
MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

JUNE 11, 2019

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

Also present: Kim Lapensee – Administrator.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve the Agenda. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Motion passes.

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Sidewalks Plan Discussion – Mr. Beck started discussion about the sidewalks plan. He stated that Mr. Bryant had a question. Mr. Bryant asked how much money we had left-over for sidewalks. Mrs. Lapensee stated that to her knowledge and if you add \$25,000 for 2019, we should have approximately \$111,000.00 for sidewalk construction.

Mr. Beck wanted to know what our typical budget is for road paving each year. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we usually spend between \$400,000 and \$500,000.00 per year. She stated that it depends on how large the subdivision is. She stated that some years we spend over \$600,000.00. Mr. Bryant asked how much the levy brings in each year. Mrs. Lapensee stated just over \$500,000.00 per year. Mr. Beck asked if we could look at what will be paved next year to see if we can defer any road maintenance and use the money to pay for some sidewalks.

Ms. Leis asked if we could use any other funds to help pay for the sidewalks. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we could use TIF money to help pay, but that we would have to link the use of the funds so that it could benefit the TIF district itself. She stated that we could possibly use the TIF money to pay for sidewalks on Union Cemetery as long as we link Union Cemetery to Montgomery Road and Fields Ertel Road intersection. She stated that we would have to justify it. Ms. Leis asked what the most dangerous section would be along Union Cemetery Road. Mrs. Lapensee stated that it would be from Antietam to Woodwind (roughly) and we would have to keep it on the north side for the ROW inside Symmes. Mr. Bryant stated that we would have to put in a retaining wall on the north side as well. Mrs. Lapensee stated that our engineer estimated that it would cost around \$250,000.00 from Antietam to Woodwind and around \$175,000.00 from Woodwind to Hawthorne Woods Ct (if we stay on the north side), and then our corp line to Montgomery Road on the south side (where we own the property) for \$195,000.00. she stated that we would then have to figure out what to do in-between those areas where the corp line for Loveland is on both sides of the road.

Ms. Leis asked if we made any progress on the Hopewell Road sidewalks at the bridge. Mr. Beck stated that he stated that he has not worked on it lately, but it will take a significant amount of coordination with ODOT to make it work. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we could at least do the portion of the project from Humphrey to the bridge and get one section finished. She stated that

the first section of the project would be approximately \$100,000.00 and the second phase from the other side of the bridge to Hopewell Hills would be approximately \$110,000.00. Ms. Leis stated that we have been working on this section of sidewalks for a very long time and many people have asked for it. She stated that she thinks it is important and we have promised that it will get done first.

Mr. Beck stated that we stated we would work on it, but first we need to go through the list in an objective way. He stated that the "S" curve on Union Cemetery is dangerous and the fact that it affects over 400 households would make that project rise to the top of the list.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that she went ahead and scored the streets and would be happy to discuss the rankings and/or make changes.

Mr. Bryant stated that based on Mrs. Lapensee's rankings, the portion of Union Cemetery from Appomattox to Woodwind got 5's all the way across the board. Mrs. Lapensee stated yes. She stated that all three of the board members said that the top 3 choices were Union Cemetery, Hopewell and Enyart.

Mr. Beck stated that he would like to figure out how to do all three projects at one time by potentially moving roadway funds back to fund them. He stated that if we tackled the "S" curve on Union Cemetery (\$250,000.00), Hopewell (\$100,000.00) and Enyart (\$85,000.00) we would need \$435,000.00 to complete all three projects. Mr. Bryant stated that we only have \$111,000.00 set aside to fund sidewalks so far so we would need to come up with \$324,000.00. Mr. Beck asked how much of the sidewalk construction money could be funded with TIF funds. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she did not know and that she would consult with the Law Director to see what his opinion is.

Mr. Bryant stated that we would have to check to see what capital improvements for police and fire are planned for the next few years if we are looking at using TIF money.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that we would also have to do engineering for Enyart Road and Union Cemetery. She stated that we know it will cost around \$10,000.00 for engineering to do Enyart Road, but she has not asked Choice One to put together a cost to do engineering for Union Cemetery Road. Mr. Bryant stated that he would like to see that kicked off, because right now they are just arm waiving for numbers and we need to pin down the actual costs. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we would also have to buy right-of-way to put the sidewalks in. Mr. Bryant asked if we would have to. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she would ask Choice One to put that together as well.

