

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OCTOBER 7, 2009 – REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

The regular meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees was called to order on October 7, 2009 at 7:00 PM by the Chairman, Mr. Stormont, with Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Schlosser, and Mr. McCardle present. Also in attendance was Mr. Hatmaker, Township Administrator. (See attached sign in sheet for a complete list of additional attendees).

Mr. Stormont led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Stormont asked the board to approve the meeting minutes for the September 9 regular meeting, the Special Meeting held on September 16, and the September 23 regular meeting. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; and Ms. Schlosser, Aye. Motion passed.

Sheriff's Report

Deputy Plum of the Franklin County Sheriff's Department advised that everything was calming down except for the fact that the township is experiencing an increase in juvenile fighting. Deputy Plum asked the residents in attendance to report any large groups of youths gathering, particularly in the Lincoln Village South area. Deputy Plum also reminded everyone that South Grenner remains closed and tickets are being written to enforce that closure. A resident reported drug activity in the Lincoln Village South area. Another resident reported that there are dump trucks rolling through old Galloway at speeds in excess of 50 mph, and asked that the deputies patrol the area to enforce the speed limits.

Letter to the Attorney General's Office Regarding the Ohio American Water Rate Increase Proposal

Mr. Kennedy spoke about the seven Franklin County townships that are participating in the "Fight the Hike Ohio" campaign are in the process of asking Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray to become involved. Waterhouse, the firm that has been hired to help provide information as part of this campaign, has worked with these townships to draft a letter to the Attorney General asking him to investigate accounting weaknesses and other issues raised in Ohio American Water's (OAW's) own audits and reports. These issues call into question OAW's ability to fairly and accurately determine the need for additional rate increases. Similar research by the Tennessee Attorney General's office helped defeat a Tennessee American Water rate increase request in Chattanooga. The group is in the process of conducting its own investigation in coordination with this request. Mr. Kennedy stated that the group of seven townships thinks that the best course of action is to get the Ohio Attorney General involved. A letter will be drafted by and signed by all the townships.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board, in conjunction with the other townships which are coordinating with the Fight the Hike Ohio campaign, approve the letter asking that the Ohio Attorney General investigate accounting and other irregularities at Ohio American Water Company that call into question that company's ability to access the need for a fair rate increase and authorize the chair to execute said letter. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. Motion passed.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Audit Report

Mr. McCardle reviewed the results of the 2007 / 2008 fiscal year audit by the Auditor of State. Copies of this

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report and a summary of its results have been forwarded to the Board. Prairie Township's 2007 & 2008 bi-annual audit and financial reports received an unqualified opinion from the Auditor of State's Office.

Adoption of Policies Related to Audit Recommendations

Mr. McCardle requested that the Board consider the adoption of policies that were recommended by the Auditor of State as a result of their 2007 / 2008 fiscal year audit of Prairie Township. These policies address the establishment and conduct of an audit committee, revised and formalized procedures for processing and approving supplemental appropriations and the accumulation of frequent flyer miles. The draft audit committee policy distributed last week includes references to three at-large members as being residents. Mr. McCardle would like the Board to have the flexibility to appoint non-residents as at-large members when it wishes and, thus, recommends replacing the two references to residents with the phrase "at-large members." Mr. Hatmaker enclosed a revised version of the draft policy with those changes. While the audit committee policy will be a stand alone policy, the supplemental appropriations policy and the frequent flyer miles policy will be added to the Policy and Procedures Manual. The board also received copies of these draft policies.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt the draft Audit Committee policy as presented. Mr. Kennedy seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion was approved.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board amend the Prairie Township Policies and Procedures Manual to add policy 9.11, "Purchases Requiring a Supplemental Appropriation" as presented and policy 2.0421, "Frequent Flyer Miles" as presented. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion was approved.

