

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**FEBRUARY 25, 2009 – REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M.**

**23 MAPLE DRIVE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228**

The regular meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees was called to order on February 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. by the Chairman Mr. Stormont, with Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Schlosser and Mr. McCardle present. Also in attendance was Mr. Hatmaker (Township Administrator) and Fire Chief Steve Feustel. (See attached list).

Mr. Stormont led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board approve the minutes for the regular scheduled meeting held on February 11, 2009. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed

Sheriff's Report

Deputy James stated that he was filling in for Deputy Mike Weiner who was currently off. Deputy James gave the static's for January 2009 and stated there were copies in the lobby if anyone was interested.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Mr. McCardle requested the Board's approval to pay this week's warrants summing \$45,767.92 along with this week's payroll summing \$121,096.94 for a total cash disbursement of \$166,864.86.

Mr. Stormont motioned "So Moved". Motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion Passed.

Mr. McCardle informed the Board that while he was preparing for the field work conducted by the State Auditor's Office for our bi-annual audit and as he was reviewing the investment policy, there were a couple of typos that needed to be modified - inserting the current title of the Fiscal Officer's office as well as changing the wording that the investment committee meets once per quarter. The content will stay the same.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the revisions to the Prairie Township Investment Policy as submitted by the Fiscal Officer.

This motion was seconded by Ms. Schlosser. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. This motion passed.

The Fiscal Officer informed the Board we received a notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a request from Sandy Row, Inc. doing business as Madden's, 346 Hubbard Road, Galloway, Ohio. Mr. McCardle requested the Board take action either requesting a hearing for or no hearing on this liquor permit application. Ms. Schlosser asked Mr. McCardle if this was a transfer and he said it was not.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board does not request a hearing on the advisability of issuing a liquor permit to Sandy Row, Inc. at 346 Hubbard Road.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. This motion passed.

Mr. McCardle requested the Board to approve the modified minutes from December 17, 2008. The previously approved minutes did not include the listing of the 2009 temporary appropriations. The insertion of those appropriations is the only change between what was originally signed and what has been amended.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the amended minutes of the December 17, 2008 Board of Trustees meeting that have been revised to include the 2009 temporary appropriations that were approved at that meeting.

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This motion was seconded by Ms. Schlosser. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. This motion passed.

Road and Cemetery Department:

The Road Department had no items on tonight's agenda therefore Mr. McAninch had been excused from attending tonight's meeting.

Fire Department:

The Fire Department had no items on tonight's agenda but Chief Feustel was present to answer any questions.

Zoning Department:

The Zoning Department had no items on tonight's agenda therefore Ms. Swisher had been excused from attending tonight's meeting.

Administration

Ms. Schlosser announced that a possible zoning court case on Annhurst Road which was brought before the Board at the February 11, 2009 is in compliance, so the complaint has been dismissed.

Mr. Hatmaker informed the Board there were four (4) nuisance cases filed and processed and Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board for their guidance on how to proceed with those cases.

The Board stated that the no action would be required at 66 Lennox Avenue, 864 Canoe Lane and 117 Darien Avenue.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Prairie Township Board of Trustees find the conditions at 8449 Conbrook Court, to be a nuisance and that the Board hereby directs staff to abate said nuisance at the expense of the property owner(s) as per the requirements in Ohio Revised Code Section 505.87.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. This motion passed.

Mr. Hatmaker informed the Board about the bidding schedule for the South Grener Phase I Street Reconstruction Project. This is a project that is funded by a grant and interest free loan funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission. This project was brought before the Board at the last meeting (February 11th). Since that time, there have been some changes to the plans and everything has been moved back. The recommendation for award is still going to be on the same date. The bid will still be awarded on March 25th as with the original schedule. However, Mr. Hatmaker stated there would be new advertisement dates of March 2nd and March 9th and a bid opening date of March 23rd. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board approve the revised schedule.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the Township Administrator to work with representatives of Stantec Consulting to issue bid packets and proceed with the revised schedule recommended by the Administrator for advertising, opening and awarding of the bid.

This motion was seconded by Ms. Schlosser. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. This motion passed.

