
MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

JUNE 20, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Elected officials present were: Mr. Phil Beck, Mr. Kenneth Bryant, Mrs. Jodie Leis, and Ms. Carol Sims.

Also present: Brian Elliff - Township Administrator.

NEW BUSINESS

MRS. LEIS moved to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION G2014-14

Resolution Appointing Joint Economic Development Review Council Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 715.692 and Amending G2014-13

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 715.692 requires the appointment of seven members to a Joint Economic Development Review Council ("Council") which shall review the Economic Development Plan ("Plan") proposed by the Contracting Parties for the Symmes Township JEDZ 1 Joint Economic Development Zone ("JEDZ") before the enactment of resolutions or ordinances approving the JEDZ; and

WHEREAS, on June 13, 2014, the Symmes Township Board of Trustees met and make appointments to the Council by Resolution G2014-13; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to that appointment a Council member who had been appointed by the Symmes Township Board of Trustees but not yet appointed by the City of Milford, Ohio determined that he could not serve on the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Contracting Parties are required to appoint jointly the Council consistent with the terms of Ohio revised Code Section 715.692; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2014, the City of Milford, Ohio made it's appoint of members to the Council; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 715.692 requires the Council to be composed of the following members: the Hamilton County Auditor as Chair, one member of an economic development organization that provides services for, or advocates on behalf of businesses operating within the JEDZ, one member of the public, and four members who are owners or are designated by the owners of the four businesses that employ the most persons within the JEDZ (or the business which employs the next most persons should one of the four largest be unwilling or unable to serve).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio:

Section 1. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 715.692, the individuals identified in Attachment "A" appended hereto and incorporated herein are hereby appointed to serve on the Joint Economic Development Review Council and this appointment amends and supersedes the appointments contained in Resolution G2014-13.

Section 2. Mr. Dusty Rhodes, Auditor of Hamilton County, State of Ohio, is hereby acknowledged and recognized as the Chair of the Joint Economic Development Review Council.

Section 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and

that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were taken in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4. This Resolution is adopted under the authority of Ohio Revised Code Section 715.692.

MR. BECK seconded the motion.

MR. BRYANT noted that he was not at the June 13 special meeting as he was out of town. Mr. Bryant advised he had questioned Mr. Elliff how he came to be the public appointment on the Economic Review Council. Mr. Elliff replied that it "fell to me".

Mr. Bryant stated he would like to understand the logic behind the appointment of a Township employee to serve on this Review Council. Mr. Elliff would be the best person to present the plan to the Review Council since he wrote it, but should not be permitted to vote on the plan. There are other alternatives in the community for consideration.

MR. BECK noted the Board had discussed this at previous meetings.

MR. BRYANT stated he remembered discussion in Executive Session, but did not recall the Board making a final decision to appoint Mr. Elliff.

MR. BECK stated the Board talked about companies, entities and Mr. Elliff.

MR. BRYANT advised the statute spells out the Chairperson is the County Auditor, as well as a representative from each of the four largest employees. Another appointment made is a representative from the Hamilton County Development Company. The final representative is an appointment by the Board.

MRS. LEIS stated Mr. Bryant was part of the Board's discussions regarding this issue.

MR. BRYANT stated he would have voiced these same concerns at the June 13 special meeting if he had been in town.

MRS. LEIS stated she felt that he had opportunities before last week to make suggestions. There have been discussions regarding the appointment of Mr. Elliff and there was no other option presented to the Board.

MR. BRYANT noted that the Ohio Revised Code was only recently changed and stated he did not know if there was an opportunity. Mr. Bryant stated he agrees there should be someone familiar with the Township; but they should not have the opportunity to vote on a plan which they developed.

MR. BECK stated the Review Council is not voting on the adoption of the JEDZ; but is making the decision if the process should proceed. The purpose is to review the proposed economic development plan. It is important there is someone to speak about the proposed plan and the Township's budget.

MR. BRYANT stated he is in favor of pursuing a JEDZ and that it should go to the public for a decision.

MRS. LEIS stated the community, the majority, should be making the decision, not one person or a small group who opposes JEDZ. This is one idea the Board is presenting and the residents will make the final decision if a JEDZ is appropriate for the Township.

MR. BRYANT stated he was in agreement with these statements; however, he still does not feel that Mr. Elliff should be a voting part of the Review Council.

MR. BECK stated he also agrees with Mrs. Leis' statement, but this is a new step in the current Ohio Revised Code in order to determine if the Township has an economic development plan that makes sense and is for the good of Township.

The roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Leis - 'aye'; Mr. Beck - 'aye'; Mr. Bryant - 'nay'.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.