
MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Elected officials present were Mr. Phil Beck, Mr. Kenneth Bryant, and Ms. Jodie Leis.

Also, present: Kimberly Lapensee - Administrator; Kevin McDonough - Law Director; Captain Bruce Hawk - LSFD; and Lieutenant Tory Smith - Hamilton County Sheriff's Department.

Ms. Carol Sims was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting from October 1, 2019. Mr. Bryant 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. Beck stated that the Fiscal Officer is absent tonight. He stated that the Board had asked Ms. Sims at the last meeting to provide a list of all late fees that have occurred throughout the year and into last year so they could be paid and brought up to date. He stated that the list has yet to be provided and they are still waiting on it.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Sheriff's Department Awards - Lieutenant Tory Smith stated that he was here tonight to recognize one of the deputies that has been patrolling Symmes Township for at least 15 years. He stated that Andy Oppenheimer is a great deputy and employee and wishes him well after his retirement on November 30th. The Trustees recognized his 30 years of service with Hamilton County Sheriff's Office serving Symmes Township with a proclamation.

Symmes Township Employee Awards - the Board recognized five employees for years of service with the township: Marcus Rose - 5 years, Robert Jackson - 10 years, William Burns - 20 years, Luanne Felter - 22 years and Bill Pitman - 25 years.

Loveland Sustainability Council - Ms. Leis stated that she asked the Loveland Sustainability Council to come to the meeting tonight and talk about the different ways to recycle in the community. She stated that she met with them 2 months ago to get some ideas on how Symmes Township could be a leader with recycling and be more sustainable. Ms. Amy Van Strien stated that she thinks the Township has already taken good steps towards that direction because they

have partnered with them to do hazardous waste collection, recycling at the Symmes Clean-Up Days One Stop Drop and the Holiday Lights Collection. Now, they will be partnering with the Cincinnati Zoo to collect old cell phones for Project Saving Species. There are over 4,000 million cell phones in the world and less than 1% are recycled. A lot of materials in cell phones are hazardous to our environment and as we continue to advance our phone technology, cell phone users rapidly replace their old models with newer ones. Cell phones contain an ore called Coltan, which is mined in endangered gorilla habitat in Africa. Loss of habitat is a serious threat to the gorilla's future. Reducing the demand for Coltan will help save these animals and their habitat.

Related Affordable - David Pearson. Mr. Pearson stated that he was there representing Related Affordable and that they were planning to acquire and upgrade the Fields Ertel Townhomes located on Governor's Way. He stated that the property is not in great condition and his company wants to change that. He stated that their core value as a business is affordable housing. He stated that the owners in the past have not been very attentive to the property or the people living there. Mr. Pearson stated that their subcompany - Related Management Company - manages the property office in Cincinnati and manage other properties in the area. He stated that there would be some up-front capital work where they plan to hire a general contractor and spend up to \$40,000.00 inside each unit. He stated that all upgrades to the units will be sustainable/green concept and energy efficient. He stated that they will be making upgrades to the units that will also make them look more aesthetically pleasing with security upgrades.

Ms. Leis asked about the location of the dumpsters and if they could be moved so that they are not sitting up front for the whole world to see as you drive by.

Mr. Pearson stated that he would investigate the garbage situation and relocating those dumpsters. He stated that they will be hiring a manager to oversee the entire property and its operations as well as hiring a dedicated maintenance person. He stated that there will be a much higher level of commitment from them. He stated that his company wants to work with the community on all issues surrounding this property and that they have a very strong commitment to affordable housing.

Mr. Bryant asked how many units are inside the development and if they will keep the same number of units. Mr. Pearson stated that there are 55 units in the complex. He stated that they will convert the existing office into an ADA compliant unit and turn 3 others into the same. He stated that they will be removing the units one room at a time with the occupants inside the unit. They will be there to help move their belongings room to room depending on which rooms they are renovating. He stated that he estimates it will take 7 to 8 months for the renovations to be completed. Mr. Bryant asked if these units would continue to be Section 8 housing. Mr. Pearson stated yes. Mr. Pearson stated that they will run credit and background checks on all the occupants and new applicants. He stated that only the person(s) applying can live in the unit because it is based on income levels. He stated that anyone else that may be in a unit unapproved will be evicted and if they break the rules, they will be evicted.

