

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Trustees of Sycamore Township Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio

September 7, 2021

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. by Mr. James.

Present for the meeting were Chairman James, Vice Chairman LaBarbara, Trustee Weidman, Fiscal Officer Porter, Law Director Desai, Superintendent / Assistant Administrator Kellums Planning & Zoning Administrator Miller, Fire Chief Penny and Sgt. Sovern from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Administrator Warrick was absent.

The invocation was read by Mr. Kellums.

Pledge to the Flag.

Mr. James made a motion to amend the agenda as follows: to change the executive session topic to imminent litigation as opposed to pending litigation; to add sale of real property as an executive session item; and to add a resolution amending 2021 appropriations to the agenda. Mr. Weidman second the motion. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Approval of the August 17, 2021 Trustees Meeting Minutes

The August 17, 2021 Trustees Meeting minutes were presented for approval. Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to accept them. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Proclamation – Designating September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Mr. James stated the Township has adopted a proclamation for Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month for many years and noted typically, the Chairman or one of the Trustees would read the proclamation in its entirety. He said in the Township there is a unique and unfortunate situation where each of the three Trustees' wives have been affected by cancer in various ways, so he thought it would be nice for each of the three Trustees to read a portion of the proclamation.

“A Proclamation Designating September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month” in Sycamore Township was read by Mr. LaBarbara, Mr. James, and Mr. Weidman. Mr. Porter called roll to pass the Proclamation. Vote: All Aye.

The Proclamation passed this 7th day of September, 2021.

Mr. Weidman stated he serves on the Board of the Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Greater Cincinnati and has served on the Research and Advocacy Committees. He stated he has gotten Congressmen Steve Chabot and Brad Wenstrup to agree to serve on the Ovarian Cancer Subcommittee in Congress. Mr. Weidman spoke about successes in fundraising for research in immunotherapy and stated he is grateful that the Board has agreed to make September Ovarian Cancer in Sycamore Township. He stated he hopes this will help women to detect the disease at an earlier stage, so they have greater chance at survival.

Resolution – Zoning Case 2021-13LASR

Mr. James stated there was a public hearing earlier for Zoning Case 2021-13LASR and request Mr. Miller present the resolution.

The resolution “Approving a Localized Sign Regulation Plan Located in the Kenwood Special Public Interest District and Dispensing with a Second Reading” was presented by Mr. Miller. A motion to approve the resolution, with the condition that the violin graphic be removed from the window, was made by Mr. Weidman. Mr. James seconded the motion.

Mr. James noted this is for 7715 Montgomery Road next to Chetbert Drive.

Mr. Miller read the text of the condition added to the resolution.

Mr. James requested he display an image of the graphic and give a brief summary of what the Board is being asked to approve.

Mr. Miller explained the applicant has requested approval from the Board for a Localized Area Sign Regulation to install four signs on the façade of the building, one for Onsite Retail Group, one for Antonio Violins and two for the rear tenant, Love Sugaring. He stated there is also a seven feet monument sign being placed on site.

Mr. James noted the rear sign will be lit but at reduced footcandles.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution 2021-072 passed this 7th day of September, 2021.

Public Comments

Mr. J. Janus, Jr, of 4462 Daffodil Avenue, addressed the Board. Mr. Janus described an incident in which Sycamore Township firefighters/paramedics were called to his home. He then thanked Mr. LaBarbara and Mr. James for supporting the Fire Department and thanked the Fire Department personnel who he said saved the life of his wife.

Mr. James stated Mrs. Janus had sent in a letter as well and he is glad to know she is ok.

Mr. Bob Vieson, of 8305 Kugler Meadows Ct., addressed the Board. Mr. Vieson stated he came to say “well done” to the construction company who has gone out of their way to assist neighbors through Kugler Mill Road construction. He also thanked Sycamore Township Project Inspector Dan Durham who has been very informative and helpful to residents. He asked Sgt. Sovern if he would pass on to Hamilton County Sheriff patrols that there will be vehicles parked in TriHealth when they are unable to get in their driveways.

Sheriff Patrol Report

Sgt. Sovern reported the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office is working with the Sycamore Township Fire Department on some upcoming active threat drills involving some members of the community such as Kenwood Towne Center and Moeller High School.

EMS/Fire Report

Station Repair Update

Chief Penny stated the firefighters come to work every day hoping to hear stories like Mr. Janus' to know that what they do makes a difference. He thanked Mr. Janus for sharing his story.

