

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

May 16, 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, and Lt. Butler from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Parks/Recreation Director McKeown was excused.

The invocation was given by Trustee Connor from Reverend Robert Roberts of the Hartzell United Methodist Church.

Pledge to the Flag.

The minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held May 1 and 2, 2012 were read. A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, to approve these minutes. Vote: All Aye.

Comments from resident: Charlie Meyers was absent.

Comments from resident: Ernie Zimmer, 3637 Glengary Avenue: had concerns about personal sickness and safety. He would like a levy.

Comments from: John Harvey, District Vice President of Ohio Professional Firefighters; He urged Trustees to work with the firefighters. He thinks that overall safety is what is most important and that no communication and massive layoffs are bad.

Comments from resident: Craig Creighton; declined to speak.

Comments from resident: Joe Steffalano, Eldora; stated that when he calls 911 he wants someone to show up. He also wants to know what cuts have been made in other departments and suggests cutting the Trustees salary instead of cutting firefighters.

Comments from: Mark Sanders, Ohio Professional Firefighters; He says that Springfield Township was successful in working out problems. He thinks that others have worked it out and that he hasn't seen any genuine concern here. He said that he is here to assist on how to get through this-he is not aware of any meaningful discussions.

Comments from: Kelby Thoreson, President of Sycamore Township Professional Firefighters; He asked that other options be looked at, taxpayers safety is paramount and cuts are unacceptable.

Comments from residents: Pat and Mary Ashcraft, Sturbridge residents for 28 years; they said that they have listened to discussions and want to summarize their feelings with a few points. The union was \$700,000 short in their proposal; staffing levels at other communities is less why don't they have problems?

They stated that out of 1800 runs (fire) only 5 were working fires and that we have mutual aid for assistance. They say the Fire Department should stay within their budget. Comments from: Debby McCarthy, Village of Newtown Council member; She questioned how to handle square footage with reduced personnel.

Comments from resident: Tom Crowthers, 9055 Eldora Drive; he said that the Trustees are working hard but the problem has gotten out of hand. He said that a lot of people are not happy with Chief Jetter and that Assistant Chief Penny has a different budget. He asked that a third party negotiator be involved and suggested that we go to a levy.

Comments from resident: Charles Shelton, 11937 Third Avenue; He complained that Harry Holbert was harassing him with citations.

Comments from resident: Craig Creighton, Dillonvale resident and Vice President of the Local Firefighter Union; He disputed Mr. Ashcraft's numbers and said that they can't work within the constraints of a 1995 budget. He said that he is responsible for 100 businesses in the north and that their safety will be compromised by staff cuts. He suggested that all options be exhausted; levy is a bad word but said that he thinks we need one. He also commented that laying off 100 plus employees is not acceptable and that not letting the residents speak implies that the Trustees have a side agenda. He didn't like the fact that the staff wasn't notified of the Chief's proposal and allowed to sit down and talk.

Law Director Miller stated that he has received a settlement offer on the Philips and Edison case and that he will have a report at the next meeting.

The resolution "Declaring an Eruv District within a Portion of Sycamore Township" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Vote: All Aye. Resolution No. 2012-30 passed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012.

Mr. Bickford reported on an upcoming public hearing with U.S. Bank on June 7, 2012 at 6:45 pm. He also presented five nuisance properties for approval: 8908 Blue Ash Road, 4012 Belfast Avenue, 8651 Tralee Court, 7741 Fields Ertel Road, and 8637 Darnell Avenue.

The resolution "Providing for and Authorizing Weed Cutting and Debris Removal, Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 8908 Blue Ash Road, Sycamore Township, OH 45242" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Vote: All Aye. Resolution No. 2012-31 passed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012.

The resolution "Providing for and Authorizing Weed Cutting and Debris Removal, Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 4012 Belfast Avenue, Sycamore Township, OH 45236" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Vote: All Aye. Resolution No. 2012-32 passed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012.

The resolution “Providing for and Authorizing Weed Cutting and Debris Removal, Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 8651 Tralee Court, Sycamore Township, OH 45236” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Vote: All Aye. Resolution No. 2012-33 passed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012.

The resolution “Providing for and Authorizing Weed Cutting and Debris Removal, Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 7741 Fields Ertel Road, Sycamore Township, OH 45249” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Vote: All Aye. Resolution No. 2012-34 passed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012.

The resolution “Providing for and Authorizing Weed Cutting and Debris Removal, Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 8637 Darnell Avenue, Sycamore Township, OH 45236” was read. A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Connor, dispensing with the second reading and declaring an emergency. Vote: All Aye. Resolution No. 2012-35 passed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012.

On May 2, 2012, Fire Chief William Jetter submitted a proposal to the Sycamore Township Board of Trustees to restructure the Fire Department and achieve dramatic and necessary budget savings. The proposed plan to restructure includes the following steps:

1. The schedule will be changed to a 24/48 work schedule for all bargaining unit employees. The Township will provide 45 days’ notice to the Union, and this change will be implemented on June 29, 2012.
2. Fourteen full-time Firefighter positions will be eliminated effective June 28, 2012. The full-time employees will be laid off in accordance with their department-wide seniority. Impacted employees may exercise their seniority rights under the contract to bump to other positions. Each of these employees will be given offers to remain with the Fire Department as part-time employees.
3. All part-time employees will be laid off on June 14, 2012.
4. Eliminate the Assistant Chief – Fire Prevention position.

This proposal is now before the Board for approval. Is there a motion to authorize Chief Jetter to implement this proposal to restructure the Fire Department?

A motion was made by Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Bishop, to approve this proposal. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Bishop commented that we must live within our means.

Mr. Connor commented the he has read and analyzed everything and has confidence in the judgment of the Fire Chief.

Mr. Weidman commented that he spoke to residents about the situation and the majority understand the budget cuts and don’t want a levy.

The Receipts and Disbursements of May 16, 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 8:15 p.m.

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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