

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, January 9, 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 December, 2018 meeting were read and approved by the trustees.

Mr. Richmond was in attendance related to the ongoing zoning case. Brian Knowles, Zoning Inspector, reiterated that Mr. Richmond's attorney and Prosecutor Pronai have spoken and that Mr. Richmond needs to move forward with an application for commercial use permit as well as a variance for the fence line as it is within 200 feet of the property line. Mr. Richmond then asked about the animal husbandry request and Mr. Knowles reminded him that his request was not permitted per Prosecutor Pronai. Mr. Knowles states that he will follow up with the prosecutor in the morning and that the Board of Zoning Appeals will be in touch to let him know when the next public hearing will take place.

At this time, the meeting was turned over to Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer. Mrs. Knowles asked for a motion to approve the permanent appropriations for fiscal year 2019. Ernest Sparks moved that these appropriations be approved, Bill Laney seconded; role call was taken and all were in favor, motion carried. Next, Mrs. Knowles told the trustees that she was accepting nominations for Chairman of the Board. Mr. Sparks nominated James Moran for that position and Bill Laney seconded. There were no objections; Mr. Moran is the 2019 Chairman by acclamation. Mr. Laney then nominated Ernest Sparks as the Vice Chairman. Mr. Moran seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Laney, Trustee, moved to re-appoint Amanda Knowles as the Fiscal Officer for 2019; Ernest Sparks seconded and there were no objections; motion carried. Mr. Laney also moved that Somerford Township will not exceed \$85,000 for medical insurance costs in 2019; Mr. Sparks seconded, all were in favor, motion carried. Appointment to committees for 2019 will be as follows: Mr. Laney - Madison County Emergency Medical District, Mr. Moran - Sewer & Water Board, Mr. Sparks - Regional Planning Commission.

The Somerford Trustees then reviewed and signed approval of the January 2019 payroll

and bills. Amanda Knowles, Fiscal Officer, reports to the Trustees that there is a discrepancy on the 2018 year's bank reconciliations that cannot be found in 2018. UAN support has been utilized and they believe the discrepancy was made in a previous year and that it may be helpful to find a neighboring clerk to take a look at the bank reconciliations. Mr. Laney states that he will reach out to the MCEMD clerk and see if she may be of some assistance. The Trustees approve the bank reconciliations as they are at this time.

Somerford Township Zoning Inspector, Brian Knowles, then updates the Board on the Richmond case and states that the BZA is working on a permit for Mr. Richmond to agree to and only then will they accept his variance. He also states that another BZA member is needed to complete the Board. Will touch back on this topic at a later time. Mr. Knowles moves on to the Old BP property that Frank Ward owns. The old permit is very vague and does not seem to state how many vehicles Mr. Ward can have on the property. Mr. Knowles did find in old meeting minutes, it was stated that 25 cars were approved. In 1996, Mr. Ward's property was approved as a Car and Repair Shop. The property owner informed that the storage containers on the property needed to be moved but that request was never granted. Mr. Knowles will follow up. A second property, the Corsin property, was approved in 2013 to store impound vehicles with a fence around the vehicles. The fence is no longer in working order. Mr. Knowles states that he will send a certified letter to the property owner. Lastly, Mr. Knowles reports on the Blake residence that has been reported to have trash in the alley way. On the occasions that Mr. Knowles has checked on the property, there has been no trash visible. He will continue to follow up.

Chairman James Moran informs the Board that the John Deere dealership was sold and he is unsure if our lease agreement will remain intact. If the lease is dissolved, he suggests looking elsewhere for leasing options before purchasing equipment. Mr. Moran will look into this further.

Trustee Bill Laney then takes the floor. He discusses that there are multiple exterior lights on the building that are not working. Mr. Moran states he will contact Doug Martin and see if he can tend to these fixtures. Mr. Laney then discusses the invitation the Trustees received from the Commissioner to start working on the Comprehensive Plan. A meeting will be held January 30 and all Trustees are in agreement that they should be in attendance to represent Somerford Township. Mr. Laney will RSVP yes. Mr. Laney then updates the Board on the status of Central Township and states that they may be here in the Township Building sooner than anticipated. Three trucks will soon be here and will be fully staffed out of the Township Building. Mr. Moran states that the London Fire coverage will not change for this year as the City of London did not grant Somerford Township their request to terminate their fire coverage agreement.

Being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer

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

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James Moran, Chairman