Mr. Beck asked if recycling can be added to the garbage pickup. Mr. Pearson stated that they do support sustainability and he will check into it. Mr. Beck asked what they would need from the township. Mr. Pearson stated that there is a certificate that needs to be signed by the township for the bond issue that they are having financed through the Port Authority by the end of the month.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve the warrants from 76198 - 76390 in the amount of \$1,424,241.53 from October/November. 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 - Thanked the board for recognizing Deputy Andy Oppenheimer for his years of service to the Sheriff and Symmes Township.

CAPTAIN BRUCE HAWK, LSFD - Captain Hawk stated that the Board had his written report which also included this month's stats. He also stated that LSFD just received accreditation again for EMS which is good for another 3 years.

BILL PITMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS - None.

COMMITTEE - Ms. Lapensee stated that they had a Land Use Committee meeting on October 15th at 6:00 p.m. She stated that they went over the map and the areas identified by Regional Planning and the committee at the last meeting. She stated that their next meeting will be on November 19th at 6:00 p.m. in the administration building.

OTHER - Mr. Beck asked if we could move the regular trustees meeting back a week to December 10th so that we could present the Christmas toys to Dragonfly. Mr. Bryant made a motion to move the meeting to December 10th. Ms. Leis seconded the motion.

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

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

Vince Knueven, 9935 Lincoln, thanked the Sheriff and the township employees for their service to the community. He stated that he is the secretary to the Civic League for Camp Dennison and that he wanted to bring to our attention that there is a speeding problem through the community because the speed is 55 before Camp Dennison then slows to 35 and then returns to 55 after. He stated that he had received information from Darcy Havill that was obtained through the speed limit radar signs last year. Mr. Knueven read off the different speeds that had occurred in April of 2018 where the sign had been posted in Camp Dennison. He stated that he would like to see two signs erected on State Route 126 (1 in each direction) that would alert motorists to the 35-mph going through Camp Dennison. He stated that he would also like to see us have more traffic enforcement in the area.

Mike Tingley, 7881 Daniel Avenue, stated that the speeding has been going on in Camp Dennison for a while now. He stated that it is a cut-through to the interstate and people do not recognize the speed limits in the area. He stated that he believes that the radar signs will be an effective tool for managing speed. He stated that he would also like to see a police car sitting in multiple areas around Camp Dennison to deter speeders.

Ms. Leis asked why we would need the engineer's office's approval for the signs. Mr. Beck stated that this is a state route and we needed to get ODOT's approval to install the signs if we buy them and maintain them. Lt. Smith stated that there are multiple signs that have many different capabilities. Mr. Beck stated that he would like to see them be permanent. Ms. Leis stated that they would need to have a large screen due to the speeds.

Mr. Darcy Havill, 9976 Lincoln Road, stated that he has seen many different types of signs and different sizes. He stated that there needs to be a speed limit sign posted and if the driver is going faster than 35 then it would flash red.

Andrea Barnhill, 7914 Clement Road, stated that she was concerned about turning at the soccer fields because the traffic is very heavy in that location at certain hours. She also stated that the speed limit sign would need to be located somewhere that is not next to someone's house because of the flashing.

Mr. Bryant stated that there are lots of people speeding in every neighborhood and moving the signs may or may not solve the problem. He stated that the police must be the ones who cite drivers for speeding. He suggested that we get a sign that takes pictures of the speeders and send them a letter reminding them to slow down. Ms. Barnhill stated that this would surety vs severity. She stated that everyone knows they can speed through Camp Dennison and nothing will be done to them because there are never any tickets written in the area. Mr. Smith asked what problem are we really trying to solve? He stated that we should be trying to alter driving behaviors.

Mr. Darcy Havill stated that he feels that empty police cars work in this area. He stated that he would like to see a police car moved around at least 4 different places during the week. He stated that there is an issue in front of his office due to speeders and site distance. He stated that he would like to find a good solution with the least amount of costs. Lt. Smith stated that he would like to put a dedicated county car in Camp Dennison instead of a new Symmes car.

Mr. Beck asked if the other board members would be interested in purchasing signs for Camp Dennison. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she could put together a cost for the next meeting. She stated that she would have to ask Ms. Sims which account the money could be taken from to pay for this because we did not budget for it.

Jamie Mack, 9116 Hopewell Road, stated that she was disappointed that the township removed the recycling dumpsters from Hopewell Park. She stated that she sent an email to the township and she thanked Ms. Leis for responding. She stated that she knows about the "free" recycling at the curb but does not agree that its free and won't be for long. She stated that she is an avid recycler and needs more than every other week pickup for her recycling. She stated that she used to take the overflow to the park and now she does not have that anymore. She stated that we should communicate these things more to the residents before they happen. Mrs. Lapensee asked her if she had signed up for our electronic newsletter because we put a lot of our information now in that newsletter that goes out at the beginning of each month.

