

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of the Trustees of Sycamore Township Meeting
Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio
March 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Present for the meeting were President Connor, Vice President Weidman, Trustee LaBarbara, Fiscal Officer Porter, Law Director Miller, Administrator Bickford, Superintendent/Assistant Administrator Kellums, Zoning Administrator Holbert, Parks/Recreation Director McKeown, Fire Chief Penny and Corporal Kidd from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Lt. Smith was excused.

4462 Daffodil Avenue

Mr. Holbert reported that the property was in compliance with the accessory structure code requirement. He stated that some work needed to be done on the windows, but in terms of the court action, the condition has been abated. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Connor, to dismiss the court case. Mr. Porter called the roll, all voted aye.

Small Cell Towers

Mr. Holbert reported that he received a letter from Cincinnati Bell about the small cell project moving forward. He stated that the Board had requested more information on moving the tower up to the top of the wall, however, no information has been received from Cincinnati Bell.

Mr. Bickford pointed out that Ronald Reagan is not dedicated right-of-way.

The Board stated that Cincinnati Bell should continue to look at placing the tower on top of the wall in the passive green space.

Basketball Hoops in the Public Right of Way

Mr. Holbert stated the Township has notified several residents of basketball hoops that are located in the right-of-way and to date, none of the issues have been abated. Mr. Holbert requested direction from the Board on how to deal with those items. He stated that the next step would be to remove the obstructions, but wanted direction from the Board before staff proceeded.

Mr. Holbert reported that Indian Hill, Madeira, Montgomery and Wyoming all consider them hazards and deal with them accordingly.

Mr. Bickford stated that we have been notified by our insurance carrier that, because we are aware of the obstruction, any liability from them being in the right-of-way would fall back onto the Township.

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to send one file notification on the obstructions with a 30 day time limit. The notice will come from the Road Superintendent. Mr. Porter called the roll. All voted aye.

Maintenance Department Update

Mr. Kellums reported that Shelter #2 at Bechtold Park needs to be replaced. He stated that it would be similar to the new Shelter #3 replacement from a few years ago with a steel structure

and stone column bases. Brandstetter Carroll submitted a proposal for design services in the amount of \$11,300. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to hire Brandstetter Carroll to design the new Shelter #2. Mr. Porter called the roll. All voted yes.

Mr. Kellums reported that he has received two proposals for sidewalk engineering on Garden and Silvercrest. Brandstetter Carrol submitted a proposal in the amount of \$23,700 and Choice One Engineers submitted a proposal of \$27,600. Mr. Kellums stated that they will be looking at the most efficient way to construct the sidewalks with a minimal impact to existing trees utilizing existing right-of-way. There will also be crosswalks connecting to the existing sidewalk network. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to direct Mr. Miller to prepare a resolution hiring Brandstetter Carrol as project engineers. Mr. Porter called the roll. All voted yes.

Mr. Kellums reported that a storm sewer had collapsed on Mantel Avenue at Wicklow Avenue in Dillonvale and has created a sinkhole in the road. This appears to be the result of a Greater Cincinnati Waterworks pipe issue. The Township is requesting that Waterworks pay one third of the cost. The lowest quote for repair was from Hartman & Smith Construction Co. for \$31,750. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Connor, to direct Mr. Miller to prepare a resolution authorizing the repair with Hartman & Smith Construction Co.. Mr. Porter called the roll. All voted yes.

Mr. Kellums reported that Adleta Construction is back working on Galbraith Road and it is expected to be paved later in the spring.

Mr. Kellums also reported that the Montgomery Road Sidewalk, Phase Two is in the final stages of restoration and should be finished soon.

Mr. Kellums stated that he had received a request to create a monarch butterfly station in the Kenwood Road Cemetery. It would involve a walking path and plantings such as trees and wild flowers that were conducive to the monarch. The Board directed Mr. Kellums to research the issue of creating such an area in a cemetery and to see if it can be a Boy Scout / Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Kellums reported that Hamilton County has selected Bayer and Becker to do the engineering for the Conrey / Fields Ertel / McCauley project. Sycamore Township has agreed to pay one third of the total engineering cost as a construction contribution if the project starts construction.

Mr. Kellums reported on a potential deal for Rumpke's services to Township residents where their overall bill would be lowered and everyone would be offered free recycling. Mr. Kellums stated that 48% of Township residents currently recycle. This program would aim to increase that rate and lower the Township costs for the dumpsters. The new rate would be 18.55 per month with recycling which is a savings of over \$5 per month. All residents would have the option of a larger recycling container at no additional charge. The recycling would be picked up every other week. Mr. Kellums stated that this will save the Township over \$9,000 per year in Rumpke charges at Township facilities. The rate would be good through 2019 and would be subject to a two percent (2%) increase in 2020. Mr. Kellums also stated that this offer is valid for all Township residents and is not a mandatory program. He also requested that, if the Board

is interested in endorsing the program, they take a vote. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to endorse the program. Mr. Porter called the roll. All voted yes.

