

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MAY 6, 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 May 6, 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 April 22, 2009. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed

Sheriff's Report

Deputy Weiner appeared before the Board and stated they have had several vehicle break-ins in the Lake Darby area which have been happening after midnight. Mr. Kennedy asked Deputy Weiner to check for abandon vehicles left along the side of the road in the Lake Darby area.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Mr. McCardle gave an update on the progress of the Lake Darby North and Westpoint, Sections 3, 4 and 5 lighting districts. We have recently received contracts from Columbus Southern Power to install conduits that are needed under the sidewalks for the installation of the street lights. The plan is for the installation of 19 conduits at a cost of \$1,810.32 in the Lake Darby North lighting district and for 46 conduits at a cost of \$4,382.87 in the Westpoint, Sections 3, 4 and 5 Lighting District.

Mr. McCardle requested the Board make a motion to approve the payment of \$1,810.32 to Columbus Southern Power for the installation of 19 conduits in the Lake Darby North Lighting District and to approve the payment of \$4,382.87 also to Columbus Southern Power, for the installation of 46 conduits in the Westpoint, Sections 3, 4 and 5 Lighting Districts and to authorize the Fiscal Officer to sign the contracts with Columbus Southern Power.

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 requested the Board approve this week's warrants summing \$68,363.62 with this week's payroll summing \$137,193.60 for a total cash disbursement of \$205,557.22.

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

Frank Harmon, Ohio Insurance Services

Mr. Harmon appeared before the Board to explain and answer questions about the township medical insurance renewal. There is a June 1st renewal date on the township's group health insurance plan. Mr. Harmon stated that he had been working with Mr. Hatmaker on the insurance renewal since January and they had pre-planning meetings in March. The initial renewal rate for Anthem, our current company, started at 23.4% and through negotiations, dropped the increase to 9.1%. Frank Harmon obtained quotes from other carriers – Signifa and Medical Mutual. Signifa's proposal was below the current rate and they were possibly going to be able to make a longer rate guarantee commitment but they were a new company and they have not been in Ohio very long. Signifa does not have much of a track record, they don't have any public entities insured in Ohio and in looking at their plan, there are some plan differences and contractual differences. Medical Mutual presented a plan with only a .50 percent renewal increase.

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Mr. Harmon stated that the current funding plan is doing well. He prepared a spreadsheet showing the claims that have been paid as of May 5th and he stated the funding plan is running at a 64% level. Last year, an 80% level was appropriated for. Some additional claims may still come in through the end of

May but he is hoping for no more than \$7,000.00 or \$8,000.00. The plan has performed well throughout the year.

Mr. Harmon stated probably the best option would be Medical Mutual. They have agreed to do a benefit match, the township has been with them before, and there isn't an issue with the doctor's and hospitals. Ms. Schlosser stated the cost difference is significant with Signifa and she asked what the difference between imbedded and non-imbedded is. Mr. Harmon stated that imbedded means that their deductible is a per person deductible versus a single and or family coverage deductible. Ms. Schlosser also asked about pre-existing conditions, preventative care and explained her concern about the exclusions with Signifa Insurance. She stated there is a huge cost difference between the two policies but there is a substantial difference in coverage. A discussion followed.

Mr. Kennedy stated "his recommendation is to go with Medical Mutual because we are basically receiving coverage for another year at the rate we paid Anthem for insurance last year and typically insurance rates go up 15% a year and we are getting the same coverage with Medical Mutual with no increase in cost".

Mr. McCardle asked if Medical Mutual is matching the Anthem benefits and Mr. Harmon said yes and that Medical Mutual was going to do a benefit match.

Mr. Hatmaker recommended the Board approve the Medical Mutual proposal for health insurance coverage effective June 1, 2009 for an annual premium of \$488,826.00 under the HAS 2000 plan and authorize the township administrator and Frank Harmon of Ohio Insurance Services to finalize the agreement with Medical Mutual.

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

Standing Business:

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:

Chief Feustel appeared before the Board to discuss the following items:

1. Chief Feustel stated the department has started the hydrant flushing and it will probably be another week or so before they are finished.
2. The Fire Chief also requested the Board approve the purchase of a Ricoh Aficio MP 2035eSPF copy machine for Station 241 for the price of \$3,360.00. The copier is a 35 page per minute network capable copier and printer.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the purchase of a Ricoh Aficio MP 2035eSPF copier for Fire Station 241 pending a successful two-week trial period.

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

3. Chief Feustel requested the Board's approval to purchase CO monitor equipment. This equipment will provide both medics with a CO monitoring device. He stated that over the past three years, our medics have discovered a number of people are getting sick at home due to carbon monoxide poisoning. The total cost of the CO monitor equipment is \$1,695 and the Westland Area Business Association has donated \$1,000 to be applied specifically to this purchase. With this donation, the cost to the township is \$695.00 which is less than the amount required for approval by the Trustees. Chief Feustel stated "the Fire Department is very grateful for the generous donation from the Westland Area Business Association" and we wanted the Trustees to be aware of what the department is buying.

4. Chief Feustel requested the Board approve the use of disability leave for FF Mike Ellis as per the union contract.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the use of disability leave by FF Mike Ellis as per the current collective bargaining agreement.

