
MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Elected officials present were Mr. Phil Beck and Ms. Jodie Leis.

Also, present: Kim Lapensee – Administrator.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NEW BUSINESS

Special Events – Mrs. Lapensee handed out the special events expense reports and stated that we were over in Yoga and the extra events that we had (i.e. wine tasting, merry and bright, Facebook game, photo contest and moon walk). She stated that we would need additional money for the library/story time and the butterfly release. She stated that if we lumped all the amounts together that we should be good for all events. Ms. Leis stated that she wants to remove all the honeysuckle from Meade Park because it is an invasive species and will continue to kill the other plants and tree life in the park if we don't remove it. Mr. Beck stated that he is concerned about taking down the screen around the perimeter of the park. He stated that we also need to replant ground cover at Hopewell where we removed the honeysuckle last year. Mr. Beck suggested that we put information about honeysuckle removal in the book pedestals around the trail, so people are aware.

Mrs. Lapensee asked the board how they wanted to handle the Firecracker Festival this year. She stated that the chamber sent an email asking to use Home of the Brave park this year on Saturday, June 27th from 4 to 10:00 p.m. She stated that they asked for half of the sponsorship of the cost of the fireworks. She stated that last year it cost us roughly \$2,400.00 in overtime for our employees to work the festival for 2 days. She suggested that it may just be easier for us to charge to flat rate to rent the park and that would include the OT, electricity, water, and garbage removal costs. She stated that it would not include the cost for the officers to direct traffic or for EMS/Fire. The board agreed to charge a flat rate of \$2,500.00 for the use of the park and to give \$2,500.00 toward the sponsorship of the fireworks.

Mr. Beck asked how we are going to handle the food vendors for all the events. Mrs. Lapensee stated that there will be baseball opening games on April 4th and that they will talk to Matt Kaps with Loveland Youth Baseball to see if they can handle the food for the whole day which can bleed over into the Easter egg hunt area. She stated that the chamber can handle their own food for the fireworks and that the township can handle the food for Fall Festival or involve the cub scouts/girl scouts in that event.

Mr. Bryant arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Zoning Resolution – Mrs. Lapensee went through the proposed changes to the zoning resolution with the board. They include:

1. General Provisions – adding sidewalks to all major streets anytime there is a new house built, a new subdivision being built, lot splits or anytime there is a rebuild/remodel for a commercial establishment.
2. General Provisions – adding general maintenance standards that states all lots must be maintained and in good condition and good repair.
3. All Residence Districts – 5-foot setback for all structures and accessory uses increase from 3.
4. Residential Parking – language added for new driveways and parking surfaces must be paved or concrete and must be at least 10'-0" from the property line. Mr. CJ Carr brought up the point that most of the side yard setbacks in the residential districts are only 5'-0" so it might be a good idea to lower it to 5'-0" and possible put language in there to deal with storm drainage.
5. Parking of Boats, Trailers, Campers, RV or mobile homes – addition of Campers and RV's into the prohibited language of storage on properties other than accessory structure or rear yard and no parking on streets.
6. Accessory buildings – language to increase to 5'-0" for setbacks.
7. Zoning Certificates – language added that they are only valid for 1 year after issuance.
8. Signs – language added to allow electronic message boards in residence districts for government buildings, schools, churches, swim clubs, parks, golf courses and non-profits. The message board can be added to the ground mounted sign and would be no larger than 25% of the total sign.
9. Play Devices – tree houses have been added to the list of accessory structures allowed in the rear yard and the setback has been increased to 5'-0".
10. Fences and Walls – language added that all fences and walls must be located at least 5'-0" away from any public utilities or fire hydrants. Mr. Beck mentioned that it may be difficult to be 5'-0" away from the fire hydrants. He suggested that we go with a setback of 3'-0" from any above ground exposed utility and that way it does not affect the underground lines.

Recycling Activities – Mrs. Lapensee went over the current recycling activities and asked the board which activities they want to pursue for this year. The activities include:

1. Recycling Dumpsters – We now have three 6-yard dumpsters that cost around \$280.00 per month or \$2,240.00 until the end of September. We will have to renegotiate a new cost starting in September. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we are still having issues with recycling items being placed in the recycling dumpsters that Rumpke does not recycle. Ms. Leis asked about the sign that Hamilton County solid waste district said we could borrow. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she would call them and ask about it.

