

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**MARCH 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 March 25, 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, Chief Feustel 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 March 11, 2009. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed

2009 Sidewalk Program Public Hearing

Mr. Stormont opened the public hearing for the 2009 Sidewalk Program. Mr. Stormont turned the public hearing over to Tracy Hatmaker, Township Administrator. Mr. Hatmaker stated that this year as every year since 2003, the Road Department has been receiving calls and has taken names from people interested in improving their sidewalks and driveway approaches in the right-of-way as part of the annual township sidewalk program. The program allows the residents to improve their sidewalks at the county contract cost and if they wish, pay the cost back interest free over ten years. It has benefited the township because it has encouraged people to maintain their sidewalks and driveway approaches. At the February 25th meeting, the Board set this public hearing as per requirements of Ohio Revised Code §5543.1, to hear public comment for and against the program and to consider moving forward with a resolution to proceed with this year's program. Mr. Stormont asked if anyone has any questions or comments for or against it. There were no questions or comments so Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board consider Resolution 05-09.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded, that the Board adopt Resolution 05-09, a Resolution Ordering the Repair of Certain Sidewalks and the Levy of Special Assessment.'

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

Sheriff's Report

Deputy Weiner and Corporal Goodrich appeared before the Board and Deputy Weiner stated the last couple of weeks, they are starting to get increasing busy each day with the warmer weather. They have had several arrests in the last couple of weeks including an OMVI arrest in which they used the DUI task force, several traffic stops that produced decent amount of drugs, crack cocaine and heroin. Deputy Weiner stated after reviewing the reports for the past two weeks, a lot of the reports have been on theft issues. He stated this time a year, the thieves see things they can get easily and they go after it. Deputy Weiner stated that they are using a new format to report the monthly statics. A question and answer period followed with a discussion about mapping of the area's crime statics and speeding on South Grener Avenue.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Mr. McCardle requested the Board approve a \$750.00 supplemental appropriation moving FEMA grant funds into a fund created for that purpose. This money was received as reimbursement for Administration costs related to filing for FEMA funds provided to the township to cover direct cost incurred as a result of the wind storm last September. The funds will be transferred to the General Fund via a memo receipt.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a supplemental appropriation moving \$750.00 in FEMA grant funding into Fund 2902, line item 2902-760-599-0000.

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. McCardle requested the Board to approve to pay this week's warrants summing \$46,027.09 along with this week's payroll summing \$121,378.49 for a total cash disbursement of \$167,405.58.

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

Standing Business:

Fire Department:

The Fire Department had no items on tonight's agenda.

Zoning Department:

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

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.

Administration

Mr. Schlosser stated there weren't any nuisance cases for this meeting. Mr. Kennedy gave an update on the three properties that were declared a nuisance at the last meeting and we are still waiting to get the certified letters back. Sometime between this meeting and the next meeting, we should get the certified letters back and all three of these properties; 66 Amity Road, 499 Buena Vista Avenue and 21 Center Street should be cleaned up.

Mr. Distelhorst discussed an article in the newspaper about 47 blighted properties in the county and one of the dots was as at the corner of 270 and the only one that appears to be in Prairie Township. Mr. Distelhorst stated that when he looked on the website, he could not find any link anywhere whose these properties are other than the three or four that were identified in the article. Mr. Distelhorst asked if the Board knew how they got on this list and what property was identified as one of the 47 bad ones. Mr. Hatmaker stated that when Treasurer Edward Leonard sent out a letter last September with a list of properties that might go to a tax certificate sale in November, the township responded that they would like to have the Home Town Inn held from that tax certificate sale because of the continued blight at that site. We have had complaints from neighbors, the Sheriff Department and the Fire Department concerned about the safety of the community. It is possible that is why that ended up in the paper. Mr. Hatmaker said in the past, the County Commissioner's expressed concern about how the land bank was being used and they wanted to see more coordination between agencies on land banking properties.

Mr. Hatmaker stated that at the February 25th meeting, the Board approved spending up to \$5,500.00 on the Road Department garage roof in order to repair damage from the wind in February. Since that time, and with dealing with rain and wet floors in the garage, consideration has been given to using that money for some more extensive repairs as the building is approximately 60 years old and the roof is original. The Road Superintendent has collected three quotes for a new metal roof as follows:

John Ross	\$39,705.00
Hart's and Son Const.	\$21,482.00
64 Metals	\$20,983.00 (plus misc. cost to replace damaged plywood and soffits as needed.)

