

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

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

Ms. Schlosser led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Stormont seconded and the Board approved the minutes for the regular meeting of September 10, 2008. All voted-Aye.

Sheriff's Report

A representative from the Franklin County Sheriff's Department gave the following Sheriff's Report. We have had a number of break-ins and burglaries on Old Village Road and the Garden Heights area. In just one morning we have had 15 break-ins reported. We have had seven to fifteen garages and sheds in Garden Heights were broken into late this past Sunday and early this past Monday. The following stats were reported by the Deputy: They made 600 dispatch runs, 595 pickup runs, 46 domestic runs, 177 record checks, and 20 warrants/misdemeanor arrests were made, 32 vehicles impounds and 73 non-crash citations were issued. No action was required by the board.

Public Hearing

The next item on the agenda is the Public Hearing on the 2008 Sidewalk Replacement Program Assessment. Ms Schlosser made the following motion: "Motion made to open the 2008 sidewalk replacement program assessment at 7:09pm." Motion seconded by Mr. Stormont. All voted-Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Hatmaker explained that this sidewalk replacement program will allow the township to replace the homeowners sidewalks at the townships cost, and this cost would be placed on the owners real estate tax bill as a 10 year assessment. Mr. Hatmaker stated that we have six parcels that the sidewalks have been replaced for a total cost of \$18,070.86. Ms Schlosser stated that she would like to make the following motion to close the hearing on the 2008 Sidewalk Replacement Program Assessment at 7:11pm. Motion seconded by Mr. Stormont. All voted-aye.

Ms Schlosser made the following motion: "I move that the board adopt resolution 26-08, a resolution to levy special assessment for the repair of sidewalks in Prairie Township". Motion seconded by Mr. Stormont. Roll-call was requested by Mr. McCardle. Votes were as follows: Mr. Kennedy-aye: Mr. Stormont-aye: Ms Schlosser-aye. Motion passed.

Fiscal Officer

Mr. McCardle requested a motion from the board to approve the warrant list of items totaling \$246,701.37 and payroll totaling \$121,099.11 for a combined sum of \$367,800.48. Ms Schlosser so moved. Mr. Stormont seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Fire Department

No items are on tonight's agenda.

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

Zoning Department

No items are on tonight's agenda. Connie Swisher has been excused from attending this meeting.

Road & Cemetery Department

No items are on tonight's agenda. Dave McAninch has been excused from attending this meeting. Ms Schlosser stated that we have received several calls from citizens appreciating the road and maintenance department efforts with the recent debris cleanup. She also stated that this item will be relayed to Dave.

Township Administration

Nuisance Cases: Tracy Hatmaker asked the Board's guidance on the nuisance cases that have been forwarded in advance of the meeting. One nuisance case was considered at this meeting and it is located at 342 Kellybrook Place.

Ms Schlosser made the following motion: "I move that the Prairie Township Board of Trustees find the condition at 342 Kellybrook Place to be a nuisance and that the Board hereby direct staff to abate said nuisance at the expense of the property owner as per the requirements in Ohio Revised Code Section 505.87." Motion seconded by Mr. Stormont. Votes: Mr. Kennedy (aye): Mr. Stormont (aye): Ms Schlosser (aye). Motion passed.

The next item that Mr. Hatmaker had was a request for an addition of a street light into the Lake Darby Estates Phase 2 Lighting District. Mr. Hatmaker requested that the Board consider adding a street light to this lighting district which will be installed at the intersection of Crestwater Drive and Lakefield Drive. A neighborhood resident had requested this because of various criminal and delinquent activities that have consistently taken place at this location. The Sheriff's Deputies have confirmed the need for a streetlight at this location. Existing streetlights located on Lakefield and Crestwater are too far away to provide light at this intersection. A discussion was held that an additional light be installed at the corner of Darlene and Lakefield Drive. Mr. McCardle was asked if there were sufficient funds available in the lighting district for these additional streetlights. Mr. McCardle stated that the fund reserve will be able to cover the cost of the two additional lights.

The following motion was made by Ms Schlosser: "I move that the Board authorize the installation of a streetlight at the intersection of Crestwater Drive and Lakefield Drive and another streetlight at the intersection of Darlene and Lakefield Drive in the Lake Darby Estates Phase 2 Lighting District and authorize the addition of these streetlights to the township's Lake Darby Estates Phase 2 lighting district agreement with AEP as per Ohio Revised Code Section 515.09". Motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Votes: Mr. Stormont (aye): Mr. Kennedy (aye): Ms Schlosser (aye). Motion passed.

The next item regarded letters prepared and addressed to the Commissioners of the PUCO regarding a rate increase request made by the Ohio American Water Company. Mr. Kennedy presented to the Board a very in depth analysis of the situation that the residents of the Lake Darby Estates and the West Point subdivisions are having with their water supplier, Ohio American

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

Water Company. In March of 2007 the Ohio American Water Company requested a 26% increase to these residents, and was ultimately approved for a 14% increase. This year the water company has asked for yet another increase of 36%. In the past year there have been two (2) issues: (1) the quality of the water and (2) the cost of the water. The PUCO tested the water and the test results were way out of the normal range required by the state. Mr. Kennedy stated that the township even tested the water and found the same varying results. The water company disputed the tests stating that the testing procedures were not accurate. Acting on behalf of the township, Mr. Kennedy then took water samples to an independent lab to secure an independent third party analysis. The third party's findings were also in-line with those found by both the PUCO and Mr. Kennedy. The Ohio Consumer Council has agreed on a stipulation with the Ohio American Water Company that they will be fined if they continue to violate these stipulations. We hope the Commission will take a strong look at this case and determine that this 36% increase is unjust.