2. Hazardous Household Waste - \$10,000 to \$12,000.00 We are unsure of the cost of household hazardous waste removal. In the past, we split the cost with Loveland and the Loveland Sustainability Council. In 2018 we paid \$4,000.00 and in 2019 we paid \$2,500.00. In 2020, Loveland did not put this into their budget so we would not have anyone to split the cost with. However, I did receive an email from Dave Kennedy stating that they will budget for half in 2021 and 2022.
3. Clean-up Days (2 times per year) - \$10,000.00. This includes the cost to remove the junk and the labor of our employees.
4. Yard Waste Drop-off - \$10,150.00. We contract with LA Supply to provide a place for the residents to drop off their yard waste. Not many of our residents use this program. We still have not heard anything back from the guy who owns LA Supply about yard waste. We are unsure if he is going to be taking yard waste. We do know that he is subletting a portion of his yard space to a landscaping company. However, we found three different free locations to all residents of Hamilton County to drop their yard waste this year beginning March 28 through December 6 on Saturdays and Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - a. West – Oakdale Elementary School – 3850 Virginia Court, Green Township.
 - b. North – Rumpke Landfill – Struble Road, Colerain Township.
 - c. East – BZAK Landscaping, 3295 Turpin Lane, Anderson Township. BZAK will also be open Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in addition to the hours listed above.
5. Christmas Tree Recycling - \$0.00. This service costs us nothing except the gas to run the chipper.
6. Christmas Lights Recycling - \$0.00. This services costs us nothing. The Loveland Sustainability Council recycles the lights for us.
7. Cell Phone Recycling - \$0.00. This service costs us nothing. The Cincinnati Zoo recycles the phones for us.
8. New Activity – Recycling TV’s and Computers, \$5,000.00. Mr. Beck has also asked us to check on prices to recycle old TVs and computers. Rumpke has a program to recycle lamps, batteries, mercury containing devices, PCB and Non-PCB ballasts, PC monitors and TVs, Hard drives, copiers, printers, fax machines, etc. and numerous other devices. We are checking on the costs for that program.

The board agreed to continue to keep the recycling dumpsters at the administration building, provide the clean-up days at Hopewell Park 2 times this year, and provide the yard waste drop off site if we can get it to work out with the a local contractor. Mr. Bryant suggested that we can Evans to get a price.

Field Space/Costs – Mrs. Lapensee stated that she would like to discuss the costs for us to maintain the field spaces that the recreation teams are using for free. She stated that she would like for us to start passing along some of those costs to the organizations who use those spaces exclusively. She went over the following list:

1. Soccer – the largest cost we have is to fertilize the fields and cut the grass. This year we will pay \$5,389.05 just for Stonebridge (which includes fertilizing, over-seeding

- and aeration. Cost for HOB are generally \$3,000 per application X 3 applications a year or \$9,000.00 for the soccer and baseball fields. Alex Rawlings has agreed to pay for the fertilizer at HOB for the north fields for 2020. The baseball fields will be fertilized by the contractor this year.
2. Baseball – the largest cost will be to cut the grass, drag the fields, fertilize, irrigation and the electricity to run the lights if they are constantly using the fields at night. We also need to discuss who will be turning the lights off and on. We have a ballpark number of \$2,500.00 per month for the irrigation or \$15,000 for 6 months (May thru October). We do not fertilize the fields at Symmes Park.
 3. Lacrosse – the largest cost we have is to cut the grass and fertilize. We will need to deal with drainage at some point at Royal Field. Currently, we do not fertilize Royal Field or the meadow and field 1 is included in the cost of \$3,000 per application.
 4. Expansion – Do we want to expand our fields? We have the demand for soccer and baseball. We do have room at Symmes Park to expand for some soccer fields near the overflow parking area (where the port-o-let currently stands). We can get a price on what it would cost to expand that area and deal with drainage. We could also talk to the Masonic Lodge to see if they would be willing to rent us the fields behind their facility so that we could add another baseball field or soccer field. Mr. Beck stated that we should investigate the drainage and how it will be affected by the expansion.
 5. Parking – We should also look at improving the parking areas throughout the parks, especially at Meade if we want to do events at that location.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that our costs are somewhere around \$30,000.00 a year for field maintenance. She stated that we have around 2,665 (Lacrosse 150, Loveland Youth Diamond Sports 950, Cincinnati Elite 365 and LYSA 1200) kids enrolled on recreation teams this year. She stated that if we divide that evenly amongst all players, it will only cost \$11.00 per child. She stated that she felt that was a nominal cost considering that over half of the kids that use our fields are not from Symmes Township.

Park Expenses – Mrs. Lapensee stated that the fence around the dog run at Symmes Park is rotting and needs to be replaced. She gave the board options for the replacement. They are:

1. Kentucky three board fence - \$19,150.00. The K3B fence will last approximately 15 years. Mr. Bryant asked what type of wood the fence will be made from. Mrs. Lapensee stated that the quote says they will use treated poplar boards mounted on treated pine posts. She stated that coated vinyl coated welded wire will be installed on the outside of the fence to keep people from climbing on the fence. She stated that many people are climbing on the fence when the dog park is closed, and it has contributed to its demise. She stated that we must close the park when it is wet and during the winter months so that the grass has time to rest. She stated that we also treat and sanitize the area in the spring.
2. Split rail fence - \$19,450.00. The SRF will last approximately 12 to 15 years.
3. Chain link fence (black) - \$24,450.00. The chain link fence will last approximately 25 to 30 years.

4. Another option – we could move the location of the dog run to a sunny spot in the park that is closer to water. This would protect the fence from the moisture and shade at its current location which is about 500 feet away from a water source.

The board agreed to replace the fence with the first option and leave it in the same spot as it is now. Ms. Leis stated that she would also like to fix up and bring back the bird watching area. She would like to install some bird houses and add signage for what birds might be seen in the viewing areas.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Approved:

Jodie L. Leis, Board President

Kenneth N. Bryant, VP

Philip J. Beck, Trustee