

SAGAMORE HILLS TOWNSHIP – REGULAR

Monday, March 14, 2011 – media notified

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Snell at 7:00 pm. R/C Barrett-present; Hunt-present; Snell-present; Fiscal Officer Gale-present.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Mr. Barrett moved to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Monday, February 14, 2011; Seconded by Mr. Hunt. R/C Vote: Hunt-aye; Barrett-aye; Snell-abstain.

Mrs. Snell moved to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Special Meeting adjourned on January 13, 2011 and reconvened on Friday, March 4, 2011; Seconded by Mr. Hunt. R/C Vote: all in favor.

PENDING WARRANTS

Mr. Barrett moved to approve the Pending Warrant Report dated February 2011 in the amount of \$279,630.43. Seconded by Mr. Hunt. R/C Vote: Hunt-aye; Barrett-aye; Snell-abstain.

WEB SITE

Mrs. Snell reported the web site statistics for February 2011 were 1,512 visitors; 1,004 were unique visitors; 3,286 pages were viewed.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Hunt moved to AMEND **RESOLUTION 5-96** to revise the job description for the Road Department General Laborer. Seconded by Mrs. Snell. R/C Vote: all in favor.

Mrs. Snell moved to AMEND **RESOLUTION 56-09** to contribute legal fees to the County Prosecutor in a lawsuit against NEORS. Seconded by Mr. Barrett. R/C Vote: all in favor.

Mrs. Snell moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 11-12** to approve a "Then and Now" Certificate. Seconded by Mr. Hunt. R/C Vote: all in favor.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 11-13** to approve the securance of the unsafe structure at 1380 Ashford Glen. Seconded by Mrs. Snell. R/C Vote: all in favor.

Two appraisals will be obtained. Securance can take place after a thirty day notice is given to the property's owners, builders, contractors and the bank. A lien will be placed on the property for the cost if the Township pays for the securance.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department

Mrs. Snell reported on the statistics for February 2011: Dispatch handled 574 calls for service. Handed out 681 "Patrolled Your Area Cards."

The Investigative Section received twelve (12) investigations and closed ten (10) of them.

Two (2) Letters of Commendation were received, praising members of the Department for their dedication to duty.

The Dispatch Supervisor completed fifteen (15) hours of on-line training in "Public Safety Answering Points' Best Practices for Missing and Exploited Children."

Sagamore Hills Police Detective David Piekarski was named one of the Summit County Prosecutor's Top Cops. His recent investigation and conviction of the Augusta Lane arson was documented in Sherri Bevan Walsh's newsletter.

Roads

Mr. Hunt: Plowed and salted roads; repaired mail boxes; cold patched roads; cleaned up after heavy rains and put back driveway after washout. Repaired backhoe tie rod; cleaned trucks; changed oil in Township car. Pushed in salt; cleaned up stockpile yard and made miscellaneous repairs in road department and township.

We will adopt a new reimbursement policy on mailbox casualties prior to next winter.

Fire/EMS

Capt. Risko: Fire District had 85 total runs; 70 were EMS runs; 14 were fire runs and 1 mutual aid. Northfield Center 25 EMS and 5 fire; Sagamore Hills 45 EMS and 9 fire.

Four (4) inspectors were sent for training and now their credentials are in order for inspections to be performed in both townships. Four (4) letters of thanks have been received from residents for calls in February. The District received a letter of thanks from Sherri Bevan Walsh for assistance in the Augusta Lane fire and contribution in the arson conviction. Two (2) fire fighters will be sent to school to be certified for the checking and approval of children's car seats. Parents can take the car seats to the fire station to be inspected.

Zoning

Mr. Barrett: There were two (2) zoning permits issued for a total of \$70.00. These permits included a fence for the BP Pipeline on Sagamore Road and a deck.

Fiscal Officer

Mr. Gale presented the Fiscal Officer's February 2011 report with a beginning balance of \$5,196,052.60; PLUS memo receipts at \$521.39 plus revenue receipts of \$286,015.10; MINUS \$280,151.82 (memo expenditures of \$521.39 and pending warrants of \$279,630.43); ending balance was \$5,202,437.27.

Trustees

Mr. Barrett: Thirty-day notices have been sent out to the bank, homeowner, and any other involved parties regarding the demolition of 8280 Augusta Lane. After April 1st, the Township will be reviewing bids for the demolition.

The Zoning Department is working on zoning changes that will be implemented soon. The issues include temporary signs, kiddie amusement parks, outdoor hydronic heaters and internet cafés.

Mrs. Snell: The Rabies Vaccination Clinic for dogs and cats will be held in the township park on May 7th from 10 am to 2 pm.

A free shredding day will be held in Macedonia on July 23rd from 9 am to noon.

Summit Soil and Water is selling rain barrel kits; rain garden plant kits which include 38 potted native plants that are available for \$105.00; and soil test kits that are available for \$12.00.

The Summit County Health Department is now one district located on Graham Road. The District includes Akron, Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls and Summit County. A list of the services and phone numbers is posted on the Township web site.

Mrs. Snell and Mr. Hunt attended a meeting with the new CEO of Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare Facility in Sagamore Hills. Some of the Cleveland patients will be moved to the Sagamore Facility when the Cleveland campus is closed in July. The forensic patients will be moved to Columbus. The Sagamore patients will be treated short-term and then moved to a halfway house or group home. An addition will be built on the building; a new locking system with double locks will be added; and a courtyard will be built in order to keep the patients on the grounds. This will provide a more controlled environment.

Mr. Hunt added there will not be any outpatient services performed at this facility. The typical stay will be 10 to 12 days. The faculty feels that all mental illness is controllable with medication. The patients will always be in one building and will be escorted by an officer if they need to go to another building.

