

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE

REGULAR MEETING/APRIL 16, 2003

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

Mr. Wharton introduced three members of Boy Scout Troop 161 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the minutes of the April 2, 2003 regular meeting as written. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Ison addressed the Board regarding the parkland, 105 acres, that the City of Columbus owns north of Tamara Avenue. Ms Lorenz would like to trade the 105 acres for approximately 100 acres within a 2-3 mile radius of the Galloway Road and Hall Road intersection. Mr. Ison feels it would be advantageous for Prairie Township to own the parcel of land which would improve the method of the flow of the Clover Groff ditch. This may be an opportunity to shut off the City of Columbus from “running fingers” into the Township. Mr. Ison also informed the Board that he has recently met with Mr. Steve Phillips; Oxbow Corporation, who restores streams and ditches and has previously done work with the City of Columbus.

The Clerk presented the following items:

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the following supplemental appropriation:

\$20,000.00 from 1000-760-730-0000 to 1000-120-599-0000
\$10,000.00 from 2191-760-720-0000 to 2191-220-599-0000

1. The Clerk has received a request from the Village Park Residents Association to hold their monthly meeting at the Township Hall on May 22, 2003 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the Village Park Residents Association hold their monthly meeting at the Township Hall on May 22, 2003 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. and Mr. Wharton will lock and unlock the door. Vote; Aye.

2. The Clerk presented a Law Director Agreement and corresponding Resolution appointing Mr. Donald Brosius; Loveland & Brosius, on a part-time basis as an independent contractor for a period commencing April 16, 2003 through July 3, 2003 pursuant to ORC Sec. 504.15. Donald F. Brosius shall be compensated for such services up to ten hours per month at a rate of \$1,400.00. Services in excess of ten hours per month shall be paid monthly at a customary hourly rate not to exceed \$165.00 per hour plus expenses.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the appointment of Mr. Donald Brosius as Law Director of Prairie Township, and approval of the Law Director Agreement, to serve on a part-time basis as an independent contractor for a period commencing April 16, 2003 through July 3, 2003. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board hire Mr. Donald Brosius; Loveland & Brosius, as Law Director of Prairie Township pursuant to ORC Sec. 504.15 effective April 16, 2003 through July 3, 2003 and shall be compensated at a rate of \$1,400.00 per month for up to ten hours and \$165.00 per hour in excess of ten hours per month plus expenses. The Resolution is hereby declared an emergency. (Resolution 7-03) Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

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3. The Clerk presented a Resolution Authorizing Prairie Township to remove the trash and debris on the property at 330 Evergreen Terrace and assess the property owners' tax duplicate for the total cost.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve Resolution 6-03, Authorizing Prairie Township to remove the trash and debris on the property at 330 Evergreen Terrace and assess the property owners' tax duplicate for the total cost. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

4. An Expedited Type II petition for annexation to the City of Columbus of .46+/- acres at 5828 Alkire Road in Prairie Township was received today. A hearing has not been set at this time.

After the Trustees reviewed the pending warrant list, Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the payment of the ADP payroll in the amount of \$67,257.69 and approve payment of the following bills. Vote; Aye. (See pending warrant list).

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

1. Chief Lavelly thanked the Board of Trustees for appointing three new firefighters and replacing one firefighter that left the Township. Chief introduced FF Jeffrey Taynor, FF Daniel Ellinger, FF Kevin Wade and FF David McKinney and proceeded with the swearing in ceremony.
2. Part-time FF Fred Hageman has been called to active duty by the Air Force for a period of one year.
3. Chief Lavelly addressed the Board of Trustees regarding the procedure to hire part-time firefighters. Mr. Nourse stated that he is working on collecting data for the hiring procedure.
4. Chief Lavelly informed the Board that Lt. Jeff Route, EMS Coordinator, has applied for \$6,450.00 for EMS grants from the State of Ohio for EMS training and equipment.
5. Chief Lavelly would like to sell the 1991 Horton Medic which has been appraised for \$6,000.00. The Prairie Township Fire Department has 2 medics in service and 1 backup after the sale of the 1991 Horton Medic. All radios and equipment will be removed from the Medic prior to sale.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve Chief Lavelly advertise the 1991 Horton Medic for sale at a price of \$6,000.00 in the Ohio Township Association News June/July publication. Vote; Aye.

