

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING/JUNE 26, 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 Ms. Easter present. Also attending were: Chief Lavelly, Dave McAninch, John Holderby, Elizabeth Anderson and Donetta Brock, Anisha Riebel, and Captain Sanders. (See attached list).

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the minutes as written for the regular meeting on June 12, 2002. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Nourse led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk presented the following items:

1. A resignation has been received from Bruce Brock, township hall cleaning service, effective July 1, 2002.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board accept the resignation of Bruce Brock as township hall cleaning service. Vote; Aye.

2. The following trustee meeting changes, during the 2002 Holiday season, were suggested by the Clerk. The recommended change for Thanksgiving week meeting is Tuesday, November 26th 7:00 p.m. and Christmas week on Monday, December 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the meeting changes as follows:

Tuesday, November 26th 7:00 p.m. (in place of the November 27th meeting) and Monday, December 23rd at 7:00 p.m. (in place of the December 25th meeting).
Vote; Aye.

3. The Clerk referred to the meeting of 9/20/00 where a 3 year base wage raise was approved and 2002 is the third year. The increase for 2002 is 5 ½% and will be effective the first full pay period in July, 2002. This increase will be effective for employees employed by the Township on September 20, 2000 when the motion was initially made to include: Zoning Department, Road Department, Dispatchers, Fire Chief, Fire Captain and all full-time Firemen.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve a base wage raise increase of 5 ½% effective the first full pay period of July 2002 for employees employed by the Township on September 20, 2000 to include: Zoning Department, Road Department, Dispatchers, Fire Chief, Fire Captain and all full-time Firemen. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Nourse; Aye.

4. Ms. Keller addressed the Zoning Inspector position and recommended to the Board a rate increase for Ms. Elizabeth Anderson, after 90 days of employment, and title change to Zoning Inspector. Ms. Keller recommended Mr. John Holderby's title be Field Inspector and these changes to be effective June 26, 2002.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the hourly increase of \$16.35/hr for Elizabeth Anderson, title to be Zoning Inspector and title change for John Holderby to Field Inspector effective June 26, 2002. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Nourse; Aye.

5. The Clerk informed the Board that an annexation petition was received on 15+/- acres east of Galloway Road on West Broad Street. Hearing date is scheduled for August 7, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Commissioners hearing room, Franklin County Courthouse.

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After the Trustees viewed the pending warrant list, Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the payment of the ADP payroll in the amount of \$66,896.90 and approve payment of the following bills (see pending warrant list).

Chief Lavelly appeared before the Board with the following Fire Department matters:

1. The Annual Fish Fry is going to be held this Friday and Saturday and raffle tickets are available.
2. Lt. Kern broke his hand off duty and is requesting disability leave. He will take two days sick leave and then will be off on disability if approved by the Board. Mr. Nourse asked if there was another type of position he could do while recovering and Chief indicated that there was not. The estimated time off will be determined after the first of July when Lt. Kern will visit the doctor.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve disability leave for Lt. Ron Kern based on the recommendation of the Fire Chief effective June 25, 2002. Vote; Aye.

3. Chief Lavelly requested vacation from August 5-16, 2002.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Fire Chief take vacation from August 5-16, 2002. Vote; Aye.

Dave McAninch, Road Superintendent appeared before the Board with the following Road Department matters:

1. Dave McAninch presented a change order request from Darby Creek Excavating, Inc. to change from regular concrete to medium set concrete in the amount of \$8,773.46. The new contract price, including the change order will be \$403,139.84. The completion date of the work will remain July 31, 2002.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the change order request from Darby Creek Excavating in the amount of \$8,773.46. Vote; Aye.

2. Dave McAninch presented a change order from Franklin County for the 2001 Road Improvement Project in the amount of \$4,486.04. This change order includes additional asphalt on Taft Avenue, a mountable curb change in the Village Park area, 4" PVC wyes used for roof drain, painted edgelines on Kunz Road and relocation of signs for handicap ramps. Pete Miller and Dean Ringle have signed the change order request and it is now presented to the Board for signature.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the change order request for the 2001 Road Improvement Project in the amount of \$4,486.04. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Jack Moore, 4440 Haldy Road, addressed the Board with a request for a sound barrier between I-270 and Garden Heights and would like the Prairie Township Board of Trustees to assist. Mr. Wharton asked if there were grant monies available for this type of a project. Mr. Nourse will help to implement this project through MORPC.

Ms. Liz Anderson, addressed the Board with the following Zoning Department matters:

1. Liz Anderson stated that the transition into different positions will begin immediately. Liz Anderson will be in the office and John Holderby will be in

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the field addressing the complaints received.

