
MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 4, 2020

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 Ms. Carol Sims.

Also, present: Kimberly Lapensee - Administrator; Kevin McDonough - Law Director; Lieutenant Tory Smith – HCSO, and Chief Ott Huber - LSF.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Leis made a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting from January 7, 2020. Mr. Beck seconded the motion.

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

FISCAL OFFICERS REPORT

Ms. Sims stated that she handed out the reports for December and January. Ms. Sims stated that as of January 31, the checking account had \$521,174.00, Credit Card had \$1,935.00 and the Money Market had \$10,942,000.00. She would like to point out that the year end what they had estimated based on budget for the funds verse’s what they actually end up at year-end. They were up by \$937,000, the road funds were up by \$87,000 with the additional projected income in 2020 it is another \$452,000 between the street levy, an additional \$5 levy and additional gasoline tax received from the state.

Ms. Sims stated that she has two items she would like to bring up. At the last meeting she questioned why the Chamber had not paid the total amount of the invoice sent to them for reimbursement of what the Township spent at the Fire Cracker Festival as well as to why she was not contacted if there was a discrepancy.

Ms. Leis stated that she stated at the last meeting that she and Mrs. Lapensee were going to meet with the Chamber but they have not met with them yet. Ms. Leis asked Mrs. Lapensee to set up an appointment with the Chamber and they will address that with the Chamber.

Ms. Sims stated that if they were going to address that with the Chamber, she would like them to address why the Chamber did not remit the money from the Wine Tasting Event.

Mr. Bryant asked Carol if she would give him a copy of her summary. Ms. Sims stated that she would.

PRESENTATIONS

LSFD - Chief. Jon Frye with LSF presented a check to the Loveland High Schools students who were raising money for Leukemia.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

Ms. Leis made a motion to approve the warrants from 76891 – 77100 in the amount of \$724,193.07 from January. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion.

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

REPORTS

KEVIN MCDONOUGH, LAW DIRECTOR - None.

LIEUTENANT TORY SMITH, HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT – Lieutenant Tory Smith went over the stats for 2019 with the board. He stated that they are working on a new intelligence lead operation for the future to show trends. He stated that it has been very positive here in Symmes Township and that we continue to have low crime. He stated that no officers have been hurt or injured on duty. Ms. Leis thanked them for their service to the community. Mr. Beck asked if there were any patterns and if so, do they shift the resources. Mr. Smith stated what they are lacking and what they are trying to achieve is to compile data and to shift resources based on what that data tells them.

CHIEF OTT HUBER, LSF D - Chief Ott reported that they will be moving back into fire headquarters in about two weeks and out of their temporary facility on Cottonwood.

BILL PITMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS - None.

COMMITTEE - None.

OTHER - Ms. Lapensee stated that the Finance Committee met and discussed the 2020 Budget and have scheduled another meeting for February 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

Matt Kapszukiewicz, 11916 Streamside Drive, Loveland Youth Baseball President, stated that he had a great meeting with the Township staff about field space. He wanted to throw out three ideas that the LYB had for the Board to consider and think about. In looking at the Townships schedule of events, they may have the opportunity to do two things at once. Number one is their opening day is planned for Saturday, April 4, which he sees is the same day as the Townships Easter Egg Hunt. He would like the Board to consider in having opening day at Home of the Brave Park using fields 6, 7 & 8. Number two is this is the seventh year for the Memorial Day Blast Baseball Tournament and they would love bring some of those games over to Home of the Brave to show case the complex. Lastly it was approved by Little League District 9 that Loveland Youth Baseball would be awarded the ability to hose the 10 U Baseball Tournament which would start either July 5 or 6. It would include around 18 teams around the Greater Cincinnati area and would run 10 to 14 days. The winner would advance to the state championship.

David Zieverink, 2688 Field Ertel Rd., Loveland, former owner of the Meade Property stated that he is a part of the Isaak Walton League and will be attending their next conference. He was wondering if the township would like to participate in writing an article for the next magazine that comes out for the spring. He stated that he thought it might be interesting for the township to write about how they acquired park land over the years as the township developed. Ms. Leis asked if we would focus on all the parks we have in the township or just the Meade property? Mr. Zieverink stated that he thinks it should focus on the entire township. Ms. Leis stated that it would be nice to tell our story and that she walks Meade all the time and has noticed that the use of the park has increased since we put in the trail. Mr. Zieverink stated that he is very happy to see people using the property.

