
MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 5, 2019

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

Also present: Kim Lapensee - Administrator; Captain Bruce Hawk - LSFD; and Lieutenant Tory Smith - Hamilton County Sheriff's Department.

Ms. Carol Sims and Kevin McDonough were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Beck 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', Mr. Bryant - 'aye'. Motion passes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Minutes from February 5, 2019. Ms. Leis seconded the motion.

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

FISCAL OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Beck asked Mrs. Lapensee to read off the balances from the February report for the record. Mrs. Lapensee stated that as of February 28, 2019, we have the following balances: \$19,775,043.85 overall, \$503,251.28 in checking, \$4,664,729.85 in the money market account, \$22,991.23 in the HRA account, \$635.44 in the credit card account and as of 1/31/19 we have \$7,867,344.07 in investments at Huntington Bank.

PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve the warrants 74556 to 74717 in the amount of \$445,422.62 for February. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion.

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

REPORTS

KEVIN MCDONOUGH, LAW DIRECTOR was absent.

LIEUTENANT TORY SMITH, HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT had no report but stated that he should have the February stats here soon and will pass them along to Mrs. Lapensee.

CAPTAIN BRUCE HAWK stated that he handed out the monthly stats report for fire/EMS runs. Chief Mike Books stated that he presented the Board with the 2017 - 2018 break down of Med Count which is the EMS revenue. It is up by 29 runs with an increase in revenues by about 15 thousand but the true collections which is the money they receive from the payers is down by about 5%. Some of the reasons for that is insurance companies are demanding a bigger write off. More people are switching to Medicaid, Medicare or the affordable care act which they have contractual write offs, even with all that they still remain one of the top ten collections in this area.

BILL PITMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS – Mrs. Lapensee reported that we have advertised for our 2019 paving project and we will be accepting bids on March 27th at 2:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE - None. Mr. Bryant asked if we should go ahead and set up a finance committee meeting for this month because we will have to approve a permanent budget for 2019. Mr. Beck stated that he would contact Ms. Sims and ask.

OTHER - Mr. Beck stated that we had a work session last week.

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

Joe Grossi, 11982 Paul Meadows Drive, stated that he wanted to know if we are making any money in the investments with Huntington Bank since we moved money there last year. He asked if we could send him that information. He stated that he finally received all his public records request for 2017 for the lighting district and now knows that the township has spent \$33,391.18 in late fees from 2014 through 2017. Mr. Beck stated that the Auditor has a plan. Mr. Grossi stated that he talked to the Auditor's office and they are stating that they will release the management letters no later than May. He stated that there are other late fees and unpaid balances with other accounts. Mr. Beck stated that we have changed our whole process for paying bills. He stated that we now sign all the checks and ask questions. Mr. Grossi asked what happened before you all started signing checks? He stated that he wants the auditor to dig deeper and look at other things. Mr. Beck stated that our audit will start very soon.

CJ Carr, Historical Society, stated that they will be having a program in our Safety Services building on April 25th at 7:00 p.m. that will be about Clever and Unusual Slavery. He asked if we could post the flyers around the township in the parks. He also asked if they could use the Safety Services building to host another event on May 23rd at 7:00 p.m. They are going to have Sherry Brinkman come in to talk about the history of Festivals.

Mike Dam, Mikes Car Wash, stated that he was here for a meeting for Zoning Commission and that they asked for a final landscape plan for the carwash. He stated that he wanted to drop off a copy of that plan for the board.

Todd Spencer, 11923 Stonemark Lane, stated that he had heard that we were getting ready to pave the path at Meade Park for a storybook walk. He stated that he was unaware of the storybook walk. He stated that he appreciates the parks department, that they are hardworking, keeps things cleaned and maintained, but he wants to support the project but does not want the path paved for the walk. He stated that paving it might seem like it makes the path more usable and safer; but it really doesn't. He stated that the path gets slippery and he walks off the path when its wet outside. He asked if there is any positive feedback about the path at Symmes Park? He stated that he feels that it was a mistake paving that path and does not want to repeat that same mistake. He stated that it defeats the purpose of a nature trail if we pave it. He stated that the residents enjoy the path just like it is. He stated that he feels that it will bring more bicycle traffic to the area and will increase the speeds on the paths. He stated that cinder promotes safety and running on pavement actually makes it worse. He stated that strollers sound good on pavement, but the trail is already being used by strollers now. He stated that he understands that we already have a grant to pave the path and that we have already approved the project, but he feels that it is a bad idea to spend it on pavement. He stated that we should consider not spending the money. He stated that there is a lot of support for not paving it.

Ms. Leis stated that she walks through that park all the time and has never slid on the pavement. She asked where it gets slick? Mr. Spencer stated that it gets slick near the log cabin.

Mr. Bryant stated that we have never once said that we want to increase bicycle traffic in that park.

Ms. Leis stated that we want to promote the use of that park more. She stated that we want to increase the use of strollers and wheelchairs and make it more accessible for older people who may use a cane when they walk. She stated that they want everyone to be able to use it.

Mr. Bryant stated that he takes his dog for a walk there and his dog does not want to walk on the cinders.

Mr. Spencer stated that he has never seen anyone slide on the cinders.

Ms. Leis stated that they will also be planting a sunflower field near the path in May.

Mr. Bryant stated that the Historical Society saved and resurrected the Ross Family Log Cabin and they have a long-term lease where they put it on Symmes Township property.