Revenue and Appropriations Reductions in Various Funds

Mr. McCardle asked the Board to approve reductions in revenue and appropriations in three funds because interest revenues are lower than expected for these funds. This action is consistent with recommendations of the Auditor of State as a result of their 2007 / 2008 fiscal year audit:

Motor Vehicle License Tax (2011): -\$4,440.92 (from 2011-330-360)
Gasoline Tax (2021): -\$7,054.38 (from 2021-330-190 & 2021-330-360)
Permissive MV License Tax (2231) -\$15,000.00 (from 2231-760-740)

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the township administrator to forward a letter to the Franklin County Budget Commission requesting that Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund revenues and appropriations be reduced by \$4,440.92; Gasoline Tax Fund revenues and appropriations be reduced by \$7,054.38; and Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax revenues and appropriations be reduced by \$15,000.00. This motion was seconded by Ms. Schlosser. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; and Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.

Appropriations Increases in Various Funds

Mr. McCardle asked the Board to approve an increase in appropriations in the General Fund, the Road and Bridge Fund, the Lake Darby Estates North Lighting District Fund and the West Point Phase II Sections 3, 4 and 5 Lighting District Fund. The increase in the General Fund appropriations will cover the expenditure of \$24,999.00 to hire Waterhouse Public Relations. The Road and Bridge Fund has exceeded its projected revenues and its appropriations are being increased in salaries and contract services to cover reductions in other Road Department funds. The lighting district funds' appropriations are being increased to include the cost of conduits that were installed and paid for before the funds were created. This action will allow the funds to show the full amount of General Fund money used for each of the lighting districts. Since these invoices have already been paid, these amounts (\$1,810.32 for Lake Darby and \$4,382.87 for West Point) will be reallocated back to the General Fund.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the township administrator to forward a letter to the Franklin County Budget Commission requesting that the General Fund appropriations be increased by

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\$24,999.00, the Road and Bridge Fund revenue and appropriations be increased by \$25,000.00, the Lake Darby Estates North Lighting District Fund revenue and appropriations be increased by \$1,810.32 and the West Point Phase II Sections 3, 4 and 5 Lighting District Fund revenue and appropriations be increased by \$4,382.87. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. Motion passed.

Transfer of Funds

Mr. McCardle asked the Board to approve the transfer of \$12,658.96 from the General Fund (1000) to the Inah Avenue Road and Drainage Improvement Fund (4401). This will cover the January 2010 payment, which will be issued in December.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the transfer of \$12,658.96 from the General Fund (1000) to the Inah Avenue Road and Drainage Improvement Fund (4401). Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. This motion passed.

Supplemental Appropriations

Mr. McCardle asked the Board to approve General Fund supplemental appropriations which will increase the road contract line item in the General Fund to \$300,000 in order to facilitate opening a purchase order that we are certain will cover the final invoice for this project. We anticipate that the Contract Services funds being moved into this line item will be available to move back after the invoice is paid. These actions address Auditor of State concerns about monies being properly encumbered before our Township is invoiced for goods and services.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a supplemental appropriation moving \$11,770.23 from Transfers Out (1000-910-910-000) and \$7,000.00 from Contract Services (1000-110-360-0000) to Contract Services / Roads (1000-330-360-0000) Mr. Kennedy seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.

Mr. McCardle also asked that the Board to move funds from Transfers Out and Contract Services to Advances Out so that it may be moved to the Lake Darby North Lighting District Fund and the West Point Phase II, Sections 3, 4 and 5 Fund. The money being moved out of Contract Services will be advanced back.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a supplemental appropriation moving \$1,131.13 from Transfers Out (1000-910-910-0000) and \$6,193.19 from Contract Services (1000-110-360-0000) to Advances Out (1000-920-920-0000). This motion was seconded by Ms. Schlosser. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.

Mr. McCardle asked the Board to approve a supplement appropriation to move \$12,658.96 from the in the Inah Avenue Road and Drainage Improvement Fund Contract Services (4401-760-360-0000) to that fund's Principal Payments – Notes line item (4401-820-820-0000). This will facilitate the first payment toward the 20-year interest free loan for that project.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a supplemental appropriation moving \$12,658.96 from Inah Avenue Road and Drainage Improvement Fund Contract Services (4401-760-360-0000) to Principal Payments – Notes Inah Avenue (4401-820-820-0000). Mr. Kennedy seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.

