
MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

August 3, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Elected officials present were Mr. Phil Beck, Mr. Kenneth Bryant, Ms. Jodie Leis and Mr. Joe Grossi.

Also, present: Kimberly Lapensee – Township Administrator; Jeff Forbes - Law Director; Lieutenant Mike Tarr – HCSO, and Captain Bruce Hawk – LSFD.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bryant made a motion to the agenda. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - ‘aye’, Mr. Beck - ‘aye’, and Mr. Bryant - ‘aye’. Motion passes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the regular minutes for July 6, 2021, and the special meeting minutes for July 20, 2021. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - ‘aye’, Mr. Beck - ‘aye’, and Mr. Bryant - ‘aye’. Motion passes.

FISCAL OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Grossi stated that we had \$27,871.14 in our HRA Account, \$4,600,181.76 in the checking account, and \$8,121,130.34 in our Meeder Investment account from June. He stated that we have \$2,552,813.17 in the General Fund, \$722,880.16 in the Police Levy Fund, \$940,165.13 in the Road Fund, \$508,621.30 in the Fire Fund, and \$1,860,295.84 in the Safety Services account.

Mr. Grossi reported that we have applied for and will receive American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding thru the state. He also stated that he and Mr. Beck attended the yearly Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) meeting at the county this past month. Mr. Beck stated that it is the annual CRA review. Mr. Bryant wanted to know if anyone fell off the list. Mr. Beck stated that the Grandsands CRA is now expired.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the warrants from 79752 – 79856 and vouchers 183 – 204 in the amount of \$312,634.90 from the month of July. Ms. Leis seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - ‘aye’; Mr. Bryant - ‘aye’, Mr. Beck - ‘aye’. Motion passes.

Mr. Bryant stated that just for the record, each of the trustees sign the checks weekly and review the checks when they sign them.

REPORTS

JEFF FORBES, LAW DIRECTOR – Mr. Forbes had no report.

LIEUTENANT MIKE TARR, HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT – Lieutenant Tarr stated that we are getting reports of car thefts all over the county and they are mostly vehicles that were left unlocked. He reminded everyone to please always lock their car doors. He asked that everyone remove any valuables from their cars. Ms. Leis asked if they were at people's homes or at the parks? Lieutenant Tarr stated that it is all over the place.

CAPTAIN BRUCE HAWK, LSFDF – Captain Hawk stated that everyone had their written reports and he handed out a flyer for their 911 event that will be on September 11 at the Firefighter memorial downtown.

BILL PITMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS – Mrs. Lapensee reported that the paving program is scheduled to begin tomorrow weather pending for Kemper Road, Kemperwoods, Meadowbluff and Patrilla. She stated that they will be milling first then paving. She stated that after that work is completed, they will move onto Calumet Farms.

COMMITTEE – None.

OTHER – None.

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

Chris Jones, 8924 Cypress Point Lane, stated that he adjoins the lot for Golden Corral in Montgomery Trace Subdivision. He stated that the lot needs cleaned up (trash in the dumpster even though no one is there) and that there are children, teenagers and adults climbing onto the roof of the building at night. He stated that they did call the Sheriff on Friday and Saturday night. He also stated that there are dogs in the neighborhood that are not on a leash and are harassing the neighbors. He asked if anything could be done about either issue.

Ms. Leis asked if we could send the property owner a notice about their dogs. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she believes that the ORC refers to it as failure to control. Lieutenant Tarr stated that he should continue to call the police when it happens so that an officer can witness it; otherwise, they can't do anything after the fact.

Mr. Jones stated that the kids and adults are getting up on the roof from a ladder on the back of the building and wanted to know if anything else could be done or if the parking lot can be gated off. Ms. Leis stated that she would contact the owner of the apartment complex to let them know what the kids are doing at night. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she would contact the owner of the business and let them know to install no trespassing signs and to cut off the roof access via the ladder. She stated that there are certain items that the owner must do for security before people can be arrested for trespassing.

Lieutenant Tarr stated that he can call the police when it happens again, but an officer must witness what is going on before they can run them off the property, but they recommend no trespassing signs be installed to let everyone know they would be trespassing before anyone could be arrested.

CORRESPONDENCE

Attached to the packet.

EVENTS/MEETINGS

- Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting – Monday, August 9, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via zoom.

- Finance Committee Meeting – Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Safety Center.
- Zoning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Safety Center.
- Storytime with the Library – Monday, August 30, 2021, from 10:00 until 12:00 p.m. at Seven Gables Park.
- Labor Day Holiday – Buildings Closed on Monday, September 6, 2021.
- Regular Trustees Meeting – Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Safety Services Center.
- Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting – Monday, September 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via zoom.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution G2021-61 – Resolution Authorizing the Township to Enter into a Contract with Medical Mutual of Ohio for Providing Health Insurance Coverage for the Elected Officials and Full-Time Employees of Symmes Township. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Erik Freudenberg, Assured Partners, stated that he is looking for a more strategic view for our health plans overall and the grand mothered plans do not meet the ACA requirements and could end mid-year. He stated that the cost shares for the township could get much higher. He stated that he had concerns about the Medical Mutual plan mid-year renewal and that is why they looked at the MEWA plan as it was the most competitive and we did not have much time to switch vendors. He stated that while we have had our plan for a while, the industry has moved onto other plans, and everything has a cost sharing now. He stated that all plans have added a post deductible drug co-pay because of the tiers. He said that it helps when the consumer starts to question the tier of drug, they are on to save money.