Mr. Beck stated that he wants to develop an action list for Union Cemetery Road which would include design costs, construction, right-of-way, funding (TIF), etc. Ms. Leis stated that the Fire Association typically will always match funds with us for purchases when we use the TIF money. Mrs. Lapensee stated that TIF money is supposed to be used for infrastructure and can be used to purchase other capital items such as fire and police equipment, etc. Mr. Bryant stated that he would like us to plot out our foreseeable expenses in the TIF fund. Mr. Bryant stated that he feels that using TIF money for sidewalks is a stretch. Mrs. Lapensee stated that you can do it because it is infrastructure that will benefit that district. She stated that we will just have to come up with a good formula to match it with.

Mr. Beck stated that if we look at sidewalks on Enyart, it would cost around \$95,000.00 to design and construct. He asked if we could take that money from the road fund this year. He stated that he would also like to look into using TIF money for Union Cemetery Road. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we will also need to meet with the county to determine how many times we are allowed to cross Union Cemetery Road since there is already a crossing at Royal Field. She stated that they may not allow us to cross the road again near the Township building. Mr. Beck stated that we may be able to if we get some kind of agreement with Loveland. Mrs. Lapensee stated that if we put sidewalks on the north side of Union Cemetery, then we would have to buy ROW. She stated that there is a small portion of sidewalk between Shenandoah and Antietam that we could connect to. Mr. Beck asked if that was something we could do in house. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we would have to wait until the engineer tells us how much we need to

purchased along the way. Mr. Bryant stated that we would probably need around 8'-0" if we do not have enough already. Mr. Beck asked if we could ask people first if they are willing to donate the land for the sidewalk. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we could always give them the opportunity first.

Mr. Bryant stated that he thought it was great that all three of the board members have the same priorities. He stated that we can always talk about which to do first based on money, safety, etc. He stated that if we want to use money from future road money, we need to take a look at the plan for the future first. Mr. Beck asked if Mrs. Lapensee had talked to Mr. Pitman about the road list for next year. Mrs. Lapensee stated yes, but that he felt we should stick to the list that has already been advertised with the levy. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we are ahead of schedule because we are paving roads this month that are on the 2020 list (Governors Hill and Chappelsquare). She stated that we could push some of the road work back and only stick to the roads listed in 2020 and not move up some from 2021. Mr. Bryant stated that we have moved roads up and back based on their condition. He stated that the plan is the plan until we need to make a change. Mr. Bryant asked when the last year of the cycle is for the road levy. Mrs. Lapensee stated that 2020 would be the last year of the collection cycle (2014 – 2020).

Mr. Bryant stated that we just passed another road levy last year and we should also take a look at that and see what money it is bringing in. He stated that is also a 7-year cycle and they are overlapping.

Mr. Beck asked how we plan on funding the safety crossing signs. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we will use our 20% match money that the county has (\$30,000), or we can apply for funds through ODOT for safety. She stated that she would have to ask when that money is available through ODOT. Ms. Leis asked if we can reimburse ourselves the money if we end up using the 20% funds and get the ODOT grant. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she would ask ODOT. She stated that she would find out if we can apply any time or if there is a window for applications. He asked when the study would be finished. Mrs. Lapensee stated that the traffic counts have been completed by the county, we are waiting on the Trucks to do the pedestrian counts on Humphrey, Bill is going to ask Darcy to do the pedestrian counts on 126 and she is going to ask Jeff to do the pedestrian counts on Union Cemetery. She stated that once all those counts are finished, we should be close to submitting the information to the county. Ms. Leis stated that residents have expressed concern that now that school is not in session, the traffic counts will be low. Mr. Beck stated that he ran into Ted Hubbard and he asked about the traffic. He asked if the traffic counts are really just a box that needs to be checked or does it have meaning. He stated that he doesn't know why they would say no to a crosswalk. He also stated that Mr. Hubbard didn't disagree with him. Mr. Bryant stated that they sometimes will only go by warrants and they follow the manuals set forth by ODOT. Mr. Beck stated that the only thing the crosswalks need to meet per Ted is that they following the safety standards set out in the ODOT green manual. Mr. Beck stated that we already have a crosswalk that exists and all that we are trying to do is make it a safer crosswalk. Mr. Beck stated that the area that we are going to study on 126 at Lincoln is not an existing crosswalk. Mr. Beck stated that the County Engineer would be willing to do a letter of recommendation to ODOT to allow the crosswalk.

