

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

March 1, 2012

The Public Hearing for Zoning Case 2012-01MA, Mercy Health was held at 6:00 p.m.

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 Cpl. Steve Sabers from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

The invocation was read by Trustee Connor from St. Vincent Ferrer Church.

Pledge to the Flag.

The minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held February 14 and 16, 2012 were read. A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, to approve these minutes. Vote: All Aye.

Communication from: Marwan Nisiar, resident 8146 Lyncris Ct since 1985; checked our numbers compared to other communities-we are second highest per sq mile after Deer Park/Silverton; does not want a tax increase; go ahead with RFP.

Communication from: John Abraham, 4978 Elmcrest Lane; grew up in Symmes Township; owns his own business; likes the quality of work from Township employees; did not like the estate tax; taxes are killing us.

Communication from: Kelby Thorson, President of Sycamore Township Firefighters; as a business man you look at how to cut the budget; why isn't the Chief looking at cutting the budget? Why would you want to get rid of all this knowledge?

Communication from: Mr. Kurtz, 8560 Donna Lane; said that he had three strokes last year and he wouldn't be alive today if it weren't for the Sycamore Township Fire Department; he wants to keep the present firefighters. In the past he worked for as a private paramedic and it was all about profit.

Communication from: Al Early, 8120 Glenmill Court; wants to know what are cash flow issues are for this year; do they plan on polling the voters for a tax levy?

Fiscal Officer Porter said that the budget is balanced through 2012. Trustee President Weidman is going to wait until after the March 21 deadline for the RFP to answer the question on the tax levy. Trustee Bishop said that the Trustees aren't opposed to a tax levy but want to check all options first. Trustee Connor read the statement to extend the RFP deadline to March 21, 2012.

Communication from: Greg Poe, resident 8954 Plainfield Road; said that the EMS saved his father's life and he wants to keep the professional EMS staff; he wasn't aware of the budget problems.

Chief Jetter commented that last year we were only over 14 staff 18% of the time. He stated that the fire levy has lost \$405,000 this year alone. Chief Jetter said that he was working on a budget of his own to submit to the Board of Trustees and he has it down to \$3.3 million from \$4.8 million, dispatch fees are up and he is working with mutual aid too.

Communication from: John Harvey, District Vice President of the Ohio State Firefighters; wants to put the RFP on hold, said the firefighters weren't contacted about the budget and they took concessions last year.

Communication from: Anya Feldman, Wicklow resident; asked about overtime; complained about the Target store; asked if residents get voice after March 21?

Trustee Weidman said that the evaluation will take at least 30 days.

Trustee Bishop commented that it is a partial victory the Target store is a basic size; they wanted to put in a super Target.

Communication from: Margaret Halter, 7000 Michael Drive; She wants to thank the Firefighters; said that we are a wealthy Township; wants to know why we couldn't come up with more money; doesn't like it that we are taking it out on the Firefighters.

Communication from: Howard Berry Jr., Jud Drive resident since he was born; thinks we have great services in all departments; he understands the budget balance problem; if cuts need to be made-take all into consideration; it would be a step backwards- back to volunteer days; increasing taxes (levy) a possibility.

Communication from: Pauline Barthe, resident Winnetka Drive; liked respect on both sides; communications need to be improved, she first heard of it on the news; suggests making up the difference with property taxes.

Communication from: Barbara Brockman, resident 8937 Blossom; asked about effect on property values, insurance, and taxes.

Trustee Weidman said no-it will not affect insurance values.

Chief Jetter said that the ISO rating isn't a good system any more since it is now owned by insurance companies.

Communication from: Paulette Radke, resident 8977 Blossom Drive; she said that she is a widow and has money issues; no one likes to cut back but we need to.

Communication from: Gigi Faryer; made staffing level comments.

Communication from: Tom Butt, resident 5305 Bayberry Drive; said that this is not a wealthy community, we have a lot of elderly; he was approached by Firefighters and wants to stay independent; called other Fire Departments to look at staffing; wants the Trustees to bring the residents the best value with the best options; said that we are paying more in real estate taxes but the value of the property has been lowered.

Communication from: Joel Wolf, resident of 493 Elmcrest Lane; would like to see the Township settle with the firefighters first, then move on to other options-thinks it “has a political smell to it”.

Communication from: Craig Creighton, resident 3908 Limerick Avenue; said that he is a resident, a tax payer and an employee; stated that 24/72 was eradicated to eliminate overtime; asked Tom Butt to call the Firefighters; blamed estate tax elimination for the problem along with the Trustees using general fund money for the Fire Department; 1999 was the first union meeting and the Trustees were told that they would need a levy; asked about economic growth; said that Colerain and Green Townships were the only valid comparisons.

Communication from: Trace Lawless, resident Gwilada Drive and a retired employee/non-union; suggested that a 24-72 hour schedule be put in place to save overtime – thinks that the budget can be balanced with the current employees; thinks someone will undercut the RFP to get their foot in the door.

Communication from: Ray Croop, resident of Pepperell Lane in Sturbridge; suggested that we need an independent evaluation of the facts.

Communication from: Jim Atwater, resident 4222 Kugler Mill Road; works for a company that is using contractors-warns the Trustees to be careful of a low price, they may not be getting a good deal.

Communication from: Steve Tebbe, 35 year resident of Bayberry Drive; has worked at Kroger’s in the mall for 15 years; wants to know if the Firefighters are willing to take a cut to meet the budget woes, thinks that this is key to the resolution of the problem.

Chief Jetter reported that he applied for the “Safer Grant” for a part time program last Friday. He cautioned the Board and residents of the severe weather warning for Friday and said that the sirens will sound only for a tornado.

Trustee Bishop made the following specifications for the Zoning Case 2012-01MA, Mercy Health: that screening needs to be increased on Frolic to match the garage area; screening needs to be opaque on Happiness Way and to eliminate the fence; should have two curb cuts – right in only on the first and left out only on the second, with higher curbs and signs. The Trustees directed Law Director Miller to prepare a resolution.

The Receipts and Disbursements of March 1, 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 8:45 p.m.

Thomas J. Weidman, President

Cliff W. Bishop, Vice President

Dennis W. Connor, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

Record of Proceeding 03/01/2012