

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE

REGULAR MEETING/AUGUST 6, 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: Terry Sanders, Dave McAninch, Jim Strunk and Elizabeth Anderson and Jason Thomas. (See attached list).

Ms. Keller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the minutes of the July 23, 2003 regular meeting and the special meetings of July 28th and August 1st as written. Vote; Aye.

Deputy Foster addressed the Board and stated that a suspect in several business robberies has been apprehended. Dave McAninch mentioned that there has been some vandalism at the park between Blue Lake and Conbrook in the Hubbard Road area and also at Carl Frye Park, the light for the flag has been stolen twice and police reports have been filed.

Ms. Elizabeth Anderson and James Strunk presented a copy of the Comprehensive Plan, that was recently adopted, and a plaque to the individuals who donated their time, insight and input in putting this document together. Ms. Anderson further explained that the Comprehensive Plan will be a valuable tool to the Township as it grows and develops in the future. Mr. Nourse stated that he is relieved that the Comprehensive Plan is finally in place because we have been in a battle for water and sewer with the City of Columbus. Great emphasis is placed on this document at the legislature and at the Governors office. With the Comprehensive Plan, the developers know what is expected of them and if they are not in tune with it, they can go elsewhere.

Dave McAninch presented a plaque to the members of the Summer Youth Program and Mr. Rood, the adult supervisor, thanked them for their efforts this summer. Many tasks were accomplished. The program consisted of eight weeks of work, 39 actual work days and the cost to the Township was approximately \$5,500.00. During the program some of the work that was accomplished included several coats of paint on 507 fire hydrants in the Township and trash was picked up on various Township roads, cemeteries and parks. On the last day, a pizza party was held and pop and pizza were donated by Kroger's, Fat Boys Pizza and John Holderby.

The Clerk presented the following items:

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board sign the contract with Miller Pavement Maintenance for the 2003 Road Improvement Project and the Chairperson sign the Notice to Proceed. Vote; Aye.

1. The Clerk informed the Board that the additional deputy will not be added until September 1, 2003 and as a result the 2003 contract total is \$133,420.41.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board rescind the motion made on June 25, 2003 stating that the 2003 Sheriff Contract total is \$184,624.00. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the revised Sheriff Contract for 2003 in the total amount of \$133,420.41 with the additional deputy from September thru December 2003. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

2. The Clerk addressed the issue of the playground equipment for the park bordered by Deerfield Road, Beacon Hill and Buena Vista. The reduction in the price mentioned at the last meeting is a 3% reduction on materials only,

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with pre-payment after August 1, 2003. The total cost of the playground equipment is \$22,137.00 and will be paid on August 6, 2003 with the Trustees approval of warrants and payroll.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board rescind the motion made at the regular meeting of July 23, 2003 to reduce the Fifth Third Sweep Account by \$300,000.00 due to the fact that the real estate settlement was received on July 25, 2003. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the Clerk invest \$500,000.00 in the Fifth Third Sweep Account. Vote; Aye.

3. The recommended hourly pay increases were submitted to the Clerk, as the Trustees requested in the special meeting of July 28, by the Road Superintendent and Chief Lavelly and the Clerk presented the same to the Board.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the following Road Department pay increases effective August 6, 2003: Adam Reibel 4.5% increase, new hourly rate is \$20.68, William Stickel 4% increase, new hourly is \$19.92, William Floyd 4% increase, new hourly \$19.92, Dale Steinhoff, 4% increase, new hourly rate is \$19.92. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the following Fire Department Dispatcher increases effective August 6, 2003: Nancy Queen 4.95% increase, new hourly rate is \$16.76, Jeannie Owen 4.95% increase, new hourly rate is \$14.73, Kim Scheiderer 4.95% increase, new hourly rate \$14.73, Sherri Eberhard 4.95% increase, new hourly rate is \$14.73. Vote; Aye.

4. The Clerk informed the Board that a letter was received from the Franklin County Board of Health regarding the upcoming flu immunization season. The Board of Health has offered to come to the Inah Avenue firehouse to give flu shots at a cost of \$25.00 each.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the Township pay \$25.00 for each flu shot for full-time employees only. The shots will also be made available to all employees' families and elected officials. The date has not been set at this time. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the Clerk file the 5 year Lighting District Assessment for Village Park with the Franklin County Auditors Office in the amount of \$128.68 per parcel. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the Clerk file the 5 year Lighting District Assessment for Lake Darby with the Franklin County Auditors Office in the amount of \$128.98 per parcel. Vote; Aye.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the following supplemental appropriations: Vote; Aye.

