

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING/MAY 15, 2002

The regular meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Nourse, with Ms. Keller, Mr. Wharton and Mrs. Easter present. Also attending were: Chief Lavelly, Dave McAninch, John Holderby, Elizabeth Anderson and Donetta Brock. (See attached list)

Mr. Wharton introduced two Brownies from Troop 1444 from Cypress Wesleyan Church to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the minutes as written for the regular meeting on May 1, 2002 and the special meeting on May 6, 2002. Vote; Aye.

Chief Lavelly addressed the Board with the following Fire Department matters:

1. April 19th there was an EMS run on Galloway Road and an 11 year old child called 911 and assisted the medics with medical information and control of younger siblings at the scene. Engine 241 crew were in attendance: Station Capt. Mark Good and Firefighters Dale Spring, Mike Altomare and Dave Baumgardner. Mark Altomare described the situation and explained the assistance given by Landon and Amanda Reeves. A certificate was presented to Landon Reeves and Amanda Reeves on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Fire Department. Chief Lavelly stated that a letter of commendation will be in Capt. Mark Good and Firefighters Dave Baumgardner and Dan Gatley's file for assistance given to a resident on S. Murray Hill who lost several fingers in a lawn mower accident. The firemen completed mowing the residents lawn.
2. Fire hydrant flushing is complete.
3. Mr. Nourse discussed House Bill 403 "The Uniform Building Code Bill" which is before the legislature at this time. The state wants to have a statewide building code, whatever the minimum requirement is will also be the maximum requirement (Mini-Max Building Code). Prairie Township is opposed to this bill. Mr. Nourse recommended all residents write state representative, Larry Wolpert, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee and oppose this bill.

The Clerk presented the following items:

1. The Clerk presented a resolution awarding the contract and approving contract bond to Darby Creek Excavating, Inc. for the Hilton Avenue Project (\$394,366.38).

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board award the Hilton Avenue Road Improvement Project to Darby Creek Excavating, as the low bidder in the amount of \$394,366.38. The contract was presented to the Trustees for signature. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Nourse; Aye. (Resolution 6-02).

2. The Clerk presented a letter of agreement for engineering services from Feller, Finch & Associates, Inc. for a planning study for roadway improvements in Prairie Township. Elie Sabbagh addressed the Board and explained the contract and the fee which will cover survey work that will need to be completed. The contract will address and prioritize 12 areas in the Township as a result of a meeting and tour of the Township by Ms. Keller, Trustee, Dave McAninch; Road Superintendent and Elie Sabbagh with Feller Finch & Associates. This agreement is in conjunction with the Township comprehensive plan which is currently being produced and the study will result in a cost associated with the needed improvements.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve entering into an agreement for engineering services for a planning study for roadway improvements in Prairie Township with Feller, Finch & Associates, Inc. at a total cost of \$7,000.00 and

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completion of the work would be 30 days from the authorization to proceed date. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Nourse; Aye.

Deputy Foos addressed the Board and stated that he was available for questions. Mr. Nourse inquired as to when the Sheriff's Department will vacate their facility inside Westland Mall and Deputy Foos was not aware of this. Mr. Holderby stated that he has been receiving calls on drug dealing and prostitution at night at 320 S. Grener Avenue.

Mr. Janey and Mr. Baer, Alkire Road, addressed the Board regarding ATV activity in the rear of their properties. Ms. Liz Anderson addressed the Board and explained the recent zoning efforts on this issue. Bill Loveland, Township legal counsel, have drafted an opinion to the property owner stating that they are infringing on the quiet enjoyment of the neighbors property. The letter was forwarded to the property owner in the fall of last year. This spring the problem has surfaced again and the zoning department has demanded the property owner abatement the activity and referred to the previous opinion from legal counsel. Ms. Anderson stated that this is also a civil nuisance which is not a Township issue. Mr. Nourse recommended Mr. Janey and Mr. Baer hire an attorney to address the civil aspect of this issue or put up a fence.

3. The Memorial Day services are scheduled for Galloway Cemetery at 9:30 a.m. and Alton Cemetery at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, May 27, 2002. The area churches and newspapers have been notified.
4. The Clerk reported that several noxious weed complaints have been received earlier than normal this year due to the mild winter and rainy spring. These type of complaints are normally not responded to prior to June 1st.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Keller seconded the Board approve the Clerk to address and process noxious weed complaints effective May 20, 2002.

5. A contract was presented from Bischoff Miller & Associates, LLC for professional engineering services for Prairie Township. Rick Miller, Bischoff Miller & Associates, addressed the Board and explained the contract which allows for a provision that does not prohibit the Township from contracting with other engineering companies for services. The contract states that the engineer shall attend meetings at the request of the Board. The annual contract fee is \$300.00. Mr. Nourse stated that he would like to table this contract until the next meeting allowing further time for review.

After the Trustees reviewed the pending warrant list, Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the payment of the ADP payroll in the amount of \$59,586.58 and approve payment of the following bills (See pending warrant list).
Vote; Aye.

