

## PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING/SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

The regular meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees was called to order by the Chairperson Mr. Kennedy, with Ms. Schlosser, Mr. Stormont and Ms. Montag present. Also attending were: Chief Feustel, Mr. Hatmaker and Mr. McAninch. (See attached list).

Mr. Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Kennedy moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board approve the minutes as written for the regular meeting of September 12, 2007. Vote; Aye

Deputy Weiner reported to the Board he just came from a robbery at the CVS on West Broad Street. Deputy Weiner highlighted the monthly statistics for August. 412 dispatch runs, 374 pick-up runs, 40 domestic runs, 92 reports taken, 9 felony arrests, 11 misdemeanor arrests, 2 felony warrant arrests, 12 misdemeanor warrant arrests, 18 prisoners conveyed, 13 crashes investigated. He was involved with a traffic stop in relation to narcotics investigation which had enough drugs to make it a felony. The last couple of days accidents have been up, and domestics have been up.

Ms. Lani Cunningham asked if they can increase patrolling Carl Frye Park. She has received several calls from residents complaining about motorized vehicles in the park. Deputy Weiner responded he was not aware they have paved a path in the park but would let the third shift know to patrol the park.

Mr. John Waldman asked why cars can not be towed for being parked over two years and has not moved. At 411 Deerfield, a blue and white cadillac, with historic tags has not moved. Deputy Weiner responded they could tag it and notify the owner has 72 hours to move it. And if they do not move it they will tow it.

Mrs. Marion Hymer asked who sets the timing on the school zone lights. The lights are not on during the correct times and not moving traffic correctly. Deputy Weiner responded to call the Sheriff's Department for traffic control. Mr. McAninch stated he would call the Franklin County Engineer's office to address the issue.

Mr. Bob Voss stated the Sheriff's Department is doing an outstanding job on Emmitt Avenue fighting crime, endless gun shots. He ask how dangerous is it going on that street. Deputy Weiner responded it is very dangerous, it is a very dark street, and it helps to have streetlights. He as arrested several people on that street. Deputy Weiner stated since he lives on that street he know what cars belong there and to call the Sheriff's Department if he sees anything suspicious.

Mr. Jamie Mueller asked how long a vehicle can sit on the street and what is the timeframe before they would do something about it. Deputy Weiner responded he was not aware if there is a law that specifies how long a vehicle can be parked. If they can verify that the vehicle has been sitting for a few weeks they can tag it and get it impounded.

The Fiscal Officer presented the following items:

1. Ms. Montag requested final disbursements for the Village of New Rome, \$22,147.76 to Prairie Township, \$21,803.68 to Bureau of Workman's Compensation, \$4,876.08 Auditor of State, and \$324.22 to Ohio Department of Taxation, \$9,524.11 to Ohio Job & Family Services and \$3,256.23 to Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. Ms. Montag requested the Board authorize the Fiscal Officer to sign and issue checks from the New Rome account to the Court approved Creditors per Judge Cain's order dated July 19, 2007.

Mr. Kennedy moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board authorize the Fiscal Officer to sign and issue checks from the New Rome account to the Court approved Creditors per Judge Cain's order dated July 19, 2007.

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After the Trustees reviewed the pending warrant list, Mr. Kennedy moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board approve the payment of the ADP payroll in the amount of \$106,745.91 and approve payment of the following bills. Vote; Aye. (See pending warrant list).

Ms. Montag stated to Mr. Kennedy, at the last meeting he handed her a packet of copied documents and she has yet to locate the originals. Eight days after you took office, on Monday, January 9, 2006. Mr. Kennedy said stop, you are out of order. Ms. Montag continued, you entered the township hall at 6:39 pm and left at 8:18 pm. Since that time you've been at the township 78 times after normal business hours and on weekends. Sunday, April 16, 2006 you entered the township hall at 12:44 pm and then went into the zoning office at 1:07 pm. You finally left the zoning office for the final time at 9:26pm and the township hall at 9:27 pm. Did it take you eight hours to riffle through desks? Mr. Kennedy said you're pushing the envelope of crossing allegations to slander so if you want to continue go ahead. Ms. Montag stated you've repeated these weekend visits 27 times for more than 50 hours, after hours. Mr. Kennedy asked what are you getting to. Ms. Montag asked what he was doing during these times. Mr. Kennedy stated it doesn't matter. Mr. Kennedy said show me in the Ohio Revised Code where I'm not allowed in the township hall any hours I want to be in here. It doesn't matter what I'm doing, I got logical excuses for being in here when I am. Tracy knows most of the times when I'm in here and what I'm doing. What are you accusing me of? Ms. Montag asked what are you doing in here after hours. Mr. Kennedy said it does not matter. Ms. Schlosser stated all of us have other obligations outside of the township, so sometimes they only time we can get to the hall is after normal business hours. So I have to ask where is the line of questioning going. She has been there when she got a call from security and the alarm was going off. Ms. Montag responded yours and Doug's security codes are not logged 78 times after normal business hours. Ms. Schlosser asked what is the reason or rationale behind normal business hour verses outside of normal business hours. Ms. Montag stated he is here during normal business hours too. Ms. Montag stated she has not logged anything; this is straight from the security logs. Ms. Schlosser asked what is the line of questioning getting to. Ms. Montag responded what is he doing during these hours. Mr. Kennedy said your pissed here more than you are. Ms. Montag responded not hardly. Mr. Kennedy stated he is in here doing township business, I'm allowed in here anytime I want, just like you are. We've got no limitations on you; you can come and go as you please, what is the issue. Ms. Montag responded just curious what you're doing with township records. Mr. Kennedy said your there again, your getting close to crossing the line on allegations to slander. Mr. Kennedy asked are your accusing me right now of doing anything. Ms. Montag responded she is not accusing you of anything, I merely asked a question.

