

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE          REGULAR MEETING/JANUARY 7, 2004

The regular meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees was called to order by the Chairman, Ms. Keller, with Mr. Stormont, Mr. Wharton and Ms. Montag present. Also attending were: Chief Lavelly, Mr. McAninch, Ms. Swisher and Mr. Hatmaker (See attached list).

Ms. Keller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Keller recognized and welcomed Mr. Doug Stormont as the new Trustee.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board dispense with the reading of the minutes of the December 22, 2003 and approve the minutes as submitted. Vote; Aye.

The Clerk conducted the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman as follows:

Ms. Keller nominated Mr. Wharton for Chairman.  
Mr. Stormont seconded the nomination.  
Mr. Wharton moved the nominations be closed.  
Ms. Keller seconded the motion.

Roll call vote on the motion to close the nominations resulted as follows:

Mr. Stormont	Aye
Ms. Keller	Aye
Mr. Wharton	Abstain

Roll call vote on the nomination as Chairman resulted as follows:

Mr. Stormont	Aye
Mr. Wharton	Abstain
Ms. Keller	Aye

Ms. Montag declared Mr. Wharton the duly elected Chairman for the year 2004.

Mr. Wharton nominated Mr. Stormont for Vice-Chairman.  
Ms. Keller seconded the nomination.  
Mr. Wharton moved the nominations be closed.  
Ms. Keller seconded the motion.

Roll call vote on the motion to close the nominations resulted as follows:

Mr. Stormont	Abstain
Ms. Keller	Aye
Mr. Wharton	Aye

Roll call vote on the nomination for Vice-Chairman resulted as follows:

Mr. Wharton	Aye
Mr. Stormont	Abstain
Ms. Keller	Aye

Ms. Montag declared Mr. Stormont the duly elected Vice-Chairman for the year 2004.

The Chair was turned over to Mr. Wharton, Chairman to complete the meeting.

Ms. Montag presented the Board with copies of the pre-registration of the Ohio Township Association Winter Conference and Trade Show.

Ms. Keller requested a list of names on who would be attending. Trustee's, Clerk, Chief Lavelly, Dave McAninch, Tracy Hatmaker and Connie Swisher.

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Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded, the Board allowed all expenses for elected officials and Chief Lavelly, Dave McAninch, Tracy Hatmaker and Connie Swisher for the winter convention of the Ohio Township Association to be held January 28-31, 2004 at the Hyatt Regency at the Greater Columbus Convention Center including mileage, parking, meals and registration. Vote Aye.

Ms. Montag requested a motion to accept the ADP Payroll in the amount of \$85,785.46.

Ms. Keller moved and Mr. Wharton seconded, the Board approved payment of the ADP Payroll in the amount of \$85,785.46. Vote: Aye.

Ms. Montag requested a motion from the Board to retain Capt. Terry Sanders as Fire Marshall for the year 2004.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded, the Board retains Capt. Terry Sanders as Fire Marshall for the year 2004. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded, the Board retains Peter Griggs as legal counsel for the Board for the year 2004. Vote; Aye.

Ms. Keller moved Mr. Stormont seconded the Board continue the employment of Wilbur Riebel, Chain & Flag, Galloway Cemetery at a rate of \$150.00 per month and Alton Cemetery at a rate of \$200.00 per month. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded, the Board rehire all township employees for the current year. Vote; Aye.

FIRE DEPT.	Wages per negotiated contracts
ROAD/CEMETERY DEPT.	Wages per contracts
ZONING DEPT.	Wages per contracts

MISCELLANEOUS LABOR:

Cemetery Chain-Alton	\$2,400/year, payable \$200 per month
Cemetery Chain-Galloway	\$1,800/year, payable \$150 per month

TRUSTEES:

TERESA P. KELLER	\$18,234.00 ANNUAL SALARY
JOSEPH A. WHARTON	\$18,234.00 ANNUAL SALARY
DOUG STORMONT	\$18,234.00 ANNUAL SALARY

CLERK:

LORI MONTAG      As per Section 507.09 of the ORC

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the cemetery charges remain at present levels as follows:

Graves:	\$600 per grave	
Township Residents:	Opening & Closing Weekdays	\$300
	Opening & Closing Saturday until noon	\$400
Non-Resident	Opening & Closing Weekdays	\$450
	Opening & Closing Saturday until noon	\$575
Cremation:		\$150
Baby Burial:	36-40 inch	\$150
Foundations:	30 cents Per Square Inch	
St. James Burial:	Baby	\$300
	Regular	\$450

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Disinterment Fee:	Resident	\$800
	Non-Resident	\$1,150

No burial Sunday or holidays observed by state and county government. All charges to be paid by cash, certified or cashier's check. Prices subject to change without notice.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the regular meeting times be set for every other Wednesday beginning with the next meeting on January 21, 2004 and every other Wednesday thereafter at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall 23 Maple Dr. Columbus Ohio. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board allow administrative expenses at actual cost, including parking, meals and mileage at .34/mile for all travel outside of the township and further these expenses be allowed at the same rate and on the same basis for any other township employee authorized to travel on behalf of the township and that the Zoning Inspectors be allowed mileage at a rate of .34/mile for all travel within the township if the zoning vehicle is not available. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded to authorize to request advances of tax monies from the Franklin County Auditor in 2004 as money becomes available.

Mr. Wharton introduced Mr. Tom Shockley of the Franklin County Sanitary Engineer's Office.

