

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of the Trustees of Sycamore Township Meeting
Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio
January 15, 2019

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

Organization of the Board

Mr. Bickford called the meeting to order at 9:00am. He indicated that typically the first order of business in the New Year is to name a President and Vice President of the Board. He noted that a recent change in the Ohio Revised Code from House Bill 500 that will go into effect later this year requires a Board of Township Trustees to name a Chairman and Vice Chairman. He suggested that the Board name a Chair and Vice Chair instead of President and Vice President. Mr. Connor made a motion for Mr. Weidman as Chairman of the Board. Mr. LaBarbara made a motion for Mr. Connor as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Weidman seconded Mr. Connor's motion. Mr. Miller called the roll on the seconded motion. Mr. Miller called the roll. Mr. LaBarbara – Nay, Mr. Connor – Aye, Mr. Weidman – Aye.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to appoint Mr. Connor as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Connor. Mr. Miller called the Roll. Mr. Connor – Aye, Mr. Weidman – Aye, Mr. LaBarbara – Nay.

County Engineer Annual Meeting March 7, 2019

Mr. Bickford stated that the Annual Township Trustee / County Engineer Meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2019. He noted that Sycamore Township is the only Township with a meeting that night and suggested that the Board consider changing its date to March 6, 2019 in order to attend the meeting.

Mr. Connor made a motion to move the regularly scheduled March 7, 2019 meeting to March 6, 2019, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara. Mr. Connor – Aye, Mr. Weidman – Aye, Mr. LaBarbara – Aye.

Approval of December 18, 2018 Workshop Minutes

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weidman, to approve the December 18, 2018 Workshop minutes.

Mr. LaBarbara read a prepared statement which said in the past he had reminded this board to be respectful of the residents. He said calling residents angry people is disrespectful. He noted that Mr. Holbert added comments after a motion was made for the ad-hoc zoning committee. In the statement Mr. LaBarbara added that he talked to people and they expect the Trustees to do the right thing. Mr. LaBarbara noted he asked about Mr. Holbert's credentials and was told to ask later. Mr. LaBarbara stated that the ad-hoc committee should meet on its own time not after a zoning meeting. He also noted he wants Jacobs to attend the meetings, which Mr. Bickford confirmed.

Mr. LaBarbara added a comment that we have to ask ourselves when we start to call people angry, if we do so because they do not agree with us.

Mr. LaBarbara said in addition to transparency, respect should be added for all.

Mr. Miller called the roll; Mr. Connor – Aye, Mr. Weidman – Aye, Mr. LaBarbara – Nay.

Planning & Zoning Update

Mr. Holbert did not have any additional information to report.

Upcoming Public Meetings

Mr. Holbert presented the proposal for Case 2018-19P2 which is scheduled to be heard on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Holbert indicated that revised plans that correct technical issues will be presented Thursday.

Mr. Bickford indicated that since this was not a Zone Change, a right-of-way dedication is not required. He also indicated that several variances were required due to the limitations of the site.

Nuisance Property & Vehicle Resolutions – 8671 Darnell Ave. and 12093 6th Ave.

The resolution “Providing For and Authorizing Removal of Trash and Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 8671 Darnell Avenue, Sycamore Township, OH 45236” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Weidman.

There was discussion on the motion.

Mr. LaBarbara referenced a letter that indicated that this property owner is being treated unfairly and stated this is a neighbor fight. He indicated that Mr. Holbert was poorly prepared back at the June 28, 2018 meeting and presented wrong information. He stated that Mr. Duncan was empowered and noted that the previous 23 violations which the property owner did not respond to were from different renters and that the owner lives out of town.

Mr. LaBarbara stated to Mr. Miller he believes that this was a defamation against Mr. Garcia and hopes there isn't a lawsuit. He noted that he is a war vet and that the portion of the property in violation is difficult to reach without going on Mr. Duncan's property.

Mr. LaBarbara requested that Sycamore Township drop the nuisance action and, under the circumstances, send a Township crew onto the property to clean it up via the neighbor's property.

Mr. Weidman wanted to clarify that Mr. LaBarbara suggested that we send a Township crew onto private property to clean up a nuisance. Mr. LaBarbara stated yes, and that, under this circumstance, it should be done because the Township accelerated the existing problem.

