

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Tuesday, December 5, 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, Law Director Barbieri, 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 14, 2023 Trustee Meeting Minutes

The November 14, 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

Mary Anne Lucas, of 4087 Belfast Avenue, addressed the Board. Ms. Lucas commented in support of the proposed resolution on the agenda imposing a moratorium on cannabis in the Township. She commented on the resolutions setting the Fiscal Officer and Trustees' salary and benefits saying this is not their full-time jobs, this is public service, and any compensation should be very minimal.

Mr. Weidman told Ms. Lucas compensation for Township elected officials is set by the State of Ohio.

Ms. Lucas went on to comment that she did not think elected officials should receive insurance benefits as it is not full-time employment.

Mr. Weidman explained that the Board of Trustees does not decide its own compensation or benefits; rather they follow guidelines set by the State of Ohio in the Ohio Revised Code. He recommended that Ms. Lucas express her concerns to the State Legislature.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Sgt. Losekamp reported the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office has been rolling out AEDs in all the sheriff vehicles throughout the County, which is going well. He said since they have been installed in the cruisers, there has been one deployment.

Sgt. Losekamp reported Kenwood Towne Centre detail is going well. He said having the detail in the mall is keeping officers on the street, and the officers have been doing a good job handling all the reports being generated at the mall during the holiday season.

EMS/Fire Report

Chief Penny brought a thermal imaging camera to show the Trustees. He reported the Fire Department has three of them which are not working and are too old to repair. He reported Lt. Tim Feichtner applied for a grant to fund the purchase of new thermal imaging cameras through the Dennis Leary Foundation. Chief Penny stated the grant was awarded and the department will be getting three new cameras totaling \$22,374.00 paid for by the grant.

Chief Penny reported that since the last Township newsletter was mailed, the department has received 31 requests for reflective address signs.

Planning & Zoning Report

Mr. Uckotter reported he had a resolution for the Board's consideration regarding a nuisance property on Myrtle Avenue. He reviewed the inspector's report on the property and showed photos of the violations on the property. Mr. Uckotter said the owners are making an effort, but it is taking months. He gave the Board options to consider in dealing with this property saying he had alternate resolutions available if the Board chose to allow the owners more time than the standard seven days to abate.

Mr. Weidman stated he would prefer to move forward with the resolution as printed because the property has been a chronic problem, and he has received calls from Dillonvale residents about it. Mr. James and Ms. Schwegmann agreed.

Mr. Kellums described some of the issues on the property, saying it has never really been cleaned properly.

Resolution – 4231 Myrtle 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 4231 Myrtle Avenue, 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 2023-094 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Mr. James said a few residents contacted him confused about the Luxe Blvd. address listed on the notification for Zoning Case 2023-17MA.

Mr. Uckotter explained that the Luxe Blvd. address was listed for the site on their application and is on the Hamilton County Auditor's website.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Reutelshofer reported it was time to get into the holiday spirit at the annual Dillonvale Luminaria this Saturday, December 9, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Bechtold Park Pavilion. He encouraged people to come out and enjoy refreshments, hayrides, and a visit from Santa Claus noting this is a free event.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported that Sycamore Township was awarded an Ohio Public Works Commission Grant in the amount of \$930,168.00 for the Frane Lane and Marieview Court Box Culvert Replacement Project. He said the Township will apply for a SORTA Infrastructure Grant

in the Summer of 2024 to help offset the remaining 50% of the project cost. Mr. Reutelshofer said the goal is to go out to bid on the project in early 2025. He then thanked Assistant Superintendent Mike Gould and Tracy Kellums for their efforts in securing the OPWC grant.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported curbside leaf pickup ends soon. He stated all leaves must be raked to the curb by Monday, December 18th for guaranteed pickup. Mr. Reutelshofer stated the Township's goal is to service every street at least once a work week until the end of our leaf pickup season.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported he had a no parking resolution for the Board's consideration.