\$ 250.00	1000-760-710-0000 to 1000-110-314-0000
\$ 5,000.00	1000-760-710-0000 to 1000-130-410-0000
\$50,000.00	1000-760-710-0000 to 1000-110-141-0000

5. The Clerk recommended to the Board that the meetings on the upcoming holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas, be changed to accommodate everyone.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the change in the regular meeting schedule for Thanksgiving week from Wednesday to Monday, November 24, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall. Vote; Aye.

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Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the change in the regular meeting schedule for Christmas week from Wednesday to Monday, December 22, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall. Vote; Aye.

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 \$92,156.43 and approve payment of the following bills. Vote; Aye. (See pending warrant list).

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

1. Dave McAninch informed the Board that the second street sweep is scheduled for August 18th from 7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and all vehicles are to be removed from the streets. The total price for all three sweeps has been reduced to \$11,000.00 due to the fact that some streets will be under construction during this sweep.
2. The Road Superintendent presented pictures to the Board of the damage that was done to the slide at the park on Blue Lake in the Lake Darby area. Dave McAninch will replace the slide as soon as possible. The light on the flagpole at Carl Frye Park have been stolen twice this summer and several options were explored to secure the light in the future either on the pole, recessed in concrete or with a concrete cylinder surrounding the light. The suggestion was made for a solar light. Pricing will be presented at the next meeting.

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

1. Mr. Strunk informed the Board that a special meeting has been scheduled for Monday, August 11th at 7:00 p.m. to allow the Zoning Commission to review the proposed plan development for the property at 7888 W. Broad Street. The Board of Trustees tabled this case at the last meeting to allow the developers time to make the changes in conjunction with the Township Comprehensive Plan.
2. The Zoning Inspector informed the Board that a contempt motion is being prepared against R & R Roofing which will be filed this week. Mr. Carney is preparing the pave and screen his parking lot. There has been activity at the Seeger property that is not in accordance with the judgment entry and Mr. Bill Loveland; Loveland & Brosius, will pursue action.
3. Mr. Strunk informed the Board that Ms. Rebecca Thurn has been the Zoning Clerk for 90 days and an evaluation has been completed. Ms. Thurn has received high ratings from The Zoning Inspector. Mr. Strunk is very pleased with the quality and quantity of her work and she is an asset to the Township.

Mr. Tad Hay, 6144 W. Broad Street, addressed the Zoning Inspector and the Board about the violations that were mentioned on Mr. Worthington's property. Mr. Nourse explained that no action is being taken regarding the barn that was constructed on his property during his tenure as Township Trustee. Mr. Nourse has requested information from the Clerk of Courts office regarding the environmental courts case between Prairie Township and Mr. Tad Hay. Mr. Nourse will review the documents that have been requested from the courts. Mr. Hay presented to the Board what he feels are the final drawings that were presented in court and would like to compare these drawings with what Mr. Nourse has requested from the Clerk of Courts office.

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Captain Terry Sanders addressed the Board with the following Fire Department matters:

1. Captain Sanders stated that an area of origin has been identified for the fire at Hoffman's on Rome-Hilliard Road last week and it is being listed as undetermined at this time. More investigation and interviews are being conducted at this time.
2. The bid that was submitted from the Highland County North Joint Fire/Ambulance District was reviewed by the Highland County Prosecuting Attorney confirming that the Highland County North Joint Fire and Ambulance District is in fact a political subdivision as referenced in Sec 505.10.1 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller moved, the Board approve the sale of the 1991 Horton E350 Medic to the Highland County North Joint Fire/Ambulance District in the amount of \$5,000.00. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

3. Captain Sanders addressed the issue of hiring part-time firemen in an effort to reduce the overtime that is currently being paid to full-time firemen to cover the shifts. Mr. Nourse explained that the practice at the Township has been to hire full-time firemen from the current part-time staff. The testing procedure was discussed and a list of part-time applicants was presented which indicated their ranking based on experience and education. Captain Sanders was instructed by the Board to contact applicants on the list that scored at least a 9 in the ranking and give them the 50 question test to start the process.

Mr. Jason Thomas, IT Coordinator, addressed the Board with the following issues:

1. Mr. Thomas presented prices for laptop computers for the three Township Trustees including software and configuration of the network and licenses. The total cost will be approximately \$8,600.00 to include carrying case and mouse. Mr. Nourse explained that the computers are an asset at meetings that the Trustees are attending. Ms. Keller added that the addition of the computers would be a tremendous time savings.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the purchase of three (3) Dell laptop computers on State Bid ID#533195-2 for the Trustees at a total cost not to exceed \$9,000.00. Vote; Aye.