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

5. Chief Feustel stated that the new station vehicle has arrived and he requested approval to purchase the lighting package as well as the electronics installation including the radio equipment for a total cost of \$6,275.30

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the purchase and installation of lights and radios for a 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe Fire Department vehicle by PARR Public Safety Equipment at a cost of up to \$6,300.00.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. 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.

Administration:

Mr. Hatmaker appeared before the Board to discuss the following items:

1. Mr. Hatmaker asked for the Board's direction on a trash and debris nuisance case at 4787 Amesbury Way. The Board decided to give the property owners an extension until the next Trustee meeting; May 20, 2009.

2. Mr. Hatmaker requested approval to pay the fee from Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for the administrative fee for the South Greener Avenue Phase I Ohio Public Works Commission Grant. This is a fee for their cost of processing the grant application and staffing the OPWC integrating Committee. The total cost is \$5,647 and it was anticipated in this year's appropriations.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board of Trustees approve the payment of a \$5,647 administrative fee to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for administration of the South Greener Phase I Ohio Public Works Commission Grant.

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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3. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board's approval for installation of new windows at the Road Department garage. The current windows are the original windows which are about 60 years old and after receiving two quotes, Charlie's Handyman Service was the low bidder in the amount of \$3,926.00. Mr. Hatmaker is requesting approval to proceed with this project.

Mr. Stormont moved, that the Board approve the proposal from Charlie's Handyman Service to replace eight windows at the Road Department garage, including material and labor, at a price of \$3,926.00.

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

4. Mr. Hatmaker's final item is seeking the Board's approval of a proposal to do professional engineering work and authorize any agreements for the West Broad Improvement Project be signed by the Township Administrator. Mr. Hatmaker presented drawings showing the basic proposal that Prairie Township submitted to the Federal Highway Administration through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission process. This project is to build upon the ODOT Route 40 Safety Project which goes from I-270 to Rome Hilliard Road. The safety project will put in sidewalks, extend medians, deal with driveway enclosures and put in storm sewers. In order to enhance and build upon the economic development strategies and community improvement strategy for the township, the township has submitted a grant for funding to enhance the appearance of the median, to add street trees, to add shelters for the buses, to add street lights and to make the turn signals a mast arm style instead of the post and wire style. This will help create a much better impression of the corridor. The base price is \$108,000.00 but there are additional options that would allow the Trustees to have a little more involvement in the design and create some additional products to share with the community.

Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board consider the approval of the basic project and any of the options that the Board thinks would be important to include as well as authorize the Township Administrator to pursue the agreement. A question and answer period followed.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the LJB, Incorporated proposal, dated May 5, 2009, at a cost of \$108,500.00 for preliminary engineering for the West Broad Street streetscape project as described in the LJB proposal.

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

Mr. Kennedy stated this is the Broad Street Improvement Project which is not scheduled to start until the last quarter of 2013. These are the preliminary steps and at this time, the Board had to make a decision of "do we want Broad Street just to get the improvements and look like any normal improvements or do we want to upgrade the appearance of West Broad Street to make it something special for Prairie Township. The last few years you have heard "The Darby Accord", "The Town Center proposal", taking care of the western end of the township and this is going to be a major improvement for the eastern side of the township. By doing this, we hope to attract new businesses and keep the one's that are here and have something special as a gateway into Prairie Township".

Mr. Stormont added that the improvements would resemble the road work that has been built going into Grove City.

Old Business:

The Township Administrator then answered questions about old business from the audience:

1. Now that there is an agreement for sewer and water in unincorporated Prairie Township, is it possible to get a list of properties that will be mandated to connect to centralized sewer and/or water as a result of that agreement?

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Answer: Mr. Hatmaker stated that he is certain that is possible but right now the only formal agreement is the Galloway area agreement, so the list would be parcels in that area. What we would have at this point is a list of parcels that are in a planning or contract area. Mr. Hatmaker stated that for a start, the township can ask for (and provide if requested), a list of parcels that are in the sewer contract area.

2. Mr. Hatmaker answered questions about the Big Darby Accord, the town center, the water/sewer agreement in Galloway and Prairie Township and concerning the fact that the parcel numbers are being sought because of Federal requirements to make sure septic tanks and wells are protected and that in certain cases, houses have to be connected to central sewer/water under loan programs and other help programs.

3. He also answered questions about the structure at 354 Mix Avenue and Mr. Hatmaker stated that there has been some legal advise that the emergency process be handled with a lot of care so we are going to send the motion and the Board's recommendation and the declaration to the Prosecuting Attorney for a review and that is under the advice of counsel.

4. Questions arose about the pedestrian bridge on South Grener Avenue and Mr. Hatmaker stated that we are still trying to clarify the options as what can be done to maintain the structure as is and if that can't be done, there will further checking as to what the township can do.

New Business:

None

Public Comments:

None

Announcements:

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded that the Board retire into executive session for the purpose of preparing for and reviewing negotiations and bargaining session with public employees concerning compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.

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

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded that executive ended at 8:55 p.m.

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.


Chairman


Fiscal Officer