Mrs. Lapensee asked if they were all good with the list provided. She stated that she plans to send the list to our engineer to finish the map to put with our master plan showing the proposed locations. She stated that the map will not show an order or when they would be completed. She stated that it will be a reference for the zoning resolution and when people redevelop lots along these roadways, it will be required that sidewalks be installed along with the house. Ms. Leis stated that she would like to see everyone install sidewalks if they redevelop their lots no matter where they live. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she agrees. She stated that right now our zoning resolution does not specify that requirement and that we need to look at changing that. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she thought that the board was uncomfortable with requiring everyone to build sidewalks that is why we were working on a plan. Mr. Beck stated that not every road has sidewalks. Ms. Leis stated that we can always negotiate money in lieu of sidewalks for the future. Mr. Bryant stated that we required the developer on McKinney to put in sidewalks and then took money from the subdivision on Fields Ertel near Rich Road and put that money into the sidewalk fund to pay for other sidewalks.

Mr. Beck asked if there was anything else that needed to be addressed. Mrs. Lapensee asked when they wanted to do a ribbon cutting for the Meade Trail. She stated that they are going to start paving the trail this week (weather pending) and will put the storybook walk posts up the week of July 8th. She stated that based on our vacation schedules, she suggested the week of July 22nd. Ms. Leis suggested that we send out invitations to the HOA to let them know as well and the Loveland Herald. Mrs. Lapensee asked them when they wanted to do the budget meeting. The board agreed to schedule it for June 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that we rescheduled the July meeting for July 16th; however, we need to do the tax budget and Mr. Bryant will not be here for that meeting as he will be on vacation. She stated that Ms. Sims is available on July 8th or 9th. She stated that she and the Law Director will not be here, but she does not see the need for two meetings. Mr. Bryant asked if the budget is going to ready to go at the meeting on the 18th and is the finance committee meeting before the meeting. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she does not know the answer to either of those questions. Mr. Bryant wanted to know if they can schedule the meeting. Mrs. Lapensee stated that it is their committee and they created it so they can call a meeting anytime they want. Mr. Bryant stated that we created it and charged the committee with reviewing the information and they should meet to review it. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we could invite them to the meeting next week. Mr. Bryant asked how far in advance will we receive the information. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she did not know. The board agreed to move the regular meeting and have the public hearing for the 2020 tax budget on July 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that she placed a list on their desk letting them know what topics will be discussed in the newsletter. She asked them to let her know if there was anything else that needed to be added. Mr. Bryant suggested that we add the cross walks and sidewalks.

Mr. Bryant asked about the mural project. Mrs. Lapensee stated that the building is prepped and ready to be painted. She stated that we can work out a dedication date for that as well.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that we are working on quotes for the insurance renewal. She stated that we got a 10% cost increase for this year and will be shopping rates. She stated that we need to fill out insurance applications so we can get other quotes. She stated that we can also change our plan design to lower the cost.

Mrs. Lapensee asked if they wanted to sit down and schedule a work session to discuss the sheriff's contract renewal rates. Mr. Beck wanted to know if we got the same rates as everyone else. Mrs. Lapensee stated no that all the rates are different. He wanted to know if everyone has capital stuff that they own and just pay for man power. Mrs. Lapensee stated yes. She stated that the rates are higher for 2020, 2021 and 2022 than they were originally told they would be. Mr. Bryant asked if the police study results were in for Sycamore and Silverton. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she has not heard if they are done yet or not. Mr. Bryant stated that we should also look at the Fire Department costs as well. She stated that was a good idea and that she wanted to wait until the fall to schedule a meeting. Mr. Bryant agreed that we need to get the word out there now about all these increases in costs for police and fire. Mr. Beck asked if the contract expires, does the contract expire or does it continue until we negotiate a cost. Mrs. Lapensee stated that other contracts have continued until a price was agreed on. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she does know that the FOP and county agreed to a 3.25% cost of living increase for the deputies.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

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 7:10 p.m.

Approved:

Phillip Beck, Board President

Jodie Leis, Vice-President

Kenneth Bryant, Trustee