

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of the Trustees of Sycamore Township Meeting
Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio
May 1, 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 Lt. Smith from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. LaBarbara stated that he would like to begin the meeting by stating that Mr. Porter was disrespectful to a guest that was here at a previous meeting and this was unacceptable.

Mini Cell Towers

Mr. Holbert reported that the mini cell towers, which companies have been requesting permission from the Hamilton County Engineer's office to put in the right of way, are actually not regulated as a utility. He presented some information from Anderson Township regarding guidelines they are trying to work out with Hamilton County. Mr. Holbert said he seeks direction from the Board on how to proceed.

Mr. Connor said the Board should take the time to look through the information submitted by Mr. Holbert.

Mr. Miller noted the Attorney General's Office has already issued an opinion allowing the mini cell towers in the right of way, noting there is not much the Board will be able to do about it except to perhaps get them to follow whatever guidelines the Board decides to adopt.

Nuisance Property Resolution – 4454 Crystal Ave.

The resolution "Providing For and Authorizing Removal of Trash and Debris, Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 4454 Crystal Avenue, Sycamore Township, OH 45242" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye. Resolution No. 2018-47 passed this 1st day of May, 2018.

Nuisance Vehicle Resolutions – 4454 Crystal

The resolution "Providing for the Removal of Junk Vehicle(s) in Sycamore Township, Hamilton County and the Proper Disposal, Storage or Impoundment of Motor Vehicle(s)" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye. Resolution No. 2018-48 passed this 1st day of May, 2018.

Nuisance Vehicle Resolutions – 3684 E. Galbraith and 7675 Styra

The resolution "Providing for the Removal of Junk Vehicle(s) in Sycamore Township, Hamilton County and the Proper Disposal, Storage or Impoundment of Motor Vehicle(s)" was read. A

motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

The resolution "Providing for the Removal of Junk Vehicle(s) in Sycamore Township, Hamilton County and the Proper Disposal, Storage or Impoundment of Motor Vehicle(s)" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Holbert discussed a conversation he had with the property owner regarding the junk vehicle which was owned by her son.

Mr. Miller questioned the two junk vehicle resolutions for the vehicles on Galbraith and Styrax stating that the vehicle year is not listed on either. He said there has to be proof that the vehicle is over three years old.

Mr. Holbert held on to the junk vehicle resolutions for 3684 E. Galbraith Road and 7675 Styrax Lane so that the year of the vehicle could be verified.

Fire Department Update

Mr. Connor stated that Chief Penny and Mr. Bickford had looked into staffing concerns caused by the change in the paradigm between part time and full time employees.

Chief Penny reported the number of part time firefighters, which had been at more than 80 prior to 2013, was now at only 11; making part timers an unreliable source for staffing the department. He spoke of the efforts currently being made by those in the department to keep up with runs. Chief said they staff at 12, can be efficient at 10 or 11, but anything less than that becomes a problem. He requested enough full timers so that part time help would be used only to cover time off time such as vacations and Kelly days instead of for primary staffing.

Chief Penny said he'd like to divert some of the money used for OIC pay to promote firefighters to lieutenant who were demoted in 2012.

Mr. Weidman commented when he spoke with the Chief it seemed the return on the investment in additional personnel would be substantial.

Chief Penny said that is correct noting that when the third squad is staffed it is a source of revenue.

Mr. Bickford reported on the different rates of pay for firefighters noting the difficulties with budgeting. He said, if the Township hires six new firefighters full time, that cost will range from \$360,000 to \$570,000 depending on level of experience, insurance and other options. Mr. Bickford went on to discuss money that could be saved in contract pay, part time pay and overtime by hiring six new firefighters, stating that, when the revenue from the third squad is factored in, the net cost would be \$75,000 to \$390,000.

Mr. Bickford stated that there is \$1 million in JEDZ money currently being used to build cash reserves which could be used to pay for the new hires. Additionally, he pointed out the JEDZ are projected to bring in \$6 million. He cautioned the Board this would bring the Fire Department budget over \$5 million.

Chief Penny discussed the significant increase in run volume since 2013.

Mr. Porter asked what the cause of that is.

Chief Penny noted there are seven nursing homes in the Township saying a third of all runs are to nursing homes. He said the aging population, large retail area, and the many medical facilities, rehabilitation centers and nursing homes all contribute to the increase in run volume.

Mr. Connor suggested Chief Penny and Mr. Bickford come up with a plan, try to lock down the cost of that plan, and present it to the Board on Thursday for formal action.

There was discussion regarding the promotion of two of the firefighters to Lieutenant with the decision to have resolutions to be prepared for Thursday evening's meeting for the change in their rates of pay.

Chief Penny also reported the new engine has arrived at Station 92. He noted the department had saved about \$5,000 to \$6,000 in installation fees by mounting radios and installing other equipment in the new engine in-house.

Sheriff Department Update

Lt. Smith reported he had spoken with Darcy Shirmer, Activities Director at Brookwood Retirement Home regarding a chair volleyball event with the residents there on May 15th. She enlisted Lt. Smith's and Chief Penny's help to get a "Heroes" team of first responders together to play chair volleyball with the residents.

