

## **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **Minutes of the Trustees of Sycamore Township Meeting Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio**

**December 17, 2019**

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Weidman.

#### **Approval of December 4, 2019 Workshop Minutes**

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to approve the November 19, 2019 Workshop minutes.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: Connor: Aye; LaBarbara: Aye; Weidman: Aye

#### **Parks and Recreation Update**

Mr. McKeown reported that Luminaria went well with a nice crowd and thanked Trustees Weidman and Connor for their attendance at the event.

#### **Sheriff Department Update**

Lt. Smith reported he will be meeting with a representative of the Kenwood Towne Center to discuss enhanced security measures at the mall over the holiday break.

#### **Fire Department Update**

Chief Penny reported he ordered the Power Cot before the 2020 price increase and it was delivered yesterday. He said it will be installed in the 93 squad.

#### **Maintenance Update**

Mr. Kellums reported he has had a request from some residents for a community garden. He noted they are looking for a third of an acre of land and asked if the Trustees are agreeable to him looking into that. There was discussion about possible sites for a community garden.

Mr. Kellums said he has an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for the Montgomery/Kenwood Roads Traffic Study prepared and will be posting it on the website.

Mr. Kellums said Kugler Mill Road residents should have received letters from Dennis Ziccardi and Associates in regards to easements.

Mr. Kellums said the maintenance crews are out trying to finish up leaf collection for the season despite the snow.

Mr. Kellums reported there will be a public meeting regarding the Fields Ertel Road Corridor on January 23, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Schuler Community Room.

#### **Resolution – Authorizing a Contract for Engineering Montgomery Rd. Sidewalk Phase IV**

The resolution “Authorizing a Contract for Construction Engineering and Material Testing Services for the Montgomery Road Sidewalk Phase IV Project” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-140 passed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

#### **Planning & Zoning Update**

Mr. S. Miller reported on topics discussed in the Land Use Planning Committee meeting held the day before.

Mr. S. Miller followed up on a nuisance property a resident inquired about at the last meeting. He said it was verified that proper notice was given on the nuisance property located at 6330 Kugler Mill Road and the contractor may legally enter the property on Thursday to begin abating the nuisance. He noted he had contacted the resident to make him aware of that timeline.

#### **Expiring Zoning Board Terms**

Mr. S. Miller reported on expiring zoning board terms for Mr. Rich Barrick on Zoning Commission and Mr. Jeff Heidel on the Board of Zoning Appeals. He stated both men have indicated a desire to remain on the board.

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to reappoint Mr. Barrick to the Zoning Commission. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to reappoint Mr. Heidel to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

#### **Upcoming Public Hearings**

Mr. S. Miller stated he would submit staff reports and plans to the Trustees as we get closer to the January 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing date for Zoning Cases 2019-16MA and 2019-21MA. He briefly reviewed the requests, both having to do with monument signs, noting the Zoning Commission recommended approval of both cases with conditions.

#### **Resolution – Approving a Zone Change for the Robert Lucke Group Development**

The resolution “Approving a Zone Change for the Robert Lucke Group Development with a Planned Unit Development Overlay” was read. A motion was made by Mr. LaBarbara, seconded by Mr. Connor, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-141 passed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

#### **Hearing Room Video**

Mr. Bickford reported stated he did some preliminary research and found it would cost between \$3,000 \$7,000 to live stream video of the meetings. He stated, however, it sounds like there may be something else in the works.

Mr. LaBarbara made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weidman, to livestream the Board of Trustees meetings in 2020. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

There was some discussion with Trustee-elect Tom James about the equipment.

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

The resolution “Authorizing and Directing a Transfer of Funds to Reconcile Budgets and Appropriations” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-142 passed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

**Resolution – Amending 2019 Appropriations**

The resolution “Authorizing and Directing a Transfer of Funds to Reconcile Budgets and Appropriations” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-143 passed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

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

The resolution “Authorizing and Directing a Transfer of Funds to Reconcile Budgets and Appropriations” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-144 passed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

**Resolution – Adopting Appropriations for Calendar Year 2020**

The resolution “Authorizing and Directing a Transfer of Funds to Reconcile Budgets and Appropriations” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading.