Mr. Shockley addressed storm water issues and gave a report on findings in the area after last's week's heavy rains. Several manholes will be relined. The City storm water connections in our sanitary are major contributions to the flooding problems in Franklin County. Mr. Shockley stated his department will be video taping the lines and using sewer cameras to detect additional problems that need to be corrected. Additional discussion was held with residents on area flooding issues.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded to have Peter Griggs provide the Board with an Attorney General opinion on what the Township's abilities are for storm drainage improvements as a Home Rule Township.

Mr. Wharton gave a State of the Township address overview on expenditures for the last five years. A discussion followed with Township residents.

\*\*\*\*\*Several Townships residents questioned the dismissal of township employee Donetta Brock. Mr. Wharton stated the Board would not discuss employee issues in a public forum.

Deputy Foster addressed the Board for public comment and stated the amount of crimes in the area during the Christmas season were down in comparison to last year's holiday season. There have been several attempted robberies in the Lincoln Village Plaza since the New Year, but no other outstanding criminal activities. Deputy Foster reported the sign at the egress of the Big Bear property indicating right turn only has been removed. Mr. McAninch stated that the Township did not originally place those signs but the road dept. would check in to having it replaced since it was in the road right-of-way.

Chief Lavelly commended Deputy Foster for his assistance at an accident scene on New Years Eve involving a father and three year old son.

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

1. Engine 241 was involved in an accident at Evergreen and Palmetto while responding to an EMS run. ATV ran a stop sign with no headlights on and Engine 241 hit them. Passenger on the back was transported to Grant

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Hospital.

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

1. Medfield Way issue two project update. Mr. Sabbagh addressed comments made by Franklin County. Bidding should go forward on January 19<sup>th</sup>. One property owner has been resistant on providing the Township with additional easement that is needed. Mr. McAninch will attempt to contact him again in an effort to secure the easement.
2. Mr. McAninch addressed all the residents who were attending the meeting with drainage concerns and stated that the road department would assist anyone and do all they are permitted to do by law to help get all the water issues resolved.

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

1. Mr. Thomas requested a motion to retain computer consultant Sighle Brackman of Integrisoft, on an as needed basis, at the rate of \$60.00 per hour for the year 2004.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded to retain computer consultant Sighle Brackman of Integrisoft, on an as needed basis, at the rate of \$60.00 per hour for the year 2004.

2. Mr. Thomas requested a motion to retain computer consultant Todd Jenkins of Integrated Network Design, on an as needed basis, at the rate of \$75.00 per hour for the year 2004

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded to retain computer consultant Todd Jenkins of Integrated Network Design, on an as needed basis, at the rate of \$75.00 per hour for the year 2004.

3. Mr. Thomas provided the Board with a detailed year end report.
4. Mr. Thomas said he would present an update on the new phone system to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Mr. Neil Distelhorst questioned the status of the Township Website, Mr. Thomas responded with an update.

Mr. Mike Ison questioned whether or not residents would be able to access public records. Mr. Thomas responded explaining that all applications and information regarding each department would be made available through the website.

Mr. Kennedy questioned the need for additional contractors for IT. Mr. Thomas responded with an example of the zoning database updates, GIS software and it's ability to provide sewer information for road department. Mr. Thomas stated that his support is basically at a level 1 & 2 and the consultants support is at a level 3.

A discussion followed regarding the capabilities of the website and information being readily available to the public.

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

1. The NFIP Permit for Post Oaks has been issued by Franklin County and the Zoning Office has signed off on the construction plans.

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2. Ms. Swisher recommended Christy Overla be appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five year term.

Ms. Keller moved and Mr. Wharton seconded, the Board appointed Ms. Christy Overla to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five year term.

3. Ms. Swisher recommended Howard Balzer be reappointed to the Zoning Commission for another five year term.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded, the Board appoint Mr. Howard Balzer to the Zoning Commission for a five year term.

4. Ms. Swisher expressed the need for alternates for both Zoning Boards.

Mr. Kennedy questioned several developments in the area. Ms. Swisher provided information on the West Broad Street construction.

Mr. Worthington questioned the pending courts case and the existing pond on the property which is under construction. Ms. Swisher gave a status on the court case and the improvements made to the property by the owner, the Reese Ditch by Franklin County and the culvert under West Broad Street by the State of Ohio. A discussion followed.

Mr. Worthington questioned whether the pole barn he constructed needed a zoning permit. Ms. Swisher explained the Zoning Office's policies for agricultural buildings and confirming their compliance with dimensional requirements.

Mr. Tracy Hatmaker, Township Administrator addressed the Board with the following matters:

1. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board convene to a public hearing for consideration of a lighting district for the Norton Crossing Subdivision.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded to convene to a public hearing at 8:55 p.m. for the consideration of a lighting district for the Norton Crossing Subdivision.

2. Mr. Hatmaker gave a brief over view of the nine lights proposed for the subdivision and the assessment process for the lighting district.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded, the Board to adjourn the meeting on the lighting district and reconvene on January 13, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at the site on Owen.

3. Mr. Hatmaker requested to procure temporary help for the Zoning Department while the Zoning Clerk is off for several months for back surgery.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded, the Board approve to hire temporary help for the Zoning Department while the Zoning Clerk is off for several months for back surgery.

A discussion followed regarding the presentation given by the Chairman at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded, the Board adjourns into Executive Session to discuss with council pending legal matters at 9:06 p.m. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Stormont; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded, the Board to resume the regular meeting at 11:13 p.m. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Stormont; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye.

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Ms. Montag presented a Resolution for the Board to pass authorizing the closing of the real estate purchase contract and funding agreement with Carl and Margaret Brofford.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Stormont seconded, the Board to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Closing of the Real Estate Purchase Contract and Funding Agreement with Carl and Margaret Brofford and authorize Ms. Keller to sign the closing documents. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk