

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

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

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

The Somerford Township Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 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 January, 2023 meeting were read and approved by the trustees.

Josh Cross from Ohio Edison is in attendance. He states that we have 32 street lights on our account and they are all mercury and that they now offer LED. It would cost \$209 to replace each one to LED. That would add up to approximately \$6000 up front. A second option would be to enter a contract that says they would change them out as they need repaired. Mr. Cross reports that Somerford Township is under an ESIP contract but that the monthly cost will be increasing. Mr. Sparks asks if he can email us the information as well. Mr. Cross says he will do that. He also states that they no longer have a team that maintains the lights but that Ohio Edison is still responsible when issues are called in. If a LED light is installed, Ohio Edison is responsible for the entire light post. If the township were to wait until 2030 when Ohio Edison plans to replace all lights to LED, then there would be no capital cost to the Township. The Trustees will review Mr. Cross's email and discuss further.

Mr. Jeremy Johnston in attendance and would like to request the alley near his business, Creative Carpets, be vacated. The Township will need to address this with the County Commissioner's Office. Mr. Moran states he will look into what needs to be done to get this request done. Mr. Johnston states if there is anything he can do to help, to please let him know.

Bob Blake is in attendance asking for an update on the sewer project. Mr. Moran states that bids are out and he assumes it would begin this Spring. He then asks for an update on the possibility of water coming through the township. Mr. Moran states that he does not believe it would be for a few years. Lastly, Mr. Blake asks if his well can be cleaned with bleach with waste in it. He states his well is about 30 ft deep. Mr. Moran states that it very shallow compared to what is now required. He says most wells have to be dug around 100 ft deep. One option would be for Mr. Blake to dig a deeper well. Another would be to hook up a pool chemical setup to feed the well with chlorine. Mr. Blake states his property is affected with noise by I-70 and St Rt 40 as well as the noise from the sirens leaving the building. Mr. Blake then asks what is going to be done with the area on the property that increases the mosquitos. Mr. Moran states that the township has been having the septic pumped, it's being chlorinated and the EMS is aware of the area and will take additional measures to maintain the area. Mr. Moran reiterates that the topic is being addressed.

Amanda Knowles, Fiscal Officer, hands out the February bills and payroll at this time to be reviewed. There are also two bank reconciliations to be approved. At this time, Ms. Knowles informs the Trustees that she has closed the Fiscal Year 2022 and will put an ad in the paper for public review.

Zoning Inspector, Brian Knowles, states that there will likely be legal action taking place in regards to the 'Wedding Venue Property.' Mr. Knowles has copies of the Board of Zoning Appeals special meeting minutes explaining why the request was denied.

Trustee Moran reports that the County Commissioner's Office has come out against the Oak Run Solar Project. It will now move on to the Siting Board. The three Townships it's affecting are opposed, the Commissioners are now opposed, the Township Association and Farm Association are also opposed. Mr. Moran and Mr. Knowles received an email stating that they got approval for the zoning amendment and their Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Moran discusses moving the old paperwork from the old Township Building to the current location. Everyone is in agreement. After it gets moved to the new location, Ms. Knowles will look into having someone come in and go through it for filing and historical retention purposes.

Being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2007.

Respectfully submitted:

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer

Date: _____

Ernest Sparks, Chairman