Erik Freudenberg, Assured Partners, stated that they would like us to bundle the remaining ancillaries and move all renewal dates to the same day to be more competitive. He stated that there are two plans to look at - alternate 1 (90% payment out of network benefits) and alternate 2 (99% payment out of network benefits) – and the max benefit rolls over into the following year. He stated that reason we looked at getting away from DCP is because we and everyone else has been having issues with them since they were bought by another company. He stated that a lot of dentists are leaving that network. He stated that if we did move the only cost increase would be to move one person to a premium plan amount. He stated that with this proposal from Principal for dental, there will be a new \$50 deductible or \$150 per family for non-preventative work.

Mrs. Lapensee asked what our out-of-network cost is now with DCP? Mr. Freudenberg stated that he is not sure. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she seems to think it was the plan paid 60% and the employee must pay 40% which is more than what we would pay for out-of-network dental costs with the new plan.

Mr. Bryant wanted to know how much notice they would get if the grand mothered plans do not get renewed? Mr. Freudenberg stated that he does not know. Mr. Bryant asked if we need to be working on the “what if” in case the ACA goes into the effect at the beginning of the year.

Ms. Leis asked Mr. Freudenberg recommends for dental? Mr. Freudenberg stated that he recommends that they go with Principal because there will be less disruption in the long run and if people want to switch dentists, they can do so without trying to find one within the network.

Mr. Bryant asked if we finished the survey for the dentists for the employees. Mrs. Lapensee stated yes, she included it in the staff report.

Mr. Freudenberg stated that we are adding 3 new benefits for the group that are voluntary – critical illness, accident, and voluntary life.

The board agreed at the last meeting to keep their same medical plan.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution G2021-63 – Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to Enter into a Contract with Principal to Provide Dental, Vision, Life and Short-Term Disability Coverage for the Elected Officials and Full-Time Employees of Symmes Township (alt2 with 99% coverage). Mr. Beck seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mr. Bryant stated that one version of the resolutions is to stay with DCP, and the others are to go with Principal (different versions). Mrs. Lapensee stated that if we stay with DCP for dental we would have to choose the version of Principal that provides life and short-term disability. The other two resolutions for Principal would be the 90% or 99% out-of-network benefits.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bryant made a motion to accept the resignation of James Singler from the Zoning Commission. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to appoint Jeff Reichman as a member of the Zoning Commission to fill the unexpired term for James Singler ending on 12/31/2023. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Forbes administered the Oath of Office for Jeff Reichman.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to not request a hearing for a liquor license renewal for Pantano LLC, dba Cazador, 11315 Montgomery Road, Symmes Township, 45249. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to not request a hearing for a liquor license renewal for Herradura Fiesta Inc., dba Herradura Fiesta Mexican Restaurant, Units 18 & 20 and Patio, 11928 Montgomery Road, Symmes Township, Ohio 45249. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Bryant asked for discussion concerning potential uses for the Meade House and the sunflower field. Mrs. Lapensee stated that our consultant needs to know what the potential uses will be for the Meade House. Ms. Leis asked that we include the neighbors from each side of the property in the review committee and then gave potential dates for a work session to discuss the potential uses for the Meade house for September 14, 21 or 28th.

The board agreed to continue to have the sunflower again for next year and ask Natorps to plant the seeds for us next year to make sure they are successful and that way our employees do not have to worry about it.

Mr. Bryant asked for discussion concerning the landscape plan for Blong Park. Mrs. Lapensee stated that the landscape architect made the final revisions to the plan and asked if there was anything else that they wanted to see done. The Board made no further revisions but asked to see if we could get a cost estimate so we would know how much to budget for in the future. Mr. Beck stated that we should get at least two different estimates so that we know how much it would cost and design a plan to pay for it.

Andrea Barnhill, 7914 Clement Street, stated that she has not been to the meetings in awhile and wondered if this landscaping was part of the township beautification committee. She stated that she and her friend Barb had some ideas about landscaping down in Camp Dennison and

wondered if they should present that to the board or to the beautification committee. Mrs. Barnhill stated that she wanted to talk to someone first before she decides. Mr. Bryant stated that they are looking at their parks first to see how some of them can be upgraded.

Mr. Bryant asked for discussion concerning Fall Festival. Mrs. Lapensee asked if they wanted to do the full-blown version of Fall for Symmes or a scaled down version due to the resurgence of COVID19. The board agreed to have the full version at this time, but to wait to decide on the food aspect and they can decide at the next meeting or closer to the event. Mrs. Lapensee asked if they wanted to do the tractor ride again or just decorate the trail again. Mr. Bryant thinks we should just drop them off and let them walk the trail on their own.