Mr. Kellums reported that the stone wall on Kenwood Road near the Kenwood Towne Centre property is rapidly deteriorating and is in need of repair or replacement. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to seek proposals from qualified firms to either repair or replace the wall. Mr. Porter called the roll, all voted yes.

Mr. Kellums stated the Township is considering applying for a CMAC 80/20 grant to install sidewalks on and repair / repave Kemper Road from Deerfield Road to Snider Road. The grant would pay for 80% of the work with the Township and other governmental partners contributing the remaining 20%. Mr. Kellums stated he would have more information at a later meeting.

Mr. Kellums reported that the eight year old super shelter in Bechtold Park is starting to deteriorate. He will be meeting with a structural engineer to assess what will be needed to repair it.

Mr. Weidman reported that he met with Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner, and Greg Kesterman with the Health Department about the ongoing sanitary sewer cross connection issue on Spirea and Largo. He stated that the Health Department is working with the Prosecutor's Office to require residents to work with MSD in order to complete the test so a final determination can be made on how to deal with the problem.

Fire Department Update

Chief Penny reported that the February statistics were not as busy as January. He also reported that two Firefighters are scheduled to attend ALICE / Stop the Bleed training. In addition, the department will be working with the Sheriff's office on active shooter training specifically on how to enter the building during an event.

The Chief also reported that Horton is scheduled to take the damaged squad this week to begin the re-chassis process.

Sheriff Department Update

Corporal Kidd stated the Sheriff's Office had nothing to report.

Parks and Recreation Update

Mr. McKeown reminded the Board that the Twilight Concert on June 10 will feature the Jump n Jive show band at Bechtold Park.

Mr. McKeown stated that the soccer fields in McDaniel Park will be closed this spring so they can be reseeded and top-dressed with soil so they are ready for the heavy fall season. He also stated that baseball at Schuler starts this week and there are three separate organizations using the field.

Mr. McKeown reported that many vendors are interested in booths for the Festival and the committee will meet in May to award spaces.

Upcoming Public Hearings/Township Meetings

Mr. LaBarbara asked if an item could be added to the workshop agenda for public comments.

Mr. Bickford stated it was up to the Board. He then presented information that was previously requested by the Board on Township meetings. He stated that during the last three months the Township has cancelled one meeting a month and has not missed a beat. He suggested that there could be three meetings a month instead of four and that the first Thursday meeting would be held since it corresponds with Zoning Commission meetings and meets their time frame for public hearings and legal advertising requirements.

Mr. Miller stated that we have twice as many meetings as Anderson who follows a similar format. He also noted Colerain only meets once a month. Mr. Bickford stated that Colerain calls special meetings as needed.

Mr. Weidman stated that we will call special meetings as well.

Mr. Bickford noted that from a staff standpoint a lot of effort goes into those Thursday night meetings.

Mr. LaBarbara noted that several Townships do no workshops. He stated he would be for one workshop and two Thursday night meetings or just the evening meetings like Green Township does where it is wide open where people can talk. He stated that he listened to all the audio from all the meetings and stated that it's atrocious and it's a tough job to figure out what everyone has said.

Mr. LaBarbara said the Thursday meeting recordings were fine and workshops should be moved in there.

Mr. Bickford stated that it's up to the Board to decide where and when the meetings are.

Mr. Weidman stated that more work gets done at the workshop meeting and he is not opposed to trying two workshop meetings and one Thursday night meeting and if it becomes a problem then we can go back to two and two.

Mr. Connor agreed. He noted that today was an example where a lot more work gets done and Thursday becomes more ceremonial.

Mr. Miller suggested the Board take a vote to cancel the second April, May, June meetings.

Mr. LaBarbara noted that the meetings were created to be ceremonial. He stated he went back over the meeting minutes and they are only 25 minutes because everything is done in a workshop. He also stated that there are only two people in the audience, Jay Janus and someone else. He stated that he believes there should be two meetings in the Hearing Room where everyone can see it. He also stated the doors should be open and there should public comment at the workshops.

Mr. Connor stated that he has no problem moving the meeting into the Hearing Room.

Mr. Porter added they could move workshops to night if you want public comment.

Mr. Bickford stated that not all members of the public can make it at night.