NEW BUSINESS

Baseball season will be starting and Mr. Hunt would like to bring the first part-time summer employee back around April 1st. The park facilities will be operational prior to that date. Mr. Hunt would also like to announce that the Township will be accepting applications from Sagamore Hills residents. These applicants should be high school or college students. The employees will work less than 1500 hours during the summer and their hours will be tracked on their pay stub. The Trustees authorized the return of the part-time summer employees.

CITIZENS' FORUM

Gary Spriggs from Eaton Estates asked about the definition of demolition for the Augusta Lane house and also what degree below ground the demolition will take place. Mr. Barrett explained there will be a complete removal of the entire infrastructure. The house will be taken down; the basement will be filled; driveway and sidewalk will be removed. There will be a clean lot remaining. Mr. Barrett explained the Bank of New York is the owner of the lot and the Township will not maintain the property after the demolition. The demolition will take place sometime during the month of April.

Paul DiPiero complimented the Township Road Crew on the snow removal. Mr. DiPiero then asked about the proposed purchase of the school property. Mrs. Snell answered Legal is working with the school to determine a price for the property. That determination must be made in order to decide whether or not to put a levy on the ballot this fall.

Frank Kopas said he is in favor of going to the community for a vote on the land purchase. He asked if there is a designation for land use. Mrs. Snell answered the designation would be a determination on the deed. It would be a restriction. The 192 acres that the Township owns is designated as green space only.

Mr. DiPiero questioned if the Board could consider snow removal on the bike trail. Mrs. Snell explained the Metro Park does not have the equipment, funding or personnel to do it. Some residents cross country ski on the trails. The only area that is cleared is Sand Run in Akron. Sagamore Hills clears the Township trail around the park and the connector trail for residents who enjoy walking in the winter months. There is a safety and liability issue. Mr. DiPiero asked if private citizens can clear some of the bike trail near their homes because the streets are not safe. Mrs. Snell answered the liability would fall on the person who cleared the trail as well as the Township. The Township does not have the authority to give permission to clear the trail. Mr. Barrett added the Township made that request to the Metro Park some time ago and received a negative reply. Mr. Hunt said the Cleveland Metro Park in Walton Hills is generally plowed and would provide a safe area for running and walking. A resident commented that Greenwood is a good place to run. They walk the streets there all the time. Mr. Barrett said he would ask the Metro Park if it is permissible for private citizens to clear a section of the trail.

Gary Spriggs commented he is a trail maintenance volunteer in the Cleveland Metro Park. Summit County has the same program. The volunteers must attend an eight (8) week course in order to be a part of this program. The volunteers do not work in the winter to remove snow because the conditions of the black top surface cannot be restored to safe running conditions once the snow is removed.

Mr. Kopas commented that he found part of the trail plowed in January and February and was able to walk there. He was not sure who plowed it.

Jason Schmidt commented on communication between the security at Northcoast and the Sagamore Hills Police Department. Mrs. Snell answered that there is communication between the two departments. Mr. Hunt answered that the first call from Northcoast goes to Sagamore Hills Police.

Mr. Schmidt explained the lack of communication in the past when there was a walk off at Northcoast. He felt the Sagamore Hills Police were unaware of the issue. Mrs. Snell answered the communications will be opened and the Sagamore Hills Police will be notified immediately. The security will now be tightened and patients will not be able to leave the courtyard. There used to be a campus where the patients could walk away. The Township will be meeting with the faculty every 30 days in the beginning and then every 90 days.

Jack Donnelly wanted to verify that none of the violent patients will be housed at Northcoast. Mrs. Snell answered that those patients would be moved to Columbus. Mr. Donnelly wondered if there is a way to verify that the state is not bringing those patients into the facility. He asked if some of the residents were able to attend the 90 day meetings and ask questions. Mr. Hunt answered that there is a privacy issue for the patients.

Mr. Donnelly discussed a phone chain that was used years ago. It was put into place to call the neighbors when there was a walk away. That never happened but the neighbors did get a call when the patient was found and returned to the facility. Mr. Hunt explained there are changes now in the state government and the appointment of a new head of the mental health department in the state. They are interested in doing the right thing for the patients and the right thing for the community.

It was asked if the township facility is equipped to do a reverse 911. Mr. Hunt explained that the reverse 911 comes from the Emergency Management Association in Akron. Chief Hayes can notify residents via the internet to cell phones that are registered on Nixle.

Mr. Kopas asked if the additional beds being put into Northcoast was going to be a tax burden on the residents or would there be a tax advantage. Mrs. Snell answered that the hospital would be in contact with the police but not any additional costs to the Township. They are tax exempt like the schools. They will stay in touch with the police, fire and EMS. We do not have to send security there because they have their own security. Mr. Kopas wondered if they would demand better roads, street lights, etc. Mrs. Snell explained Sagamore Road is owned by four (4) communities and most of the people will be coming in from the west on Alexander Road. Capt. Risko explained this is a state operated facility and the state fire marshal has complete control of all inspections and Capt. Risko is the local Fire Marshal and assists with the inspections. He made sure that all of the locks would be changed to new locks that patients could not open. Their police department is being improved with personnel being moved here from Cleveland. The only time our police would be utilized is during an extreme emergency. The call would come in through our dispatch because this is in our jurisdiction. If fire and EMS are called, it is a billable expense. There will only be two (2) buildings that have residents.

Mrs. Snell asked Dave Smith, Summit County Engineer Representative, about road reflectors on Chaffee Road that the snow plows are hitting with the plows. A letter was sent to the County Engineer regarding this issue and Mr. Smith will check on the status of removing the reflectors.

There was no further business. Chair Snell moved to adjourn at 8:03 pm. Seconded by Mr. Hunt. R/C Vote: all in favor.