Advances out

Mr. McCardle asked the Board to approve advances out from the General Fund to the Lake Darby Estates North Lighting District Fund and the West Point Phase II Sections 3, 4 and 5 Lighting District Fund. These funds are being moved in order to cover initial expenses of these lighting districts.

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Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the advancement of \$8,481.93 from the General Fund (1000) to the Lake Darby Estates North Lighting District Fund (2418) and \$16,118.70 from the General Fund to the West Point Phase II Sections 3, 4 and 5 Lighting District Fund (2419). Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.

AEP contract for Lake Darby Estates North Lighting District

Mr. McCardle presented the proposed contract with American Electric Power (AEP) for the lease of the lights and use of electricity in the Lake Darby Estates North Lighting District. The contract involves twenty one 150 watt street lights and forty- six 50' underground spans of wire.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the contract with AEP to supply street lights to the Lake Darby Estates North Lighting District and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract agreement. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.

Approval of Warrants and Payroll

Mr. McCardle then requested the Board's approval for payment of this week's warrants (see attached list) summing \$119,832.10 along with this week's payroll summing \$142,088.77 for a total cash disbursement of \$261,820.87.

Mr. Stormont motioned "so moved". Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.

Standing Business

Road and Cemetery Department

The Road Department did not have any items to bring to the Board's attention so Mr. McAninch was excused from this meeting.

Zoning Department

The Zoning Department did not have any items to bring to the Board's attention so Ms. Swisher was excused from this meeting.

Fire Department

Approval to Hire a Part-time Firefighter

Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board's approval to hire Ron Kern as a part-time firefighter on behalf of Chief Feustel.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board hire Ronald E. Kern as a part-time firefighter effective immediately. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. Motion passed.

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Administrator

Nuisance Cases

None

Preliminary Legislation for the West Broad Street Streetscape Project (Res. 24-09)

Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board to adopt Resolution 24-09, "A Resolution Authorizing the Board to Give Consent to the Director of Transportation of the State of Ohio to Complete Streetscape Enhancements to the West Broad Street Safety Project and Committing to Co-operate in the Implementation of this Project." The resolution is an up-front commitment to work with the Ohio Department of Transportation in order to implement the enhancement grant hand-in-hand with the planned road improvement/safety project that is slated for 2013/ 2014. No final commitment of monies is being made at this time.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 24-09, "A Resolution Authorizing the Board to Give Consent to the Director of Transportation of the State of Ohio to Complete Streetscape Enhancements to the West Broad Street Safety Project and Committing to Cooperate in the Implementation of this Project." Mr. Kennedy seconded. The vote was by roll call vote with Ms. Schlosser voting Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; and Mr. Stormont, Aye. The motion passed.

Unsafe Structure Letter Sent September 29, 2009

Mr. Hatmaker presented a letter from Assistant Chief Mark Good declaring that the structure at 4601 West Broad Street (the former Hometown Inn) is unsafe, insecure and structurally defective. The letter further states that the structure should be removed as soon as possible. Mr. Hatmaker is in the process of seeking an update from Mary Johnson, the assistant prosecuting attorney that is working on the tax foreclosure case related to this property. Mr. Hatmaker will ask her for her guidance on how to proceed. The Board took no action regarding this issue during this meeting.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

Pam Williams, long time and active township resident, raised the issue of a huge pile of dirt accumulating on a property located along Galloway Road in a flood plain. Ms. Williams raised several questions for the record and demanded that the Board explain what corrective actions are going to be taken. Trustees Schlosser and Kennedy responded with a discussion about the situation and the actions that Board is considering, has, and/or will take as corrective action.

Announcements

None

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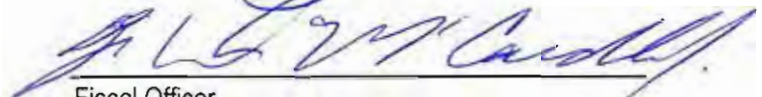
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Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.



Chairman



Fiscal Officer