

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

The Somerford Township Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, July 13, 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 June, 2022 meeting were read and approved by the Trustees.

Sean Flannery, Joe McFadden and Ray Davis are in attendance representing Savion and the Oak Run Solar Project. Mr. Davis works as a third party away from Savion but has partnered with Savion for multiple projects. He is a solar power advocate and wanted to make himself available for concerns. They explain that they are currently working towards receiving their permit for the project. This is a state process and usually takes more than a year to obtain. They also inform the Trustees that the project is voted on by a siting board which includes a member from the townships and county. Mr. McFadden states that the townships will have a formal voice in the process. Monroe Township has voiced concerns about drainage on the land where the project would be. The question of what if something is broken, who fixes it has also arisen? Mr. McFadden states that these issues would fall on Savion. The state has a requirement that if the project stops working, the materials and equipment must be removed from the location. They then report that the County has been very supportive because these projects are beneficial to communities like this. Savion recognizes that this is a significant project and they plan to be transparent throughout the entirety of the project. They report having a long-term relationship with the community and they have multiple other projects that have been very beneficial to show such. Mr. Flannery reports that there will be a discussion on July 26 at the Commissioner's meeting. He also reports that another community meeting is scheduled for August to give more information to residents as well. They are open to suggestions to help address concerns.

Brian Knowles, Somerford Zoning Inspector, asks for oldest project they've done or completed and it is reported that all projects are just beginning construction now. There is one in Pike County that will start construction in the Fall. Chairman Moran discusses concerns with using such a large agricultural area. Mr. Flannery states that this is the biggest concern that he deals with. He reports that Sarah Mosier, a Savion representative, is a farmer that sees this as an asset. Mr. Moran goes on to express that he feels there has been very poor communication between the townships and the Commissioners. The other trustees agree that they have not been given the appropriate information to relay back to the residents of the township. Mr. Moran also asks if there are any studies that have been done to show the adverse effects of a project like this? Mr. Flannery states that economically speaking, they do have an economic impact specialist that evaluates the impact of development. Mr. McFadden states that he is a

Madison County resident and he feels that Savion really cares about the community. He also reports that there are displays in Mechanicsburg to help educate anyone that is interested on solar energy. Mr. Moran states that he doesn't know how many people would get up there to see that on their own time. He states that he feels Savion and the Commissioners should be coming to us to "sell" the project if it is that good. That's Savion's job. Mr. Moran states that he feels that Savion needs to spend as much time working with the Townships as they do the Commissioners. Is it the township's responsibility to bring everything to Savion or is it Savion's responsibility to educate the township? Mr. Flannery states that it is not on the Township to pull information out of Savion, and they need to have more interaction between the public and they will work to do so. The Trustees state that they need to be educated themselves so that they can educate the residents. Mr. Moran states that he was informed that Savion already filed for application on the project but Mr. Flannery states they have not yet at this time.

Mr. Moran asks if there is a battery building to store batteries and would they be lithium? Mr. Flannery answers that most are lithium ion batteries and will be stored in containerized units (40 ft containers). They are unaware of the exact number of these containers at this time but approximately 75 containers would be needed. Mr. Moran states that our Fire and EMS would have to gear up to handle that type of situation if something were to happen and he asks who would educate them on that training as it would cost money? Mr. McFadden reports that the training will be a part of this process and the township would not take on that expense. They will work on an emergency outreach program that will be ongoing.

Lastly, Mr. Moran reports that the squad and EMS have a levy and they will benefit from this project, however, Somerford Township does not so where is the compensation the township receives? It is reported that the compensation made to the county is decided through the Commissioners. Mr. Flannery states that this is hopefully something that can be addressed at the Commission's meeting on July 26. Mr. Davis states that that would be a good time to address these issues and hopefully something creative can happen. Mr. Moran goes back to the idea of the lithium batteries. There are great concerns around the batteries and PFAS. He asks if there is an alternative to fighting these fires? It is reported that these projects are monitored 24/7 and if there are issues it hopefully would be isolated quickly. The Madison Fields Project is in the Darby Creek Watershed District and Savion has been working closely to keep them happy and involved and they promise to do the same here.

Amanda Knowles, Fiscal Officer, hands out the July bills and payroll at this time to be reviewed. There are also seven deeds to be signed for the sale of cemetery plots. Ms. Knowles then informs the Trustees that the second tranche of the ARP Funds should be clearing by the end of the week. Somerford Township will receive \$156,289.

Zoning Inspector Brian Knowles has had a lot of calls about planned residential development (PRD). In the past, it has taken years to get this in place. He was also contacted by the church as they would like to do an addition but they wanted to discuss frontage issues.

Vice Chairman Ernest Sparks attended the Fire Meeting and they are in talks of a development that may go behind Beck's and it will have 400-500 homes.

Chairman James Moran reports that the most recent storm flooded the kitchen here at the Township Hall. They contacted a local masonry contractor to fix the hole that was found and put some flashing above the door where other water came in. He called the roofers since we have a 10-year warranty on it. Mr. Moran then focuses the attention to the Squad meeting the other night, they are still looking for recruits. EMS won't receive the new levy money until February 2023, they may need to borrow from another entity until the money comes in. He also reports that he is waiting to hear back from the Prosecutor about zoning issues. Paving at the cemetery begins on Monday and should be completed by the end of the week.

Trustee Keith O'Connor reports that he plans to attend the Regional Planning Committee meeting. He also reports that the land right next to Ag-Pro was rezoned for a company to come in for servicing hydraulic equipment and the property next to it rezoned to put in 270,000 sq ft warehouse that will be for rental space.

One of the EMS members states that they are mowing and keeping up with the yard work around the building but they are unsure of the property lines. Mr. Moran clarifies for him. Also reports that there is a ton of trash in the over grown areas of the property and they hope to get it all cleaned out this fall. Mr. Moran states we can bring the big mower down from the cemetery if need be. He also reports that they have discussed putting a camera out front as they get a lot of buying/selling exchanges as well custody switching. They have also caught kids in the building and they have done a better job of locking all doors. Lastly, he asks if there are any plans for the garage out in the parking lot? There are items from when the church worked out of this location. Mr. Moran states that he will take a look and see if there is anything they'd want to save.

Being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2054.

Respectfully submitted:

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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James Moran, Chairman