

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING/SEPTEMBER 17, 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: Connie Swisher, Chief Lavelly, Dave McAninch and Jason Thomas (See attached list).

Ms. Keller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the minutes of the regular meeting on September 3rd and the special meeting of September 12th as written. Vote; Aye.

The Clerk presented the following items:

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the following supplemental appropriations:

\$10,000.00	1000-760-710-0000 to 1000-110-599-0000
\$15,000.00	2031-760-740-0000 to 2031-330-490-0000
\$10,000.00	1000-760-720-0000 to 1000-610-420-0000

1. The Clerk presented a Resolution authorizing the signing of a three year lease agreement for the Township Senior Center. Mr. Dudley expressed an interest in the Senior Center and explained that there is a senior meeting held at Columbia Heights Methodist Church the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Mr. Nourse explained that the senior center facility on West Broad Street will be able to accommodate 150 people at one time for a senior activity. This is not an attempt to eradicate other programs currently in place. The senior programs in the churches or privately owned facilities run the risk of being moved out. At the West Broad Street location, there are restaurants immediately available, the fire code and ADA requirements are met and there is plenty of parking and patrolled well by the Franklin County Sheriff. The JoAnn Fabrics store is interested in hosting craft programs in the center. Discussions include ideas for an exercise room with lockers for storage, a computer room and a place where the seniors can talk and grandchildren can play together. Residents expect Township government to provide the same services of a government of comparable size. Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code requires that any Township Senior Center be overseen and regulated by the Franklin County Department on Aging. The Department on Aging has recommend that Prairie Township hire one of the Departments' former staff members who is responsible for putting the program together in Madison and Franklin Counties. Negotiations are underway as to what the terms and salary is. The former staff member has a Masters Degree in geriatric social work. Jeff Nourse recommended the officers of the other senior groups attend the next ad-hoc meeting. Further discussion followed.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the resolution Authorizing the Signing of the Lease Agreement for the Township Senior Center. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye. (Resolution 20-03)

2. The Clerk presented a three year lease agreement between Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Prairie Township for the proposed Senior Center at 4746-4656 West Broad Street with a commencement date of March 1, 2004, at a monthly base rental rate of \$4,805.00.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve entering into a three year lease agreement between Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Prairie Township for a proposed Senior Center at 4746-4656 West Broad Street with a

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commencement date of March 1, 2004, at a monthly base rental rate of \$4,805.00 and payment of the first month's rent and security deposit. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

3. Shelly & Sands has submitted Pay Request #5 (Final) on the 2002 Road Improvement Project in the amount of \$62,970.00. This request has been approved by the Franklin County Engineer and reviewed by the Road Superintendent.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve Pay Request #5 (Final) from Shelly & Sands on the 2002 Road Improvement Project in the amount of \$62,970.00. Vote; Aye.

4. Miller Pavement Maintenance has submitted Pay Request #1 on the 2003 Road Improvement Project in the amount of \$13,361.98. This request has been approved by the Franklin County Engineer and reviewed by the Road Superintendent.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve Pay Request #1 from Miller Pavement Maintenance on the 2003 Road Improvement Project in the amount of \$13,361.98. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve establishing Beggars Night in the Township on Thursday, October 30, 2003 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Vote; Aye.

5. The Clerk requested approval from the Board for the Village Park Resident Association to hold their monthly meeting at the Township Hall on September 25th from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the Village Park Residents Association hold their monthly meeting at the Township Hall on September 25th from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Trustee Nourse will unlock and lock the door for the Association. Vote; Aye.

6. The Clerk presented the Noxious Weed Assessment for 2003 and requested approval from the Board to file the assessment with the Franklin County Auditors Office.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the Clerk file the 2003 Noxious Weed Assessment in the amount of \$1,462.50 with the Franklin County Auditors Office. 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 \$82,489.52 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. On September 11th, a call was received from a resident in the Hubbard Road area reporting a possible terrorist gassing which in reality was only the Road Department doing mosquito spraying.
2. A grant award has been received in the amount of \$5,150.00 from the State of Ohio EMS Board for EMS training and equipment.
3. The Prairie Township Fire Department will be a collection exchange point for the Franklin County Board of Health for thermometers that contain mercury.

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Medical thermometers that contain mercury can be a serious health problem if broken and the mercury is not properly cleaned up and disposed of. Bring the thermometer in a double zip loc bag and you will be given a new digital thermometer in its place.

4. Chief Lavelly stated that 6 part-time firefighters have passed the physical agility test and background information with BCI and driving records are being investigated at this time.
5. The Westland Area Business Association (WABA) has offered to purchase ten new plastic tables for the Fire Department to loan out to the community in return for the Fire Department handling the flags on W. Broad Street during the 4th of July.