Mr. Weidman stated that Mr. Miller had a good suggestion to cancel the second meeting for the next three months and see how it goes. He also stated that he thinks the conference room is a better space to have the workshops but will yield to the Board.

Mr. LaBarbara asked if the Board would be interested in public comment during the workshops.

Mr. Bickford noted that the Board currently allows pertinent comments on workshop agenda items. He also noted that Anderson does not allow any comments at their workshop meetings.

Mr. Weidman clarified that it was applicable comments on items.

Mr. LaBarbara clarified the discussion stating that we are going to move the meetings into the hearing rooms and add an item for public remarks.

Mr. Connor stated neither of those things are what Doug suggested.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to cancel the April, May, and June meetings. Mr. Connor seconded. Mr. Miller pointed out that the first Thursday in July is the fifth and that may be a problem with the Fourth of July holiday because there people may be out. Mr. Weidman stated that the Board can address that at a later date noting he doesn't think it will be a problem. Mr. Porter called the roll. LaBarbara no, Weidman yes, Connor yes.

Mr. LaBarbara made a motion to move the workshop meetings to the Hearing room, seconded by Mr. Connor. Mr. Weidman stated he thought the workshop meetings work better in the conference room. Mr. LaBarbara stated that Mr. Weidman just stated he had no problem moving the meetings. Mr. Weidman stated he did not say that, he said he would yield to the Board. Mr. Porter called the roll. LaBarbara yes, Weidman no, Connor yes.

Mr. LaBarbara made a motion to place a specific agenda item for public comment on workshop items. Mr. Connor seconded. Mr. Weidman stated he did not have an objection to the public speaking on a specific agenda item but did not want comments on non-agenda items.

Mr. LaBarbara commented that Mr. Weidman did not want someone talking about something that, for instance, Tracy was bringing up, because traditionally that has not been done.

Mr. Weidman clarified that he did not want to have the same open public comments on a workshop that are on a Thursday night meeting. He explained that if someone wanted to come in and address something specific to the workshop they could, but if they wanted to come in and talk about something totally off the subject, he was opposed to it.

Mr. Weidman stated if it was something that was talked about at the workshop, like the storm sewers on Spirea, then that was fine, but he was not interested in someone coming in and talking about the fact that their leaves were not picked up. Mr. LaBarbara stated he agreed with that.

Mr. Miller stated that out of this process the residents need to learn that they can go to staff and most times it will be solved and, if it is a big enough issue, staff will put it on the agenda. He also stated that he sees many times these issues end up getting bogged down and no work gets done.

Mr. Connor brought up the example that in a previous meeting the Board allowed Mr. Carter to speak at the workshop since it was an issue that he was involved in. He also noted that in another instance, the Board was discussing an internal matter and comment was not allowed since it was not pertaining to that discussion. He went on to say that we do allow attendees to comment if it's relevant to the discussion and that is a policy the he believes is sufficient.

Mr. Weidman noted that is a reasonable compromise considering Anderson does not allow anyone to speak.

Mr. Bickford noted that Sycamore Township allows much more than any other Township as far as public input in a workshop.

Mr. LaBarbara stated he wanted the public remarks and could it be worded a certain way.

Mr. Miller stated that, depending on the motion, you may not be changing the way things are already done. He noted if there is someone in attendance who has information on a topic being discussed, the Trustees have never prohibited anyone from speaking when it's relevant.

He also noted that the "open talk about anything you want to talk about" meeting with the Trustees is the Thursday night meeting.

Mr. Weidman noted that we are not changing anything. He referenced Mr. Connor's example of Mr. Carter's issue on the agenda. He also noted that open comments take place at the Thursday night meeting.

Mr. LaBarbara stated that he doesn't think a lot of residents know that. He has been told by residents that they are not allowed to speak at these meetings.

Mr. Connor stated that how would anyone know that if they don't come to the meeting.

Mr. LaBarbara stated that's what he heard.

Mr. Miller noted that when someone who is unknown comes to a meeting, he has never seen an instance where someone did not ask "is there something we can help you with?"

Mr. LaBarbara said he was fine with that and let's see how it goes in the Hearing Room and we can address it later.

Mr. Connor noted there is still a motion on the table.

Mr. LaBarbara withdrew his motion.

Mr. Miller noted that the residents would be better talking to staff beforehand.

Mr. Bickford noted that staff solves a lot of problems that the Board never sees. Mr. Miller stated that not a lot of people know that. Mr. Bickford stated that's not necessarily the case.

Mr. Miller stated that at a lot of the open comment sessions a resident will stand up with an issue that no one has heard about and the response is that staff will check it out.