Mr. Bryant asked for discussion concerning Home of the Brave Park and a request for batting cages by LYBO. Mrs. Lapensee went over the proposal with the board. She stated that LYBO is requesting to install batting cages at HOB between fields 7 and 8. She stated that they would be approximately 50 X 80 in size (concrete pad) with netting for the batters (15X70). The board asked that we talk more with LYBO. Mr. Bryant volunteered to speak more with them about the improvements and the location.

Mr. Bryant asked for discussion concerning mowing for 2022. Mrs. Lapensee stated that Mr. Pitman asked the board if they could extend the contract from this year to the existing contractors. She stated that they have all agreed to keep their pricing the same. She stated that they have asked to stay on with us so they can go ahead and put it on their schedules for next year. Mrs. Lapensee stated that the largest thing for us to take on that work, it would take at least 3 days to mow, and the other two days would be cleaning bathrooms/shelters, etc. She stated that it also takes a good amount of time to transport the equipment. Mr. Bryant stated that he had a lot of questions and would speak to Bill directly about it. Mr. Bryant stated that we are also short on staff. Mr. Bryant asked what the recommendation would be. Mrs. Lapensee stated that Mr. Pitman recommends that we keep our mowing contracts in place for 2022. She stated that Ms. Leis had asked earlier in the year to figure out ways to save money and the only way to do that is to only mow Symmes, HOB, Meade and Royal (due to the location of the service bldg.) and hire a contractor to mow the rest. She stated that the time would be the biggest concern for us. Ms. Leis asked when Mr. Pitman needs a final answer. Mrs. Lapensee stated that the contractors are asking now. Mr. Bryant wanted to know when we typically decide for mowing season. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we bid out mowing in January. She asked if we can discuss this next month and hopefully provide an answer. Mr. Bryant stated that he and Ms. Leis will talk to Bill separately about this and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution G2021-64 – Resolution Authorizing the Director of Public Works and Choice One Engineering to Prepare and Apply to Participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or local Transportation Improvement Programs and to Execute Contracts as Required. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that we would be submitting the same application as last year for Montgomery Trace Subdivision. The board agreed that this would be okay for a minimal expense.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution G2021-65 – Resolution Providing for the Declaration of Nuisance for the Property Located at 9099 Foxhunter Lane and Authorizing all Necessary Steps for the Abatement of the Nuisance. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Ms. Leis asked if Ms. Felter went out and looked again today. Mrs. Lapensee stated yes and its in the same state as before which includes weeds and trash on the property.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution G2021-66 – Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to sign an Agreement with LJB Inc. for Design Engineering Services for the Parapet and Vandal Fence for the Snider Road and Hopewell Road Bridge Replacement Projects in the amount of \$25,000.00. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Ms. Leis asked if this is for the bridge that will be replaced in 2023. Mrs. Lapensee stated that it will be for both Snider in 2023 and Hopewell in 2024. Ms. Leis asked if Snider would have sidewalks. Mrs. Lapensee stated no, but Hopewell will. Ms. Leis stated that she wants to include our township name across it with logo. Mr. Bryant asked about the Snider Road bridge and if Sycamore would be on the other side. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she contacted Sycamore Township and they declined to participate so she asked the bridge designer to incorporate Symmes Township on both sides. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we would be responsible for the upgrades in construction if we decide to do something above the baseline that ODOT provides for.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution G2021-67 – Resolution Providing for the Declaration of Nuisance for the Property Located at 12090 Mason Montgomery Road and Authorizing all Necessary Steps for the Abatement of the Nuisance. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution G2021-68 – Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to Sign a Community Event License Agreement with Loveland School District for Use of the Home of the Brave Park and Symmes Park for a 5K Race Fundraiser for the Loveland Boosters. Mrs. Leis seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution G2021-69 – Resolution Authorizing the Reimbursement of Medical Premium Expenses for the Fiscal Officer. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the following expenditures and authorization for the Township Administrator to sign any necessary contracts/agreement or paperwork:

- a. Expenditures: \$7,200.00 Stiles and Sons LLC. for storm water repairs on Enyart at Terwilliger where we previously installed sidewalks.
- b. Expenditures: \$9,100.00 Stiles and Sons LLC. for storm water repairs to a headwall on Patrilla.
- c. Expenditure: \$5,269.87 Backdraft Opco, LLC (Emergency Reporting) for ½ costs of the annual emergency reporting subscription fee.
- d. **Expenditure: NTE \$11,000.00 to replace/repair the hot water heater at the SSC.**

Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mr. Bryant stated that he thought that the cost was a bit high to replace the water heater and asked that we get a second quote.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bryant made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. based on ORC Section 121.22(G) (1) To consider the compensation and employment of a public employee or official. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to leave Executive Session and come back into regular session at 10:00 p.m. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bryant made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Leis seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye', Mr. Bryant - 'aye', and Mr. Beck - 'aye'.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Approved:

Kenneth N. Bryant, President

Jodie L. Leis, Vice-President

Philip J. Beck, Trustee