CORRESPONDENCE

Attached to the packet.

EVENTS/MEETINGS

- Land Use Committee Meeting – Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Holiday – Thursday/Friday, November 28 & 29, 2019. All buildings closed.
- Holiday Light Challenge Begins – Thursday, November 28, 2019.
- Merry and Bright Light Contest Judging – December 1 – 14th.
- Regular Trustees Meeting – Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- Operation Santa – Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 5 to 8:30 p.m.
- Christmas Holiday – Wednesday, December 25th. All buildings closed.
- Christmas Tree Recycling Begins – Thursday, December 26th at the administration building.
- New Year's Day Holiday – Wednesday, January 1, 2020. All buildings closed.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution G2019-62, a Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of Bids for the Hopewell Road and Enyart Road Sidewalk Project and Awarding the Contract to Fillmore Construction in the amount of \$196,789.10. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that we received 5 bids for the project and the best bid was from Fillmore Construction. She stated that this will include a section of sidewalk on Hopewell Road from Humphrey to Solon Drive on the south side of Hopewell and a section of sidewalk on Enyart Road from Donwiddle to Terwilligers. Mr. Beck asked when the sidewalk plans will be done for Union Cemetery Road. Mrs. Lapensee stated that they would probably be done by the end of spring, identify and purchase ROW in 2020 and go to construction by the end of 2020 or early 2021. Mr. Beck asked if there was any way to speed that up.

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution G2019-63, a Resolution Declaring it Necessary to Renew an Existing .9 mill Tax Levy for the Road Fund (General Construction). Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that this is an existing .9 mill road levy that is passed every year on a seven-year cycle. She stated that it will be a renewal only and pay for general road repairs and construction. She stated that this resolution is the first step in the process and asks the auditor to certify the amount that would be generated and how much it would cost per \$100,000.00 dollars of value per household.

Mr. Beck stated that we held a finance committee meeting, and everyone agreed on the amount.

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 G2019-64, a resolution Declaring it Necessary to Renew an Existing 1.5 mill levy for fire, ems, and police services and add a new 2.6 mill levy for the increased costs to provide the service. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Ms. Lapensee stated that this is an existing 1.5 mill Safety Services Levy that pays for Fire/EMS/Police services. She stated that there is also a new increase of 2.6 mills which will help pay for the cost increases for the fire department (5%) and the police (18%). She stated that these costs are being passed onto us from the two contracts we have. She stated that this resolution is the first step in the process and asks the auditor to certify the amount that would be generated and how much it would cost per \$100,000 dollars of value per household. She stated that we will not be able to sign any contracts for police or fire more than 1 or 2 years in length because our carryover will only take us through 2022 at our current cost of contracts.

Ms. Leis wanted to know if this amount included adding a third 24/7 police car to the contract. Mrs. Lapensee stated yes, but we would not be able to add a third car until 2021 when we would receive this money. Ms. Leis stated that she is not convinced that we need a third car at this time. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she recommends the third car not only for the number of runs we receive in one day (15 to 45 calls a day) and overall for the month (700 to 750 per month), but we will also have to pay the full price for a power car that is not always staffed fully 5 days a week twice a day (due to sick, vacation, comp leave, etc.). She stated that there are also many runs that require 2 police officers for the same run due to safety and then we would no one for backup. Ms. Leis stated that if we decided to not pursue a third car, this money could also be used to push out the date for the next renewal.

Mr. Bryant stated that we should probably have a work session to discuss these contracts further before we make any final decision on amounts.

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution G2019-65, a Resolution Authorizing the Township to Purchase and Use "Employee Dishonesty and Faithful Performance of Duty Policy". Through OTARMA. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that the state legislature approved this other option for bonding if townships wanted to purchase and use this for their whole office versus just the elected officials. She stated that she does not know a cost yet to purchase it, but it sounds like it will be a cheaper option than purchasing separate bonds for the elected officials. She stated that the biggest difference between the surety bond and the new dishonesty and faithful performance policy is that the surety bond only covered dishonest and criminal acts. The surety bond company would also cover those costs but then go back after the official for those acts to recover their money (and in the process, the official loses their bond). The employee dishonesty and faithful performance bond would cover all the employees and cover more acts of omission. She stated that she believes it would give us the option to go back after the employee to recoup the costs.