Mr. Bickford noted that the times for the previously scheduled public hearing for Mercedes Benz could not be changed to accommodate the tax incentive review hearing since notification had already been made. If the hearing goes into the tax incentive review time then the hearing will be paused and then resumed after the tax incentive review hearing.

Mr. Holbert noted that there has been a dialog going back and forth between the residents and Mercedes on their issues.

Mr. Holbert noted that the Texas Roadhouse hearing will be 6:15 p.m. on April 5th, and Taz Fresh will be at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Holbert stated that Zoning Commission recommended approval of Texas Roadhouse 4-1 and Tax Fresh was recommended for approval 5-0.

Mr. Bickford indicated that an open house was scheduled for April 9, 2018 for the Hills Property and another open house was scheduled for March 19, 2018 for a zone change on Kemper Road next to the former Limerick property. He also advised the Board to stay away from the open houses as they are for the residents and applicant to have one on one dialog.

Mr. Holbert advised the Board that there was an open house last night on a proposed development on Happiness and Kenwood that will be brought before the Board in May or June.

Mr. LaBarbara asked how the residents responded. Mr. Holbert stated it was a mixed bag and there was a little bit of everything.

Mr. LaBarbara noted that Jake Thompson won a wrestling state title for Moeller over the weekend.

Resolution – Authorizing and Directing a Transfer of Funds to the CIC

The resolution "Authorizing and Directing a Transfer of Funds for Economic Development Purposes to Sycamore Township CIC, Inc., the Designated Community Improvement Corporation of Sycamore Township" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. Connor, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye. Resolution No. 2018-27 approved this 13th day of March, 2018.

Purchase Orders Over \$2,500.00

Mr. Bickford presented the following purchase orders for approval:

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Bramble Mower Service | Turf Tracer 48" and Spread/Sprayer | \$19,185.91 |
| Treasurer of State of Ohio | Financial Audit | \$14,522.00 |
| Blanket Vendor | Fire Contracts | \$5,000.00 |
| Hartman and Smith Construction | Wicklów/Mantell Storm Sewer | \$31,750.00 |
| Bramble Mower Service | Ventilation Saws for New Engine | \$4,191.80 |

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|
| Vogelpohl Fire Equipment | Storage Lockers for Turnout Gear | \$13,646.00 |
| Phoenix Safety Outfitters | Turnout Gear Replacement Fire | \$40,000.00 |
| Vogelpohl Fire Equipment | SCBA Bottle Replacements – Fire | \$18,720.00 |
| Vogelpohl Fire Equipment | Replace Outdated Confined Space Equip. | \$16,714.00 |

A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve these requests. Mr. Weidman asked if we will get reimbursed on the storm sewer repair. Mr. Kellums stated yes. Vote: All Aye.

Schedule

The schedule of upcoming events was read by Mr. Connor.

A motion to enter into **Executive Session to discuss Property Acquisition and Property Sale** was made by Trustee Weidman and seconded by Trustee LaBarbara.

Vote: Weidman: Aye; Bishop: Aye; Connor: Aye.

End regular session: 10:38 a.m.

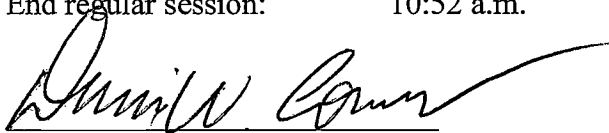
Begin Executive Session: 10:45 a.m.

End Executive Session: 10:51 a.m.

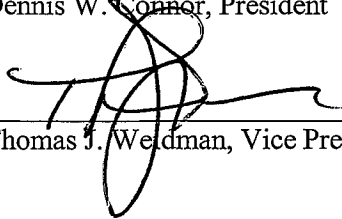
Back in regular session: 10:52 a.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Weidman and seconded by Trustee LaBarbara. Vote: All Aye.

End regular session: 10:52 a.m.

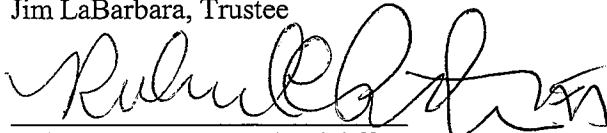


Dennis W. Connor, President

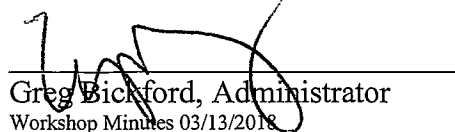


Thomas J. Weidman, Vice President

Jim LaBarbara, Trustee



Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer



Greg Bickford, Administrator