

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of the Trustees of Sycamore Township Meeting
Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio
June 16, 2020

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

Approval of June 2, 2020 Trustees Workshop Meeting Minutes

The June 2, 2020 Trustee Workshop Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Mr. LaBarbara made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weidman, to accept them. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

PAY BILLS AND READ RECEIPTS

The receipts, in the amount of \$76,543.16 and disbursements, in the amount \$235,278.87 for June 16, 2020 were read 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: 
Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to accept them. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

SHERIFF PATROL ITEMS

Lt. Smith reported on the peaceful demonstration which took place in the Kenwood area on Sunday, June 14th. Lt. Smith stated he and others in the Sheriff's office had spoken to the organizer prior to the event and noted, when a group wants to organize a protest or similar event, the best course of action is to have a conversation with organizers beforehand.

Lt. Smith reported on an arrest in Highpoint last week involving a suspect who is suspected of stealing property.

Lt. Smith stated he is going to work with Mr. Warrick on the purchase of new police cruisers noting the Sycamore Township fleet is aging.

Mr. James asked about an incident he noticed on the police blotter involving FBI agents. Lt. Smith explained this was a case of drugged driving that took place in which the driver struck an unmarked FBI vehicle on the interstate and exited onto Montgomery Road. The individual was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs.

EMS AND FIRE ITEMS

COVID-19 Update

Chief Penny reported the Department had applied for additional reimbursement of about \$18,000.00 through the CARES Act to cover revenue lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Penny informed the Board there have been two additional COVID-19 cases reported in the Township.

Chief Penny stated he emailed the Board the monthly report for May noting the run volume is starting to pick up with a 40-run increase from April to May.

Chief Penny also discussed the increase of COVID-19 cases in the State of Ohio and encouraged people to continue practicing social distancing and taking precautions to prevent the spread.

Mr. LaBarbara thanked the Chief for his help for a resident in need.

ROADS, MAINTENANCE & RECREATION ITEMS

Mr. Kellums reported shelters, playgrounds and restrooms are open and being cleaned daily and sanitized weekly. He noted there are signs posted to remind people about social distancing and other health department recommendations.

Mr. Kellums reported the North Trash Bash has been rescheduled for September 18th and 19th and the

South Trash Bash has been rescheduled for September 25th and 26th. He noted Document Shredding will take place June 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. behind the Township administration building.

He said due to the 4th of July, monthly chipping will take place again this month on June 27th instead of on the first Saturday in July.

Right-of-Way Tree Planting

Mr. Kellums reported on the request by Mr. Adam Lehmann, Stream Specialist with Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, to plant trees in the right-of way. He said Mr. Lehmann had sent him a map of potential locations to plant 548 trees in the right-of-way along the Cooper Creek Watershed. Mr. Kellums said he went out and looked at all the locations, noting he is not in favor of trees in the right-of-way as they will eventually cause damage to sidewalks and curbs. He said he had another meeting with Mr. Lehmann and approved locations for planting 144 of those trees where there are no sidewalks. Mr. Kellums said the trees will be in front of residences, therefore, Mr. Lehmann was told the Township would like resident approval. Mr. Kellums said Mr. Lehmann has requested a letter from the Board stating the Township agrees to work with him.

There was then discussion about how homeowners' approvals would be obtained. Mr. Warrick noted Mr. Lehmann will draft a letter and give it to the Township, along with the mailings they plan to do, which will be brought to the Board at a future meeting.

Community Room/Lobby Opening

Mr. Kellums requested a discussion about the possibility of opening the Schuler Community Room and the administration building lobby to the public and what restrictions should be put into place for these indoor spaces.

Mr. Weidman suggested yielding to Chief Penny's opinion and Mr. Warrick's regarding the lobby since he is here every day.

Chief Penny suggested marking the floor in the lobby so that if multiple people enter, they would be spaced out. He said he has a different opinion about indoor gatherings in the Community Room. He noted if the public has access to the lobby restrooms they should be cleaned daily.

There was discussion about the logistics of opening the lobby, whether to allow rentals of the Community Room, and if there is any liability for the Township. Mr. Desai said he will check on the status of a bill in the State legislature which addresses liability.

Mr. James stated, previously, discretion was left to Mr. Warrick regarding the lobby. Mr. Warrick said he had been following State guidelines but, as things are opening, it is getting confusing. He noted there has not been one complaint about the lobby being shut down but there may be pressure to open it as other municipalities open. He noted the Center for Local Government is conducting a survey about this topic. Mr. LaBarbara suggested holding off on a decision until the next meeting pending the results of the survey.

