
MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

OCTOBER 23, 2018

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

Also present: Kim Lapensee – Administrator.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Sidewalks Plan Priorities. Mr. Bryant opened the public hearing regarding sidewalk priorities. Mr. Bryant stated that it is the residents meeting and the board is interested in finding out where the residents want to put sidewalks in the future. He stated that he is going to turn the meeting over to Mrs. Lapensee with an overview of the community and finances.

Mrs. Lapensee welcomed everyone to the meeting tonight and stated that Mr. Bryant went over why were here. She went over community amenities and that we currently maintain over 29 miles of sidewalks. Mrs. Lapensee went over the finances and that Symmes Township only receives about .15 cents of every dollar that is paid to the County Auditor at tax time. She went over the appropriations/budget for 2018 and how it is broken down in the general fund vs the special revenue funds. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we receive our money for sidewalks through the Road, Bridge and Sidewalk Levy that is renewed every 7 years. She stated that the levy is a .9 mill levy and generates approximately 518,452.00 per year. She stated that next renewal date will be in 2020. She stated that the money is used to pave streets, construct new sidewalks, replace bridges/culverts and repair curbs and catch basins. Mrs. Lapensee stated that the Trustees set aside \$25,000 a year for new sidewalk construction and that we currently have \$86,314.00 to build additional sidewalks. She stated that we have many factors that go into our sidewalk decision making. She stated that we look first at safety, connections to public spaces or public buildings, linkages to multiple communities or subdivisions, degree of collective positive impact, engineering difficulties and if they are grant opportunities or other project opportunities. She went over the list of sidewalks identified in the current plan and ones that we have completed. She stated that since 2013, we have completed sidewalks on Lebanon Road, Union Cemetery Road, Humphrey Road and Montgomery Road. She went over the requests that they have gotten over the last couple of years. She stated that they include: Hopewell Road (Hopewell Hills to the park), Enyart Road (Pinewood to the school and Donwiddle to Terwilligers Creek), Union Cemetery Road (Montgomery Road to Royal Field), Fallis Road (Riveroaks Subdivision to the Loveland corp line) and Montgomery Road (Vintage Club to Harpers Point). Mrs. Lapensee went over the costs of putting in new sidewalks - \$8.00 a linear foot plus clearing, grubbing, cutting, etc. plus the costs of ADA ramps replacements and/or curbs if they are touched by the sidewalks.

Mr. Beck stated that he wanted to clarify that this levy that we have on the ballot in November does not include new sidewalk construction. He stated that we will only use that money for salaries which pays our employees to maintain the roads, bridges, sidewalks, curbs and gutters.

Mr. Bryant stated that he wanted to make sure that everyone knows that when we put in sidewalks on Montgomery Road, we were able to get those sidewalks in for a portion of the costs if we would have done them ourselves. He stated that we try and leverage other funds for those projects. He mentioned that we also put in sidewalks on Enyart from Montgomery Road to the school cheaper because the contractor was already there doing sidewalks along Montgomery Road. Mr. Bryant stated that if anyone wants to come to the podium to talk about sidewalks they would like to see or talk about one that is already on the list, he would welcome them up to the podium to discuss it. He asked everyone to state their name and address for the record.

Mrs. Margaret Akerman, 11300 Snyder Road, stated that she lives near CHCA and she believes that we need sidewalks on Snyder Road that would connect the High School and the Elementary School because she sees a lot of kids walking down Snyder. Mr. Bryant suggested that she also contact Sycamore Township. He stated that this is not a section that he would have thought about.