Dave McAninch, Road Superintendent, addressed the Board with the following Road/Cemetery Department matters:

1. Dave McAninch recommended reducing the retainage on the 2001 Road Improvement Contract with Miller Pavement Maintenance, Inc. holding \$5,000.00 to complete seeding and correct a water problem on Darbyhurst Rd. Change orders will be forthcoming. The retainage is \$34,887.67, the recommendation is to pay Miller Pavement Maintenance \$29,887.67, with the Township retaining \$5,000.00.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve releasing \$29,887.67 of the retainage to Miller Pavement Maintenance for the 2001 Road Improvement Project based on the recommendation of the Franklin County Engineers and Dave McAninch. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Nourse; Aye.

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2. The Franklin County Engineers are in the final stages of putting the 2002 Road Improvement package together for bidding and advertising. Several issues were raised that the Board needed to address. Handicap ramps are being installed to comply with ADA standards and no sidewalks exist in these areas. The areas are as follows:

Between 4923 and 4933 Malden Way approx. 145' of sidewalk
The estimate to replace is \$5,000.00

Between 8488 and 8472 Blue Lake Ave. approx. 95' of sidewalk
The estimate to replace is \$3,500.00

Between 8445 and 8429 Blue Lake Ave. approx. 65' of sidewalk
The sidewalk to replace is \$2,500.00

Mr. Nourse recommended Dave McAninch have these three areas surveyed by the Franklin County Engineers before the Board agrees to include these in the 2002 road work. This item will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Also, with the 2002 project, there are areas where residents have put asphalt over their sidewalk into their approach. Dave McAninch recommended, as in 2001, the resident is responsible for the area of the driveway to be replaced on the home side of the sidewalk. The resident will be given an estimate to sign. The addresses area as follows: 4905, 4923, 4933 Malden Way and 340 Danhurst Road. Dave McAninch recommended the Board proceed using the same procedure as last year.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve, in conjunction with the 2002 road improvement project, the resident is responsible for the area of the driveway to be replaced on the home side of the sidewalk at 4905, 4923 and 4933 Malden Way and 340 Danhurst Road. The resident will be given an estimate to sign. Vote; Aye.

Also, in conjunction with the 2002 pavement contract, there are several homes with sidewalk that is rutilized and cannot be poured against. The road superintendent recommended these areas be replaced on a case by case basis, as they were handled last year, and included in the contract.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the Road Superintendent handle on a case by case basis, a situation when a clean pour cannot be made against a sidewalk that the sidewalk be replaced and added to the 2002 road improvement project. Vote; Aye.

3. The pre-construction meeting, for the Hilton Avenue project, will be held May 22, 2002 at 10:00 a.m., at 23 Maple Drive which will be posted as a special meeting.
4. The road superintendent asked Buck & Sons for a landscape drawing for the green areas in Lake Darby for the June 12, 2002 meeting at the Hubbard Road firehouse. The request was for a landscape design for a walking path around the perimeter and a mounded area with plantings to buffer sound and sight and some tree plantings throughout, possibly a recreation area for younger children. A preliminary drawing would be available by June 12, 2002 from Buck & Sons. The price range for the drawing is from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Dave McAninch inquired with another company and is waiting for the additional estimate. Mr. Nourse is inclined to get a ribbon and tape measurer and visit the site with the Road Superintendent on May 16, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. to further "nail down what we are looking for" before a drawing is initiated. Drainage issues in these areas are of concern. John Holderby volunteered his time and will donate the trees for the parks in Darby Estates from his personal tree farm.

A resident from 814 Doherty Road addressed the Board as there is a water problem in the rear of his property. The City of Columbus has cut a field tile that leads to a catch basin. The developer, the contractor that installed the sewer, and the City of Columbus

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are "passing the buck" and he is not making any progress and asked the Board for advice. Mr. Gary Palatas at the Franklin County Engineers office will be contacted by Jeff Nourse in the morning regarding this issue.

5. Dave McAninch presented the Board with his proposed budget for the balance of 2002.
6. Roadrunner service was discussed for the Road Department facility and the Hubbard Road firehouse. Last meeting a discussion was held with the computer consultant regarding DSL service which will not be available at these locations for approximately 2 years. The installation fee, for both sites, will be \$799.90 and the monthly rate for both locations, with a 2 year contract, will be \$134.94 per month.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the installation of Road Runner at the Road Department facility and Hubbard Road firehouse. The installation fee, for both sites will be \$799.90 and monthly rate for both locations of \$134.94 for a 2 year contract. Vote; Aye.

7. A resident inquired as to when Carl Frye Park will be mowed. The Road Superintendent stated that the park will be mowed on May 16, 2002 and plans are to spray for weeds in the near future.

Mr. John Holderby, Acting Zoning Inspector, addressed the Board with the following Zoning Department issues:

1. John Holderby advised the Board that Lani Cunningham resigned from the Zoning Commission effective immediately.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board accept the resignation of Ms. Lani Cunningham from the Zoning Commission effective immediately. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the appointment of Ms. Joyce Benedetto to the Zoning Commission to fulfill the unexpired term of Ms. Lani Cunningham ending December 31, 2004. Vote; Aye.