Lt. Smith reported Officer Bittermann was working with resident Kathy Kugler and others around Tenderfoot to establish a Blockwatch Program.

Lt. Smith then informed the Board the focus of his article for the next Township newsletter will be pedestrian safety.

Parks and Recreation Update

Mr. McKeown stated, due to the Festival in Sycamore vendor application deadline being May 18th, he would like to change the Parks and Recreation Meeting from May 14th to May 21st.

Mr. LaBarbara asked for information on the Park Board.

Mr. McKeown answered there is an advisory board made up of volunteers who help with park events.

Mr. Weidman asked how Sponsorships for the 2018 Festival in Sycamore were going.

Mr. McKeown answered there is a lot of sponsorship money promised but not much in yet. He stated the anonymous donor has promised at least \$5,000.

Maintenance Department Update

Mr. Kellums reported there will be a bid opening for the 2018 Curb and Sidewalk Replacement Program on May 11th at 10:00 a.m. He also stated work on the Montgomery Road Sidewalk Project Phase Three has begun.

Mr. Kellums reported since the Township began contracting with OUPS to get notifications when utility companies cut into Township streets, we have been averaging 15 notifications a day. He noted some have gone to Mr. Holbert in the Zoning Department to check for permits for decks, fences and the like. He said there have been a couple notifications for cutting into the street with no permit. The cost of the service from OUPS is \$450 per year and this has already been recouped by preventing the two without permits from not having the road properly backed up to prevent settlement.

Mr. Kellums reported the South Trash Bash was the busiest it has been in years with 24 compacted dumpsters full which is about twice what the South Trash Bash has been doing lately. He also said there were 18,000 pounds of documents shredded. He said there were hundreds of tires collected, noting the Township gets a grant from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful for those.

Mr. Connor asked Mr. Kellums to thank the maintenance crew who worked so hard to make the busiest Trash Bash in years a success.

Mr. Kellums also reported the Township received a refund of \$1,326.97 from Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District because they have discontinued their litter pick up program. He noted he will not have his crews on the highways but they will clean up litter on ramps and along the Montgomery and Kenwood Road corridors as best they can.

Mr. Kellums said recycling numbers came in and the Township received a direct deposit back of \$16,202.50 thanks to the recycling efforts of Township residents. He noted the Township has come to an agreement with Rumpke for curbside recycling collection for residents beginning in August which should improve recycling numbers.

Mr. Kellums went on to report he had received an email regarding basketball hoops in the right of way from a resident concerned that the thirty day timeframe the Board instructed him to give residents to remove the basketball hoops is too long and creates a liability if something happens during those thirty days. He noted this resident took it upon himself to knock on the door of a resident with a basketball hoop in the right of way telling the person to remove it. Mr. Kellums said residents concerned about the basketball hoops and kids playing in the street should contact the Township. The Trustees agreed a thirty day timeframe to remove the basketball hoops is reasonable.

Police Policy

Mr. Bickford said Lt. Smith wanted to discuss the resident who sent the email to Mr. Kellums regarding the basketball hoops and the confrontation he had with the neighbors he approached.

Lt. Smith said the Sheriff's response to the resident in question and others who have issues with their neighbors is to first try mediation, noting he offered to have an officer speak with the resident and he declined. He said they will move forward by using these situations in which children are found playing basketball in the street as teachable moments to make them aware of safety issues and no citations will be issued if the Board is amenable to that.

There was discussion about other neighborhood issues such as noise and parking problems which Lt. Smith said would be addressed first with mediation before any citations are issued.

The Board agreed the best approach is to start with mediation.

Upcoming Public Hearings

Mr. Bickford stated there will be two public hearings on Thursday beginning at 6:30 p.m. for zoning cases for March First Brewing and Americraft.

Mr. Holbert briefly explained case 2018-06P2, a proposal for a building addition for Americraft, and case 2018-07MA, a request for additional seating, manufacturing space and parking for March First Brewing. March First Brewing also requests a variance to construct their dumpster enclosure out of the same materials they used for other screening on the property. He noted Zoning Commission recommended approval of both cases with conditions.

Purchase Orders Over \$2,500.00

Mr. Bickford presented the following purchase order for approval:

Hamilton County Treasurer	Fiber Project Phase One	\$55,004.10
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A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara to approve this request.
Vote: All Aye

Schedule

Mr. Connor pointed out a few upcoming events listed on the schedule including the National Day of Prayer, a time change to 6:00 p.m. for Zoning Commission due to a heavy agenda, a date change for the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting to May 21st, and the cancellation of the May 17th Trustee Meeting.

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

Vote: Weidman: Aye; LaBarbara: Aye; Connor: Aye.

End regular session: 9:58 a.m.


Begin Executive Session: 10:00 a.m.

End Executive Session: 10:06 a.m.


Back in regular session: 10:07 a.m.

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

End regular session: 10:07 a.m.




Dennis W. Connor, President



Thomas J. Weidman, Vice-President



Jim LaBarbara, Trustee



Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer



Greg Bickford, Administrator
Workshop Minutes 05/01/2018