2. Generator hardware and installation estimates were presented by Mr. Thomas. One of the estimates was from Buckeye Power Sales, which is on State Bid. Additional estimates will be secured over the next month and will be presented to the Board when they are available. The power outage in Westerville, where they lost approximately 40 years of data, is estimated to cost approximately \$1 million to recover some of the information back.

Mr. Nourse stated that the Senior Center contract negotiation is ongoing. Mr. Jason Thomas will begin to refurbish computers for the senior center and install Windows 98 software which does not have any licensing. Mr. Wharton insisted that all Township documents be removed from all of the computers before they are dedicated to the senior center. Mr. Thomas offered to teach a computer class at the senior center one or two times a month. The senior center will have internet connectivity and there are cable lines in the building already. Ms. Pitts volunteered to assist with a computer education program at the center. Mr. Nourse stated that the Nationwide lease is for three years and is non-renewable, some serious decisions will have to be made in the next few years if this program will continue. Swimming pools, a skateboard park, basketball courts and a recreation center will have to be considered for the youth in the Township. Two developers have offered to donate 35 acres in the

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Township for this type of facility. Mr. Thomas would like to have the computers set up similarly to those in the library.

3. A software release from Clayton IDS for fire runs (NIFIRS) will be out in October and a presentation will be made within the next month at the Township Hall.
4. Mr. Thomas has designated the September 17th Trustee meeting as the date when the website will be fully functional and running.
5. The Road Department computer is installed and training will begin when time permits.
6. The EMS billing has been sent electronically to MBI and efforts are being made at this time to reduce the fee for billing from 10% to 8.5%. More information will be presented at the next meeting.

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

1. The Norton Road widening project was discussed and the area in question for storage which will be leased for two years is for the storage of materials that are currently used. There will not be any large equipment storage. Mr. Nourse expressed concern with the specific items to be stored on the site, will these items be hazardous or pose potential danger? Ms. Anderson will look into this matter further.
2. Ms. Anderson informed the Board that Prairie Township currently has a contract with WorkHealth and the Police & Fire Pension physicals and part-time firefighter physicals are in place. In order for the drug testing to be implemented, it is necessary to have a "drug free workplace policy" in place in the Township. A draft policy has been placed on the Trustees desk for review.

Mr. Wharton stated that after consulting with Legal Counsel, the recommendation was made that the Township not pursue a hearing on the liquor permit for 4930-4936 W. Broad Street.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Norton seconded the Board rescind the motion to have a hearing on the liquor permit request for 4930-4936 W. Broad Street. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Nourse informed Mr. Kennedy that Township Legal Counsel has been notified of the fill in the Alton area and it will be addressed.

Mr. Wharton stated that he has a meeting scheduled for August 19, 2003, representing the Township, with Ohio American Water, Ohio EPA and special legal counsel to discuss the opportunities in partnering with the investor owned utility, Ohio American Water, to provide sewer and water to Prairie Township. This is a breakthrough meeting with them to get insight and guidance from the Ohio EPA. This is a positive sign that Ohio EPA will meet with Prairie Township in an effort to plan and develop the Township in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Wharton will give a report at the next meeting.

Ms. Pitts asked the Board about the status of centralized trash collection. Mr. Wharton is planning an ad-hoc committee for centralized trash collection. Several contracts from various companies have been collected and reviewed. Any resident that is interested in serving on this committee please contact the Township Hall or Mr. Wharton personally. Mr. Wharton further stated that he would like to include two weekends in the spring and the fall for a "curbside cleanup" in conjunction with the centralized trash hauler. Public meetings will be held in the future.

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Ms. Keller moved Mr. Nourse seconded the Board recess from the regular meeting at 9:05 p.m.

The regular meeting resumed at 9:30 p.m.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board adjourn into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. to discuss the dismissal of public employees. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board resume the regular meeting at 10:00 p.m. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board accept the resignation of Ms. Elizabeth Anderson as Township Administrator effective August 19, 2003 and relieve her of her duties immediately with medical insurance benefits to continue until August 31, 2003. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse, Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board accept the resignation of Mr. James Strunk as Township Zoning Inspector effective August 19, 2003 and relieve him of his duties immediately with medical insurance benefits to continue until August 31, 2003. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Mr. Keller; Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Chairperson

Clerk