Mr. Miller indicated he was unsure if there is a defamation lawsuit in this case but he did indicate that Sycamore Township is not allowed to go on private property to clean it up or spend public money on private property without going through the nuisance process. Mr. LaBarbara indicated

that, in this circumstance, we can request that Mr. Garcia allow us access to the property to clean it up.

Mr. Miller explained the nuisance process and noted that the Township can't spend money on private property. Mr. LaBarbara indicated it is difficult to clean up due to the slope. He indicated that Mr. Duncan has cleared the lower portion of his lot.

There was discussion of trash on the property that was located near the building.

Mr. Bickford stated that this property was declared a nuisance in the past and was cleaned up. Mr. Holbert confirmed that it was.

Mr. Bickford asked if we knew who put the debris in that spot. Mr. Holbert said the Township did not know who put it there and indicated that the Township is responding to a complaint.

Mr. LaBarbara stated this is a battle between two neighbors and he believes that Mr. Duncan will not allow people on his property to clean the debris.

Mr. Miller stated that the Township can't clean it up without this process and we are required to charge the owner. He also noted that the Township is unable to enter any private property.

Mr. Miller called the roll. Mr. Connor – Aye, Mr. LaBarbara – Nay, Mr. Weidman – Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-01 passed this 15th day of January, 2019.

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. Connor, seconded by Mr. Weidman, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Miller called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-02 passed this 15th day of January, 2019.

Appointed Boards

Mr. Bickford reported that the terms of Mr. Tom Scheve and Mr. Jim Eichmann are expiring on the Board of Zoning Appeals noting they have indicated they would like to continue to serve. He also stated that the term of Mr. Tom Kronenberger on the Zoning Commission has expired. Mr. Bickford stated Mr. Kronenberger is considering a move out of state and would be ineligible to serve. He suggested that the Board thank Mr. Kronenberger for his time and consider appointing a new member at this time. He also suggested that Mr. Steve Roos, the Zoning Commission Alternate be moved from reserve to active status and the newly appointed member be considered the Alternate.

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weidman to re-appoint Mr. Tom Scheve to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five year term. Mr. Miller called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara re-appoint Mr. Jim Eichmann to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five year term. Mr. Miller called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weidman to move Mr. Roos to Active status on Zoning Commission. Mr. Miller called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara to advertise for a new Zoning Commission Member. Mr. Miller called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Fire Department Update

Chief Penny requested approval for \$9,200 for SCBA gear to replace items that did not pass their recertification test. Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara to approve the purchase.

Chief Penny noted that the monthly fire department reports will now be available on the website. Mr. Miller called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Chief Penny indicated that the swearing in of Assistant Chief Cooper and Firefighter / Medic Tom Swimeley, newly hired from the part time ranks, will be Thursday night.

Mr. Connor made a motion to hire Tom Swimeley as a Full time Firefighter / Medic, seconded by Mr. Weidman. Mr. Miller called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Sheriff Department Update

Lt. Smith stated the December statistics were submitted.

Mr. LaBarbara asked about the joint Silverton, Symmes, and Sycamore study for police services now that Symmes has backed out.

Mr. Bickford indicated the study is still moving forward and the Board could opt out if it wanted, but the study will provide the information necessary to make sure Sycamore Township gets the best police protection possible.

Parks and Recreation Update

Mr. McKeown asked for guidance on the 2019 Festival in Sycamore. Mr. LaBarbara stated he would like to put a pause on the process until Mr. McKeown can provide a list of local and national acts and their cost.

Mr. Connor noted the festival should continue, however, the costs need to be contained and reduced to a lower number. He also noted that the festival is a good value based on what other communities spend on similar events.

Mr. LaBarbara indicated that information presented by Mr. James shows that over \$1 million has been spent on the festival in the past and perhaps that money could be better spent and we should take an intermission for a year to re-evaluate it.

Mr. Weidman stated he thinks it's a great family event for the community. He noted that Montgomery spends almost \$100,000 for the one day Bastille Day event and Blue Ash spends

almost \$300,000 for their event which is regional and not a family event. He stated that we need to contain our costs and increase the level of sponsorships.

Mr. McKeown indicated that the number of local and national acts can be adjusted for cost savings.

Mr. Bickford went over the 2017 and 2018 event costs and broke them down by category indicating that talent and their related costs were the bulk of expense for the festival.

