

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

James Moran, Trustee
Ernest Sparks, Chairman
Bill Laney, Vice Chairman

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

The Somerford Township Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, February 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. and the minutes from the January, 2020 meeting were read and approved by the trustees. The Somerford Trustees reviewed and signed approval of the February 2020 payroll and bills.

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer informs the Board that Somerford Township were selected to receive the MORE Grant via the Ohio Township Association. The grant for \$500 will be deposited and put towards safety improvements that were made at the Somerford Cemetery. Ms. Knowles also reported that she has reached out to surrounding townships in order to compare cemetery costs, including grave purchases as well as opening and closing costs. She will report back at a later date.

Somerford Township Zoning Inspector, Brian Knowles, starts by reporting that the pole barn on St. Rt. 56 that is already constructed is being used for agricultural purposes. Mr. Knowles has not received a letter indicating this, per protocol, and he will continue to look into it. Mr. Knowles also spoke with the zoning inspector from West Jefferson regarding residents with non-compliance issues. He received a copy of West Jefferson's Noncompliance Code Variations. Ms. Knowles will make copies for each of the Trustees to take with them and review.

Mr. Chris Wallace arrives to the meeting and states that he is running for County Commissioner. He introduces himself as well as giving some of his background information. He states his goals for the county and hopes that Somerford will support him in his election process.

Trustee James Moran discusses the merging of MCEMD and Central Fire in the Township building. He states that when improvements need to be made to the location, approval from all three entities needs to be in place before the improvement can be made. He also stated that there is a parking issue at the Township building due to so many employees not being at the building. He states that when we have large gatherings, the employees can park around back to leave the lined parking spots available to the public. Mr. Moran also informs the Board that he has continued to be in close contact with Prosecutor Pronai regarding the Rafferty family and their request at the cemetery. He states that it would be far too expensive to have that area of the cemetery surveyed and the Township would ultimately be losing out financially as Mr. Rafferty already stated, he did not feel that he should need to purchase the graves since his family is already buried in the surrounding ones. Ms. Knowles will draw up a letter regarding this information for review. Lastly, Mr. Moran discusses the mower agreement with Cemetery

Sexton, Dave Jeffers. Mr. Jeffers states that he has been trying to contact Ag-Pro and will continue to do so until he gets a response.

Vice Chairman Bill Laney reports that he was contacted by a family whose family member is buried in the Somerford Cemetery. The ground around the monument has washed away over time. Mr. Laney states that he is unsure if that is the Township's responsibility to fix or the family's. At this time, it is decided that Mr. Jeffers will add dirt around the location. Mr. Laney then turns the attention back to the topic of the EMS and Fire sharing the building with Somerford Township. He did some measuring of the building and Somerford Township occupies approximately 12% of the building. The 12% is considered to be a percent of usable space. It needs to be decided how the utility bills should be split amongst the three entities. Both Mr. Laney and Mr. Moran have been in contract with the MCEMD and Central Fire to secure a fair and equal way of paying these bills. Will touch back at the next meeting. Mr. Laney then presents the Board with a resolution that he drew up. It is regarding the fire levies for tax year 2020. Mr. Laney motions to accept the resolution stating that Somerford Township will not be cancelling the levies, they just will not be collected. Chairman Ernest Sparks seconds. A roll call is taken as follows: Bill Laney-in favor; James Moran-in favor; Ernest Sparks-in favor. The motion is passed.

Chairman Sparks then updates the Trustees on the 2019 Census stating that there was no significant change from the previous census conducted in 2010.

Being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer

Date: _____

Ernest Sparks, Chairman