeavor. Ms. Schwegmann said she is in support of the Festival and is fine with authorizing the Township to negotiate to bring a headline musical act at up to \$50,000.00.

Mr. James said the event is a well-run party for families and we have great staff and volunteers who work on it. He said a different question was if it is a core function of government. Mr. James said it was insane to spend \$50,000.00 on the remnants of an old band from many years ago. He said local, less expensive bands would be the way to go. He said the number Mr. Kellums gave is playing with the numbers because it includes rent for Tire Discounters as sponsorship money. Mr. James said it is too much to spend on a festival and many young families do not know who BTO is. He said it could be done for a lot less money.

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

Resolution – Veterans Memorial Project

Mr. Kellums stated there was an open house earlier that evening regarding the proposed Veterans Memorial Project at Bechtold Park. He stated staff has been working hard on obtaining State Capital Funding for the project noting the application is due Friday. He said the Township will then have to make a presentation to the State in late November or early December. Mr. Kellums said obtaining the funding is very competitive and went on to describe efforts that have been made to obtain other funding as well.

Mr. Kellums said he had spoken to the Law Director about creating a Township Veterans Memorial Commission made up of five members. He said by-laws would be put together for this commission and it would be 501(c)(3) so people who donate money will know it is strictly for the Veterans Memorial Project. He noted there would be a fund set up in the future for the maintenance of the memorial. Mr. Kellums requested a motion to set up the Township Veterans Memorial Commission.

Mr. Weidman made the motion to set up the Township Veterans Memorial Commission. Mr. James seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Mr. James asked what is being budgeted on the Township side for this project.

Mr. Kellums answered the Township has budgeted \$50,000.00, most of which has already been spent on engineering for the project.

Mr. Kellums reported he had a resolution for the Board's consideration regarding the Veterans Memorial for staff to present when pursuing State Capital Budget Funding.

The resolution "Authorizing the Township Administrator to Pursue Funding through the Ohio Capital Budget for the Purpose of Constructing a Veterans Memorial at Bechtold Park 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 2023-091 passed this 14th day of November, 2023

Mr. Kellums said he had received a request from Kenwood Towne Centre for the Township to contribute to the holiday Sheriff detail there. He said they asked for \$36,300.00, a 10% increase on what the Township contributed last year, but recommended the Trustees stay with \$33,000.00.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve \$33,000.00 for police services at Kenwood Towne Centre over the holidays. Mr. James seconded.

Mr. Weidman noted the Kenwood Towne Centre is a valuable asset, and one of the reasons we have done that in the past is to keep order in that mall to make it safe for all visitors. He said hundreds of thousands of visitors go there over the holidays and he is in total support of paying this reasonable amount to make sure it is safe for everybody.

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

Resolution – Adopting the Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mr. Kellums reported he had a resolution for the Board's consideration to adopt the Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. James pointed out a typo in the resolution which Mr. Kellums corrected.

The resolution "Adopting the Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan" was presented as amended 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 2023-092 passed this 14th day of November, 2023

Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00

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

23-10-1	Blanket Vendor	Police Fuel	\$6,000.00
23-28-1	Blanket Vendor	Contract Services P&Z	\$5,000.00
23-172	Zoom Video Communications, Inc.	Zoom Video Comm.	\$8,985.60

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the aforementioned purchase orders. Mr. James seconded the motion.

Mr. James asked about the Zoom usage. It was noted that the Fire Department uses it quite a bit for training.

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 \$841,269.42 and disbursements in the amount of \$342,768.75 for November 14, 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 congratulated Mr. Kellums on his campaign for Trustee. He thanked Mr. Reutelshofer and Mr. Gould for their persistence with Strawser Construction to ensure the Road Program is completed to our standards. He also thanked Mr. Kellums, Mr. Reutelshofer, and Mr. Gould for their continued effort to bring the Sycamore Township Veterans Memorial to the forefront. He said he, Mr. Kellums, Mr. Reutelshofer, and Mr. Gould met with the American Legion on Monday, and they are excited to help with the memorial and participate in the commission. Mr. Weidman said they will continue to work with George Glover in hopes of getting funding from the Capital Budget as well.

Mr. James congratulated Mr. Deters on his re-election and Mr. Kellums on his election.

Ms. Schwegmann wished everyone a happy, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving holiday

Announcements

Ms. Schwegmann stated Township offices will be closed on November 23rd and 24th for the Thanksgiving holiday. She encouraged people to see the website calendar for other meeting and event information.

Executive Session

Ms. Schwegmann requested 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 made the motion and Mr. James seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Deters, Ms. Barbieri, and Mr. Kellums were invited into the executive session with the three Trustees.

End Regular Session: 7:35 p.m.

Begin Executive Session: 7:38 p.m.

End Executive Session: 7:52 p.m.

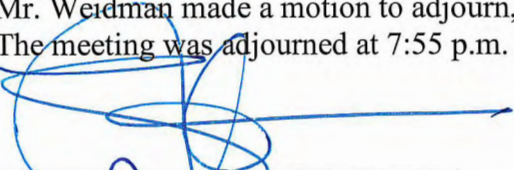
Back in Regular Session: 7:54 p.m.

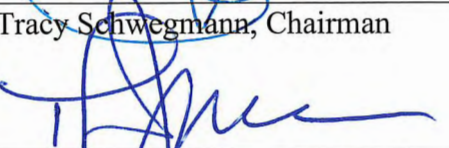
Mr. Deters called roll. All three Trustees indicated they were present.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to hire John Estell as a part-time employee. Mr. James seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

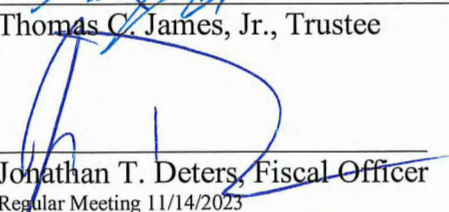
The resolution "Setting the Rate of Pay for a Township Employee" was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. Kellums stated the resolution is for John Estell at a rate of \$35.00 per hour. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James, dispensing with a second reading. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye Resolution 2023-093 passed this 14th day of November, 2023.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. James. Vote: All Aye
The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Tracy Schwegmann, Chairman

Thomas J. Weidman, Vice Chairman

Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee

Jonathan T. Deters, Fiscal Officer
Regular Meeting 11/14/2023