

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

James Moran, Trustee
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, March 11, 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 February, 2020 meeting were read and approved by the trustees. The Somerford Trustees reviewed and signed approval of the March 2020 payroll and bills.

Rob Slane, County Administrator, and his constituents, Julie and Sarah, attended the meeting to discuss their plans for the Somerford Water Project. Sarah handed out brochures and a calendar of events put in place thus far. Rob then explains that the water will go up State Route 56 to US 40 and run east from there. The comp plan was then reviewed. The Somerford Trustees state that they'd like one area to be changed to agricultural but the committee would like to keep it commercial for future projects. The committee states that they'll give the trustees time to review the comp plan and they'd like approval on it within the week. The trustees agree.

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer reports the data she has collected on the surrounding townships and their cemetery rates. Somerford Township has not increased rates since 2015 and is below average in the areas of purchasing of graves and opening and closing graves. It is suggested that the In-Township cost of a grave purchase be increased from \$300 to \$400, the cost of out-of-township graves increase from \$2000 to \$2100 and the opening and closing of a grave increase from \$600 to \$800. It will remain an additional \$200 for openings and closings on weekends and holidays. These increases will take effect April 1, 2020. Trustee James Moran moves motion to accept these increases, Vice Chairman Laney seconds the motion and the motion is passed.

Somerford Township Zoning Inspector, Brian Knowles, reports that the Frank Ward property has had some improvement as many tires have been removed from the location. He will continue to work with Mr. Ward to get the property cleaned up further.

Trustee James Moran then informs the Board of the information he has obtained on the new mowers. He found that the 54” mowers that are needed can be purchased outright or they can be signed to a 2 or 3 year lease agreement. Mr. Moran goes on to explain that the amount given back at the end of the lease agreement is contingent upon hours ridden and therefore it makes more sense to purchase the mowers. It would cost around \$17,000 to do so. He makes a motion to purchase the mowers and Trustee Laney seconds that motion. The motion is passed at this time. Mr. Moran and Dave Jeffers, Cemetery Sexton, make plans to go look at the mowers the following morning. The last item Mr. Moran addresses is the Rafferty Family’s request to receive deeds to the graves surrounding where their loved ones are already buried. They believe they already owned the rights to those graves but do not have the original deeds to prove so. After much review with Prosecutor Pronai, Mr. Moran found that that land has never been surveyed and therefore it cannot be sold as a grave site. It would cost the township a large sum of money to have it surveyed as well as to dig the area up to make sure there are no bodies already in those locations. Ms. Knowles will draw up a letter for the Rafferty Family explaining the circumstances and bring it to the following meeting.

Vice Chairman Bill Laney touches back on the previously discussed topic of splitting the bills with MEMD and Central Fire now that they are both in the building full time. He states that it was a topic of discussion on the agenda for the next EMS meeting and he will report back at the next meeting.

Being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Amanda Knowles, Somerford Township Fiscal Officer

Date: _____

Bill Laney, Vice Chairman