

SOMERFORD TOWNSHIP
P. O. Box 861
Office Location: [91 State Route 56](#) N.W.
London, OH 43140

James Moran, Chairman
Ernest Sparks, Vice Chairman (via Zoom)
Keith O'Connor, Trustee

Amanda Knowles, Fiscal Officer
Brian Knowles, Zoning Inspector

The Somerford Township Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at the Somerford Township Hall located at 91 St Rt 56 NW with the above members present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and the minutes from the July, 2022 meeting were read and approved by the Trustees.

Paul Bennett is in attendance and would like to know who cleaned up the property on Karen Drive? He stated that it was started but does not look like the project was completed. Chairman James Moran states that he will check to see when the crew intends to go back. Mr. Bennett also wants to know if the State can go down St. Rt. 56 and clean it up a bit as the road is basically blocked visually. He also reports a lot of speeding cars coming down the alley way and he would like to know if a speed limit sign can be put up? Mr. Moran states that he thinks we could probably get a speed limit sign attached to the pole with the "Children at Play" sign.

Amanda Knowles, Fiscal Officer, hands out the August bills and payroll at this time to be reviewed. Ms. Knowles reports that she has had several calls from Donna Spangler regarding a cemetery issue. Her contact information is given to the Trustees at this time. Ms. Knowles then informs the Trustees that the township did receive the second tranche of the ARP Funds + the reallocation amount. Somerford Township received a total of \$156,912.52 this time. The new forms for the Allstate Medical Coverage are then discussed and passed out to be signed. The township will be decreasing the cost of a single coverage from \$1,279.13 to \$722.42 by switching from Anthem to Allstate at this time. After discussion, a Motion to adopt Allstate as the medical provider is made by Trustee O'Connor, Vice Chairman Sparks seconds the motion and a roll call is taken as follows: James Moran- Yes; Ernest Sparks- Yes; Keith O'Connor-Yes. All are in favor and the motion is passed at this time. Ms. Knowles states that she has waived medical coverage through the township since she came into her role in 2018. The township has benefited by nearly \$50,000 due to this. At this time, Ms. Knowles will be added to the medical coverage and she asks permission to also add her children as her dependents. She will then payroll deduct the difference of her dependents in order to cover their medical coverage costs in return costing Somerford Township no addition costs to add her dependents. After discussion, this request is approved by the Trustees.

Zoning Inspector Brian Knowles reports that one of the churches within the township is doing addition so he's been in contact with them. He also reports some conditional use public hearings that will be held in the near future. Mr. Knowles also reports that the Zoning Resolution to amend solar installation on residential properties is almost completed at this time. Mr. O'Connor states that he will reach out to the Regional Planning Board to let them know we have a zoning amendment. Mr. Knowles states that he plans to attend the next meeting with Mr. O'Connor to present the amendment as well.

Chairman James Moran reports Bob Blake called stating that there has been sewage that drained into his back yard and that there had been a lot of mosquitos due to it. He reports that his son is now sick so he called the EPA and they came out and inspected the site along with a representative from the Health Department. They sent a representative from storm water rather than someone from waste water so there was a delay in the results after dying the system. Mr. Moran is unsure of the results from that test at this time. Rob Slane from the County was also consulted and he said late Fall the problem should be solved. Mr. Moran reports that he attended two solar meetings. The first was at the Commissioner's office and the second one at the scheduled community meeting. They reported that they had not filed a permit form yet but that they filed an "intent to file." This is the point in the process in which The Ohio Power Siting Board then gets involved. Mr. Moran asks Ms. Knowles to please send a copy of the Solar Resolution that was passed in June to both the Ohio Power Siting Board as well as to the Madison County Commissioners. Ms. Knowles reports she will do so. Mr. Moran also attended a Comprehensive Plan meeting regarding the Plan that was supposed to be done in 2019. There is a discrepancy and a professional organization has been hired to restart the process.

Trustee Keith O'Connor reports that after the EMS received complaints about the flagpole in front of the building, he reached out to the Eagle Scouts to see if they would take it on as one of their public projects. Will follow up on this topic.

At this time, Mr. Knowles states that the Zoning Inspector position has not received a pay increase since the position was initiated. It has actually taken a pay cut. With Somerford Township being the only township in Madison County that does their own zoning, it is a unique situation. With that being said, Fairfield Township in southern Ohio has their own zoning inspector and they are very similarly run to Somerford. Their zoning inspector makes more than double what Mr. Knowles is currently making per Frank Harman with Ohio Insurance Services. Mr. Knowles asks if he could have a raise in the approximate amount of the new single coverage of Allstate and be added to the new plan. He would then have a payroll deduction of this same amount to cover the insurance coverage. Mr. Harman stated that this is an appropriate use of benefits as Mr. Knowles is using his payroll deduction to cover the insurance benefits he would be receiving. This would bring the new monthly salary to \$1,263.52. After discussion, Mr. Keith O'Connor makes a motion to increase the Zoning Inspector's salary, Vice Chairman Sparks seconds the motion and a roll call is taken as follows: James Moran- Yes; Ernest Sparks- Yes; Keith O'Connor-Yes. All are in favor and the motion is passed at this time.

Being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2004.

Respectfully submitted:

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer

Date: _____

James Moran, Chairman