Mr. Bryant asked if we could table this until next month. Mrs. Lapensee stated okay. Mr. Bryant made a motion to table this resolution until next month. Mr. Beck seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution G2019-66, a Resolution Declaring an Emergency and Providing for Clearing of Undedicated Roadways. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that we pass this resolution every year to remove snow on undedicated roadways in the township so that we can bill the developer for snow removal. She stated that we currently have the Abington Subdivision that is still not dedicated to the township for maintenance.

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

Mr. Beck asked for discussion concerning recycling activities. Ms. Leis stated that she wanted to discuss our options because she did not want to see our recycling dumpsters go away and wanted to have a say about them leaving. Mrs. Lapensee stated that our contract for recycling ended on October 31, 2019 and they were removed because people were not using them properly. She stated that they were throwing garbage into the recycling dumpsters and that was causing us to have to remove the trash or cause us extra charges for dumping because then it would have to be dumped as trash and contaminate the entire recycling bin. She stated that people would also just stack their trash and/or recycling in front of the bins if they were already full and the employees would have to remove the trash and/or recycling from the area before Rumpke would pick it up. She stated that we have talked about this many times in the past and had it in the newsletter warning people to not throw trash in the dumpsters or leave it laying on the ground. She stated that we only receive so much recycling money each year (\$11,000 to \$16,000) and do not have enough to pay for the all the recycling activities such as the dumpsters (\$5,000), hazardous household waste drop off (\$4,000 to \$5,000), clean up days (\$10,000 to \$11,000), and TV and computer recycling (\$5,000). The board suggested that we send out a survey monkey or Facebook survey asking the residents what is more important to them and rank the activities with costs. Ms. Leis asked if we could put the cell phone recycling in the newsletter again letting everyone know that we recycle cell phones for the zoo.

Mr. Beck 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 the following line items:
 1. 12-A-6 from \$20,000 to \$25,000.
 2. 9-A-9 from \$12,000 to \$14,000.

3. 12-A-9 from \$56,000 to \$64,000.
4. 1-B-8 from \$28,600 to \$29,000.
5. 10-A-15 \$15,000 to \$17,000.
6. 9-A-9 10A from \$182,692 to \$218,000.
7. 14-A-7A from \$33,000 to \$38,500.
8. 10-A-11A from \$28,000 to \$32,000.
9. 3-A-10A from \$31,025 to \$33,225.
10. 2-A-9 from \$1,000 to \$2,000.
11. 3-A-10 from \$6,000 to \$7,000.
12. 12-A-8 from \$20,000 to \$23,000.
13. 14-A-8 from \$16,000 to \$19,000.

b. Transfers:

1. \$1,000.00 from 1-A-27 to 1-A-4.
2. \$1,000.00 from 1-A-27 to 1-A-5.
3. \$3,000.00 from 1-A-27 to 1-B-8.

c. Expenditure: \$5,119.20 Mutt Mitts to purchase for the parks.

d. Expenditure: \$3,114.60 Best One Tire to replace rear tires on T61.

e. Expenditure: \$4,500.00 PCS to purchase a camera for Meade Park.

f. Expenditure/then and now: \$699.52 Danco lettering for the police cruisers.

g. Expenditure/then and now: \$367.93 additional expense for Fall fest.

h. Expenditure/then and now: \$699.52 lettering of police cruisers.

i. Expenditure/then and now: \$1,260.00 fertilize trees- Seven Gable.

j. Expenditure/then and now: \$1,650.00 fertilize trees - Symmes Park.

k. Expenditure/then and now: \$1,880.00 fertilize trees - Hopewell Park.

l. Expenditure/then and now: \$250.00 additional mowing - Admin. Bldg.

m. Expenditure/then and now: \$50.00 additional mowing - Cannon area.

n. Expenditure/then and now: \$350.00 additional mowing - Safety Center.

o. Expenditure/then and now: \$1,250.00 additional mowing - Cemeteries.

p. Expenditure/then and now: \$1,600.00 tree cutting - Symmes Park.

Mr. Bryant seconded the motion.

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

HEARING FROM RESIDENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Beck made a motion to go into executive session at 9:34 p.m. to discuss personnel items pertaining to wages. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Ms. Leis - 'aye', and Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Beck made a motion to come to the regular meeting from Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. Ms. Leis 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

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Minutes of REGULAR

Held Township Admin. Bldg.

November 12, 2019

Approved:

Philip J. Beck, President

Jodie L. Leis, Vice-President

Kenneth N. Bryant, Trustee