Joe Grossi, 11982 Paulmeadows Drive, stated that he wanted to address the misconceptions by residents at the last meeting. He stated that he asked if the Fiscal Officer had paid off late fees at the last meeting. He stated that she responded that she had not because the Township Administrator had not provided the proper purchase requisitions to process them. He stated that he wanted everyone to know that it's not the Township Administrators fault that late fees were assessed and not paid; that they were created by the Fiscal Officer and no one else. He stated that he is still waiting for the public records that he requested 11 months ago and has yet to receive them because she stated that she is still working on them. Mr. Grossi stated that he would like to have a forensic audit done because he feels that the audit that is conducted by the state is worthless. He stated that the financial reports are non-existent and have not been provided to the Administrator for budgeting purposes. He stated that he has talked to a consultant named Axiom Consultants and would like for the board to hear from them at the March meeting about what they can offer to the township. He stated that he is not sure of the cost, but normally the cost is around \$325.00 per hour and they have agreed to lower their price for government to \$250.00. He stated that at the last finance and audit committee meeting, he polled the members present and they all felt that it was reasonable to ask for an audit since there will be a change in Fiscal Officers.

Ms. Leis agreed and stated that we could put it on next months agenda to listen to what they have to offer. Mr. Beck and Mr. Bryant agreed.

Mr. Darcy Havill, 9976 Lincoln, stated that he is here for Steve Tranter who owns the building that the BBQ place was located because he was unable to be here tonight. He asked if the township could study the crosswalk at 126/Lincoln. He stated that people cannot cross there, and he is forced to use the parking lot across the street for his building. He stated that he understands that the state says you can't put in a crosswalk unless there are sidewalks. He is asking the township to go ahead and paint white lines on State Route 126 to start the process along with signage. Ms. Leis stated that they have scheduled a meeting with the County Engineer to discuss other items and she can ask them about that study. Mr. Beck stated that he has asked ODOT many times about this issue and that they did not say no, but that they did not say yes either. Mr. Havill asked if there was anything else, they can do to get this done? Mr. Bryant suggested that they have everyone in Camp Dennison sign a petition and send it to ODOT asking for a safety study.

Mr. Havill stated that he is still working on the speed issue with the Sheriffs Office on 126. He stated that it is an economic hardship for him because he can't use his building/office driveway due to the speed of some of the motorists because he can't get out of his driveway. He stated that he wants us to buy a sign with a video monitor in it and then they can send letters to offenders. He stated that Mr. Pitman told him that we could rent them too. He stated that a police car can only sit there so long in the same place before people start catching on that there is no person inside. Ms. Leis asked if we would set parameters for those signs. Mr. Smith stated yes, just for speeders.

Mrs. Lapensee questioned whether Township Administration could legally take photographs of the offenders and send them notices since we are not permitted by law to have access to the LEADS system. Mr. Smith stated that it would have to be the police who accesses the information on the video, has access to LEADS and then sends a violation notice.

CORRESPONDENCE

Attached to the packet.

EVENTS/MEETINGS

- Presidents Day, Monday, February 17, 2020 - Offices Closed for Holiday.
- Finance Committee Meeting - Monday, February 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
- Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting - Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
- Regular Trustees Meeting - Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Great Symmes Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. at HOB Park.
- NEST Kids Ninja Challenge - Saturday, April 25, 2020 from 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m. at Symmes Park.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Leis made a motion to accept a \$500.00 grant for the MORE Grant through OTARMA to be used for safety. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Leis made a motion to waive the \$50.00 false alarm fee for Giuseppe Policani, 9390 Kemper Grove Lane. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mr. Bryant stated that he is willing to waive it once but that is it. If it has not been fixed and goes off again, his vote is for the fine. Mr. Beck stated that is fair. Ms. Leis agreed.

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

Ms. Leis asked for discussion concerning a date for a work session to discuss special events, zoning resolution updates, recycling and field space/costs. Ms. Leis made a motion to schedule February 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the administration building as a work session for the board to discuss special events, zoning resolution updates, recycling and field space/costs. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Leis asked for discussion concerning a date for a special meeting to discuss sidewalks on Union Cemetery Road. Ms. Leis made a motion to schedule the meeting for March 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Safety Services building. Mr. Beck seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Leis made a motion to accept the resignation of Laura Sharp from the Finance and Audit Committee. Mr. Beck seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Leis made a motion to appoint Meena Maddali as a regular member for the Finance and Audit Committee to fill the unexpired term of Laura Sharp from 2/4/20 to 7/18/20. Mr. Beck seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Leis made a motion to appoint Jennifer Ryan as an alternate member for the Finance and Audit Committee to fill the unexpired term of Meena Maddali from 2/4/20 to 12/31/22. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Leis asked for discussion concerning a petition received by MSD to install sewers at the request of the residents on the north side of Union Cemetery Road from the lodge to the Loveland corporation line.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that they received a letter from MSD. There are four parcels across the street, three with houses on them and the Township owns the fourth one. The residents have submitted a petition to have MSD install a sewer. MSD's policy is to extent it to all properties whether they are developed or not. Their parcel is considered part to the assessment area, so they have an opportunity to vote yes or no on whether they are for the local sewer or against it. If they are out voted they will be assessed the twelve thousand dollars regardless. The property is 1.3 acres.