Mr. Bickford indicated that \$125,000 has been appropriated for Festivals and Events.

Mr. Standish Fortin stated the Township could keep the alcohol revenue. Mr. Miller stated that the Township has never kept any of the vendors' revenue.

Mr. Bickford indicated there is a vendor policy in which the vendors pay a fee to enter the event and keep any revenue they generate.

Mr. Bickford clarified that the Board is giving direction to Mr. McKeown to provide a list of bands.

Mr. LaBarbara added he would like to pause the festival and not do it this year. Mr. Connor stated he would like to see the list before a final call is made.

Mr. Miller stated that because there is a differing of opinion, he requested a motion to give direction to Mr. McKeown to continue with the festival and provide the requested list.

Mr. Connor made a motion to direct Mr. McKeown to continue with festival preparations, including the requested talent list. Mr. Weidman seconded.

Mr. Miller called the roll. Mr. Connor – Aye, Mr. Weidman – Aye, Mr. LaBarbara – Nay.

Maintenance Department Update

Mr. Kellums reported that the crews were busy with snow removal over the weekend and that 210 tons of salt were used. He also noted that since this was the first snow of this magnitude, the new crew members gained some valuable experience.

Mr. Kellums indicated that the bid opening for the re-build of the Bechtold Pavilion will take place on January 24th. He also indicated that the pre-construction meeting for the Sycamore Road project will take place on February 4, 2019.

Resolution – Authorizing a Contract for Construction Engineering and Material Testing Services with Prime AE Group, Inc. for the Sycamore Road Improvement Project

Mr. Kellums indicated that 78% of the total cost will be paid for by the grand and the final Township cost will be \$37,560.

The resolution "Authorizing a Contract for Construction Engineering and Material Testing Services with Prime AE Group, Inc. for the Sycamore Road Improvement Project" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Weidman, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Miller called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-03 passed this 15th day of January, 2019.

Mr. Kellums indicated the Jacob Gamel will take his CDL test this week and he is getting ready to interview candidates for the lawn crew leader position for the parks.

Mr. Weidman asked if the Township's salt supply was adequate. Mr. Kellums stated it was and that the Township is taking delivery of 400 additional tons today.

Resolution – Adopting a Revised Township Credit Card Policy

The resolution "Adopting a Revised Township Credit Card Policy" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Miller called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-04 passed this 15th day of January, 2019.

Resolution – Authorizing Membership in the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships

The resolution "Authorizing Membership in the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships" was read. A motion was made by Mr. LaBarbara, seconded by Mr. Connor, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Miller called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-05 passed this 15th day of January, 2019.

Blanket Purchase Orders

Mr. Bickford presented the 2019 Blanket purchase orders for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara to approve this request. Vote: All Aye

Purchase Orders over \$2,500

Mr. Bickford presented the following purchase orders for approval:

Prime AE Group	Sycamore Road Project	\$33,567.60
Vogelphol	SCBA Gear	\$9,200.00

A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara to approve this request. Vote: All Aye


Mr. Miller stated his firm has a partner who lives in close proximity to a potential future development on Kugler Mill Road. He recommended that the Township seek outside council should an application be submitted. He recommended the Township hire Scott Soleman at \$200 per hour. Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to hire the outside council should an application be submitted.

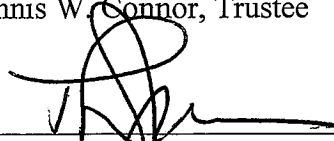
Schedule


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

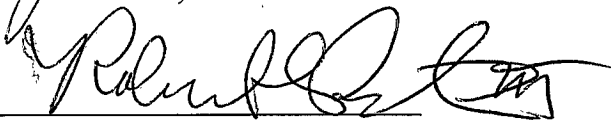
A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Connor and seconded by Trustee LaBarbara. Vote: All Aye.

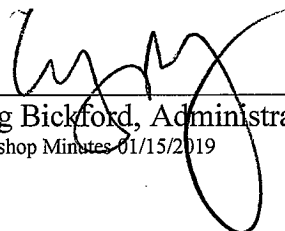
End regular session: 10:15 a.m.


Dennis W. Connor, Trustee


Thomas J. Weidman, Trustee


Jim LaBarbara, Trustee


Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer


Greg Bickford, Administrator