2. The Zoning Code update is coming close to the final draft with the Zoning Commission. If you have any suggestions advise Liz Anderson.
3. The displays in the lobby are from the Steering Committee and their work with the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Nourse commented that the turnout for the Open House was dismal. There is another open house on July 23, 2002. Mr. Nourse encouraged the residents to attend these meetings.

Ms. Keller addressed the topic of EMS billing and explained that several presentations have been made to the Fire Department which include MBI and Health Serve. Issues in central Ohio with EMS billing include restocking and linens. Ms. Keller has met with Doctors West Hospital and talked with the head of the Emergency Room and the Emergency Room Coordinator. These individuals with Doctors West Hospital indicated that there currently is an excellent relationship with the Fire Department and these two items are not an issue for the hospital. The Emergency Room staff see nothing wrong with EMS billing and they will help with the transition. Ms. Keller introduced Mr. Carl Reddy and Mr. Steve Culham, with MBI. Both gentlemen are retired from the fire service and explained the medical billing procedure of returning insurance monies back to the Township. Mr. Bill Ashcraft asked when EMS billing started in the state of Ohio and if the billing procedure would increase insurance costs to the residents. Mr. Carl Reddy indicated that a portion of the insurance premium is already set up for EMS billing. Mr. Nourse stated that Plain Township and Franklin Township are already billing for EMS through MBI. Prairie Township started discussions about billing in February 2002 and have done extensive research and the Fire Department is on board with the implementation of the billing procedure. The fee to MBI is 10% of the amount collected by the Township.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the preparation of a resolution and contract with MBI Solutions for EMS billing using the "soft billing" procedure to be effective on September 9, 2002. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Nourse; Aye.

Mr. Nourse discussed the results from the meeting of June 12, 2002 at the Hubbard Road firehouse on the parks in Lake Darby. The consensus is for standard mounds with plantings, rubberized surfaces, 4' wide sidewalks and play equipment in blue or hunter green. Results are still coming in and the final results will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded, the Board moved to transition from the regular meeting to the Home Rule public meeting at 8:05 p.m. This public meeting was posted in three places in the Township and advertised once in the Columbus Dispatch.

The Clerk introduced Ms. Rebecca Princehorn and David Rogers with Bricker & Eckler who will be township legal counsel on home rule issues. Ms. Princehorn started the meeting by explaining the differences between a home rule township and a statutory township and the expanded powers. Once a township adopts limited home rule, the township is not required to use additional powers at any particular time. Ms. Princehorn explained the choices that will be presented to the township in Section 504 of the ORC, as a home rule township, as development continues. One of the choices is in the area of providing water and/or sanitary sewer either through the township provision of water or contracting with Ohio American Water. Ohio American Water already has contracts in place in the unincorporated areas of the township. Adoption of home rule will enable Prairie Township to be in the "driver's seat" in these two areas in regard to determining future development. Powers that the township does not have in ORC 504 with limited home rule are that there is no additional taxing powers with township limited home rule which is different from

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municipal home rule. There are also no additional powers with limited home rule to regulate fishing, hunting, agricultural or farm markets. With the population count in the township, limited home rule can be adopted by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Nourse stated that residents have voiced concerns such as “How can we keep Columbus out?” These are additional options that the legislature is providing to us to enable us to help ourselves. The turnout tonight, at this public meeting, shows that there is interest within the township to explore limited home rule. House Bill 633, which was passed on 6/19/02 permits counties and townships to adopt access management regulations for certain public roads. Limited home rule townships may adopt access management regulations and these regulations will remain in effect if the County also adopts regulations. County regulations will not apply to township roads within a limited home rule township. Mr. Nourse cited an example in Prairie Township at the corner of Inah Avenue and Sullivant Avenue where Columbus is planning a senior citizen development. The traffic from this development will flow on to Inah Avenue, which is a township road and Prairie Township will be responsible for maintenance and repair on Inah Avenue. Mr. Nourse stated there are several bills that are with the legislature at this time that allow home rule townships to act as a municipality, without being a municipality. Mr. Nourse continued, “This is a tool we should have in our toolbox to keep Columbus out.”

Mr. Wharton stated “Do we allow development by Columbus or do we step up to the plate by exercising opportunities such as limited home rule that are available to the township”. Mr. Wharton continued, “Where do we see ourselves in the future? We have experienced flooding and school crowding. Do we want development by Columbus or Township controlled development?” Several residents asked questions of the Board and legal counsel and discussion followed. If Prairie Township were to exercise limited home rule, the residents would have the ability to file a referendum in three years to reverse back to a statutory township. By unanimous vote of the Board, limited home rule can be adopted. There is a 30 day grace period for a referendum to be filed after the resolution is in place and put the issue on the November ballot for the residents of Prairie Township to vote on.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk