

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

James Moran, Chairman	Amanda Knowles, Fiscal Officer
Ernest Sparks, Vice Chairman	Brian Knowles, Zoning Inspector
David Jeffers, Cemetery Sexton	

The Somerford Township Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, September 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. and the minutes from the August, 2022 meeting were read and approved by the Trustees.

Joe McFadden, Ray Davis and Sarah Moser are in attendance and they've brought the Ohio Power Siting Board application that will be submitted Friday. They are giving a copy of this application to all of the townships to review. Ms. Moser explains that it will take approximately sixty days for review and only then will the process moves forward. It will then take approximately nine months to one year for public hearings to begin after that. Ms. Moser explains that Section 8 is where we can find the answers to a lot of the concerns that have already been voiced. They report that they have also dropped a copy off to Commissioner's. Ms. Moser then states she has been informed that The Township Association came up with a letter in opposition to this project and she would like to know who the letter is being sent to? Chairman Moran states it is being sent to The Power Siting Board as well as the Commissioner's Office. Sarah says they are working closely with Brian Dhume and Madison Fields which will be breaking ground in December. Joe McFadden states that there is an area in that application for complaints. Mr. Moran states again that there has not been enough communication/education on the topic. Ms. Moser explains that it is very important to understand the project before deciding on the topic. She reports that another project was denied by the state and then when those that were opposed changed their minds, the state wouldn't allow the project to move forward. Mr. Moran also brings up the topic of the topsoil being disrupted. There is concern with the grading and separation of the levels and it being put back in the same way. Ms. Moser reports that they will have a booth at the Farm Science Review next week and she encourages all to stop by. Ms. Moser then asked if the tax revenue issue regarding Somerford Township is still an issue? She states that Somerford Township will still receive millage even without a levy and that the Townships will receive revenue annually for the next 30 years. London City Schools will receive some but the majority of the project is in Jonathon Alder School District and therefore they will receive more. If all the millage recipients agree, they can divide that up more evenly.

Bob Blake, Sr. and Bob Blake, Jr. are also in attendance. They state that they are very upset and they've gotten the run around on Somerford sewage issues. They want to know why we can't clean it out? Mr. Blake states that he can't even take his grandson out in the yard some days and they've had to cancel social events due to the smell. Mr Blake Jr. says the problem has gotten worse and worse. Sewage is black and smells terrible. Mr. Moran reports the EPA

and the Health Department have been involved. The London Health Department reported they were going to do some sampling and investigation and he hasn't heard back from them yet. He also reports they have gotten the County involved since the new sewer is coming and that they are currently advertising for bids at this time. The Blakes report that they can't even drink their water and they have to buy bottled water. Some of the houses near them have tested positive for sewage and E. Coli in their wells. Mr. Blake Jr. reports last year he had a garden and whenever he worked out in it he became sick due to mosquito bites. This year, he got bit by mosquitos and was sick again. Mr. Moran states that he wishes he could do something to help but the new sewer project is underway. Mr. Black Jr. asks if the township can spray for mosquitos? Mr. Moran says that is an option we can look into. Vice Chairman Sparks states that he feels that everyone keeps passing the bucket but he agrees with spraying for the mosquitos. It is then asked if the plant is big enough to support new sewer problem? Mr. Moran and Mr. Sparks both respond with a definite yes. Mr. Blake Jr. asks what the sewer height will be compared to Choctaw and Mr. Moran states that his best guess would be that it'll be about the same. Mr. Blake Jr. states that he is concerned about sewage backup. Mr. Blake then changes the topic and asks if they can close the other end of the road on their street because people are flying down it at 60 mph. Mr. Moran states that they have tried to help with this issue before. Mr. Blake Jr. then switches the attention back to the sewage issue and reports that they will be calling Environmental Health. Mr. Moran states that he supports this idea. Mr. Blake Jr. then asks when water could be brought through? Mr. Moran says it'll be a minimum of 2-4 years. The Blakes report their concerns with if they want to sell their house and the bank runs a test on water. Mr. Moran says the sewer project will help with this and likely increase the value of the properties. Mr. Blake Jr. then asks to spray for the mosquitos again and Mr. Moran states that he will check on that and hopefully get it taken care of quickly. . Mr. Sparks suggests seeing if the Health Department can spray for the bugs? They will look into it further.

Amanda Knowles, Fiscal Officer, hands out the September bills and payroll at this time to be reviewed.

Zoning Inspector Brian Knowles had some thoughts on the zoning resolution in terms of wording. It ultimately states that if a property is going to produce more than one house's worth of energy, they will require a conditional use permit. Mr. Knowles also reports that the Siting Board reported that they are overwhelmed with people bringing their numbers in just below 50 mW. Mr. Knowles also suggests that they also need to add specific requirements on the resolution before passing it. Mr. Knowles states he will continue to work on the topic.

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 he has been to the county association meeting and the vote they took was unanimously opposed to the Oak Run Solar Project.

Being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2015.

Respectfully submitted:

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer

Date: _____

James Moran, Chairman