Resolution – Designating No Parking on a Portion of Happiness Way in Sycamore Township, Ohio

The resolution "Designating No Parking on a Portion of Happiness Way in Sycamore Township, Ohio 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. James asked what initiated this resolution.

Mr. Kellums answered complaints from neighboring residents of Frolic Drive about parking on Happiness Way between Frolic Drive and Kenwood Road.

Mr. James stated some residents of Frolic Drive had expressed concerns to him that if parking is prohibited on Happiness Way, visitors to the apartments and Jewish Hospital will start parking on Frolic. He asked if it was necessary to prohibit parking on both sides of the road and suggested allowing it on a portion of the apartment side of the street. He asked Chief Penny if parking was a problem there.

Chief Penny answered it is a problem at times noting that sometimes there are delivery trucks parked there.

There was discussion about this issue and options to resolve it. Mr. Uckotter described issues with larger vehicles being parked in the area. Mr. Weidman noted there is public parking in the garage at the apartments he does not think there is any reason we cannot prohibit parking on Happiness Way to ensure passage for safety vehicles. Mr. James stated the Board should keep an eye on Frolic Drive as to the effects of this. Ms. Schwegmann said the resolution is an attempt to respond to the concerns of residents in that neighborhood and she is inclined to try to get people to park in the garage where they are supposed to be parking.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye
Resolution 2023-095 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Law Director Report

Mr. Barbieri reported the Magistrate had originally set the Landmark case for decision in October but, due to the amount of paperwork on the case, the decision would be announced next week.

Administrator Report

Mr. Kellums reported on the Cape Seal Program saying on December 11th, Mr. Gould and Mr. Reutelshofer from the Township and Strawser Construction will be reviewing the streets. He said the Township had received a report from the third-party inspector we hired. He said we would inspect methods of repair from Strawser and move on from there.

Mr. Kellums reported an application was filed for the Veterans Memorial Project to be included in the State Capital Budget. He said last Monday, he, Mr. Gould, and Ms. Schwegmann gave a presentation on the project to business and political leaders and the next level is approval from the legislature. He said he thinks we have a good chance of the project being included in the budget as Mr. Gould did an excellent job putting together the presentation and Ms. Schwegmann did a great job presenting it. He reported Mr. Gould attended the American Legion Meeting on Monday, December 4th, and presented to them with a great response. Mr. Kellums said the American Legion would like Mr. Gould to return when it is time to sell bricks and engravings.

Mr. Kellums reported Mr. Barbieri had filed paperwork for the creation of a Veterans Memorial Commission with the Secretary of State and created articles of incorporation. He said the whole project is progressing nicely and is very exciting.

Ms. Schwegmann thanked Mr. Gould and Mr. Kellums for their work on the presentation, noting this is a highly competitive process. She said it was her privilege to present on behalf of the Township and thanked George Glover for his assistance in securing a spot for the Township to present the project.

Mr. Kellums reported he had many resolutions for the Board's consideration, some having to do with year-end and some new ones.

Resolution – Imposing a Moratorium on the Cultivation, Processing, and Retail Sale of Adult Use Cannabis within Sycamore Township, Ohio

The resolution "Imposing a Moratorium on the Cultivation, Processing, and Retail Sale of Adult Use Cannabis within Sycamore Township, Ohio" was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James, dispensing with a second reading.

Mr. James commented this resolution prevents commercial establishments from growing, processing, or selling adult use cannabis, noting the Township does not have the legal authority to prohibit what citizens do as to this. He stated the Board must act quickly as the new legislation in Ohio goes into effect in two days. He said this allows the Township time to take a look at what may happen.

Ms. Schwegmann said it is clear there is a lot about this legislation that still needs to be decided and it is prudent for the Township to press pause until some of those decisions are made by the State.

Mr. James asked Mr. Barbieri about the resolution verbiage stating the Township desires "time to study whether to limit" this but does not mention a deadline to complete a study.

