

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

James Moran, Trustee	Amanda Knowles, Fiscal Officer (zoom call)
Bill Laney, Vice Chairman	Brian Knowles, Zoning Inspector
Ernest Sparks, Chairman	Dave Jeffers, Cemetery Sexton

The Somerford Township Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 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.

Ms. Jaime Martin was in attendance to follow up from the previous meetings. She asks for an update on getting the new 'No Parking' signs put up in the alley near her home. Trustee Moran states that he has been in contact with the Engineer's Office and they are working on it. Zoning Inspector, Brian Knowles, then updates Ms. Martin on the properties around her that have been given certified letters to get their properties cleaned up. He informs Ms. Martin that multiple properties have shown improvement as well as one that he will be in court regarding in the next few weeks. Regarding the house whose owner died, Mr. Knowles still cannot cite it until there is a new owner on the property. Ms. Martin states she can get the name of the daughter of the deceased owner to Mr. Knowles. She then thanks Mr. Knowles for the progress.

Mr. Brian Harrington was also in attendance. He starts off by stating he is very happy that the certified letters went out. He states that he still sees a man that appears to be living in a trailer on the property near the Township Building. Mr. Knowles states that he will be reaching out to the owner of the property. He also asks for an update on the Frank Ward property. Mr. Knowles informs him that a few vehicles and large trucks were scheduled to be moved out in the next week or so.

Mr. Bruce Rafferty attended the meeting to get an update on the unplotted graves he wishes to get deeds for. He firmly states that he would like it to be surveyed. Trustee Moran reiterates that it would be a very costly process and that they will need to discuss how it would be paid for. Mr. Rafferty then states that he will get an attorney involved if need be. He does not want someone being buried at his mother's feet. Vice Chairman Laney then states that since Mr. Rafferty threatened litigation, we must move on. Mr. Rafferty does not have the original deeds or any paperwork showing that he owns these graves but claims that he does. Prosecutor Pronai has been informed of the situation and all of the proper steps that would need to be taken have come from him. Mr. Laney will contact the surveyor to see what the process would be and the cost of surveying that area. Mr. Rafferty would like a time line for this and Mr. Moran states that he will be in contact as soon as he has any information.

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer, who is remotely attending the meeting, then has Zoning Inspector Knowles hand out the meeting minutes from the July, 2020 meeting. They are read and approved by the trustees at this time. The Somerford Trustees then reviewed and signed approval of the August 2020 payroll and bills.

Cemetery Sexton, Dave Jeffers, informs the Trustees that the dump truck still is not running. The trustees agree to get it looked at and fixed.

Zoning Inspector, Brian Knowles, gives an update on the zoning situations at hand. The meeting that was scheduled regarding a conditional use permit on Old 40 was cancelled due to the resident contracting COVID-19. Another meeting regarding a pole barn being put in on a commercial property is schedule for August 31. He informs the Board that a Carl Roberts reached out to him. He would like to split his 3 acres into 3 separate parcels and that meeting will also be on August 31. Lastly, he informs the Board that he will be in court on August 28th in regards to the Blake Property. The certified letter was signed by the recipient but no contact was ever made to Mr. Knowles.

Ms. Knowles then explains that a letter was received regarding noxious weeds around the area of a Verizon tower. Mr. Moran states that it would be best for Mr. Knowles the send a letter to property owner. Mr. Knowles concurs.

Vice Chairman Laney then gives an update on the sewer project. It looks as though the project will begin in May 2021. The Engineer's Office has received their funding through grants and they are sending bids out for construction now. He also updates the Board that the EMS will be undergoing some restructuring. No one will be laid off but there will no longer be part time employees. They are also doing away with hospital transfers at this time.

Trustee Moran then gives an update on the fire truck that is currently being worked on. It should be at the Township Building by the end of the year. He also states the Fire District received a boat that was donated by West Jefferson and that it will require some work to get it up and running.

Being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer

Date: _____

Ernest Sparks, Chairman