Ms. Leis stated that they should support the residents. Mr. Beck stated that he agrees with supporting the residents and it benefit the property value.

Ms. Leis made a motion to approve Resolution G2020-12, a Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to Purchase 2 Chevrolet Tahoe's and Accessories from Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora LLC. for the Police and Administration Departments in the amount of \$81,350.08. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that this purchase would be for two vehicles - one for the police department and one for administration. She stated that the police department wrecked a vehicle in November and this one vehicle would be to replace their wrecked vehicle. She stated that we received \$8,625.00 toward the purchase of a new one from insurance. She stated that the second vehicle would be for administration to replace the Ford Explorer currently driven by her and that she would like to keep that explorer and rotate it into the existing fleet and keep it for administration and park activities for special events, training, etc.

Mr. Bryant stated that he suggested that they buy one for the Sheriff's department and hold off one year to purchase the Administrator vehicle. Mr. Beck stated that he would like to try and get more Time and mileage out of the Administrator's vehicle unless it is becoming a problem.

Ms. Leis amended Resolution G2020-12, to one Chevrolet Tahoe and Accessories for the Police in the amount of \$41,350.08.

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

Ms. Leis made a motion to table Resolution G2020-13, a Resolution Appointing an Employment Agreement with Kimberly A. Lapensee as Township Administrator pursuant to ORC Section 505.031 and Dispensing with the second reading. Mr. Beck seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution G2020-14, a Resolution Authorizing a Change Order in the Hopewell and Enyart Road Sidewalk Project contract for Fillmore Construction in the amount of \$2,107.60. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that this change order is due to the County changing the plans and are now making them put in a cross walk at Solon.

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

Ms. Leis made a motion to approve Resolution G2020-15, a Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to sign an agreement with Fillmore Construction to install sidewalks in Hearthstone Estates on undeveloped lots and make repairs to other sidewalks in the neighborhood in an amount not to exceed \$43,111.00 and Choice One Engineering to layout the location of the sidewalks in an amount not to exceed \$1,750.00. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that we have \$44,861.00 dollars left over in the bond that we originally received for Hearthstone Estates after the market collapse. She stated that the bond money is to

finish sidewalks in Hearthstone Estates. She stated that the HOA approached the township last year and asked the township to go ahead and finish the sidewalks for all those lots that are undeveloped in the subdivision.

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

Ms. Leis made a motion to approve Resolution G2020-16, a Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to Purchase a new work truck for the Road Department from Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora LLC. in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion.

Mrs. Lapensee stated this would be an additional vehicle. There are 2 road crews that go out and right now they have to take a one-ton dump truck when they go out.

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

Ms. Leis made a motion to approve Resolution G2020-17, a Resolution Providing for the declaration of nuisance for the property located at 9237 Solon Drive and Authorizing all necessary steps for the abatement of the nuisance. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated it is the same house that they have dealt with for many years.

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

Ms. Leis made a motion to approve the following amendments, expenditures and authorization for the Township Administrator to sign any necessary contracts/agreement or paperwork:

- a. Amend: 1-A-26e Newsletter \$12,000.00 to \$13,000.00.
- b. Expenditure: \$2,009.00 Regional Planning Commission/Planning Partnership dues.
- c. Expenditure: \$5,000.00 Easter Egg Expenses.
- d. Expenditure: \$3,500.00 Cantrell Fencing (labor/materials) to replace the landing and steps at Symmes Park near the sledding hill.
- e. Expenditure: \$4,635.00 River Oaks Services LLC. for insect tree spraying various locations.
- f. Expenditure: \$5,300.50 River Oaks Services LLC. for broad leaf and crab grass fertilizer maintenance various locations.
- g. Expenditure: \$5,389.05 Team All Sports for lawn maintenance at Stonebridge Park.

Mr. Bryant seconded the motion.

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

HEARING FROM RESIDENTS

Susie Lindgren, 11611 Thistlehill, stated that she was looking at calendar and the meeting that they scheduled for Union Cemetery Sidewalks is the third Wednesday of the month which is also typically the Zoning Commissions meeting day. Mrs. Lapensee Thanked her for bringing that to their attention.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Leis made a motion to go into executive session at 9:05 p.m. to have a conference with the Law Director concerning pending or imminent court action, to consider compensation and employment of a public employee or official and to discuss a potential real estate transaction.

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

Ms. Leis made a motion to come to the regular meeting from Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Ms. Leis - 'aye', and Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

No further action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Approved:

Jodie L. Leis, President

Kenneth N. Bryant, Vice-President

Philip J. Beck, Trustee