Mr. LaBarbara asked about the Township installing Pickle Ball courts in Bechtold Park such as those in Delhi. Mr. Kellums stated it is something we can look at. Mr. James suggested the Park Advisory Committee investigate it.

Ms. Kathy Kugler asked for clarification on the letter mentioned in Mr. Kellum's report about the tree planting. Mr. Kellums stated the Township is waiting on Mr. Lehmann to draft the letter at which point it will be presented to the Board.

Mr. James asked Mr. Kellums for updates on the status of the Sycamore Road Project, Cape Seal Project and the Maintenance Storage Building Project and about early morning work on the storage building.

Mr. Kellums stated they are determined to complete Sycamore Road this year, but there is still a great deal of work to be done. He stated the Cape Seal Project is set for the end of July and those affected will be notified. Mr. Kellums said the maintenance building is a little behind schedule but should still be completed this year. He said the only time anything was done before 7:00 a.m. was when the concrete pumper truck was brought in early so work could begin at 7:00 a.m.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

Resolution – Nuisance Property 7301 Dunleith Court

Mr. Miller reported he had a nuisance resolution for the Board's consideration and showed photos of the property in question. He noted the photos are a couple weeks old and the conditions are now worse.

“A Resolution Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage, Refuse and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 7301 Dunleith Court, Sycamore Township, Ohio 45243” was presented by Mr. Miller. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. James, to approve the resolution. and dispense with the second reading. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.
Resolution No. 2020-46 passed this 16th day of June, 2020.

Mr. Weidman requested an update on the nuisance property located at 7300 Quailhollow Road. Mr. Miller explained the site is monitored daily and there is work being done in preparation for pouring the foundation. He said he expects a more formal schedule of the project to be provided to him by the job site foreman within the next couple days. Mr. Miller assured the Board the site will continue to be monitored so that action may be taken if there is a lapse in activity. He pointed out the immediate risk has been resolved.

LAW DIRECTOR ITEMS

Mr. Desai stated he had nothing to report.

ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS

Resolution – HB481 CARES Act

Mr. Warrick reported he had a resolution prepared for the Trustees’ consideration stating the Township will use the funds set forth by HB 48 properly.

“A Resolution Establishing the Proper Use of Funds Set Forth in Ohio House Bill 481, Dispensing with a Second reading and Declaring an Emergency” was presented by Mr. Warrick. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. James, to approve the resolution. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye. Resolution No. 2020-47 passed this 16th day of June, 2020.

July Trustees Meetings and Tax Budget Hearing

Mr. Warrick said the first July meeting will be the June 30th Workshop. He said due to the 4th of July holiday and some people taking vacations, staff suggested cancelling the July 2nd Trustees Meeting and changing the July 14th Workshop to an evening Trustees Meeting so that the Tax Budget Hearing may take place that evening as well.

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to cancel the July 2nd Trustees Meeting and move the July 14th Workshop to an evening Trustees Meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 14th at 7:00 p.m.

FISCAL OFFICER ITEMS

Mr. Porter reported he had no communications or report.

ANNOUNCEMENT CHANGES

Mr. LaBarbara noted there is a date change for the next monthly brush chipping to Saturday, June 27th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. behind the Administration Building at 8540 Kenwood Road.

A motion to adjourn into **Executive Session** with Law Director, Deepak Desai, to discuss pending litigation and sale of property as permitted by Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G) was made by Trustee Weidman and seconded by Trustee James.

Vote: James: Aye; LaBarbara: Aye; Weidman: Aye.

Mr. LaBarbara invited the following people into the Executive Session with the Trustees: Ray Warrick, Tracy Kellums, Skylor Miller, Deepak Desai, and Rob Porter.

End regular session: 9:44 a.m.

Begin Executive Session: 9:48 a.m.

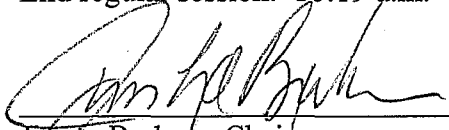
End Executive Session: 10:15 a.m.


Back in regular session: 10:17 a.m.

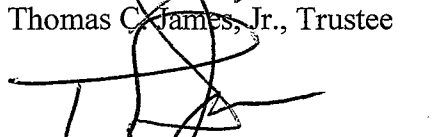
Mr. Porter called roll. The three Trustees all indicated they were present.

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

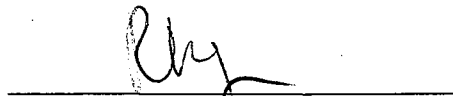
End regular session: 10:19 a.m.


Jim LaBarbara, Chairman


Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee


Thomas J. Weidman, Trustee


Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer


Ray Warrick, Administrator
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