Mr. Bickford stated that resolution opens up the check book for 2020 saying the department heads are reviewing expenses and finalizing the budget. Mr. Bickford pointed out it has been a long time since the Township has had a tax levy, and while the next two years look to be in good shape, JEDZ income has reached a plateau. He stated if there is not economic development in the JEDZ districts, the Board will have to either impose a tax levy or cut services. He reported the JEDZ are what is keeping the Township from having to impose a tax levy. He then reviewed some of the revenue and expenses per department as well as showing how much the JEDZ revenue supplements each department’s budget. He also noted that strip centers and drive thrus will not provide the necessary economic development to sustain current spending levels.

Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2019-145 passed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

**Resolution – Regulation of Firearms**

The resolution “Revoking any Law, Rule, Regulation, Resolution, Practice, Policy or Other Action Enacted or Enforced by Sycamore Township in Conflict with R.C.§9.68” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, dispensing with the second reading.

Mr. Miller stated this resolution is in response to very confusing legislation in the State of Ohio which goes into effect December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.  
Resolution No. 2019-146 passed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

**Trustee Comments**

Mr. LaBarbara stated he is looking forward to the new Board and that there should be no political comment during public meetings.

Mr. Miller suggested coming up with a written code of conduct.

**Purchase Orders Over \$2,500**

Mr. Bickford presented the following purchase orders for approval:

Blanket Vendor	Fire Capital	\$25,000.00
Morton Salt, Inc.	Road Salt	\$61,525.89

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

**Schedule**

Mr. Weidman pointed out some items on the schedule of upcoming events and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

A motion to enter into **Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel – Employment** was made by Trustee Connor and seconded by Trustee LaBarbara.

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

End regular session: 9:29 a.m.

Begin Executive Session: 9:30 a.m.

End Executive Session: 9:40 a.m.

Back in regular session: 9:42 a.m.

Mr. Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to advertise for the position of Planning & Zoning Assistant. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

A motion to enter into **Executive Session to discuss Personnel – Termination of Employment** was made by Trustee Connor and seconded by Trustee LaBarbara.

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

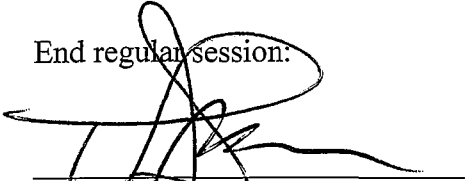
Begin Executive Session: 9:42 a.m.

End Executive Session: 9:55 a.m.

Back in regular session: 9:59 a.m.

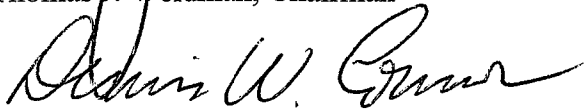
A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Connor and seconded by Trustee Weidman. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

End regular session: 9:59 a.m.



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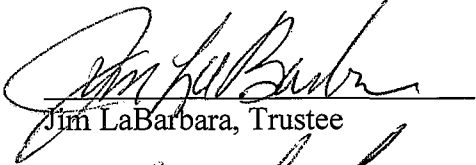
Thomas J. Weidman, Chairman



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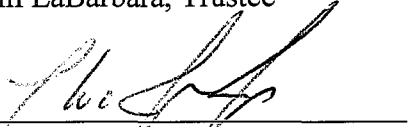
Dennis W. Connor, Vice Chairman

*Signed to acknowledge his approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting he attended as Trustee (term expiring 12/31/2019) on December 17, 2019*



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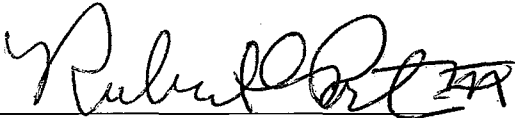
Jim LaBarbara, Trustee



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Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee

*Signed to acknowledge his vote as Trustee (term beginning 1/1/2020) on 1/14/2020 to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting from December 17, 2019*



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Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

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Ray Warrick, Administrator  
Workshop Minutes 12/17/2019