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If the Board wishes to go ahead and replace the whole roof, Dave McAninch suggests that the 64 Metals quote is the best one and he doesn't think any of their miscellaneous cost will take them over any of the other cost. If the Board would like to move forward with replacing the whole roof, it would involve rescinding the original motion.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board rescind the February 25, 2009 motion authorizing the expenditure of up to \$5,500.00 for the repair of the roof of the Road Department garage at 6725 Alkire Road and replace it with authorization for the Road Superintendent to hire 64 Metals of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, at a cost of up to \$22,000.00, to replace the roof at 6725 Alkire Road according to the scope of work and estimate dated March 13, 2009.

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

Ms. Schlosser asked Mr. Hatmaker if we will still get reimbursed from the insurance company for the damage from the wind storm so that would off set the cost of the new roof. Mr. Hatmaker stated the estimate from the insurance company was 5,400.00+ less the deductible so the township will still receive \$4,400.00+. Mr. Hatmaker pointed out that 64 Metals is in St. Louisville not Mt. Vernon. Mr. Hatmaker explained that this job was not subject to a formal bid process because the total expenditure was expected to be below \$25,000.00 and the company was obtained through experience.

Mr. Hatmaker stated that street lights in the township are installed through street light assessment districts. There have been some exceptions to that. At the end of Emmit Avenue, there was a street light installed because of safety issues. There are other cases where the Board has been asked to install street lights and these areas are not within a residential neighborhood and the idea of doing a street assessment district is more complicated. In order to consider what situation might merit an exception, the Board asked that a set of criteria be drafted that could be used for determining an exception. This criteria would propose two areas; one would be a major collector street and two would be an area harboring serious criminal activity over time. A major collector street would be defined as a street carrying a volume of at least 4,000 average daily trips per day, the street would connect to major arterial streets and its primary purpose would not be as access to residential property. The other category would be areas harboring serious criminal activity over time. This would have to be something over time, not a couple of months and be a situation where the Board would seek confirmation from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office or an appropriate representative.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt the "Prairie Township Public Street Light Criteria" as presented.

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

Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to authorize the Township Administrator to forward a letter to the Franklin County Budget Commission asking for the establishment of Fund 4402 for the South Greener Road Improvement Project, Phase 1. This is an OPWC funded project and these monies would run through this fund as OPWC pays the contractors directly. We are also asking the Board to approve revenue and appropriations in this fund in the amount of \$1,105,845.00 which is the grant amount for the project.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the township administrator to forward a letter to the Franklin County Budget Commission requesting that it establish Fund 4402 and increase Prairie Township's revenue and appropriations in this fund to \$1,105,845.00.

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

Mr. Hatmaker stated the Franklin County Land Bank took the property at the southwest corner of Mix

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and Stiles Avenues and the township partnered with the County and demolished three apartment buildings on the property. Since the County took control of the property, it has been owned by the Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation. They are asking the Township to take ownership of the property at no charge however there would be filing fees. All liens have been removed from the property. Ms. Schlosser asked how much the filing fees would be and Mr. Kennedy stated it makes sense to do this as it gives us a little direction on what goes on that property. There were some maintenance issues with the COCIC having control of the property. The township will be in charge of maintaining the grass cutting on the property. Ms. Schlosser stated that after we take possession of the property, a "No Trespassing" sign needs posted on the property and the Sheriff Department should be notified that it is township property. Mr. Hatmaker was asked what the intended use for the property is. One thing Mr. Hatmaker would recommend is that as Greener Avenue is improved and as there is more interest in re-development, the township would do some kind of re-development for the area. Ms. Schlosser stated the area has a lot of opportunity and getting the apartment buildings down was the first step in revitalization the area. Mr. Kennedy stated it is a perfect location for businesses and this property would be a great property to make the first purchase to get it started in that direction.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded that the Board adopt Resolution 06-09, "A resolution accepting the Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation's offer to transfer the parcels at 299 mix avenue, 347 Mix avenue and 4619 Stiles Avenue to Prairie Township and directing the Township Administrator to take all necessary steps to complete this transaction."

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

Mr. Hatmaker stated the township usually has some surplus items which we no longer have any use for or items that are of no practical value to the township. It has been recommended that the township look at using the Board's authority under Section 505.10, to proceed with declaring its intent to using internet auctions as a method to selling these items. This is an option that is specifically allowed under this section of the code; however, the Board is required every year to declare its intent to do this. Mr. Hatmaker also would like for the Board to consider working with Franklin County Purchasing Department. For no extra charge, they will assist the township by monitoring the bidding and accept the checks and all the technical things. Mr. Hatmaker asked to Board to consider expressing its intent to use GovDeals and the internet for selling surplus items and more specifically to do this with cooperation with Franklin County.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded, that the Board adopt Resolution 07-09, "A Resolution declaring intent to conduct internet auctions for the sale of unneeded, obsolete or unfit personal property, including motor vehicles, of prairie township for the calendar year 2009."