Mr. Barbieri answered the Township can do a study or may take some time and see what other communities learn and there is no deadline.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye
Resolution 2023-096 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Mr. Kellums reported the next three resolutions for consideration have to do with extending some of the Township's existing TIFs. He said the State legislature has given us a great opportunity to extend some of our TIFs and we have been working with George Glover and Andy Brossart to do so. Mr. Kellums said the criteria for the TIF extensions have been met including the 45-day notice to the schools, as the schools have passed a resolution forgoing the 45-day requirement. He thanked everyone for their work on this saying it is huge for Sycamore Township.

Resolution – Extending the Term of the Kenwood Towne Place TIF

The resolution "Authorizing an Amendment to Resolution 2007-81 to Extend the Term of the Tax Increment Financing Program for the Kenwood Towne Place Project for an Additional Thirty (30) Years Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5709.51 and 5709.73(B); Authorizing the Execution of Agreements and Other Related Actions Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5709.73, 5709.74, 5709.75, and Related Laws and Rules: Dispensing with a Second Reading and Declaring an Emergency" was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James.

Mr. James asked for confirmation of the date Great Oaks waived the 45-day notice as it was last year.

Mr. Kellums confirmed the date was correct and is permitted.

Mr. Weidman said this is a great opportunity the legislature has given us, noting we missed a similar opportunity previously. He stated the window of opportunity was from October 1st to December 31st and this is a game changer that will keep the Township financially healthy for the long haul. He thanked George Glover and Andy Brossart for their hard work in getting this accomplished in a short time. He stated in the long term, these three TIF extensions together will generate over \$100 million for Sycamore Township. Mr. James and Ms. Schwegmann agreed.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye
Resolution 2023-097 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Resolution – Extending the Term of the Kenwood Towne Center TIF

The resolution "Authorizing an Amendment to Resolution 88-17, as Amended by Resolution 2002-35 and Further Amended by Resolution 2016-77, to Extend the Term of the Tax Increment Financing Program for the Kenwood Towne Center Project for an Additional Thirty (30) Years Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5709.51 and 5709.73(B); Authorizing the Execution of Agreements and Other Related Actions Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5709.73, 5709.74, 5709.75, and Related Laws and Rules: Dispensing with a Second Reading and Declaring an Emergency" 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 2023-098 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Resolution – Extending the Term of the Duke TIF

The resolution “Authorizing an Amendment to Resolution 88-18, as Amended by Resolution 2002-36 and Further Amended by Resolution 2016-78, to Extend the Term of the Tax Increment Financing Program for the P.R. Duke Project for an Additional Thirty (30) Years Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5709.51 and 5709.73(B); Authorizing the Execution of Agreements and Other Related Actions Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5709.73, 5709.74, 5709.75, and Related Laws and Rules: Dispensing with a Second Reading and Declaring an Emergency” 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 2023-099 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Resolution – Authorizing and Directing a Transfer of Funds to Reconcile Budgets and Appropriations

The resolution “Authorizing and Directing a Transfer of Funds to Reconcile Budgets and Appropriations 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 2023-100 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Resolution – Amending 2023 Appropriations

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

Mr. James requested Mr. Kellums give a quick overview of the changes.

Mr. Kellums answered some of the funds would be reduced, noting one reason is due to spending less on health insurance. He said we increased a couple of TIF project funds to cover Sheriff costs but overall it is a decrease of \$5 million over all of the funds put together.

Mr. James noted we will net about \$1.2 million dollars under budget overall for the year.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye
Resolution 2023-101 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Mr. Kellums said the following resolutions are those considered at year-end.

