

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

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

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

The Somerford Township Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at the Somerford Township Hall located at [91 St Rt 56](#) NW with all members present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and the minutes from the January, 2019 meeting were read and approved by the trustees.

The Somerford Trustees then reviewed and signed approval of the February 2019 payroll and bills. Amanda Knowles, Fiscal Officer, reports that there is no new news on her end.

Somerford Township Zoning Inspector, Brian Knowles, then updates the Board on the Richmond case and states that the BZA voted on a proposal for Mr. Richmond and his businesses. He must meet the standards of this permit and agree to allow the BZA members to inspect his property. If he meets all of the standards, they will grant him his conditional use permit. Mr. Knowles states that the Board of Zoning Appeals put forth a lot of time and energy in regards to this case, including Board member, John Hardesty, stopping by the Richmond property for a surprise visit in which Mr. Richmond welcomed him onto the property. At this time, Bob Binns and Paul Bennett are in attendance and voice their complaints with the agreement. They state that they are still concerned with the number of dogs on the property as well as the building permits related to all of the additional buildings that have been added on over the years. Mr. Knowles informs them that the permits are in the county's jurisdiction. He then informed the gentlemen that they can contact Dave Hughes, the Madison County Building and Zoning Inspector. Mr. Binns expresses that he does not feel that this proposal the BZA has come up with benefits him at all and he is still unhappy with the situation. Mr. Knowles encourages Mr. Binns to stay active and involved on the case and to be present for the future visits.

David Jeffers, cemetery sexton, informs the Board on the damage that was done from the previous storms that came through. He said there were multiple large limbs down that had to be removed. Trustee Laney then asks Mr. Jeffers how the new heat is working out and Mr. Jeffers reports it works great so far. At this time, the topic of whether or not Ag Pro is going to continue to uphold our lease agreement for the mowers is brought forth. Mandy Knowles reports that she has not heard back from Debi at Ag Pro on this topic and that she will reach out to her again. Vice Chairman Sparks

states that he received an email from Josh Schwift at Apple Farm Services related to the same topic. Mrs. Knowles will look into this as well.

Trustee Bill Laney then discusses the squad meeting that took place the week prior and informs the Board that the separation between the City of London and the Madison County Emergency Medical District is officially completed. Mr. Laney then informs the Board that Central Township's Chief as well as their Administration Office have been moved into the Somerford Township Building. Mr. Laney will be sitting down with both the Chief from Central Township as well as the MCEMD next month to discuss the breakdown of utilities now that we are all sharing the building. At this time, Mr. Laney requests that Mrs. Knowles get him an up to date chart of the utilities over the last two years since moving into the 91 Building. She will make sure to get this to Mr. Laney before his meeting with the Chiefs. At this time, Mr. Ken Petry, a member of the CLPOA Board of Trustees, stated that he had read the article in the paper related to the new Fire and EMS coverage and the increase from a 3 mill levy to a 7.5 mill levy associated with it. He called the County Auditor to ask what affect this would have on his property? He stated that the County Auditor gave him an estimated amount of money that his tax would increase by due to the EMS coverage and he was unsure how to justify this to the community. Chairman Moran explained the timing of the levies will come into effect as one will drop off and another will take over. He explained that since the squad will be running out of the Township Building, it is 5.5 miles closer to residents. This benefit does not cost any extra to taxpayers as it is covered in the 3 mill levy. Once Central Township covers Somerford Township's Fire needs in 2020, a fire truck will also be 5.5 miles closer to residents. Both the EMS as well as the Fire coverage will be just 1.5 miles from Choctaw Lake around the clock. Mr. Petry then states that he is unaware of where the other fire and EMS stations are? Mr. Moran states that there are three stations that are manned 24/7, and Somerford is the newest station and is manned full time 24/7, no volunteers are used at this location. EMS is full time people while Fire is made up of both full time and part time employees. Eventually the goal is to join Central and the EMS as one entity which should have a cost savings there. Mr. Petry states that he is very grateful for this information. Mr. Petry recalls a time when there was a fire and the help was just too far away to get there in time and that the closeness of the trucks running out of the Somerford Building is a great benefit. He states that he will spread the word of this newfound knowledge on the topic. Mr. Moran states that he can call anytime for more information or clarification. Mr. Sener Colis, a Somerford resident then asks for clarification on where the EMS would come from if someone at Choctaw Lake called them? Mr. Moran states that the squad at the Somerford Township would respond. Mr. Colis then asks the same question but related to fire coverage? Mr. Moran explains that for the remainder of 2019, The City of London will be responding, however, as of a month ago, Central's Fire Chief moved into the Somerford Building and he plans to bring a tanker to this location in the next few months. They will then respond as well.

Mr. Moran then updates the Board that the streetlight in the alley near the Somerford Building has been fixed. He touches base on the mower lease agreement and states that we have about 160-180 hours on the tractor that we will have to pay in the next few months. He then updates in regards to the second sleep room in the Somerford Building.

It's restoration is nearing completion and the flooring will be completed in the next few days. The room will be ready for use in approximately three weeks. The discussion was then turned to the street light that is out near the east gate entrance of Choctaw. The Board is unsure if this is a township or a county light. Mrs. Knowles will contact Ohio Edison and get this taken care of. While on the topic of street lights, the Board discusses the possibility of adding a street light where State Route 40 and Gwynne Road meet. They will touch back on this at a later time. Lastly, Mr. Moran informs the Board that Central Township stated at their last Fire meeting that they would be ordering a new tanker to be kept here at the Somerford Building. Once we become a full-fledged member of Central Township, the levies will need to be adjusted. Somerford Townships' 3.1 mill fire levy will need to be dropped and the new district levy with Central will begin in its place.

Before adjourning the meeting, Mr. Colis asks what the Township plans to do with the old Township Hall. He is informed that it will go to public auction later this year.

Being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer

Date: _____

James Moran, Chairman