

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

February 2, 2012

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Sycamore Township was called to order at 7:00 pm. Present for the meeting were President Weidman, Vice President Bishop, Trustee Connor, Fiscal Officer Porter, Law Director Miller, Administrator Raabe, EMS/Fire Director Jetter, Zoning/Planning Director/Assistant Administrator Bickford, Superintendent Kellums, Parks /Recreation Director McKeown, and Lt. Tom Butler from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

The invocation was read by Trustee Connor from Father Patrick Crone of St. Saviour Church.

Pledge to the Flag.

The minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held January 17 and 19, 2012 were read. A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, to approve these minutes. Vote: All Aye.

Communication from: Al Early, 8120 Glenmill Court, 37 years as a school administrator; stated that he has dealt with unions and working together helps everyone in the long term. He commented that there was no mention of the Township having budget woes in the winter newsletter. His questions were: 1) Why is the RFP being issued before warning residents? 2) Why weren't deficits made public? 3) What is the Township planning for fixing it? 4) What other cost reductions will be made? 5) What about a tax levy?

Communication from: Trace Lawless, resident Gwilada Drive; said he is a retired fireman who worked for the Township since 1996 and was a big part of the union formation. He asked why the civilian employees received a 1% raise and the firefighters didn't? Mr. Weidman said that the Administrator will meet with the union representatives any time or any place.

Communication from: Craig Coburn, resident of Bearcreek, a Professional Firefighter; said that he used to work for a private fire company early in his career, then as a fulltime Firefighter, and now a part-time Firefighter at Sycamore Township. He asked who wrote staffing requirements for the RFP? Safety standards are in question; perhaps we should go for a levy. Trustee Weidman stated that we just aren't privatizing but looking for partners; it could be another community.

Communication from: Bill Smith, resident Eldora Drive; asked if we will have to pay for fire personnel for the rest of the year if we lay them off now. He also asked why we are buying more property.

Communication from: Dennis Ulrich, president of McCauley Woods Home Owners Association; said that he works at Cincinnati State College and he compliments Chief Jetter. He stated that Princeton Schools are struggling too. He asked what the financial savings projection for contracting will be. Have we benchmarked other groups who have outsourced across the state? Chief Jetter responded that other than Loveland/Symmes and Milford Fire Departments, most fire departments have volunteers. He asked if there was any feedback from residents. Could we incorporate as a city? He noted that we have four non-contiguous parts and he appreciates the bind we are in.

Communication from: Craig Creighton, resident of Dillonvale, Vice President of the Firefighters Union; He suggested looking into the SAFER Act. He commented that we are a family and we need to work together, not raise taxes.

Communications from: Mike Walker, resident of Widhoff for 5 years and an 18 year veteran of law enforcement; applauds firemen and Trustees. He wants to know if anyone has looked into reducing wasteful spending or cutting down on unnecessary runs.

Mike Walker stated that eight Firefighters responded to a life threatening call at his house and he only one dealt with one person. He is in support of the Fire Chief and the Fire Department. Chief Jetter addressed dispatch problems and a senior population. Last year the Township spent 25,000 on EMS drugs and this year spent 12,000.

Communication from: Bill Smith, resident; he commented that he liked having eight people come to his home when he called 911.

Chief Jetter reported on receiving a FEMA Grant for \$239,203 to replace SCBA fill stations and defib. He is looking into the SAFER Grant.

Mr. McKeown reported that Johnny Schott's funeral will be this Saturday.

Mr. Bickford reported that we received a payment of \$21,000 for selling Solar RECS.

The Receipts and Disbursements of February 2, 2012 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 was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor to pay these bills.

Vote: All Aye.

A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: All Aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

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Thomas J. Weidman, President

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Cliff W. Bishop, Vice President

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Dennis W. Connor, Trustee

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Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer