

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE

REGULAR MEETING/APRIL 9, 2008

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

Ms. Schlosser led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board approve the minutes for the regular meeting of March 26, 2008 and the special meeting of April 2, 2008. Vote; Aye

Deputy Weiner stated that the last couple of weeks have seen an increase in activity, in part due to the weather, which is normal this time of year. There was a drive by shooting into a house on Emmit Avenue. There were no injuries.

Deputy Weiner also stated that according to Deputy Turner, there have been a lot of open garage doors in the area. There have been a few thefts that have been targeting open garage doors.

The traffic complaints are still being worked according to first shift with a primary target of monitoring the school zones.

Mr. Stormont had a complaint regarding the recruiters' office behind McDonald's. There have been up to five or six motorcycles on the sidewalk. Deputy Weiner agreed to check it out. Mr. Stormont stated that it was the recruiters who are parking and also riding along the sidewalk. Deputy Weiner stated it was against the law and they would take care of it.

Ms. Schlosser acknowledged the death of firefighter Paul Troesch and requested that all stand to observe a moment of silence.

Ms. Schlosser requested the Troesch family come up to the podium for the presentation of Resolution 15-08, a resolution honoring the memory of Paul H. Troesch.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded that Resolution 15-08 be adopted. Roll Call: Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye.

Ms. Schlosser tabled the Senior Center Lease Agreement until the next regular meeting of April 24, 2008. They are looking at different lengths of terms and discounts and would like to speak with Mr. Hatmaker.

Ms. Schlosser stated that there have been challenges in getting the apartments demolished at Mix and Stiles with the commissioners' support. The board has been working since the last meeting on gaining the support and has been assured that they do have two of the three commissioners' support when it comes up at their general session next Tuesday. However, another option being discussed amongst the trustees to bring the apartments down is to send the lien holders a letter under section 505.86.

Ms. Schlosser opened a discussion of whether to go ahead and send the letters (under section 505.86) to the lien holders prior to allowing the commissioners to vote on Tuesday. Doing so could alienate the commissioners whose support we do have, and waiting until Tuesday to send the letters may be a better alternative.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he planned to go to the briefing on Thursday to try and help persuade them. There is a timeline on the 505.86 which could end up being forty – five days out from this date. Mr. Kennedy stated that we need to move forward to get these buildings down in a timely manner.

Ms. Schlosser explained that if the letters are sent and this does alienate the commissioners, then the timeframe has definitely moved to forty-five days, however

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if the commissioners vote on Tuesday and are in support of the demolition then the demolition can begin shortly thereafter.

Mr. Kennedy also stated that on April 27, 2008 there is a public hearing scheduled and this will need to be rescheduled if the commissioners do not come through with their support because of waiting to send out the letters.

A resident asked Ms. Schlosser to explain what was in the letter that could possibly alienate the commissioners.

Ms. Schlosser explained that it's basically circumventing their process and taking a different route to declaring them a nuisance. Ms. Schlosser further explained that it was similar to filing a nuisance complaint against the commissioners.

The resident then asked which commissioners were in support of the demolition. Ms. Schlosser answered that commissioners Kilroy and Brown relayed through their aides that they supported us. Ms. Schlosser encouraged residents to contact Commissioner Brooks to let her know that this is something we really need her support on to bring these buildings down.

The resident requested contact numbers for the Commissioners. Ms. Schlosser provided telephone numbers for residents to contact the Commissioners.

Mr. Stormont stated that Mr. Kennedy took pictures of the buildings to take to the Commissioners briefing on Thursday. Ms. Schlosser stated that they did go out to see it on their bus tour and that they agree it's a plight and we need them to see that we do live with this everyday and need for them to raise their priority level.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded that the Board approve a letter be sent to the Mix and Stiles Apartment owners and lien holders concerning the apartment demolitions per requirements of 505.86 and authorize the Chairperson to sign the letter on or after April 15, 2008. Vote; Mr. Stormont, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Nay.

Mr. Kennedy stated the reason for his "Nay" vote was that he thinks the Board should move forward as quickly as possible and that the worse case scenario would be that the Township would need to provide another \$40,000.00.

The Fiscal Officer presented the following items:

Mr. McCardle stated that he was honored to serve as the Fiscal Officer for the Township and that he was looking forward to working with the Township employees, the residents of the community and the other board members over the next four years.

1. Mr. McCardle requested a motion that the Board approves the pending warrant list of \$119,364.37 and the ADP payroll in the amount of \$117,197.25 for a combined sum of \$236,561.62.

Ms. Schlosser moved; Mr. Stormont seconded the Board approve the pending warrant list of \$119,364.37 and the ADP payroll in the amount of \$117,197.25 for a combined sum of \$236,561.62. Vote; Aye.

Chief Feustel had no standing business to present.

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

1. The Clean-Up has been scheduled and the dumpsters will be dropped off on Friday, April 25th, 2008. They will be here for one week until May 2, 2008.
2. We did receive all five tipping passes this year.

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3. Tim Horton's withdrew their application to rezone the house behind Jelly Donuts because Starbucks has pulled out of all of their new builds in the Central Ohio area. Due to the ODOT issues, with all of the improvements of West Broad Street, Tim Horton's was in fear of losing the Broad Street curb cut. They have moved down to the lot on the east side of Frisch's and have applied for a variance for next month.
4. Walgreen's received their variance and will be going into the Frisch's site.
5. The Zoning office did receive an application for a new professional building on Inah just south of the building that sits on the corner of Inah and Broad Street.
6. Ms. Swisher stated that it should be a busy summer as they are already receiving applications for next months BZA.
7. Everything that was not tabled at the BZA that went forward was approved such as the IBEW building in Galloway, the Walgreens and then a resident's home.
8. The Public Hearing for the Zoning Commission for this month was canceled, the next meeting will be held in May.

Ms. Schlosser asked if the Zoning office worked with any organizations that might provide grant money such as Keep Columbus Beautiful.

Ms. Swisher stated that they work with SWACO and Keep Franklin County Beautiful.

Pam Williams, a resident, questioned what the time table for Frisch's is. Ms. Swisher answered that they did receive a call regarding the demolition today.

Ms. Swisher stated that there is a meeting scheduled for May 2nd, 2008 for the Commercial Building Department. With approval from the state, the department should be up and running within a couple of weeks.

Mr. McAninch did not have any agenda items and was not present for this meeting.

Ms. Swisher presented the nuisance cases to the board in Mr. Hatmaker's absence.

Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Prairie Township Board of Trustees find the conditions at 185 Postle to be a nuisance and that the Board hereby directs staff to abate said nuisance at the expense of the property owner as per the requirements in Ohio Revised Code Section 505.87. Vote; Aye.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Ms. Schlosser stated that there was an introduction of House Bill 521 that is being introduced by representatives Wolpert and Flowers to commission a study to make recommendations on local government. It is very similar to a study that was conducted in Indiana with one of the recommendations being to due away with township like governments. They have not instituted that in Indiana but it would be very beneficial to contact their stated representatives or to contact Wolpert and Flowers and make their voices known on their feelings of local government.

Public Comment: None

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Announcements: None

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Chairperson

Fiscal Officer