Mrs. Cindy Reichman, 9519 Appomattox Court, stated that she would like to see sidewalks on Union Cemetery Road from Montgomery Road to Royal Fields on the north side of the roadway that is all in Symmes Township. She stated that there are approximately 10,648 cars a day all day on Union Cemetery Road vs 3,335 on Hopewell and other locations. She stated that other locations have priority over Union Cemetery even though the traffic counts are higher on Union Cemetery Road. She stated that there was no study done on Enyart Road. Mrs. Reichman stated that there are 2 parks on Union Cemetery Road and two public buildings that are within walking distance to schools and many households. She stated that there are many pedestrians, runners, and bikers that access Union Cemetery Road to get to the business district every day. Mrs. Reichman stated that she knows that how to pay for sidewalks is a huge discussion, but at one time the road levy was 1.3 mills and was reduced to .9 mills. She stated that this is completely ineffective to pay for new sidewalk construction. She stated that in some of the minutes from last year, the Township Administrator recommended that we start putting \$75,000.00 a year toward sidewalks, but the board is still doing the \$25,000.00 per year. She stated that the highest priority ranking project is now Hopewell Road which would require crossing I-275. She stated that the bridge is owned by ODOT and would require a major overhaul to put sidewalks across it at the township's expense. Mrs. Reichman stated that it would cost around \$900,000.00 to put these sidewalks in because of the additional improvements. She stated that if we put away \$25,000 a year, we could complete the project in 36 years. Mrs. Reichman stated that the township's zoning code is silent on the requirement of sidewalks for any redevelopment or new lot splits. She stated that the only regulations that require sidewalk installation is the County Subdivision regulations. She stated that this would save the tax payers money if the new development or new houses built in the area would have to pay to put those sidewalks in. Mr. Bryant stated that he appreciates all the information provided.

Ms. Colleen Stevenson, 12000 Antietam Drive, stated that she was here in favor of sidewalks on Union Cemetery Road and that the stretch of sidewalk that Mrs. Reichman referred to is 1.1 miles in length. She wanted to know why the costs for this stretch were estimated to be around \$800,000.00. Mrs. Lapensee explained that there are other items in the estimate due to the terrain/excavation and that we would have to put in pipe that entire section with a bridge crossing in the S curve. Mrs. Stevenson stated that she is a runner and that there is lots of traffic to dodge while running and it's not safe.

Dr. Mark Korchok, 11979 Antietam Drive, stated that he is a runner, walker/jogger and that the traffic along Union Cemetery is more of a factor. He stated that when he walks his dog he cannot

cross Union Cemetery Road to get to the parks. He stated that he would like to have a safe connection to the two parks down the road. He stated that he currently walks his dog in the industrial park. He shared a story about how he was bumped on his bicycle on Union Cemetery Road.

Ms. Kate Smead, 9544 Appomattox Court, stated that she is strongly in favor of sidewalks along Union Cemetery Road and is a frequent runner. She stated that her husband frequently picks up the kids at daycare with a jogging stroller at Primrose and has a hard time doing that. She stated that she wants a walkable and livable community and that she is very concerned about safety along this roadway. She stated that she is worried that there will be something terrible that will happen one of these days to a walker/runner/biker, etc.

Mr. Jorge Abanto Bueno, 12020 Antietam Drive, stated that he is in favor of sidewalks on Union Cemetery Road. He stated that he sees many people walking along Union Cemetery very early in the morning and late at night and is concerned about everyone's safety. He stated that he does not want to see anyone lose their lives.

Mr. Rick Boone, 11390 Terwilligerscreek, stated that he is in favor of sidewalks on Enyart Road from Donwiddle to Terwilligerscreek. He stated that there is no where to walk on Enyart because of the ditches. He stated that it would be great to connect these two neighborhoods.

Ms. Linda Contandino, 11340 Donwiddle Drive, stated that she would like to connect several neighborhoods because there are lots of speeders in that small stretch from Donwiddle to Terwilligerscreek. She also stated that there are large gullies on both sides of the roadway and there is dangerous curve in the road. She stated that she is concerned about everyone's safety along that roadway.

Mr. Greg Feldkamp, 11497 Enyart Road, stated that he has the only driveway on the southside of Enyart from Donwiddle to Terwilligerscreek and feels that this stretch of roadway from Donwiddle to Terwilligerscreek is very dangerous. He stated that there are lots of people walking between the two neighborhoods which is a 90-degree bend. He stated that there is a large amount of kids which walk in-between the two neighborhoods. He stated that the drainage is bad there too because the water pools there in the summer and then turns into a huge mosquito area.

Mr. Dan Sammons, 11705 Retview Lane stated that his street is off Enyart and he is in favor of sidewalks on Enyart from Donwiddle to the library. He questioned why anyone would need sidewalks on Montgomery Road from Vintage Club to Harpers Point (east side) when you can just walk across the street to get to Harpers on the west side of Montgomery Road. He stated that he believes that Enyart Road has been paved too many times now and never milled down enough and needs to be wider for people to walk. He stated that he would also like to see sidewalks on Mason Montgomery Road from Chappelsquare north to Deerfield Township to connect the business district north of the interstate.

Ms. Leis asked by a show of hands which areas are people here for (union cemetery, Enyart, etc.). She asked everyone if they would support an increase in the road levy fund to increase the amount set aside for new sidewalk construction? Everyone in the audience stated that they would support the increase and support it to their neighbors. Mrs. Lapensee asked everyone if it would helpful if we listed the priorities with the amounts and when they would be constructed. Everyone stated yes.

Ms. Helen Buse, 8981 Arabian Court, stated that she would like to see sidewalks added on Humphrey from Pinto to her subdivision. She stated that the road is very narrow on the hill with very little shoulder. She stated that it would connect 70 homes to the other homes connected which leads to the park. She stated that the number of families in her subdivision has increased

tremendously. Mr. Beck stated that the township ran out of money to continue beyond Pinto (Phase 2) at the time we did sidewalks on Humphrey.

Mr. Matt Perron, 11970 Antietam Drive, stated that he is in favor of sidewalks on Union Cemetery Road. He stated that he believes that if you have to break UC down into sections, that the most dangerous portion is from Thistlehill Drive to Shenandoah Trace. Mr. Bryant stated that when we put the sidewalks in on Lebanon Road, we tried everything we could to leverage sidewalks on Union Cemetery Road. He stated that it was very expensive to go beyond where they did.

Mr. Donald Page, 12007 Antietam Drive, stated that he is a 25-year resident of the area and there has been quite a change in traffic since he moved in on Union Cemetery Road. He stated that he is a dog walker, biker, etc. and feels that there is a safety concern walking here. He stated that he is open to breaking this project on UC down into smaller pieces if need be. He stated that he agrees with his neighbor about the most dangerous part.

Mr. Glen Haugen, 9283 Geromes Way, stated that he lives off McKinney and believes that it is dangerous with deep ditches on both sides. He stated that his neighborhood backs up and comes out onto Donwiddle.

Mr. Nick Dyson, 10494 Fallis Road, stated that he would like to see sidewalks from the Riveroaks Subdivision to the Loveland corp line. He stated that there are lots of children walking on Fallis in the curves to and from school every day. He stated that the sports teams also train on the hill every day. He stated that there should be a safe connection to many of the neighborhoods in this area.

Ms. Terri Kerley, 11965 Antietam Drive, stated that she can't walk to Montgomery Road safely and would like the ability to do that. She stated that the S curve on Union Cemetery is very dangerous.

Ms. Susan Abeln, 11336 Terwilligersknoll, stated that she is in favor of sidewalks from Donwiddle to the Library. She stated that walks a lot on Donwiddle and can't get to the library safely. She stated that there are lots of kids moving into their neighborhood now and hopes that we can prioritize the sidewalks to include her request.

Ms. Laura Ross, 12030 Antietam Drive, stated that she is in favor of sidewalks along Union Cemetery Road. She stated that the S curve is very dangerous and she is a walker/dog walker and runner.

Ms. Mary Minnis, 11377 Terwilligerscreek, stated that she is in favor of sidewalks on Enyart from Donwiddle to Terwilligerscreek. She stated that this section of Enyart is very dangerous.

Ms. Colleen Stevenson asked if anyone knew how many people work in the industrial area in Loveland off Union Cemetery Road. No one knew the answer.

Mr. Dan Sammons stated that we could always put in a pedestrian gate on Montgomery Road at the cemetery to give walker access to walk through the cemetery instead of walking on Union Cemetery Road.

Mr. Bryant closed the public hearing at 8:14 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Approved:

Kenneth Bryant, Board President

Carol Sims, Fiscal Officer