Mr. Hatmaker informed the Board that South Grener Phase II has been awarded. The award includes \$2,277,715.00 in grant funds from OPWC and a \$787,238.00 in a twenty (20) year no interest loan. The grant agreement has been forwarded to the township and Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board approve

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the grant agreement in the amount of \$2,277,715.00 and a \$787,238.00 twenty (20) year no interest loan and authorize the Chair to sign the grant agreement and the Fiscal Officer to sign the promissory note.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the Project Agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission for a Grant / Loan, control numbers CC17M and CC18M respectively, from the State Capital Improvement Fund and authorize the Chair to execute the agreement and authorize the Fiscal Officer to execute the Promissory Note.

This motion was seconded by Ms. Schlosser. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. This motion passed.

Mr. Hatmaker requested that the Board authorize the expenditure up to \$5,500.00 for the repair of the roof at 6725 Alkire Road which was damaged in the February 11th wind storm. The insurance estimates a total cost of \$5,448.15, all but \$1,000.00 or which will be covered by the insurance.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the expenditure of up to \$5,500.00 for the repair of the roof at 6725 Alkire Road.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. This motion passed.

Mr. Hatmaker stated that the Franklin County Engineer along with Engineer's across the state, are encouraging local governments including townships to enter into cooperative purchase agreements for salt with the Ohio Department of Transportation. This is a result of the shortages and high prices this year and expected next year. Mr. Hatmaker consulted with Dave McAninch, Road Superintendent and stated the township fared fairly well this season. Mr. Hatmaker stated Mr. McAninch deserves some recognition as to the way he has managed the situation. In order to make sure the township is covered next year, Mr. McAninch is recommending that the Board enter into an agreement for 400 tons of rock salt. The township would be obliged to purchase at least 80% of the amount and could purchase up to 120% of that amount. The township will still have the County Engineer as a back up as they are going to list the 6725 Alkire Road address as an outpost. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board approve the agreement and authorize the Chair to sign it.

Ms. Schlosser moved that the Board approve and execute a commitment to purchase between 80% and 120% of 400 tons of rock salt through the Ohio Department of Transportation's 2009 / 2010 cooperative purchase program and authorize the Chair to execute said agreement.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. This motion passed.

Mr. Hatmaker stated that Robin Comeans, Senior Center Director, should receive a step increase as he will be at 36 months with the township as of March 13th and on that date, Mr. Hatmaker is recommending Mr. Comeans go to Step 5 (36 month level). Robin has served very well and the increase is well deserved.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve advancing Robin Comeans to Step 5 (36 months) and increasing his pay to \$15.81 per hour effective March 13, 2009.

This motion was seconded by Ms. Schlosser. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. This motion passed.

Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board consider the adoption of Resolution 03-09 supporting the Rehabilitation of Lincoln Gardens and authorizing the Township Administrator to write a letter of support. This senior apartment development is proposing a pretty substantial rehab.

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April Huber and Mat McClure with National Church Residences appeared before the Board to discuss their project in more detail. Mr. McClure stated that NCR has been around since 1961 and they are an owner, manager and developer of affordable housing for mostly seniors and they are based here in Central Ohio. Lincoln Gardens is an affordable senior project with 108 units and is in need of repair. They propose to apply for low income housing tax credits with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and as part of the application, letters of evidence of support from local entities are needed. If successful, they could bring up to 5 million dollars of private equity investment into this building to do about a 4 million dollar renovation.

Mr. Kennedy asked Mr. McClure where the tax credits come from. Mr. McClure stated they are federal low income housing tax credits allocated through the State Housing Agency and then they are allocated to developers. The developer has to find a private investor who purchases them and can use them against their ordinary income tax liability for the next ten years.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded, that the Board adopt Resolution 03-09 "A Resolution Supporting the Rehabilitation of Lincoln Gardens, 108 Units of Affordable Senior housing at 108 Sturbridge Drive, by the National Church Residences."

Roll call vote resulted as follows: Ms. Schlosser, aye; Mr. Kennedy, aye; Mr. Stormont; aye.