Mr. Hatmaker then presented to the Board a request for approval, letters to the Commissioners of the PUCO requesting that they not approve the Ohio American Water rate increases recommended in the September 4, 2008 Stipulations and Recommendations report prepared by PUCO staff.

Ms Schlosser made the following motion: "I move that the Board execute and forward a letter to each member of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio requesting that the Commission consider alternatives to the Ohio American Water rate increase at Lake Darby, as contained in the September 4, 2008 Stipulations and Recommendations report, that recognize that the Ohio American Water facility at Lake Darby is unsustainable on its current path of skyrocketing costs and charges". Motion was seconded by Mr. Stormont. Votes: Mr. Kennedy-aye: Mr. Stormont-aye: Ms Schlosser-aye. Motion passed.

The next item was the Clover Groff stream restoration grant support letter; I am asking the Board to approve a letter of support for a City of Columbus stream restoration project for an approximate three mile section of Clover Groff ditch from Route 40 to its confluence with Hamilton Ditch. The project will involve creation of a floodplain seven times the width of the current ditch. The letter of support would go to the OEPA's Water Resources Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP). The project will be known as Phase 3 of Columbus' Clover Groff restoration plan. The last section of this project, between Alton Road and Hamilton Ditch, would be on land owned by Prairie Township. The excavation of this floodplain should reduce the efforts of flooding on surrounding areas such as Tamara Avenue.

Mr. Kennedy made the following motion: "I move that the Board forward a letter of support to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the City of Columbus' Clover Groff stream restoration project and authorize the chair to sign the letter". Motion was seconded by Mr. Stormont. Votes: Mr. Stormont-aye: Mr. Kennedy-aye: Ms Schlosser-aye. Motion passed.

Next on the agenda was the Big Darby Accord Revenue Project Revised Participation Agreement. For more than a year now, Prairie Township has worked with other Big Darby area jurisdictions on an in-depth analysis of projected Big Darby Accord revenues. This analysis addressed potential tax increment financing (TIF) policies and new community authority (NCA) guidelines among other topics. The TIF policies will help the county and the townships to agree upon a fiscally responsible and fair approach to using this source of revenue to acquire open space in the water shed. The NCA guidelines will help multiple jurisdictions to form a single NCA within the

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

planning area. The total cost of the project will be no more than \$20,000. As the proceeds, the City of Columbus and Greg Stype of Squire Sanders have been trying to finalize the contract. Because of changes in their contract scope adjusting for project demands that have developed over the course of the last year, we need to execute a new set of participation agreements (the Board signed the original on August 1, 2007). In addition the cost to Prairie Township has increased from \$1,666.67 to \$1,680 because of problems related to rounding errors.

The following motion was made by Mr. Kennedy: "I move that the Board approve the revised Big Darby Accord Revenue Generation Consultant Participation Agreement and authorize the chair to execute said agreement". Motion was seconded by Mr. Stormont. Votes: Mr. Stormont-aye: Mr. Kennedy-aye: Ms Schlosser-aye. Motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was an IT RFP: Mr. Hatmaker requested that the Board authorize the Township Administrator to prepare and distribute a request for proposals for provision of IT support services to the township for the year beginning November 11, 2008.

Ms Schlosser made the following motion: "I move that the Board authorize the Township Administrator to prepare and distribute a request for proposals for IT support services to be provided to Prairie Township, the deadline for which is to be October 15, 2008, and authorize the Township Administrator to publish notice of this request for proposals". Motion seconded by Mr. Stormont. Votes: Mr. Stormont-aye: Mr. Kennedy-aye: Ms Schlosser-aye. Motion passed.

Another item introduced by Mr. Hatmaker regarded a road improvement project—repaving the parking lot located on the west side of the building at 23 Maple Drive. The original cost of this project was \$10,920. By changing the project with an application of stress & absorbing membrane, the cost is just \$2,900. This change would save the Township approximately \$8,000.

Ms Schlosser made the following motion to the Board: "I move that the Board authorize the Township Administrator to sign an agreement with Strawser Construction Incorporated to apply approximately 500 square yards of stress and absorbing membrane interlayer on the parking lot on the west side of the building at 23 Maple Drive for a cost of \$2,900". Motion seconded by Mr. Stormont. Votes: Mr. Kennedy-aye: Mr. Stormont-aye: Ms Schlosser-aye. Motion passed.

The final item from the Township Administrator was a presentation to the Board for approval an agreement from Timothy E, Beathard & Associates, Auctioneers to hold our auction on October 29, 2008 at 4:00pm (which the Board approved at our last meeting). This agreement with Timothy E. Beathard & Associates calls for a fee of 15% of all personal property items sold, 7% for any vehicles sold plus an additional cost of \$15.00 per hour for time their employees spend on administrating the auction. Mr. Kennedy so moved. Mr. Stormont seconded the motion. All voted-aye. Motion passed.

Standing Business: None

Old Business: None

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

New Business: None

Public Comments:

The chair recognized Mr. Jones, a resident at 48 Lennox Ave. Mr. Jones brought up the problem he has had for several years with his basement flooding during hard rains and his assertion that no one has done anything about it. He said he has a report from Mr. Shockley, County Engineer that states that his problem is caused by a manhole cover located near his property at 48 Lennox Ave. Ms. Schlosser stated that if the problem is with the manhole cover, the township is not responsible for the sewers, as that responsibility lies with the Franklin County Engineers, who maintains all the sewers within the township. Ms. Schlosser reminded Mr. Jones that townships cannot use public money for private interests. Ms. Schlosser then advised Mr. Jones to drop off a copy of his documentation and evidence for the Trustees to examine and investigate further.

Announcements: None

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Chairperson

Fiscal Officer