

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

James Moran, Chairman
Ernest Sparks, Vice Chairman
Keith O'Connor, Trustee

Amanda Knowles, Fiscal Officer
Brian Knowles, Zoning Inspector
David Jeffers, Cemetery Sexton

The Somerford Township Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, December 14, 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.

Fiscal Officer Amanda Knowles then asks the trustees to review the minutes from the November 2022 meeting. Chairman Moran makes a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Vice Chairman Sparks seconds. The motion is carried. The December 2022 bills and payroll are then reviewed. Trustee O'Connor makes a motion to approve the bill pay. Mr. Moran seconds and the motion is passed. Ms. Knowles then presents the Trustees with the Temporary Appropriations for fiscal year 2023. After discussion, Mr. Moran makes a motion to adopt these Temporary Appropriations and Mr. O'Connor seconds motion. A roll call vote was called and resulted as follows: Chairman Moran-yes, Vice Chairman Sparks-yes, Trustee O'Connor-yes. Motion is passed at this time. A public notice will be placed in the paper to inform the public of the Appropriation measures.

Zoning Inspector Brian Knowles reports that the conditional use permit went through at the old drive thru. Mr. Alexandranus wants to keep two box trucks there and will decide what to do with the current building on the lot in the near future. They have granted him temporary approval to figure everything out in the next few months. BZA also had a public hearing for a conditional use permit request for a wedding venue from Steve Messinger and a number of neighbors have stated their concerns. The owners had a very good plan laid out resolving some of the issues that were raised. They plan to move the driveway to ease traffic and the venue/noise will be on opposite side of land, away from neighbors. The BZA toured the property and one of the biggest concerns was that it's an Ag property and since no one lives there it doesn't quite fit Ag, it is more of a commercial property. Another meeting is being held in January to discuss these issues. The Comprehensive Review Plan will be available for public review on January 9th, 2023. Chairman Moran has an updated map from the County Engineer for all to review at this time. The changes that were made are the topics that were discussed at the previous meeting. Everyone agrees with the new map and they will plan to vote following the public review on January 9th. Mr. Knowles then reports that he has received some calls in regards to the property on ST. RT. 56 with the dirt bike path. Several complaints have come in about a large pole barn that was built on the land. There are also some drainage issues as well as noise complaints so Mr. Knowles will discuss with Dave Hughes. Mr. Knowles is still trying to track down the minutes from when the motion was made in 2002 to accept zoning. Looking through paper minutes as Ms. Knowles could not find any electronically. The Board of Zoning held a public

meeting and approved the new Zoning Resolution. Trustees are in favor of these changes and a public meeting will be held prior to our regular scheduled meeting in January.

David Jeffers, Cemetery Sexton, reports he is working on new brakes on the dump truck and that the small truck may need some work. He also reports the plow on the gator is ready to go.

Chairman James Moran reports that they will be widening and re-doing part of Thomas Road in Monroe Township. It would make sense to also do the short stretch of the road that is in Somerford Township. No objections at this time. Mr. Moran reports that the Solar Project intervention record has been filed. The attorney charges \$250/hr. The three Townships of Somerford, Deercreek & Monroe have all agreed to put in \$10,000 plus an independent individual is adding another \$10,000 to cover these charges. Mr. Moran then reports that The County Commissioners have filed the intervention letter as of yesterday. Mr. Moran is unsure what that means and he will report back. No news from the Siting Board at this time. Turning the attention to the EMS, there is a possible push to combine Fire and EMS. EMS is in financial crisis and borrowing money until their levy money comes in. The Fire fund is very healthy while EMS is not. Combining would help to save money as well as solve some of the issues at hand. Mr. O'Connor asks if the Fire taking on EMS would be a burden? Mr. Moran states they are having staffing issues on both sides. There are multiple issues at hand such as it calls for a lot more money to run EMS than Fire. Also, the EMS is union and the Fire is not. These are issues that would have to be worked out if combined.

Being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2059.

Respectfully submitted:

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer

Date: _____

James Moran, Chairman