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

1. The Road Superintendent discussed the proposed summer work program and informed the Board that Mr. Elavsky cannot supervise the program this year due to health concerns. Mr. Nourse will contact Mr. Ed Kennedy, 115 Maple Drive, who is a History teacher at Norton Middle School, and determine if he may be interested in coordinating the summer work program. Dave McAninch presented a summary of his view of the program for this year. He would like to hire 8 students of which the first week 4 would work on W/Th/F and 4 on M/T/W, then the second week the first 4 would work on Th/F and the remaining 4 M/T which would work into the pay schedule. Working from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. the students would work 20 hrs per pay. The supervisor

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would work approximately 45 hours per pay period. The approximate cost for wages only for the 2003 summer work program would be \$5,096.00. Mr. Nourse added that he anticipates that some of the materials needed will be donated.

2. The Road Superintendent thanked the resident that cleaned up the S. Grener roadway and the Road Department will pick up the bags tomorrow.
3. Dave McAninch presented a proposal under State Bid for the purchase of a 2003 Ford F250 Supercab 4X4 Pickup Truck. The total cost of the truck with options would be \$20,210.96. There will not be a trade-in with this purchase as the 2000 GMC ¾ ton pickup has 50,000 miles and would be suitable for use in the summer work program. The state bid program expires May 15, 2003 and it will take 75-90 days for delivery of the truck. Mr. Nourse explained that the truck that is purchased must be furnished to accommodate use by other departments in the case of an emergency. Discussion followed. Mr. Kennedy expressed concerns in purchasing a vehicle for the summer work program that has not proven to be successful at this time. Mr. Ison recommended the monies for the purchase of this vehicle come out of the appropriation for the summer work program.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the purchase of a 2003 Ford F250 Supercab 4X4 Pickup truck for the Road Department on State Bid GDC-093-E with options at a cost of \$20,210.96. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the purchase of a Whelen Hid-A-Way Strobe Light and a Whelen 48" Light Bar either on State Bid GDC-093-E or from Bound Tree Medical, whichever is less, not to exceed \$2,044.00. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton suggested that the Road Department purchase an additional fogger to fight the West Nile Virus this summer. Dave McAninch stated that the best method to control mosquitos is by educating the public and larviciding.

4. The Road Superintendent addressed the street sweeping proposal that was presented at the last meeting. The areas in the Township to be swept are all areas with curb and gutter to include Lincoln Village North, Lincoln Village South, Lake Darby, Westpoint and the Village Park areas. Discussion followed regarding the number of sweeps necessary to serve the area.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve a street sweeping proposal by Contract Sweepers to include 3 sweeps yearly with the first sweep to begin the week of April 28, 2003 at a total cost of \$11,500.00. Vote; Aye.

5. Dave McAninch discussed the current storm sewer cleaning which has been ongoing for the past 17 days in the Township by Metropolitan Environmental. The Board previously approved \$15,000.00 to clean the storm sewers in the Township and the Road Superintendent stated that the work has not been completed and will exceeded the initial appropriation and requested an additional \$6,000.00 to complete the work.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve an additional \$6,000.00 for Metropolitan Environmental to finish the storm sewer cleaning currently being done in the Township. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Ison discussed the radius of the intersection of Beacon Hill and Rome-Hilliard Roads with Mr. Ted Beidler, Franklin County Engineers, and the possibility of an overpass over the railroad tracks on Galloway Road north of West Broad Street.

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Mr. Ison and Mr. Kennedy, Hellbranch Resident Association, discussed a plaque for the Road Department for their exceptional work during the 2002-2003 snow plowing season.

Mr. James Strunk, Zoning Inspector, addressed the Board with the following Zoning Department matters:

1. Mr. Strunk reported that 23 violation letters have been sent out since the last meeting. The Field Inspector has noticed an increase in real estate signs and is making an effort to have them picked up.
2. The Zoning Inspector requested permission to proceed to court with a resident at 839 Lakefield Drive for junk vehicles in a residential district and 8450 Munitions Drive for failure to secure a permit prior to the construction of a fence. Mr. Nourse requested that the Zoning Inspector call the residents and give the option to appeal and the ramifications if they do not.
3. The Zoning Commission will hear two applications on April 22, 2003, included will be the request for rezoning to R6, R8 and General Business on Galloway Road and the Bound Tree Medical rezoning request for a Select Commercial Planned District. The Franklin County Planning Commission unanimously recommended denial of the rezoning request on Galloway Road and a 4 to 3 recommendation for approval on the Bound Tree Medical request. Mr. Nourse further explained that the recommendation from Franklin County is just an opinion and Prairie Township, as a Home Rule Township, is not obligated to follow the recommendations.
4. Mr. Strunk stated that the Ulrich Meadows subdivision has been renamed to Norton Crossing. Mr. Reynolds, attorney for M/I Homes, has been contacted as construction drawings have not been submitted for the Norton Crossing development.
5. The Zoning Inspector reported that the Post Oaks development is submitting plans for the final plat and the construction plans reflect an intent to add fill in the floodway. Mr. Wharton requested more information on the Post Oaks development from the Zoning Department at the next meeting.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve immediately upon determining if there is fill in the floodplain on the Post Oaks Development, the Zoning Department proceed with legal action. Vote; Aye.