Chief Penny reported an option has been discovered to avoid paying \$108,000.00 for a sprinkler system for Station 92, instead paying \$2,300.00. He stated he had spoken to the Fire Inspector Doug Morath, who said by adding a fire alarm, the monitored sprinkler system won't be required. He said Inspector Morath spoke to the Hamilton County Building Department who agreed that was a good idea. He said this is a temporary fix until something major is done with the building. He explained the \$2,300.00 cost will be to route the existing sprinkler system so that it could be hooked up to a fire truck for water if needed.

Chief Penny reported contractors have been contacted for some of the items the Board approved at the last meeting and the advertisement for bids for the vehicle exhaust system has been published. He stated the sprinkler system revamp will take place within the next week or so with the maintenance department doing the digging to save money.

Chief Penny reminded the Board the St. Saviour Church Festival is this weekend and the ladder truck is scheduled to be there Sunday at 7:00 p.m. for the golf ball drop to conclude the festival.

Mr. James asked how COVID runs are going.

Chief Penny responded they have COVID runs here and there but it's not too bad. He stated they have not gotten much by way of updates from the Hamilton County Public Health noting those hospitalized are primarily non-vaccinated people. He said they are waiting on approval of a booster for the Moderna vaccine and should get those by the end of September.

Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report

Mr. Kellums reported crews are busy in the Township repairing sidewalks and more. He said Kugler Mill Road is the main project still going and reported the contractor is doing a great job. He said the storm sewer has been completed and reported Steve Reutelshofer and the contractor have worked to get the MSD and water taps in place for the 11 homes to be built on Kugler Mill Road before the road is paved so they do not come in and tear up a brand-new road. Mr. Kellums said there will be a period of time, about 24 hours, when residents will be without access and no vehicles will be able to drive on the road which will be very challenging.

Mr. James asked when that will be.

Mr. Kellums answered it will be after curb work and three weeks of concrete work.

Mr. James asked if people will be able to walk on it at that time.

Mr. Kellums answered yes.

Mr. Vieson discussed parking options for residents and access for school buses.

Mr. Kellums said they are working on that issue with the school districts.

Mr. LaBarbara asked if the project is still supposed to be completed by November.

Mr. Kellum answered that is still the time frame.

Mr. James said a resident on Autumnwood had spoken to him about grass seeding done after sidewalk repair and asked Mr. Kellums to have someone look at it to determine if there is a problem.

Cameras in Township Parks

Mr. Kellums reported he had a quote from Professional Cabling Service to wrap up the camera project. He said wiring in all the parks has been completed and Bechtold Park now has Wi-Fi. He stated the quote is for \$79,656.75, \$36,715.00 of which is for a new server because our old server will not handle all the cameras, recording and storage. He stated the quote also includes a three-year support package from Genetic Advantage. Mr. Kellums said the quote includes 44 cameras, 16 of those are new, 13 of them are in Bechtold and three of them are behind the Administration Building. He said the other 28 cameras are replacing existing cameras that are not working and, of those 28 replacement cameras, 26 are in the parks and two are traffic cameras.

Mr. Weidman asked if TIF funds may be used for the \$36,715.00 expense.

Mr. Kellums answered yes, we can use TIF funds for the server. He noted the company is a member of GSA (General Services Administration) which is a federal cooperative purchasing program which does the bidding for us, so we do not have to go out to bid. Mr. Kellums stated we save money, and they are the approved vendor. He stated the total for the 44 cameras is \$42,940.97, which is a 30 percent discount on the cameras and a 45 percent discount on the server with GSA pricing.

Mr. James asked the age of the cameras that are no longer functional.

Mr. Kellums answered they are 10-12 years old.

Mr. James asked the lifespan of the cameras.

Mr. Kellums answered the replacement cameras are a definite upgrade and Mr. Miller said the cameras have a higher weather rating and spoke about changes with the new cameras that should increase the lifespan.

Mr. James and Mr. Miller discussed the technical aspects and capabilities of the server and cameras.

Mr. Kellums reported the movie in the park was canceled last weekend due to weather.

Mr. James noted there is a band playing at Bechtold Park this weekend.

Planning & Zoning Report

Mr. Miller reported the Zoning Commission will be continuing their review of the Land Use Plan and modest updates to the Zoning Resolution on September 13th. He stated once the Zoning Commission review is completed, they will go to the Board of Trustees for review.

Mr. James stated it would be helpful to update some of the imagery in the Land Use Plan document.

Mr. Miller said this is a living document and graphics and statistics will be updated as they go.

Mr. Miller reported Angela Zammert has started in her full-time position as Planning & Zoning Assistant and she is in the process of updating the Planning & Zoning Department applications and documents currently on the website. He stated he and Ms. Zammert are also going through CAGIS processes and reports to enable him to give regular reports to the Board and the Administrator.

Law Director Report

Mr. Desai had no report.

Administrator Report

Mr. Kellums reported on behalf of Mr. Warrick that he had a resolution to amend appropriations for the Board's consideration.

The resolution "Amending 2021 Appropriations, Dispensing with a Second Reading and Declaring an Emergency" was presented by Mr. Kellums. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Weidman and seconded by Mr. LaBarbara.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution 2021-073 passed this 7th day of September, 2021.

Mr. James thanked Ms. Campbell for taking care of creating the appropriations amendment document at the last minute to enable bills to be paid in a timely fashion.

Motion to Approve COVID-19 Sick Bank Hours

Mr. Kellums reported the Board had previously approved a bank of COVID-19 sick time hours so employees testing positive would not have to use regular sick time. He requested the Board approve an additional 750 hours for the COVID-19 sick bank due to additional positive COVID-19 test results recently.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve 750 hours of COVID-19 sick bank hours. Mr. LaBarbara seconded the motion. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00

Mr. Kellums presented the following purchase orders for approval:

115-2021	Bound Tree Medical, LLC	EMS Supplies	\$15,000.00
556-2021	Lykins Energy Solutions	Fuel Purchases Remainder 2021	\$40,000.00
569-2021	LaForce	Bechtold Locks	\$8,657.08
573-2021	Indian Hill Schools	2 nd Half School Payment	\$2,597,111.44
574-2021	Princeton City Schools	2 nd Half School Payment	\$226,166.59
575-2021	Deer Park Schools	2 nd Half School Payment	\$277,057.00
576-2021	Sycamore Schools	2 nd Half School Payment	\$95,729.03
577-2021	Great Oaks Career Campuses	2 nd Half School Payment	\$187,059.25
580-2021	Prof. Cabling Solutions	Cameras & Server	\$79,656.75
582-2021	Pacewell 2 LLC	C-Pace Assessment 7450 Keller Rd.	\$96,565.21

Mr. James asked for an explanation on C-Pace.

Mr. Miller explained Pace (Properties Assessed Clean Energy) is a public financing mechanism and the Township is essentially a pass-through for that. He said a private commercial property owner will elect to have a special assessment placed on their property and get money up front as part of construction or renovations for energy improvements. He stated the assessment is placed on the property tax bill; Hamilton County collects it and pays the Township, then the Township pays the lender.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve purchase orders. Mr. LaBarbara seconded the motion.

Mr. Miller noted there are no public dollars being paid to the lender for the Pace Assessments, the Township is just a pass-through.

Mr. James stated for the record the purchase order numbers are 115, 556, 569, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 580, 582 and 583. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Fiscal Officer Report

Pay Bills and Read Receipts

The receipts in the amount of \$11,044,845.05 and disbursements in the amount of \$6,402,156.42 for September 7, 2021 were read by the Fiscal Officer 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

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: LaBarbara: Aye; James: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Trustee Comments

Mr. Weidman stated he is looking forward to Brent James, a resident of the Township, playing with his band this weekend at Bechtold Park.

Mr. LaBarbara said Brent James is a great performer who will play Friday night at 7:00 p.m. at Bechtold Park. He thanked Parks Supervisor Jason Petty for getting ahead of the rain forecast to cancel the movie in the park last weekend. Mr. LaBarbara reported LPGA golf has returned to Cincinnati as the Kroger Queen City Championship presented by Proctor & Gamble takes place at the Kenwood Country Club September 5th through the 11th. He stated this is the first time LPGA has played in Cincinnati since 1989 and is a great event for our area.

Mr. James thanked the firefighters and EMS workers for their work and thanked Ms. Campbell again for her work preparing for this meeting.

Announcement Changes

Mr. James noted the September Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting had been canceled and the JEDZ Boards and CIC meetings had been moved to September 21st from September 7th. He then referred people to the website calendar for other events.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Weidman, to adjourn the meeting to executive session with Law Director Deepak Desai as permitted by Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 to discuss Imminent Litigation and Sale of Real Property.

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

Mr. James invited Fiscal Officer Porter, Mr. Kellums and Mr. Miller into the executive session with the Trustees and Law Director.

End Regular Session: 8:01 p.m.

Begin Executive Session: 8:06 p.m.

End Executive Session: 8:35 p.m.

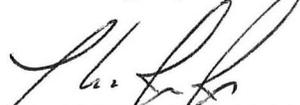
Back in Regular Session: 8:37 p.m.

Mr. Porter called roll. All three Trustees indicated they were present.

A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



Thomas C. James, Jr., Chairman



Jim LaBarbara, Vice Chairman



Thomas J. Weidman, Trustee



Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
09/07/2021