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

1. Dave introduced Elie Sabbagh, Feller Finch & Associates, and discussion followed regarding drainage problems within the Township. The Franklin County Board of Health would like Prairie Township to take the necessary steps to alleviate the drainage problems in five different areas of the Township. Those areas are in priority of severity: 1) 4717 Musket Way, 406 and 410 Revere Ct. 2) 306 & 314 Lawrence Ave. 3) 4624-4648 Annhurst Rd. 4) 417 Deerfield, 495 & 499 Powder Mill Ct. 5) 379, 395 & 403 Sturbridge Rd. The proposed plan to correct the problem was discussed. Mr. Nourse would like to correct the problem immediately based on the Franklin County Board of Health recommendation. Effective November 1, 2003, the Franklin County Board of Health may direct any political subdivision to abate any health or public nuisance that they determine. Engineering will be required to determine what will be necessary to repair the first area as mosquito larva are present in the standing water.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve Elie Sabbagh with Feller, Finch & Associates, engineer the solution to the standing water problem in the 4717 Musket Way area of the Township at an engineering cost not to exceed \$2,000.00. Vote; Aye.

2. Mosquito spraying will continue with the 5th round of fogging to take place this evening if the conditions are suitable. The fogging has been done between the hours of 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. and the Road Department is working closely with the Board of Health and Clarke Mosquito until the first frost. Desirable conditions for fogging are a temperature of more than 55 degrees, winds at 10 mph or below and no rain or a need to run your windshield wipers. To date, \$12,000.00 has been spent on the mosquito fogging program.
3. The Road Superintendent recommended changing the status of part-time employee Joshua Hoffman to full-time with an increase in hourly pay and full benefits.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve changing the status of Road Department employee, Joshua Hoffman, from part-time to full-time status effective September 17, 2003 with an increase in his hourly wage to \$12.62/hour with full medical/dental and life insurance benefits and pension pickup. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

4. The Road Superintendent discussed the vermin trapping program with The Wildlife Control Company, Dirk and Diane Shearer, and a quote received for trapping within the Township this year. A presentation about the vermin

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reduction program was given and common questions and answers. The specifics and price schedule for 2003 was detailed and explained that the trapping will take place between mid-November and mid-December and the cost is \$3,000.00 of which a \$500.00 purchase order is still open from 2002.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve a vermin population reduction program with The Wildlife Control Company, Inc. at a total cost not to exceed \$3,000.00. Vote; Aye.

5. Dave McAninch, Road Superintendent, gave a presentation on the hanging pipes in Lake Darby and the work that has been done by the Franklin County Engineer to correct the erosion problems.

Mr. Mike Stakely asked the Road Superintendent when the playground equipment will be installed in the park at Deerfield Road and Beacon Hill Road. Dave McAninch explained that the equipment has been delivered today and installation will begin soon.

A resident on Redmond Road expressed her concerns with the speed of traffic on Redmond Road and would like the Board to look into installing speed bumps in the area. The Trustees explained that the Ohio Revised Code does not permit the Township to install speed bumps although the Trustees can support the Sheriff in enforcing the speed limit. Mr. Wharton suggested that the resident send a letter to him to be forwarded on to the Franklin County Sheriff including a list of residents and their addresses that share the same concerns. The resident stated that the worst time of day is between 4:00 p.m. until late in the evening. The recommendation was made for a traffic study to be done in the area, although these have not been successful to control speed in other areas of the Township.

Mr. Neil Distelhorst expressed his concern with the vermin control program in the Township and the cost involved to solve a problem of this nature for the residents in the Township. Mr. Distelhorst recommended the residents trap the vermin and give them to the Township to dispose of. Mr. Distelhorst stated that he feels sometimes the Board spends money without giving great thought to the cost benefit.

Ms. Keller introduced and welcomed Ms. Swisher to the Township as the returning Zoning Inspector effective September 8, 2003.

Ms. Connie Swisher, Zoning Inspector, addressed the Board with the following Zoning Department issues:

1. Ms. Swisher presented an EU modification request on application 160-RZ-02, a zoning request granting a rezoning of 12 acres between Inah Avenue, Owen Street and Norton Road from R-4 to E-U. The request is for several modifications to that original plan approved by the Board on August 21, 2002. The name of the subdivision has been changed from Allric Meadows to Norton Crossing. There are slight modifications to lots 33, 36, 37, 40, 57 and 58. The lot widths and the lot areas were adjusted slightly. Seven issues were raised by the Franklin County Development Department and explained in their letter dated August 27, 2003. Ms. Swisher would like to address items 4 and 6 from the letter and Mr. Tony Williams, EMH&T, representing the developer, will address the remaining items. Item Number 4: Ms. Swisher spoke with Mr. Warren Diehl, Franklin County Engineers office, and he confirmed the concerns rose regarding location of easements and notation of instrument numbers have been resolved. Item Number 6: a letter from Capt. Sanders dated 4/14/03 raised four issues. Mr. Kip Thompson, Project Supervisor with M/I Homes, met with Capt. Sanders on September 16th and provided the Fire Department with a new set of plans and after that meeting Capt. Sanders submitted a new letter indicating that no safety concerns are left to be addressed. Mr. Williams addressed the Board and presented a letter