Resolution – Authorizing Payment for Association Dues

The resolution “Authorizing Payment for Association Dues 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 2023-102 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Resolution – Authorizing Membership in the Coalition of Large Urban Townships

The resolution “Authorizing Membership in the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships 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 2023-103 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Resolution – Establishing Mileage Allowance for Township Employees Providing for Reimbursement Expenses

The resolution “Establishing Mileage Allowance for Township Employees Providing for Reimbursement Expenses 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 2023-104 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Resolution – Requesting the County Auditor to Make Advance Payments of Taxes

The resolution “Requesting the County Auditor to Make Advance Payments of Taxes 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 2023-105 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Resolution – Setting the Township Fiscal Officer’s Salary and Benefits

The resolution “Setting the Township Fiscal Officer’s Salary and Benefits 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. James asked for the amount of the salary. Mr. Kellums answered about \$32,000.00. Mr. James noted the Fiscal Officer’s salary is about \$32,000.00 and is set by Ohio law.

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

Resolution 2023-106 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Resolution – Providing for Compensation to the Trustees

The resolution “Providing for Compensation to the Trustees 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. James noted the Trustees’ salary varies and is about \$25,000.00 to \$27,000.00. Mr. Kellums said it is actually about \$24,000.00.

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

Resolution 2023-107 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Resolution – Providing Insurance Benefits to the Township Trustees and Fiscal Officer

The resolution “Providing Insurance Benefits to the Township Trustees and Fiscal Officer 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 2023-108 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Resolution – Setting Trustee Meeting Dates and Times

The resolution “Setting Trustee Meeting Dates and Times 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. Kellums stated the meetings will be on the first and third Tuesdays of the month except for four months of the year when the dates have changed due to holidays or conflicting dates.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye
Resolution 2023-109 passed this 5th day of December, 2023

Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00

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

Purchase Order 23-69-6	Blanket Vendor	Fire Contract Services	\$10,000.00
Purchase Order 23-173	Bureau of Workers’ Comp.	2024 Premium	\$92,240.00
Purchase Order 23-174	Ohio Treasurer	Sturbridge CB13L	\$37,499.17

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

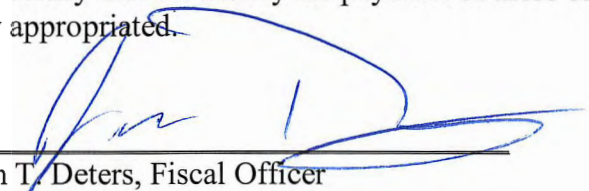
Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Fiscal Officer Report

Pay Bills and Read Receipts

The receipts in the amount of \$497,431.37 and disbursements in the amount of \$577,097.67 for December 5, 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. Kellums and Mr. Gould for their presentation of the Veterans Memorial to the State Capital Budget funds. He said he received a couple of phone calls from people on that Board complimenting them on the presentation. He thanked George Glover as well and said it would be a great project. Mr. Weidman encouraged people to come out to Dillonvale Luminaria.

Mr. James seconded Mr. Weidman's comments and thanked Mr. Kellums and staff for implementing changes to control the cost of the group health insurance which is a great benefit to taxpayers.

Announcements

Ms. Schwegmann the December 18th Board of Zoning Appeals meeting has been cancelled and leaf collection ends the week of December 18th. She said for all other meetings and events, please see the published calendar on the website.

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 compensation of public employees. Mr. Weidman seconded the motion.

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

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

End Regular Session: 7:48 p.m.

Begin Executive Session: 7:53 p.m.

End Executive Session: 8:53 p.m.

Back in Regular Session: 8:55 p.m.

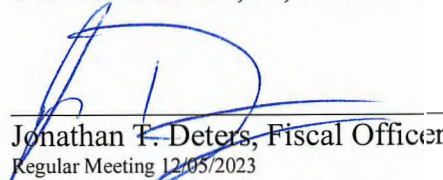
Mr. Deters called roll. All three Trustees indicated they were present.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. James. Vote: All Aye
The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Tracy Schwegmann, Chairman

Thomas J. Weidman, Vice Chairman

Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee

Jonathan T. Deters, Fiscal Officer
Regular Meeting 12/05/2023