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

Mr. Hatmaker presented the renewal of the NPDES Phase II permit which is phase II of a permit required under the Federal Water Quality Requirements. Prairie Township along with the other townships in Franklin County is co-permittees with Franklin County. We cooperate with the Franklin County Engineers Office and the Soil and Water Conservation District in order comply with the permit requirements. The Township has to be part of this permit given our location and population in an urban area. The only other option would be to do these ourselves. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board authorize the filing of this Notice of Intent for Coverage Under Ohio EPA Small MS4 General Permit and authorize Mr. Hatmaker to authorize the document.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the filing of a Notice of Intent for Coverage Under Ohio EPA Small MS4 General Permit form on Prairie Township's behalf and direct the township administrator to complete and execute this form accordingly.

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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.

Mr. Hatmaker's next item of business was to discuss the payoff of the Road Department maintenance building which is a three year payoff of a bond that was issued at 4%. The Township is between the third and fourth payment and the township can pay off that bond by calling a 4% bond because we are not getting the interest on the money we are holding back instead of using the money up front. Mr. Hatmaker asked for the Board's guidance whether or not to proceed with the payoff of \$154,999.00 in principle plus \$2,468.50 in accrued interest for a balance as of March 26, 2009 of \$161,198.92.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board direct the township administrator to work with National City Bank to pay off the bond for the Road Maintenance Building and execute any related documents as appropriate.

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

Mr. Hatmaker's final item is the award of the South Greener Road Improvements Phase I contract. The estimate cost of project was \$983,610.00 which was lower than the grant amount. Bids were received and opened on Monday, March 23rd and the low bid was \$918,153.40. Stantec Consulting has reviewed the bids and are recommending the low bid is qualified and that the Board accept that bid. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board approve the Notice of Award and authorize the Chair to sign it. Ms. Schlosser wanted to know if the Road Superintendent is OK with Double Z Construction Company and Mr. Hatmaker stated they meet all qualifications. Mr. Kennedy stated there were seven bids and five came in under the estimate and he thinks we will get a good deal.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board award the contract for construction of South Greener Road Improvement Project Phase I to Double Z Construction Company in the amount of \$918,153.40 and authorize the Chair to sign the notice of award.

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

A resident asked if the pedestrian bridge would be removed and stated his concern for the kids. Mr. Hatmaker stated the plans for Phase II, South Greener call for it to be removed because of the appearance underneath and the width but there will be a sidewalk on the east side of South Greener and the plans call for improving the crosswalk at Frost. Mr. Kennedy stated it will be a year before we get to that point and it is penciled in the plan to come down and the projected cost is included but it hasn't been decided yet. Mr. Kennedy also would like to see more study done on it to see how many kids are physically using it on a daily basis. Mr. Kennedy asked the resident how many children use the bridge daily. A resident said about eight to ten. A resident complained that the sidewalks on Palmetto were not cleaned and asked who was responsible for cleaning them. Mr. Kennedy stated it was up to the property owners to clean the sidewalks in front of their property. Mr. Stormont stated they need to take this under advisement and do some more investigation.

Discussion was held about the traffic flow and public hearings pertaining to the Greener Avenue Road Improvement Project - Phase 1.

Old Business:

A resident asked Mr. Kennedy about the turn lane on Bolingbrook and Trabue Road. Mr. Kennedy stated he asked Franklin County Engineer Dean Ringle and he stated there was nothing penciled in for a turn lane. Tracy Hatmaker found out there is a formal procedure to go through to request turn lanes. He stated the traffic department has to complete a traffic study and Mr. Kennedy stated we would get a copy of the study when it is done.

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New Business:

A discussion was held about the church (mosque) that was being built at the corner of Old Sullivant Avenue and Industrial Parkway and a resident's concern about the placement of Somalian immigrants in Lincoln Park West.

Public Comments:

None

Announcements:

Ms. Schlosser wished Trustee Stormont and Trustee Kennedy a "Happy Birthday".

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

Handwritten signature of Douglas Stormont in blue ink.

Chairman

Handwritten signature of A. L. W. Candler in black ink.

Fiscal Officer