

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**



**PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**NOVEMBER 18, 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 November 18, 2009 at 7:00 PM by the Chairman, Mr. Stormont, with Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Schlosser and Mr. McCardle present. Also in attendance were Mr. Hatmaker, Township Administrator and Fire Chief Feustel. (See attached sign in sheet for a complete list of additional attendees).

Mr. Stormont led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the meeting minutes from the November 4, 2009 regular meeting. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. Motion passed.**

**Sheriff's Report**

Deputy Weiner of the Franklin County Sheriff Department went over the various categories reflected on their October Crime Statistics Report. Copies of this report are available for pick-up at the Township Hall during normal business hours. Otherwise Deputy Weiner explained that the past couple weeks were fairly routine, with the exceptions of the fact that we seem to be having a lot of auto accidents and domestic runs lately. He also added that the department continues to work the school zones, especially the Norton Road school zone.

**Fiscal Officer's Report**

**Supplemental Appropriations**

Mr. McCardle requested that the Board move \$7,500.00 from Contract Services (1000-110-360-0000) in the General Fund to Accounting and Legal Services (1000-110-311-0000) to cover ongoing projects including the Seeger case and the JEDD / CRA.

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

Mr. McCardle then requested approval to move \$1,550.00 from Senior Center – Repairs and Maintenance (1000-390-323-0000) to Senior Center – Rents and Leases (1000-390-321-0000) in order to cover common area maintenance charges.

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

Mr. McCardle also requested that the board approve a reduction to a previously approved \$1,200.00 supplemental appropriation from Administration – Election Expenses (1000-110-315-0000) in the General Fund to Administration – Advertising (1000-110-345-0000) to \$1,050.00 to correct a miscalculation.

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

**Additional Appropriations for Lighting Districts**

Mr. McCardle requested that the Board authorize the Township Administrator to forward a letter to the Franklin County Budget Commission requesting additional appropriations in two lighting district funds. First, the

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letter will request an additional \$1,000.00 be appropriated in Lake Darby Estates Lighting District – Contract Services (2406-310-360-0000) to cover additional expenses related to the installation of two new lights and increased electricity costs. In addition, the letter will request that an additional \$1,500.00 be appropriated in West Point Phase I Lighting District – Contract Services (2901-310-360-0000) to cover increased electricity costs. While all lighting districts have faced increased electricity costs, the original appropriations in the other districts were able to absorb the increase.

**Mr. Stormont motioned “so moved”. Mr. Kennedy seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Warrants and payroll

Mr. McCardle requested the Board's approval for payment of this week's warrants summing \$103,773.15 along with this week's payroll summing \$117,345.44 for a total cash disbursement of \$221,118.59 this week.

**Mr. Stormont motioned “so moved”. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. 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

Chief Feustel proposed to the Board that the Prairie Township Fire Department enroll one of its officers in the Ohio Fire Executive Program. This is a long term training program involving 5 weeks of training over a 3 year period with 6 month homework assignments between sessions. The final assignment always focuses on a topic critical to the applicant's home department. This program was developed by the National Fire Academy and has been adopted by the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association. Chief Feustel added that it is equivalent to a 4 year bachelor's degree and is continually showing up in pre-requisites as an alternative to a degree for Fire Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs in many fire departments. The cost of the program is \$8000.00. The intent of the course is to aid in the development of Fire Chiefs and senior officers with the broad executive skills necessary to lead a high performance organization.

Chief Feustel explained that he requested the Board's approval for this course for its duration (3 years) prior to application as it is difficult to get into this program and it would not be a prudent use of our resources to start the program and not fund it later on.

Mr. Kennedy inquired as to how many firefighters on staff are qualified to take this course. Chief Feustel replied that we have 4 firefighters that are eligible for participation and we have 1 firefighter currently in the application process. Chief added that this participant would bring a lot of information back to the department to be shared.

Several residents in attendance raised concerns about our candidate finishing the program or perhaps even leaving our fire department to accept a position elsewhere – in either case would there be any recourse for the township to recoup the funds paid for this training? Chief Feustel assured everyone that this candidate was

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committed to both the program and our fire department.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize Lieutenant Robert Cloud to attend the Ohio Fire Chief's Executive Program and authorize the expenditure of \$1,600.00 each for five six-day sessions, totaling \$8,000.00, beginning in April 2010 and ending in April 2012. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Administrator

### Nuisance Cases

Mr. Hatmaker advised the Board that there were no nuisance cases this week.

### Revised Hearing Dates for Structurally Defective Buildings (Res. 29-09, 27-09, 30-09 and 31-09)

Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board to consider revising the hearing dates to consider the matter of houses at 330 Mix Avenue, 324 Mix Avenue, and 200 Evergreen Terrace that have been found to be structurally defective from December 16<sup>th</sup> to December 30<sup>th</sup>. The hearing dates are being changed because there has been a delay in sending out the notice letters.

**Mr. Stormont motioned that the Board adopt Resolution number 29-09, "A Resolution Modifying Section 2 of Resolution No. 26-09 by Changing the Date of a Hearing Concerning an Unsafe Building at 330 Mix Avenue." Ms. Schlosser seconded. The roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Schlosser, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. The resolution passed.**

**Mr. Stormont motioned that the Board adopt Resolution number 30-09, "A Resolution Modifying Section 2 of Resolution No. 27-09 by Changing the Date of a Hearing Concerning an Unsafe Building at 324 Mix Avenue." Ms. Schlosser seconded. The roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Schlosser, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. The resolution passed.**

**Mr. Stormont motioned that the Board adopt Resolution number 31-09, "A Resolution Modifying Section 2 of Resolution No. 28-09 by Changing the Date of a Hearing Concerning an Unsafe Building at 200 Evergreen Terrace." Ms. Schlosser seconded. The roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Schlosser, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. The resolution passed.**

### Purchase Agreement

Mr. Hatmaker then asked the Board if they wished to consider the approval of a purchase agreement for the property at 42 Pasadena Avenue. This agreement of sale is for the purchase of a 0.667 acre parcel at 42 Pasadena Avenue from The Fergus Company, LLC. The agreement sets the purchase price at \$100,000 and allows the Board 45 days to complete any due diligence research that it believes would be necessary to protect its interest.

Mr. Kennedy expressed that this would be a "good buy" for the Township.

Ms. Schlosser expressed that purchasing this lot was a great opportunity for the Township.

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the Agreement of Sale for the purchase of a 0.667 acre parcel at 42 Pasadena Avenue, Columbus, Ohio at a total price of \$100,000 and authorize the Chair to execute the subject agreement. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. The motion passed.**

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### Old Business

Neil Distlehorst, township resident, asked the Board for an update on the "Galloway Landfill". Mr. Stormont explained that the court date has been moved to January 4, and the court session will be held at the land site. Mr. Hatmaker encouraged anyone who was interested (for or against) to attend that court session.

### New Business

None

### Public Comment

Pam Williams, township resident, expressed that she was absolutely thrilled with the land purchase approved by the Board this evening.

### Announcements

None

### Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Handwritten signature of Douglas A. Stormont in blue ink.

Chairman

Handwritten signature of the Fiscal Officer in blue ink.

Fiscal Officer