Mr. John Waldman asked if you have nothing to hide what's the problem. Mr. Kennedy responded I have nothing to hide. Mr. Waldman asked why don't you list what you do then. Mr. Kennedy said I have nothing to hide, my comrades know what I am doing in here, the administrator know what I am doing. To be honest with you I do the backups every Saturday on the server. I have to come in here twice on Saturday to do that while I'm here I do other township work. I have nothing to hide. Mr. Waldman asked why don't you put a log of what you do then. Mr. Kennedy said I have nothing to hide, this is just, in my book, it is just a political statement, she holding all these allegations until political season and now she is trying to make something of them.

Mr. Virgil Hibbs stated we don't care what you do, I'm sure it's for the township benefit. Mr. Kennedy appreciated that. She can make all the allegations she wants until she has proof of something that was wrong.

Ms. Schlosser asked if any of the 78 visits, because you lock your office, and you started locking your office, so were any of those 78 visits pre locking your office. Ms. Montag responded from January, 2006 to August. So you starting locking your office in September of 2006 which was nine months after he took office. Ms. Montag

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stated Mr. Kennedy was in her office changing the computer system without consulting with her which is why she changed the locks on her office. Ms. Schlosser's question was if you're going to make allegations how many times he has been in this building. There has to be clearly defined between when you starting locking your office, because obviously your not making the statement just to say Steve has been in the building 78 times doing township work. There is some underlying findings to that. If you're going to say what you're going to say you need to say the whole thing.

Mr. Russ Pitts stated he thinks everybody needs to make a plain statement of what they are going to say.

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

1. Mr. McAninch requested the Board authorize the first payment of \$81,328.47 to Robertson Construction Services for work completed on the road maintenance building at 6725 Alkire Road.

Mr. Kennedy moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board authorize the first payment of \$81,328.47 to Robertson Construction Services for work completed on the road maintenance building at 6725 Alkire Road. Vote; Aye.

Mr. John Waldman asked why the street maintenance crews did not have that car towed when they had signs posted. Mr. McAninch responded that project was contracted through the Franklin County Engineer's office, typically the County will post that, and if vehicles are not moved they will have them towed. Mr. Kennedy stated he has had three or four people call him to have vehicles moved from being parked on the sidewalk. If you fill the Sheriff's Department form out that is on the website and send it in it will be addressed.

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

1. Chief Feustel requested the Board authorize firefighter James Grimm to use Shared Leave that has been accumulated as per Article XXVII, Section 3 of the Prairie Township IAFF collective bargaining agreement during the pay period beginning on October 3, 2007.

Mr. Kennedy moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board authorize firefighter James Grimm to use Shared Leave that has been accumulated as per Article XXVII, Section 3 of the Prairie Township IAFF collective bargaining agreement during the pay period beginning on October 3, 2007. Vote; Aye.

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

1. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board approve a three year step increase, to a rate of \$18.06 per hour, for zoning clerk Dana Scott effective October 6, 2007.

Mr. Kennedy moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board approve a three year step increase, to a rate of \$18.06 per hour, for zoning clerk Dana Scott effective October 6, 2007. Vote; Aye.

2. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Prairie Township Board of Trustees find the conditions at 461 Smith Road to be a nuisance and that the Board hereby directs staff to abate said nuisance at the expense of the property owner on or after October 3, 2007.

