

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARCH 11, 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 March 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Stormont, with Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Schlosser and Mr. McCardle present. Also in attendance were Mr. Hatmaker, Township Administrator and 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 25, 2009. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed

Sheriff's Report

Deputy Arrigemma stated that he was filling in for Deputy Mike Weiner who was currently off. Deputy Arrigemma announced that he has the monthly report for February and he would highlight a couple of the static's. Deputy Arrigemma spoke concerning the heroin ring that was broken up at a restaurant at Westland Mall. When the ring broke up, it was a seven million dollar a year operation. The Franklin County Sheriff played a big part in this with the assistance of the Drug Enforcement Agency and area local agencies. There was a home invasion on Gladys Road, where three subjects who forced entry into a woman's home, demanded money and took numerous items at gun point. The deputies arrived very quickly and the next morning they had four persons in custody. Ms. Schlosser asked why there was a significant decrease in the static's from January to February in the most major components. Deputy Arrigemma stated he noticed the same thing before the meeting but the only reason he could think of was maybe the weather change. Ms Schlosser also stated that a resident had contacted her who was a victim of a burglary and the resident said there was speeding on her street (Amesbury Way). Ms Schlosser asked Deputy Arrigemma to patrol more on Amesbury Way

Mr. John O'Meara, Executive Director of Metro Parks

Mr. Stormont introduced Mr. John O'Meara, Executive Director of Metro Parks to discuss the upcoming levy. Metro Parks will be on the ballot on May 5th. Their ten year levy will expire this year so despite the economy, they have to go back to the voters and ask for continued support. The levy that is expiring is a 0.65 mill levy and they are asking for a replacement of a 0.65 mill and an additional one-tenth of a mill. The total cost is about \$23.00 per year for \$100,000.00 of value. This will allow them to take care of all the existing parks. In ten years, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is projecting an additional half million people in central Ohio within the next thirty years. The additional one-tenth of a mill will allow them to open up three new metro parks over the next ten years in Franklin County in the areas of Grove City, along the Scioto River, Plain Township/Columbus/New Albany and between Groveport and Canal Winchester. They will be continuing to work on the regional trail system and open another 50 miles of trails in the next ten years. Other big projects include a new park in downtown Columbus and committing 20 million dollars to the Big Darby Creek protection and conservation efforts. Mr. O'Meara answered questions from the audience.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Mr. McCardle requested the Board's approval to pay this week's warrants summing \$215,731.39 along with this week's payroll summing \$128,480.68 for a total cash disbursement of \$344,212.07.

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

The Fiscal Officer informed the Board we received a liquor permit application for a business located 63-67-71 South Murray Hill Road doing business as Panaderia Oazoquena y Mi Pueblo Market, LLC. Mr. McCardle stated that historically we have not had hearings and he simply moved that the Board not request a hearing on the advisability of issuing liquor permit to this business, Panaderia Oazoquena y Mi Pueblo Market, LLC, located at 63-67-71 South Murray Hill Road.

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Mr. Stormont moved that the Board does not request a hearing on the advisability of issuing a liquor permit to Panaderia Oazoquena y Mi Pueblo Market, LLC.

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

Zoning Department:

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

A resident in the audience asked if he had to have a zoning permit for a shed. Mr. Kennedy stated he thought you needed a permit and Ms. Schlosser recommended calling Connie Swisher, Zoning Inspector.

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 and Chief Feustel was not present.

Administration

Mr. Hatmaker informed the Board there was three (3) trash and debris nuisance cases filed and processed and Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board for their guidance on how to proceed with those cases.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Prairie Township Board of Trustees find the conditions at 66 Amity Road, 499 Buena Vista Avenue and 21 Center Street, 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.

A resident asked about the trash at Galloway Road and West Broad Street and the Board informed him that this area was within the City of Columbus. He then stated there was trash along South Greener Road along the west side.

Mr. Hatmaker presented the 2009 permanent appropriations. They are a few versions to consider. They all have the same appropriations in all the funds except the General Fund and the Road and Bridge Fund. In version one, the Road Department maintenance building payments is to remain coming out of the Road and Bridge Fund and the road projects are slated at \$229,000.00. In Version one, the General Fund appropriations are \$1,707,930.00 which is under our projected revenue for the year. The total appropriations are \$7,645,291.13, with the biggest appropriation coming from the Fire Department at \$4,050,000.00.

Version two is a version where the payments for the Road Department maintenance building are moved to the General Fund and the highway and road improvement projects are up to \$275,000.00. Under this version, the General Fund appropriations are \$1,862,493.77. The Road and Bridge Fund appropriations are \$108,000.00 less. Under version two, the total appropriations are \$7,799,850.90, again the Fire Department would have the largest appropriation as in version one.

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Version three is the same as version one in that it does not include the Road Department maintenance building payments in the General Fund but version three maintains the road project funding at \$275,000.00. Under this version, the General Fund Appropriations are \$1,753,930.00. The total appropriations are \$7,691,291.31.

Mr. Hatmaker stated we have three versions. Versions one and three have the Road Department maintenance building payments coming from the Road and Bridge Fund, not the General fund. Version two has the maintenance building payments coming from the General Fund. The difference between versions one and three, one takes the highway improvements down to \$229,000.00 and the other increases the amount to \$275,000.00.

Mr. Hatmaker asked for the Board's guidance on the approval of the one of the versions. Mr. Hatmaker added that if the Board would still like to discuss this, the appropriations can be adopted as late as the next meeting.

Mr. Kennedy suggested version 3 and his reasoning behind that is at this time, the Road Department, if they follow their budget, will still have around \$100,000.00 carry-over and Mr. Kennedy doesn't believe at this time, they need to pull money out of the reserve fund to support the Road Department for this year's budget. Next year, it might be a different story. Mr. Kennedy doesn't like cutting the road projects down to \$229,000.00 and he suggested leaving it at \$275,000.00 because over the last three years, we have always budgeted the revenue a little low. The average over the last three years was about \$100,000.00 low. Mr. Kennedy stated that if that is true and this year is going to be a tough year but he still believes the revenue will be higher than shown and the General Fund should be balanced at the end of the year and the total budget revenue projected will be 8.1 million so the budget should be balanced. Mr. Kennedy stated he likes version 3.

Ms. Schlosser stated she is for version 2 because the Road and Cemetery funds carried the cost of the building for more than half of those loan payments and it is an infrastructure improvement in the township. Having the money come not out of the reserve fund but of the interest income that was gained from the reserve fund so we are not touching the reserve, we are touching the investment income that was earned and it seems to be an appropriate usage of money to do infrastructure improvements in the township that are things that you can feel and touch. Also, to keep the road improvements at the original budget amount, one of the things we seem to have a consensus around is our road and cemetery departments are one of the best in the state and Dave has been very diligent about what road work needs to be done and when to ensure our road infrastructure stays up to code, safe and we as residents while driving on it, feel safe on it. Ms. Schlosser stated she was not in favor of cutting that fund at this point in time.

Mr. Kennedy stated originally when the road building was discussed and financed, Dave instructed all of us that he would have no problem in funding that building and now half way into it, he has decided that his funds might not cover things. Ms. Schlosser stated she remembered the conversation but when that was discussed and now, a lot has changed in the economy, so understanding that I think there are some extraneous circumstances that we need to deal with as a Board and talk through.

Mr. Stormont stated he is for version 2 because of the money revenues left over the last three years. The last three years we have put \$360,000.00 of extra revenue in the reserve account, we will be taking out \$155,000.00 out of the reserve but it is revenue we put in there while trustees. Mr. Stormont stated we can guarantee everything and we are not projecting on the money that could come in or may not come in.

Mr. Stormont moved Ms. Schlosser seconded, that the Board approve the 2009 Permanent Appropriations as submitted in Version Two.

Roll call vote resulted as follows: Ms. Schlosser, aye; Mr. Kennedy, no; Mr. Stormont; aye.

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Mr. Hatmaker stated that Mr. McAninch has a proposal from D.J.L. Material & Supply, Inc. for the 2009 crack seal program. They have an offer where if you buy the materials at 98 cents per pound, they will provide the equipment for you to use to apply the product. Mr. McAninch is requesting authorization to purchase four skids, approximately 10,000 pounds of product, around \$11,000.00 but he is requesting up to \$15,000.00 in case there is need for additional work to be completed.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the payment of up to \$15,000.00 to D.J.L. Material and Supply for the purchase of polymer/fiber sealant at a rate of \$0.98 per pound to be provided along with the use of a diesel melter with air compressor, including training and maintenance, at no additional charge.

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

Mr. Hatmaker presented the 2008 Road Mileage Certification. The Franklin County Engineer forwarded the certification as they along with ODOT have reviewed and agreed to the inventory for 2008 which includes a total of 55.85 miles. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board approve the 2008 Road Mileage Certification.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve and execute the 2008 Township Highway System Mileage Certification.

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

Mr. Hatmaker stated that SWACO is requesting a vote from each jurisdiction within its district to approve proposed out-of-district rates. SWACO is proposing this to fill in some budget gaps. Basically they will accept waste from other central Ohio communities outside Franklin County at a rate of \$35.50 - \$50.00.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board accept the proposed rates of \$35.50 to \$50.00 per ton for out-of-district solid waste disposal submitted by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio and direct the Fiscal Officer to complete the Solid Waste Advisory Board ballot, which was provided for this purpose, accordingly.

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 last fall the Board voted to proceed with working with Stantec to have them complete the Safe Routes to School plan. This plan has a total cost of \$10,000.00 but will generate \$40,000.00 - \$60,000.00 in grant money for projects in the Lincoln Village South area. At that time, the Board authorized an expenditure of \$9,000.00 on that plan. The reason \$9,000.00 was requested was because \$1,000.00 of the total, is being funded by an ODOT grant. That was an error, the township has to pay the whole \$10,000.00 and the township will be reimbursed by ODOT.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the expenditure of up to \$10,000 for the preparation of a Safe Routes to School Plan for Stiles Elementary School with the understanding that the Board will be reimbursed \$1,000 of this amount by the Ohio Department of Transportation out of the Safe Routes to School program. This authorization is intended to override a previous authorization for the expenditure of up to \$9,000 for this project.

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

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Mr. Hatmaker presented proposed Senior Center Use fee increases. The current fees are a \$100.00 deposit and \$25.00 per hour for use of the facility which were put in place in 2004 when the center was opened and given the increase in expenses over time, Robin Comeans, Senior Center Director, is

requesting the deposit fee increase to \$120.00 and the use fee be increased to \$30.00 per hour.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve new use fees for the Prairie Township Senior Center requiring a \$120.00 advance deposit and a \$30.00 per hour use fee.

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, is also proposing that the Senior Center have extended hours during the summer on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Currently the center is opened until 5:00 Monday – Friday. Mr. Comeans is proposing the center be open until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday's and these hours will be staffed by volunteers.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the proposal for extended hours of operation on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Prairie Township Senior Center to be staffed by volunteers and to be in effect beginning in May 2009 and running through September of 2009.

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

Pam Williams inquired why the extended hours during the summer and not the winter months. Mr. Hatmaker explained he didn't have an answer in terms of the season. It has been requested as a lot of the members are still working and can't make it during the earlier hours. Mr. Hatmaker didn't know why they wanted to do it now as opposed to starting it during a different season. Eleanor Jones stated the seniors do not like to drive at night.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Troy DeHart, who owns the property at 312 South Grener Avenue, stated he bought the house about five years ago and with the new project on South Grener, he has spoken with Tracy and Dave about the parking situation he will be in. It will leave him about ten feet from the sidewalk to the front of the house. Mr. DeHart asked Tracy and Dave about the lots in the back of him, where the old apartments were located, and Mr. DeHart wanted to know what his chances were of parking there during the construction and stated he would like to have a permanent easement.

One issue Mr. Hatmaker stated needed addressed, is at this point, the township does not own the property. Central Ohio Community Improvement Cooperation based out of the Franklin County Treasurer's Office owns the property. They would like to turn the property over to the township but they are still researching it. Mr. Hatmaker stated there are two issues with the property: Issue one: the township having ownership of the property and issue two: making sure the property is maintained. The reason the existing drives are barricaded is because of the problem with trash dumping on the property and someone taking responsibility for that if access was re-established. The Board directed the Township Administrator and the Road Superintendent to work with the property owner and the Road Superintendent to address this issue.

Larry Salyers, 496 Lombard Road, stated the back of his property is adjacent to Grener Avenue. Mr. Salyers stated he is not against the improvement project but he is against the sidewalk project on the west side. Mr. Stormont said that is what the Board is looking into. Mr. Salyers asked who would be

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responsible for maintaining the sidewalks on the west side. Ms. Schlosser stated that the only thing the Board needs to address is whether or not they are required to have the sidewalks under the American Disability Act (ADA).

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize Tracy to make the design modification to delete the sidewalks from the South Greener project on the west side of the street.

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

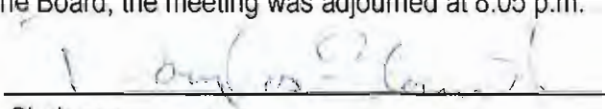
Public Comments:

None

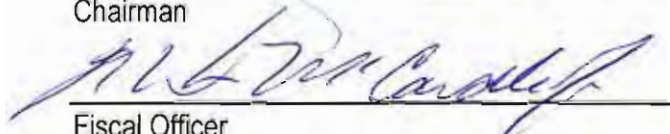
Announcements:

None

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Chairman



Fiscal Officer