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addressing the remaining issues in the August 27, 2003 letter. After review of the letter, Mr. Nourse raised concerns where the Township has had other subdivisions in the Township where fire hydrants, mailboxes and light posts will all be on the same side of the street. Mr. Nourse would like construction notes on the print to this effect. Mr. Nourse also requested that this subdivision have street lighting in the form of a lighting district. Also, Mr. Nourse stated that as a result of the mounding along Norton Road there have been flooding problems at 174 Norton Road and he would like this corrected. Mr. Williams stated that a revision has been made to the plans and a catch basin has been moved to a different area to alleviate the problem. There has been an informal agreement between the Stinson family on Inah Avenue and M/I Homes, this property will be hooked up to water and sewer and Mr. Nourse would like to assure that is being done by making other people in the hierarchy aware so this does not go by the wayside as the monies dwindle. Ms. Swisher stated that a Technical Review meeting is scheduled for September 23rd and this plan will come back before the Board of Trustees at the first meeting in October to stamp and sign a new plan as it was modified. Mr. Nourse referred to an offer from the developer regarding a deposit made with the Franklin County Engineer in the amount of \$8,500.00 for the Norton Road sidewalk as part of the City of Columbus ODOT program and is separate from the Owens Street commitment.

2. The Zoning Inspector stated that the second request is for an EU modification which was withdrawn late this afternoon.
3. Ms. Swisher stated that Mr. Eldridge would like to pave Gabriel Court and legal counsel advised that they would like to investigate this issue further. This item will be addressed at the next meeting.
4. A drainage issue was discussed with Mr. & Mrs. Daniels on Bolingbrook Court where there is a natural swale from the railroad through their property to a catch basin by the road and now they feel that the water running through their yard is contaminated. Ms. Swisher stated that they were directed to the EPA and Franklin County Soil and Water for soil testing. Pictures were taken to show that the discoloration is from the water and not due to the recent heavy rains.
5. The Zoning Inspector stated that there are ten court cases pending and the case in Galloway is one of them. The Hall Road court case has been rescheduled for September 29th. The cases have been prioritized and Ms. Swisher stated there have never been this many pending at one time.
6. Ms. Swisher requested permission from the Board to renew her certification renewal fee with the American Association of Code Enforcement in the amount of \$60.00 and the OCEOA membership renewal when it is due.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the renewal of the American Association of Code Enforcement (AACE) in the name of Connie Swisher, Prairie Township Zoning Inspector, in the amount of \$60.00 and the OCEOA membership renewal not to exceed \$150.00 when it is due. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Distelhorst inquired as to why the EU zoning cases are not going before the Zoning Boards for variances. Ms. Swisher explained that the EU district is different in that they are not subject to variances.

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

1. An update on the generator was given and there are no generators available on state bid and a specification packet will have to be compiled to go out for bid. Chief Lavelly stated that Mr. Robert Johnson put the specs together for the

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generator for Station 243. Mr. Thomas stated that there are multiple portable generators at the Firehouse in the case of an emergency which would power the server. Mr. Wharton stated that he likes that idea for a stop gap measure. Chief Lavelly stated that he has the specifications from the Station 243 generator and maybe they can be modified. Mr. Thomas will contact Mr. Johnson and get a price for doing the specifications on the Township generator.

2. The IT Coordinator stated that the access point for the Trustees laptop computers from Dell is not working properly and the new item should arrive Friday. The website is still being worked on and should be complete by the next meeting.
3. MBI billing is progressing and two separate sets of instances have been sent successfully and the billing for September should be at 8.5%
4. A computer training option was discussed with Columbus State and the information from Ohio State has been requested.

Mr. Pitts asked for an update on the request made to Southwestern City Schools on the possibility of a skateboard park at the schools. Ms. Keller stated that the schools will not partner with the Township as they do not want the liability.

Ms. Keller stated that Mr. Tom Shockley, Franklin County Sanitary Engineer, will contact the Township within the next two weeks regarding the status of their camera efforts in the area.

Ms. Pitts presented to the Board, a map from the Westland Area Commission meeting regarding a Dominion Homes development that is planned off of Galloway Road. Dominion Homes plans to run a road and dump this traffic into the Village Park subdivision at Ashpark Drive. Prairie Township has not been contacted to request a cut. A traffic study is being done. The Colomet Farms development would be for 555 homes on 111 acres. The Westland Area Commission was unanimously against this development. The development is not platted yet and will go before the Planning Commission on October 9th. Township Legal Counsel has a conflict of interest with this project. Mr. Nourse stated that the Township may have authority as the Stormwater Designated Management Agency. Ms. Wendy Buckey, Village Park resident, will write a letter from the Homeowners Association including resident's signatures, to the Columbus Development Department.

Ms. Lorraine Flowers, 445 Garden Heights, addressed the Board with a concern for more lighting in the Garden Heights area. There have been several break-ins and cars have been stolen. Mr. Wharton stated that he will investigate the lighting during the evening. Ms. Flowers is also interested in a sound barrier along the freeway. Mr. Nourse asked ODOT to clean out the conduit under I-270 and inquired about the sound barrier. The ditch is being cleaned out and the sound barrier will be addressed next meeting.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board adjourn at 9:50 p.m. and then recess into Executive Session at 10:05 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

The regular meeting resumed at 10:37 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Chairperson

Clerk