

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, March 13, 2019 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 February, 2019 meeting were read and approved by the trustees.

The Somerford Trustees reviewed and signed approval of the March 2019 payroll and bills as well as the January and February bank reconciliations. Amanda Knowles, Fiscal Officer, reports to the Trustees that a Liquor permit request was received due to ownership changing of the Good Fellas Drive Thru on State Route 56. Ms. Knowles also informed the Board that Ohio Edison was contacted about the street light that was out at the East entrance of Choctaw Lake. A thank you card was received from the Yoga Club at Choctaw Lake for allowing them to use the Somerford Township Building for their class. OTARMA is sending an updated packet for Township safety updates and it will be brought to the Boards once it is received.

Somerford Township Zoning Inspector, Brian Knowles, reminds the Board that a fifth member is still needed for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Their next meeting is April 9th. Mr. Knowles updates the Board on the properties previously discussed that are not in compliance with their permits. He will follow up on these properties and send out letters to those that need to be contacted again. Lastly, Mr. Knowles gives an update on the Richmond case. Mr. Richmond has reached out seeking thoughts on possibly putting up a new building that will allow him to stop using the current building that is sitting on the property line and is not compliant. Will update news as it is received.

Cemetery Sexton, Dave Jeffers, then goes into more detail about the mowing agreement with Ag Pro. He has been in touch with Joe Mitchell and he has informed Mr. Jeffers that Ag Pro will uphold the rental agreement the Township previously held with John Deere. Mr. Jeffers also got an estimate from Peterman Tree Service for cleaning up the small cemetery in Somerford. Mr. Jeffers then states that a culvert near the cemetery house may have collapsed. He will call and have someone come out to look at it. Lastly, Mr. Jeffers states that the part-time employees at the cemetery have asked for a raise. Ms. Knowles will look into the budget and bring estimated raise increases to the next meeting for the Trustees to review.

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Trustee Bill Laney takes the floor at this time. He informs the Board that the County Engineer's Office reached out related to the increase in gas tax. He states that they would like for the Somerford Township Trustees to pass a resolution supporting the increase. Mr. Laney will look into this more and reach out to Senator Bob Hackett for more information. The next topic is the new Comprehensive Plan. Chairman Moran states that the county trustees will be rounding on each township with the maps for the plan. Somerford would like to get the cemetery out of the commercial district. More to follow in the coming weeks. Lastly, Mr. Laney updates the group on the squad meeting he attended. The splitting of the utilities at the Somerford Township Hall was discussed and the average cost of utilities per month was broken down. They will revisit this topic at their next meeting and decide on how to evenly distribute the utilities. Another topic discussed at the squad meeting was the plowing of the Township parking lot. It is vital that the squad is able to get out when there is bad weather. At this time, Jeff Matheson, will be the first to plow the township hall lot with Somerford as the backup.

Chairman James Moran states that he attended the Madison County Sheriff meeting in order to send off Sheriff Jim Sabin who will be retiring at the end of the week. Lt. John Swaney will step up as the interim sheriff. He said it was a great send off for Sheriff Sabin. Lastly, he reminded Mr. Jeffers about the cleaning of the public ditches and to always have gloves on as there have been increased cases of fentanyl exposure. Mr. Jeffers will take this information back to his part time employees as well.

Being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer

Date: _____

James Moran, Chairman