Mr. Hatmaker stated that for the past several years the township has provided the opportunity for residents to replace their sidewalks as part of the bidding process of the township road improvement project and it gives them the advantage of paying for these repairs for ten years interest free as an assessment program. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board consider Resolution 04-09 in order to declare its intent to establish the program for the current year and to set a public hearing date for March 25, 2009 and to advertise the public hearing in the newspaper for three consecutive weeks.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded, that the Board adopt resolution 04-09 "A Resolution declaring intent to repair certain sidewalks and levy special assessments, to set a hearing at which the Board will hear public comments about said repairs and comments and to authorize advertisement of the public hearing."

Roll call vote resulted as follows: Ms. Schlosser, aye; Mr. Kennedy, aye; Mr. Stormont; aye.

Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board approve a final payment for the 2008 Road Improvement Project. Mr. Hatmaker stated most of the project was paid for during 2008. In December, 2008 there were some questions about additional cost and responsibility for those additional cost for street improvements in Clover Estates. The reason for the additional cost were for improper construction. The Township met with various parties at the County Engineer and County Commissioners' Offices concerning the responsibility for the additional cost. The County Commissioners' are going to contribute \$7,000.00 toward the townships road project which is less than the \$16,000.00 the Board had original asked for. If the Board is willing to accept that payment, Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board to authorize the final payment of \$9,025.50 to the County Engineer's.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he had a few issues but he stated "this is the best we could do. We basically had an agreement with the County and we took the agreement that the responsibility should fall equally on both of our parties and we should have equal share in paying this". The overage on the project was \$33,000.00 so half was \$16,500.00. Mr. Kennedy stated the County had a unique way of figuring out what half was. They lumped all of our road projects in, not just Clover Estates, and the County stated that the whole road projects totaled \$300,00.00. They said the overage on all of the projects was only \$5,000.00 which made the County coming up with \$7,000.00 to meet their half. We tried to work it out and couldn't convince them to see it our way, instead of taking the issue any farther up the chain and burning bridges, Mr. Kennedy stated we are choosing our battles and this is one we probably don't want to take up.

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Ms. Schlosser stated this is a situation were a minimum of two Trustees were involved in negotiations and I felt strongly that they needed to split it with the Township because the road was not turned over up to standards and they did the inspections.

Mr. Stormont move that the Board approve a final payment of \$9,025.50 to the Franklin County Engineer for the 2008 road work project.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. This motion passed.

A resident asked Mr. Hatmaker about the township storage capacity in relation to the salt purchase. Mr. Hatmaker stated that the township has the capacity to store 80%. Mr. Kennedy stated that the township does not buy the salt all at once, we get what the bins can hold, maybe a fifth of it at a time and as it snows, we get it re-stocked. By going with this, the township has to commit to a certain amount and what we committed to was an average of the last three years

Old Business:

None

New Business:

James Monroe appeared before the Board to thank the Prairie Township Road Dept. employees who worked long hours during the past snow and ice storm and he stated they need a pat on the back or a free lunch for their work in clearing the streets and roads. Mr. Monroe also expressed concern and presented pictures showing the litter that the weekly ads and the Hilliard newspaper are causing in his neighborhood. Mr. Monroe stated that if a citizen throws a cigarette butte, can or a newspaper from his car, he could get a ticket. If the newspapers want to do this, they need to send someone through the neighborhood to clean up. Mr. Kennedy said he tried to call the Hilliard News and they said they did have a "do not deliver policy" so if the houses don't want the paper, all they have to do is call in, which is a start. Mr. Kennedy stated he didn't think the township can do anything because it is in the road right-of-way but he will check and see if he can find an answer to the problem.

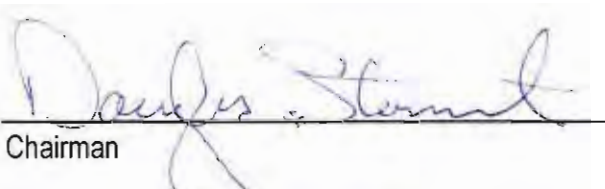
Public Comments:

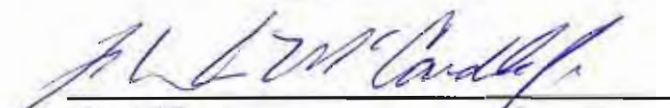
None

Announcements:

None

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.


Chairman


Fiscal Officer