

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of the Trustees of Sycamore Township Meeting
Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio
January 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were President Weidman, Vice President Bishop, Fiscal Officer Porter, Law Director Miller, Administrator Bickford, Superintendent Kellums, Fire Chief Penny and Lt. Ketteman from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Trustee Connor and Parks/Recreation Director McKeown were excused.

Fire Department Update

Chief Penny stated that the bid opening for the pumper truck would take place on Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. The Chief reported that there were 4,211 runs in 2016 with 868 of them being fire runs. He also provided updated run information on the various nursing / retirement facilities. He pointed out that 40% of all runs are to those types of facilities.

The final fire department revenue report for 2016 showed that \$758,000 was collected which represented an 87% collection rate which was up from 82% in 2015. The Chief also stated that revenue from non-transport patients was \$42,000 and revenue from the allowable mileage reimbursement was \$191,000. Finally, the Chief reported that the department averaged 11.6 runs per day.

Sheriff Department Update

Lt. Ketteman reported on complaints about a resident on Darnell Avenue. He stated the Sheriff's Office has been in contact with the resident to explain the situation and will take a proactive stance on the property in the future.

Lt. Ketteman then reported on a burglary on Tiki Avenue that occurred recently saying evidence is being processed by the crime lab. He also stated the monthly statistics will be available within the next two weeks.

Lt. Ketteman advised the Board of burglaries which have taken place in Symmes and Northern Sycamore Township in which the perpetrators look for unlocked cars or houses where wallets and purses are in plain view from the outside. He advised all residents to lock their doors and store cash, purses, keys, and wallets out of sight.

Parks and Recreation Update

Mr. Bickford reported that Mr. McKeown is still waiting to hear from various bands and will most likely not hear anything until a few weeks into the New Year.

Mr. Bishop stated that the signs used for Luminaria this year were much easier to read.

Maintenance Update

Mr. Kellums reported on HVAC issues at Station 93 and stated that he is looking into a new mechanical company to assess the system and recommend changes to optimize its efficiency. In addition, Mr. Kellums stated that we have received a new proposal for HVAC maintenance for Station 93. BME Mechanical Services is proposing a service contract for \$1,780, which is cheaper than the current contract from Alpha Mechanical. Mr. Bishop made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weidman to enter into an agreement with BME Mechanical Services. All voted yes.

Mr. Kellums presented a proposal from Team All Sport to provide lawn care for the athletic fields. The price, \$16,631.05, is the same as it was in 2016. Mr. Bishop made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weidman to approve the proposal. All voted yes.

Mr. Kellums requested approval to purchase a new front loader to replace the 20 year old current loader. He stated the cost of the loader is approximately \$133,000 off of state bid. The list price on this unit is over \$245,000. The manufacturer is offering low interest financing of 2.6% should the Board decide not to pay the entire price up front. Mr. Weidman asked if TIF could be used to purchase the loader. Mr. Miller stated it could, however, the Township is not permitted to encumber debt on an existing TIF, and therefore it would have to be paid in full. Mr. Weidman stated he would like to see if they would offer a better price for a cash sale.

Mr. Kellums stated that there are several high cost projects to be completed in 2017 in order to keep the Township on schedule with road maintenance. The Donna Lane reconstruction project has a cost of \$650,000, the Charter Oak repaving project has a cost of \$300,000 and the necessary black mat project has a cost of \$700,000. Mr. Kellums explained that Donna Lane did not receive any SCIP funding and is in need of repair as the base is disintegrating and the road is pumping mud up through the cracks. Charter Oak has cracked pavement and is in need of resurfacing in order to protect the base. If the water continues to penetrate the base, it will disintegrate and the cost for repair will become a replacement which triples or quadruples the price. Finally, the black mat program that was done 10 years ago to prolong the pavement life needs to be reapplied in order to continue extending the pavement life.

Mr. Bickford suggested the possibility of taking out a short term five year loan of \$1 million to jumpstart the projects while reducing the overall road program budget the next 5 years to pay the debt. Doing so will allow the Township to stay on a maintenance schedule and not fall behind in roadwork which would save a significant amount of money.

Mr. Weidman requested information on seeking financing for the road projects.

Mr. Kellums reported that Galbraith Road construction resumes tomorrow and that ODOT is going to clean out the area next to the Galbraith Road / I-71 overpass and the Township will maintain it.

Modified Plan of Operation and Governance for Natural Gas Aggregation

The resolution "Adopting a Modified Plan of Operation and Governance for Natural Gas Governmental Aggregation" was read. A motion was made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Weidman dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Porter called the roll. Vote: All Aye.

Resolution No. 2017-01 passed this 3rd day of January, 2017.

Mr. Miller stated that the consortium of governments has requested the Board sign an agreement to share information and provide bullet points as to why the proposed Duke Energy pipeline is bad for Sycamore Township.

Upcoming Public Hearings

Mr. Bickford stated the public hearing for Neal's Design and Remodel would be at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2017. He also advised the Board of a proposed subdivision on the Heitmeyer Farms property. There will be a hearing regarding the subdivision to be held at 1:00 p.m. on

Thursday, January 5, 2017 before the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Weidman stated he has been in contact with the HOA about the development and has answered some of their questions.

Mr. Miller stated the Blue Ash Road nuisance hearing will be under new business at the Trustees Meeting on Thursday, January 5, 2017. He also reported that the new owner of the Appleknoll property will be demolishing the house by the end of January.

Mr. Miller stated he had been in contact with other attorneys in regards to the Duke pipeline and the effect it could have on our park if they choose to stage there despite our objection.

Purchase Orders over \$2,500

Mr. Bickford presented the following purchase orders for approval:

911 Electrical and Fire Service \$14,819.77

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

Schedule

The schedule of upcoming events was read by Mr. Weidman.

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

End regular session: 3:52 p.m.

Thomas J. Weidman, President

Cliff W. Bishop, Vice President

Dennis W. Connor, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

Greg Bickford, Administrator

Workshop Minutes 01/03/2017