2. Mr. John Holderby recommended the appointment of Ms. Cindy Sheets to fulfill the unexpired term of Ms. Barb Swain ending December 31, 2004 to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the appointment of Ms. Cindy Sheets to the Board of Zoning Appeals to fulfill the unexpired term of Ms. Barb Swain ending December 31, 2005. Vote; Aye.

Ms. Elizabeth Anderson, Assistant Zoning Inspector, addressed the Board with the following Zoning Department issues:

1. Ms. Anderson advised the Board of her discussions with the Road Department and Fire Department and their digital camera needs and concerns. The Zoning Assistant recommended the purchase of five (5) digital cameras for the Township: 1 for the Road Department, 1 for the Zoning Department and 3 for the Fire Department. The governmental pricing with CDW-G for each camera is: \$345.00, each carrying case \$15.00, each battery \$42.00, a 2 year additional warranty on each camera is \$59.95 and freight on each camera is \$4.67. The total cost for each camera is \$466.62. All five cameras will cost \$2,333.10

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the purchase of 5 digital cameras from CDW-G for the Township (1 for Zoning, 1 for Road, 3 for the Fire Department) at a total cost of \$2,333.10. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Nourse; Aye.

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Ms. Joyce Benedetto, addressed the Board with concerns about a neighbor that has chickens and bees in their back yard. The current zoning code indicated that no barn animals are permitted in an R-6 district although the Zoning Department stated that the law is not clear and the Township cannot regulate. The precedent has already been set with a previous issue which effects the entire township.

Mr. Griffith and his sons John Griffith (7th grader at Norton Middle School) & David Griffith (4th grader at Prairie Lincoln) addressed the Board with a proposal to install a skate boarding park in the township for pre-teens, teens and young adults to exercise and socialize. Pictures were presented from a similar park in Lancaster, Ohio. Grandview and Bexley have outdoor skate parks at this time. Mr. Nourse suggested the Griffith boys organize a group of young adults with ideas and to develop a layout for a perfect park and Mr. Nourse suggested that the boys come back to the meeting on June 11 for the public review of the comprehensive plan. Mr. Wharton stated that the limited liability law went into effect 90 days after it was voted on and encouraged the boys to continue to proceed forward with this proposal.

Ms. Ann Cronin, 250 Pasadena Avenue, addressed the Board regarding the 3rd Annual Block Party scheduled for June 9 from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. and requested the closing of Pasadena south of 311 and 312 Pasadena and north of 250 and 251 Pasadena. Signatures from the residents were presented.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approved the road closure and Fire Department assisting in the closure of Pasadena Avenue south of 311 and 312 and north of 250 and 251. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Nourse addressed the stormwater issues and problems that exist in the township. The first attempt to address the stormwater problems was through a ditch petition on Tamara Avenue with the idea of keeping Tamara clean. The overall problem is the amount of stormwater coming south from inappropriate development by Columbus. The Phillips property extends north and south of W. Broad Street. The Phillips property is not a “township only” adventure. The City of Columbus was attempting to buy the land and, under the new annexation law, if the City of Columbus owns the property, they may annex the land with the voice vote of Counsel. The property is adjacent to the Galbreath property (approx. 3,700 acres). Mr. Nourse has been talking with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding effectively controlling the stormwater in the Hellbranch. The Corps of Engineers recommended a detention mechanism north and south of W. Broad Street. The mechanism south of Broad Street should be at least mid-point in the township. With the detention mechanism north of Broad Street, the notion is to slow down the water from Hamilton Groff allowing the water from Clover Groff to vent more quickly and a slow release of the water from Clover Groff. Nature Conservancy was interested in buying the Phillips property for restoration to include a series of damming or slow release devices. The Corps of Engineers feels that the restoration of the Phillips property would improve the flooding problem that exists. Prairie Township will purchase the property from Nature Conservancy for \$160,000.00 and we are 1-1 ½ years away from beginning to correct this problem. Ms. Keller stated that the decision on the grant money will be made by June 14, 2002. Dr. Gutheil’s property, 92 acres on O’Harra Road, is the low point of the area south of the Phillips property and will flood. The Corps of Engineers recommend that this area is best suited for a lake. Mr. Nourse stated that if the purchase of the Phillips property does not materialize, there is no reason to pursue the Gutheil property.

Mr. Nourse recommended a special meeting on May 22, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. with Mr. Brett Bergefurd, Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District to discuss Phase II Stormwater Management. No decision will be made at this time but the meeting will be posted in three places in the township and open to the public.

Ms. Stalter asked several questions regarding the Phillips property and the value of the Gutheil property. Prairie Township has had an appraisal done on the Gutheil property

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and Dr. Gutheil is currently having another appraisal done. Mr. Nourse stated that the Phillips property is central to any fix to the stormwater problem. The Township is attempting to work harder and smarter rather than continue to “band-aid” the problem.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve signing the 2002 Hellbranch Watershed Forum Cooperative Agreement in conjunction with Brown, Pleasant, and Norwich Township as well as Franklin County, City of Columbus, City of Hilliard and Grove City. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Nourse stated that the water and sewer agreement is available for review for Village Park and the other agreements will be available for review in the near future.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk