
MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

MARCH 18, 2020

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

Also, present: Kim Lapensee – Administrator.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

HEARING FROM RESIDENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Leis made a motion to approve Resolution G2020-24, a Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to Sign a Contract with the Ohio Plan or OTARMA to purchase risk insurance in the amount of \$62,909.00 or \$72,974.00. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that she had each company compare themselves to the other one and there is not much difference between the two. She stated that she prepared two resolutions for G2020-24 until we decided. has worked with both companies and they are both good entities with great staff. She stated that the coverages are very similar. She stated that the only differences will be the cyber coverage and the cost for OTARMA is slightly higher. Mrs. Lapensee stated that the Cyber coverage trigger is difference. She stated that the Ohio Plan trigger is the event itself whereas the OTARMA plan someone must prove our actions were harmful to the individual.

Mr. Bryant stated that he wrote to himself during the presentation that acts, and omissions may not be covered concerning the Fiscal Office and that may prevent us from switching companies. He asked if we had any more information about that. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she asked Hylant about that possibility and she was told by Hylant that we would be covered because we do not have any specific knowledge of any wrongdoing. They will cover us because anything we may uncover in the future would then be known and we already have coverage. Mr. Bryant stated that one thing he was concerned about would be taken away. He stated that it would be a price difference and we would not be eligible for any rebates until after 3 years. He asked if she had any recommendations for either. Mrs. Lapensee stated no, the only difference would be that the Ohio Plan is 10,000 less than what we are paying now. Mr. Bryant stated that OTARMA had an opportunity to sharpen their pencil. Mrs. Lapensee stated yes, and we would be paying less now than what we were paying 17-years ago when we joined.

Mr. Beck asked if there would be any negatives?

Mr. Bryant stated that we only have been burned once with a risk pool and that was with medical insurance pool.

Ms. Leis asked if there were any guarantees that the rate would stay the same. Mrs. Lapensee stated no, there is no guarantee of any rates. She stated that the big difference between the two plans is that OTARMA self-insures at a certain level and then purchases reinsurance for the rest, so we are sharing the risk with other townships across the state. She stated with the Ohio Plan they are fully insured with Hylant.

Mr. Bryant stated that he had some concerns and that Mrs. Lapensee has investigated them and he does not know why we would want to pay \$10,000 more for something that is the same.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to sign a contract with the Ohio Plan to purchase risk insurance in the amount of \$62,909. Ms. Leis 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 approve Resolution G2020-25, a resolution approving permanent appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mr. Bryant asked if the total is over 11 million. Mrs. Lapensee stated yes. She stated that she provided them with a summary sheet overall, and breakdown for the safety services and the road department. She stated that she talked to the Auditor of State concerning how the budget should be approved and she is recommending that we only need to approve it by category but will continue to follow the total budget per line item. He stated that he would rather be on the high side with a budget than continuing to come back to adjust it higher.

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 reappoint Terry Schildmeyer to the Board of Directors for the Loveland Symmes Fire Department for a term of 4/1/2020 to 12/31/2023. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Ms. Leis thanked Mr. Schildmeyer for his service to the community and that he does a great job. Mr. Beck 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 pickleball courts. Mrs. Lapensee stated that Ms. Leis asked to put this on the agenda for further discussion. She stated that Mr. Pitman put together three options for them to choose from. They are: option 1 would just be to stripe the existing court in a separate color for pickleball and we would have to lower the net (\$700.00); option 2 would be to convert 1 tennis court into 2 or 4 pickleball courts with new color schemes (\$9,000); and option 3 would be to convert 2 tennis courts into 4 or 8 pickleball courts with all new color schemes (\$17,000). She stated that portable posts and net on wheels are about \$1,800.00 each.

Ms. Leis asked if we chose option 1 would we use the same net. Mrs. Lapensee stated no that we would have to figure out how to switch out the nets because the pickleball net is lower than a regular tennis net.

Mr. Beck stated that we should probably have a sign hanging on the fence that has the rules listed.

Mr. Bryant stated that he would like to see us try option 1 first in two different locations to see if people are going to play it or not. Ms. Leis stated that she would like to get it up and running before summer. Mr. Bryant stated that it is becoming very popular.

Mr. Beck asked if those are the only two parks with tennis courts (Hopewell and Seven Gables). Mrs. Lapensee asked if they just wanted to do one at each location. The board agreed. Ms. Leis stated that we should post the rules. Mr. Beck asked that we get in touch with the neighbors around Hopewell so that we don't upset anyone over changing the use of that court. Mr. Bryant stated that we should put it out there to everyone if they have interest in us changing the courts over for pickleball.

Ms. Leis asked if we could move forward on replacing the equipment at Seven Gables to upgrade the play area. Mr. Bryant asked if we could donate the playground structure to another entity. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she does not think so because of insurance reasons but we can ask. Ms. Leis stated that she wants to upgrade the park at Seven Gables as much as we can. She

asked if anyone could think of any fun things to do to let her know. Ms. Leis stated that she was looking at a ninja course to put there.

Ms. Leis asked for discussion concerning scheduled events/meetings for April. Mrs. Lapensee asked the board if they wanted to cancel any or all meetings/events scheduled for April which would include the Easter Egg Hunt, the BZA meeting, the Trustees Meeting and any meetings that have been scheduled in our meeting rooms due to the coronavirus. The board agreed to cancel all events and meetings for the month of April.

Ms. Leis 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 6:50 p.m.

Approved:

Jodie L. Leis, Board President

Kenneth N. Bryant, VP

Philip J. Beck, Trustee