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Mr. Kennedy moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Prairie Township Board of Trustees find the conditions at 461 Smith Road to be a nuisance and that the Board hereby directs staff to abate said nuisance at the expense of the property owner on or after October 3, 2007. Vote; Aye.

3. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board authorize the township administrator to forward a letter to the Franklin County Budget Commission requesting that Prairie Township's Certificate of Estimated Resources be amended to add Fund 2413 (2007 Sidewalk Assessments) and to include \$3,000.00 in anticipated revenue in this fund.

Mr. Kennedy moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board authorize the township administrator to forward a letter to the Franklin County Budget Commission requesting that Prairie Township's Certificate of Estimated Resources be amended to add Fund 2413 (2007 Sidewalk Assessments) and to include \$3,000.00 in anticipated revenue in this fund. Vote; Aye.

4. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board approve the closing of Greenlake Street between Canyon Cove Road and Dalebrook Court beginning at 4:00 pm and ending t 11:00 pm on November 3, 2007 in order to accommodate a neighborhood party.

Mr. Kennedy moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board approve the closing of Greenlake Street between Canyon Cove Road and Dalebrook Court beginning at 4:00 pm and ending t 11:00 pm on November 3, 2007 in order to accommodate a neighborhood party. Vote; Aye.

Ms. Schlosser asked if the IRS has been resolved of what needs to happen for the penalties. Mr. Hatmaker responded he met with Ms. Montag this afternoon, the payroll companies were handling it some degree. Ms. Montag stated she has received an email today from ADP stating I should receive a response from them within ten days. Also, she will send a letter to the IRS stating the 1099's were filed timely. Both payroll companies have been sent the IRS letters since they file the 941 form for the township. Ms. Schlosser asked if they are found in the wrong they will indemnify us against this. Ms. Montag responded yes.

Mr. Neil Distlehorst asked what was that all about. Ms. Schlosser responded they had received a letter from the IRS saying there were some errors in the informational return that was filed by the payroll company. So there was an email sent out asking for the status. Mr. Distlehorst asked if there was an assessment. Ms. Schlosser responded they have not formally made an assessment they say if you don't respond they will impose a penalty, but it sounds as if the payroll company will be indemnifying us against this and insuring that they get the proper documentation since they were responsible for the filings.

Old Business:

New Business:

Ms. Marolyn Cook introduced herself, she is with the Lincoln Village Residents Association and she is the coordinator for the Graffiti Grant they received. She is looking for volunteers to assist in cleaning up the community. They have had three clean-ups already. They have removed graffiti from Doctors office, the Barber Shop on Galloway Road. If anyone is interested to please contact Robin Comeans at the Senior Center. Mr. Will Davis stated he is one of the advisors; Deputy Charlie Brown has given a couple of presentations on gang related material. They have given pictures to him to interpret for gangs.

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Mr. Bob Voss asked about the apartments on Stiles Avenue and what is going on with them. Mr. Hatmaker responded is getting estimates and a scope of work of what needs to be done to demolish the buildings. Mr. Voss asked about a year ago Judge Hale had a meeting and stated they needed to come down. Mr. Kennedy responded they are shooting to have them taken down by the end of the year. It can't image why it has taken about ten years to get this done. The grass has been 30 inches tall, people have torn the doors off and living in them right now, he can't understand, this is dangerous and if these apartments were somewhere else in the township would it be going on this long. This area has always been overlooked. Ms. Schlosser stated if grass grows to call the zoning department and complain and it starts the process for being a nuisance.

Mr. Voss requested a street light to be placed on Emmitt for safety reasons and never heard anything further. Ms. Schlosser requested him to give them a list of address to start the nuisance process. Mr. Kennedy stated the Board could not do anything about the apartments until after the Sheriff sale. They will put it out for bid to see how much it is going to cost to tear down. Franklin County has agreed to share the cost. Hopefully, it will be done before the end of the year. Mr. Kennedy stated the light needs to be done through a lighting petition.

Public Comment:

Mr. Jim Morrison stated he worked for a company for 19 years and had complete access to the building. He stated he thought it is totally out of line to bring these discussions at a township meeting.

Mr. Neil Distlehorst asked if there has been a candidates night scheduled. Mr. Hatmaker responded yes, October 23, 2007 at 6:00 pm.

Announcements:

Mr. Hatmaker announced the Fall Flea Fantasia is September 28th and 29th.

Mr. Hatmaker announced at the Senior Center on October 7, 2007 at 7:00 pm the Attorney General will be presenting information on consumer fraud and how to prevent it. On October 4, 2007 at 6:00 pm Sunset Cemetery personnel will present information on pre planning.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m.

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Chairperson

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Fiscal Officer