Mr. Alan Matuszak, 10145 Sleepy Ridge Drive, agrees with all the points that Mr. Spencer brought up. He stated that it would take away from the beauty of the park if we pave the path. He stated that he prefers to walk his dogs on the unpaved path. He stated that both of Mr. Spencer's sons have done work in that park on the log cabin.

Mr. Jeff Reichman, 9519 Appomattox Court, stated that he uses that park tremendously. He stated that the two previous gentlemen have made sensible statements. He stated that he has slipped there too. He stated that there would be some benefits to pave the path and maybe integrate cinder and paving to make everyone happy. He stated that there needs to be better signage on Union Cemetery letting everyone know that the log cabin is back there. He stated that we have great resources around us and sidewalks on Union Cemetery Road would promote access to the park.

Mr. Beck stated that we always anticipated that we would pave the trail in the park. He stated that we could look into the possibility of paving to one side and putting mulch or cinders on the other side.

Ms. Leis stated that she wants to encourage everyone to use the parks and make them accessible.

Mr. Bryant stated that we spend a lot of money for the park and want to see them used.

Ms. Leis stated that maybe we could pave the inside loop of the trail where the storybook could be located and leave the outside cinder. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she would check with ODNR to see if the trail had to be a certain width to meet the grant requirements.

CORRESPONDENCE

See Attached.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting - Monday, April 1, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- Regular Trustees Meeting - Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- 20th Anniversary Tornado Remembrance - Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at Sycamore High School (tornado memorial east side of the property).
- The Great Symmes Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Beck made a motion to accept the donation for YOGA in the amount of \$3,000.00 from Energy Alliances and Constellation. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Ms. Leis stated that we will

also be having a moon walk and yoga/meditation at Meade on May 18th. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Ms. Leis - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Beck made a motion to set the public hearing date of April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. for Case #ZC2019-01 for an application received to change the zoning from "H" Riverfront to "EE" Planned Residence for a new Mike's Car Wash facility located at 9675 E. Kemper Road. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Leis - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye', Mr. Bryant - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution PR2019-01 - Resolution Amending Resolution PR9301 Adopting Rules and Regulations for Symmes Township Parks. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that this resolution was discussed at the work session meeting and will change the rules for when you can reserve the shelters for residents and non-residents, set a new rate for non-residents, disallow residents to reserve shelters for non-residents, and disallow certain items to be used in the shelters which hinders cleanup.

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution P2019-01 - Resolution Revising Symmes Township Personnel Policy Manual Article III Compensation. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that we discussed this at the work session meeting and will revise the work hours and increase the accumulation of comp time from 40 hours to 60 hours. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Beck - 'aye', Ms. Leis - 'aye', Mr. Bryant - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution G2019-25 - Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of Grass Mowing Bids and Awarding the Contract to GrassCor in the amount of \$60,222.00. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Bryant - 'aye', Mr. Beck - 'aye', Mr. Leis - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution G2019-26 - Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to sign a contract with Rozzi to purchase fireworks for the Firecracker Festival in the amount of \$5,000.00. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mr. Bryant asked if we had any more sponsors this year for fireworks. Mrs. Lapensee stated no.

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution G2019-27 - Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to sign an agreement with Choice One Engineering for engineering services for the Blong Road bridge replacement project in the amount of \$30,900.00. Motion seconded by Ms. Leis. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated they were successful in getting the grant money through OPWC, so they will be awarded 80% of the project cost. The money will become available July 1.

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution G2019-28 - Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to Sign a Community Event License Agreement with the Little Miami River Chamber Alliance for use of Symmes and Home of the Brave Parks for the Firecracker Festival for June 28th and June 29th 2019. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mr. Bryant asked what part of the park they would be using for this event. Mrs. Lapensee explained the area for Symmes Park as the Lemming shelter area, baseball field, restrooms,

basketball court and parking lot. Mr. Bryant asked if we could include a map with the agreements.

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution G2019-29 - Resolution Establishing Fire Lanes on Township Roadways. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that we received this request last year and then discussed it at our February meeting where the Board agreed to bring it back to the next meeting to vote on. Mr. Bryant asked if we could change the Title to Crestfield Lane instead of just saying Township Roadways. The Board agreed to change the title.

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution G2019-30 - Resolution Amending the Financial Policy for Symmes Township to include an Amended Credit Card Policy. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that the State of Ohio passed a law that all local governments have to have a credit card policy in place by February 2, 2019. She stated that there are certain parameters for having the cards and we needed to amend our current policy to reflect the new requirements.

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution G2019-31 - Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to Sign a Contract with the Ohio Township Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) to Purchase Risk Insurance in the amount of \$78,653.00. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that this is our risk insurance for 2019 and the price increase approximately \$2,000.00 this year. She stated that she had our agent update the cost breakdown between funds.

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve Resolution G2019-32 - Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to Purchase a Work Truck for the Road Department from Bob Ross GMC and KE Rose in the Amount not to exceed \$40,000.00. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that this is to replace the work truck in the road department. They are trading in T-211.

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve the following expenditures and authorization for the Township Administrator to sign any necessary contracts/agreement or paperwork:

- a. Expenditure/then and now \$2,610.78 Overhead Door to repair the door on the salt dome at 9323 Union Cemetery Road.

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

HEARING FROM RESIDENTS

None.

Minutes of REGULAR

Held Township Admin. Bldg.

March 5, 2019

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Approved:

Philip J. Beck, President

Jodie L. Leis, Vice-President

Kenneth N. Bryant, Trustee