6. The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee held an open house on the draft of the proposed plan on April 15, 2003 and 40 people attended from all areas of the Township. The open house was a success. On April 22, the Zoning Commission is expected to make a motion to initiate the adoption process and submit the plan to the Franklin County Planning Commission on May 14, 2003. The Zoning Commission will hold a public meeting on the plan which will be advertised. The recommendations of the Zoning Commission will be forward to the Board and the Board will hold a formal public hearing in mid-June and adopt the plan if acceptable.
7. Mr. Strunk reported that the two variance requests before the Board of Zoning Appeals were unanimously approved this month.

Mr. Larry Bare, Alkire Road, asked the Board for an update on the 4-wheeler situation. Ms. Anderson stated that a legal opinion is on file regarding the matter and will be made available to the resident.

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Ms. Elizabeth Anderson, Township Administrator, addressed the Board with the following administrative issues:

1. Ms. Anderson reported that the Zoning Clerk position will be advertised on Monday in the Westside Messenger and a recommendation will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.
2. The Administrator requested permission to attend an Environmental Law Seminar at Deer Creek State Park on April 24, 25 and 26, 2003 and the cost is \$300.00 for government attorneys and CLE credit will be earned.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve Ms. Anderson attend an Environmental Law Seminar at Deer Creek State Park on April 24, 25 and 26, 2003 at a total cost of \$300.00. Vote; Aye.

3. Ms. Anderson discussed a Transitional Work Grant program available through Care Works that offers an injured worker transitional work eliminating a lost time claim and as a result keeping our rates as low as possible with Workers Compensation. The program if offered, is at no cost to the Township. Ms. Anderson will review the contract and present it to the Board at the next meeting.
4. The Spring Cleanup is currently being planned with dumpsters to be located at the Township Hall (trash & tires), Road Department facility and Hubbard Road firehouse. Several areas business and scout troops have been contacted and encouraged to participate.
5. Ms. Anderson stated that after further clarification from the State of Ohio, the Township is restricted to hiring youths over 14 years of age for the summer youth program.

Mr. Nourse stated that the Township has received notice that the applicant at 67-71 S. Murray Hill Road has re-applied for a liquor permit in the corporation name. The applicant is not a U.S. citizen and Mr. Nourse would like Ms. Anderson to investigate this matter with the Liquor Control Board.

Mr. Nourse received a letter from Continental Realty, Ltd., agent for Nationwide Development, with regard to the senior center in the Lincoln Village Plaza. Continental Realty recommended the Family Dollar space, 7,400 square feet at a rate of \$7.25 per square foot for a three year term. The monthly rent would be \$4,471.00. The earliest possession date would be September, 2003. A concern was raised with the prorata share of real estate taxes, Prairie Township is tax exempt as a local government entity. Costs will be discussed at the April 30, 2003 regular meeting.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board recommend the Chairperson forward the contract from Continental Realty for the space in the Lincoln Village plaza for a senior center to legal counsel for review and authorize the Chairperson to sign the contract if acceptable after the monies have been appropriated. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

Mr. Nourse discussed the potential for a skate board park in the Township and he stated that a material support supplier would like to make a presentation to the Board at a future meeting. The purpose of the park is to provide a safer recreational environment for youth in the Township. A resident on Redmond Road, with property adjacent to Lakota Park, expressed concern with the proposed park and the potential for increased noise and traffic in the area.

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Ms. Bonnie Hamilton requested an update on the walking path in the Lake Darby park and Mr. Nourse stated that the path paving will be included in the 2003 Road Improvement Project bid from Franklin County and expects a decision by mid-May 2003.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Chairperson

Clerk