
MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

May 5, 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 Mr. Joe Grossi.

Also, present: Kimberly Lapensee - Administrator; Kevin McDonough - Law Director; Lieutenant Tory Smith – HCSO, Major Chris Ketteman – 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. Beck - ‘aye’, and Mr. Bryant - ‘aye’. Motion passes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Leis made a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting from April 7, 2020 and the Special Meeting from April 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

Mr. Grossi stated that the financial reports for April were included in the packet. He stated that we have \$3,148,547.47 in our checking account, \$1,193,427.50 in our money market account, \$1,955.72 in our credit card account and \$20,938.38 in our HRA account. He stated that we have not yet gotten our statement of investments with Meeder for the month of April.

Mr. Grossi stated that he is concerned about the balance in the fire fund because we only have \$96,000 in the fund and we will not get our second collection until the end of summer. He stated that we will not have enough money to pay our bills thru that time. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we will just have to pay our contract with LSF from the Safety Services Levy until we have enough money in the fire fund to resume paying the contract. She stated that she will address the carryover amount at the finance committee meeting next week.

PRESENTATIONS

Chris Jones – Bricker Eckler Law Firm. Mr. Jones stated that he is a township resident since 2001. Bricker Eckler is legal counsel to the Energy Special Improvement District which the township is part of with other surrounding local governments. They are adding single family residential to utilize PACE financing. The home owner takes out a loan for energy efficiency related legible improvements and the payment is a special assessment that is added to the property tax bill. The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority is the lead program administer for the residential program and they are the ones approving each of the home owner requests. Each of the jurisdictions would have to approve legislation to authorize the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority to approve each of the home owner requests. The program registers contractors and the contractor would be the one to give the home owner the information to apply for a PACE loan. Currently the townships surrounding Symmes Township that are signed up for PACE are Sycamore, Anderson and Green Townships.

Mr. Bryant stated that he does not want to have to hire someone to administer the program here in Symmes Township no matter if it is fully paid for. He is a little troubled by the fact that this is an umbrella they are funneling the applicants through a list of contractors and they do not have free access beyond their list. Ms. Leis stated that she would like to contact Sycamore and Anderson Townships to see how many people have actually applied for this program since they started it and if they would do it again.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

Ms. Leis made a motion to approve the warrants from 77460 – 77627 in the amount of \$773,090.52 from April. Mr. Beck seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Leis stated that she wanted to take this time to thank the residents for passing the Safety Services Levy and the Road Levy and Ott Huber for taking the lead on the levy information that was sent to the residents for the Safety Services Levy.

REPORTS

KEVIN MCDONOUGH, LAW DIRECTOR - None.

LIEUTENANT TORY SMITH, HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT – Mr. Smith stated that everything is going well for the deputies and the public in Symmes Township. He stated that we have been getting great support from the community and the businesses have been dropping off food to help support all the employees. He stated that there have been no major complaints and 4 deputies have become ill, but not from COVID-19. Mr. Smith stated that there has been a sharp decline in run volume (30%). He also wanted to thank Mr. Pitman for supplying them with cleaning supplies during this pandemic until they were able to get supplies from the county. He also thanked the Board for purchasing their newest vehicle for the fleet.

MAJOR CHRIS KETTEMAN, HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT – Major Kettelman stated that he wanted to thank everyone for passing the levy for fire and police. He stated that the residents are happy with their service they are getting. He stated that during the pandemic, Hamilton County is aware that we need to improve our technology. He stated that people have been working from home at their headquarters and he wanted to thank the Fire Department and the township for all their support during the levy process and during this difficult time.

CHIEF OTT HUBER, LSFDF - Chief Huber reported that the board has his two written reports with one of them concerning a fire hydrant move request. He stated that the run reports are thru April. He also urged residents to call 911 if they have an emergency and do not be afraid to call for safety services. He stated that all the hospitals in the area have the capacity to handle patients. He also thanked the residents for the passage of the safety services levy and road levy.

BILL PITMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS - None. Ms. Leis stated that she wanted to thank all the employees for cleaning the township bathrooms/facilities every day and making them safe for all the residents to use during this pandemic.

COMMITTEE – None.

OTHER – None.

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Attached to the packet.

EVENTS/MEETINGS

- Land Use Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via zoom meeting.
- Finance Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via zoom meeting.
- Memorial Day Holiday – Monday, May 25, 2020. All buildings will be closed.
- Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting – Monday, June 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the administration building. We will meet in stages for this meeting (1 case at a time).
- Regular Trustees Meeting – Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the administration building. Meeting will be closed to the public and available through ICRC on YouTube.
- Yoga in the Park – Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 6:30 Hopewell Meadows Park.
- Yappy Hour – Thursday, June 4th at Symmes Park.
- Yoga in the Park – Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Hopewell Meadows Park.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Leis asked for discussion concerning activities for the summer. Mrs. Lapensee asked if the board wanted to go ahead and consider closing shelter rentals, HOB waterpark, or any organized activities for groups to occur in the park for the month of June or the remainder of the summer. Ms. Leis stated that she feels that we need to move forward with our lives and get back to normal. She stated that to save money for the summer, we could shorten the water cycle from 11 to 7 to 12 to 5 and possible turn off the water every 30 minutes for 15 minutes at a time. She suggested that there be no commercial use of the water park. She stated that she would like to see the tennis courts open back up, but only to 2 people at a time. Mr. Beck stated that we need to follow the rules set forth by the governor and the health commissioners and he suggested that we just wait until May 29th to see if the governor opens recreation. Mr. Bryant stated that we should have a permitting process for the commercial daycares to follow if they want to bring their kids to our water park. Ms. Leis also stated that kids have been painting rocks through Meade Park for other kids to find.

Ms. Leis made a motion to set a public hearing for the tax budget at our next regular Trustees meeting for June 2, 2020 at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Bryant seconded that motion.

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 G2020-37, a Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to sign an Agreement for Police Protection Services with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and the Board of County Commissioners and Dispensing with the Second Reading. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mr. Bryant asked Major Kettelman to check on the four-year agreement vs the three-year agreement. Major Kettelman stated that he is looking into it.

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 table Resolution G2020-38, a Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to Sign an Amendment to the Contract for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services with the Loveland Symmes Fire Department and Dispensing with a Second Reading. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mr. Grossi asked Chief Huber if there was a disadvantage to a one-year contract vs a three-year contract. Chief Huber stated that a three-year contract helps with stability for their employees and provides a funding level stability to the organization. Mr. Grossi referred to the letter they received from the Auditor's Office concerning budget planning for next year. He stated in his opinion that there will be a lot of unknowns but knows that the levy just passed. He stated that he does not know the thoughts behind why there is a 5% increase across the board over three-years. Chief Huber stated that they have always had a 5% increase for the 40 years that they have been in operation. Mr. Grossi stated that he does not have any of the figures to refer to from then. He stated that the township needs to be cautious with its money. Ms. Leis stated that there is a 90-day out in the contract which would give us the option to cancel the contract at a later time if we felt we did not have the money to continue to contract with them. Ms. Leis stated that LSFDF is the most cost effective and we do not have any other options. Mr. Grossi stated that there is nothing here that bases the current costs on anything else. Chief Huber asked how much the township budget went up this year. Mr. Grossi stated that he does not know.

Mr. Bryant stated that a multi-year contract allows planning on both sides, contractor, and the township.

Ms. Leis stated that Mr. Grossi should reach out to other townships to see what their costs are.

Mr. Grossi asked about the costs per call for North East Communication Center (NECC) which is run by the Fire Department. He said he was reviewing reports today and does not understand why they are so high compared to the county.

Chief Huber stated that NECC has a fixed overhead which makes the call more expensive if the call volume goes down. Mr. Grossi asked Chief Huber if he could bring his costs down per call to match the county's cost per call of \$10.00 per call. Chief Huber stated that NECC cannot be compared to the county because of the volume of calls that the county receives. Ms. Leis stated that the county's current charge may not even be sustainable due to the current economic conditions. Chief Ott stated that the county's cost per call was much higher years ago until this year. He stated that the County Commissioners continued a sales tax for the Museum Center which helps fund public safety and has allowed the county to lower their costs. He asked Mr. Grossi why this was not brought up during the police discussion.

Mr. Bryant stated thanks for the different viewpoints. Mr. Grossi stated that we need to look at history. Mr. Bryant stated that it is all here, and we need to just dig it out. Mr. Grossi stated that it could be warranted and maybe not. He stated that he thinks it may take a while to come back from all of this.

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 Resolution G2020-39, a Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to Enter into a Joint Agreement Between Hamilton County and the Board of Township Trustees of Symmes Township for the Construction of Improvements to Union Cemetery Road. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that it is Union Cemetery between Montgomery and Fields Ertel Roads.

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

Ms. Leis made a motion to approve Resolution G2020-40, a Resolution Authorizing a Change Order in the Blong Road Bridge Replacement Project Contract for Smith Construction in the amount of \$11,400.00. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that due to the soil conditions additional concrete was needed.

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

Ms. Leis made a motion to approve Resolution G2020-41, a Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to enter into an Agreement with Axium Consulting to Perform Accounting Services not to exceed \$20,000.00. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

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

Ms. Leis made a motion to approve Resolution G2020-42, a Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with National Gunitite to Make Repairs to Storm Water Pipes in Union Cemetery in the amount of \$13,725.00. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mr. Bryant asked is this going through are cemetery? Mrs. Lapensee stated that the culvert pipes at both entrance to the cemetery are failing.

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 the following amendments, expenditures, and authorization for the Township Administrator to sign any necessary contracts/agreement or paperwork:

- a. Amend: 1-A-16 General Health from \$42,000 to \$43,500.
- b. Amend: 1-A-21 Election Expenses from \$5,000 to \$8,200.
- c. Amend: 7-A-2 Other from \$3,500 to \$4,200.
- d. Amend: 6-A-4 Capital Outlay from \$500.00 to \$14,225.00.
- e. Transfer: \$309,874 from 14-A-10D to funds 14-A-1B Principal \$295,000 and 14-A-4B Interest \$14,874 to make bond payments for the TIF fund.
- f. Expenditure/then and now: \$6,612.33 Cummins Diesel for a turbo replacement for E61.
- g. Expenditure/then and now: \$3,128.69 Kenworth of Cincinnati for repairs to Medic61.
- h. Expenditure/then and now: \$3,815.10 Cummins Diesel for repairs to E61.
- i. Expenditure: \$5,119.20 Mutt Mitts.
- j. Expenditure: \$4,992.00 Ray Meyer Signs to purchase/install sign at Meade.

Mr. Beck seconded the motion.

Mr. Bryant stated that first off, he wants to talk about the list of amendments to the budget because on Resolution that they just passed, G2020-42, in it says that the in Resolution G2020-42, that they just passed, stated that in section 3, appropriations for the Cemetery Bequest Fund (#6) be increased from \$1,500 to \$15,225 should it not also be in the amendments? Mrs. Lapensee stated no it can be in a Resolution. What this did was actually increases that particular line item in fund 6.

Mr. Bryant stated that the second question has to do with when do they make their payments for the TIF Fund. Mrs. Lapensee stated that they just got a bond payment for interest and that is what started this to go on the agenda and it is due in June. The third issue is the Cummins Diesel issues on E6. Did they do a diagnostic on it and then could not fix it, so they had to do another fix? Mrs. Lapensee stated that first expense was the \$6,612.33 and then they came to her and said there is some else wrong that is also wrong with E61 and now they need another \$3,815.10.

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

HEARING FROM RESIDENTS

None.

Minutes of REGULAR

Held Township Admin. Bldg.

May 5, 2020

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Approved:

Jodie L. Leis, President

Kenneth N. Bryant, Vice-President

Philip J. Beck, Trustee