

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 28, 2010– 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 July 28, 2010 at 7:00 PM by the Chairman, Trustee Steve Kennedy, with Trustee Doug Stormont, Trustee Ron Ball, and Fiscal Officer Dan McCardle present. Also in attendance were Tracy Hatmaker, Township Administrator, and Fire Chief Stephen Feustel. (See attached sign in sheet for a complete list of additional attendees).

Mr. Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

The meeting minutes for the June 30, 2010 Regular meeting, the June 30, 2010 Special meetings held at 5:30 pm and 6:00 pm, the July 14, 2010 Regular meeting and also the July 14, 2010 Special meeting were all approved.

Sheriff's Report

Deputy Cooper spoke before the Board. He reported a recent murder in the 4600 block, and an arrest was made almost immediately after the attack.

Swearing in of a New Firefighter

Newly hired Firefighter Matthew Powers, with his wife in attendance, was formally sworn in by Fire Chief Feustel.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Supplemental Appropriation

Mr. McCardle requested that the Board approve a supplemental appropriation to move \$13,285.00 from line item 2031-330-360-0000 (Road and Bridge Contract Services) to 2031-760-740-0000 (Road and Bridge Machinery, Equipment and Furniture) for the purpose of purchasing the 2011 F250 Super Cab XL pickup truck as approved at the July 14, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Kennedy motioned "so moved" that the Board approve a supplemental appropriation moving \$13,285.00 from line item 2031-330-360-0000, Road and Bridge Contract Services, to line item 2031-760-740-0000, Road and Bridge Machinery, Equipment and Furniture. Mr. Stormont seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Ball, Aye. The motion passed.

Approval of Warrants and Payroll

Mr. McCardle requested the Board's approval to pay this week's warrants summing \$57,279.12 and this week's payroll of \$133,125.72 for a total cash disbursement of \$190,404.84.

Mr. Kennedy motioned "so moved". Mr. Stormont seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Ball, Aye. The motion passed.

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Standing Business

Fire Department

Request to Place a Replacement Fire Levy on the November Ballot (Res. 23-10)

Chief Feustel requested that the Board adopt a resolution finding it a necessity to replace tax millage eroded from the May 1993 (3.9 mills) and May 1999 (5.5 mills) fire levies. Of the original 9.4 mills (combined), these levies are currently generating 5.7 mills due to the fact that "outside" levy collection amounts are frozen at a dollar amount, rather than being collected at a constant millage level. This ballot issue would ask the voters to approve resetting these levies at their original millage rates, thus increasing their effective millage rate by 3.7 mills.

A resident asked if this levy passes, how long will it be until the fire department needs to ask for another levy? Fire Chief Feustel explained several factors that could enable this levy to last ten years.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution 23-10, "A Resolution Declaring it Necessary to Levy a Tax in Excess of the Ten Mill Limitation." Mr. Stormont seconded. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Ball, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye. The motion passed.

Zoning Department

Ms. Swisher was previously excused from attending tonight's meeting.

Roads and Cemetery Department

Mr. McAninch was previously excused from attending tonight's meeting.

Administration

Nuisance Cases

Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board's guidance on the nuisance cases that will be forwarded in advance of the meeting. No one spoke on behalf of any of the properties under review.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Prairie Township Board of Trustees find the conditions at 4711 Frost Avenue, 6642 Maple Park Way, 767 Lakefield Drive, Parcel No (North of Evergreen) 240-002300, 240-002301, 240-002302, 240-002303, 272 Oxley Road, 246 Lawrence Avenue, 801 Lakeview Drive, 435 Darby Court, 8621 Fairbrook Avenue, 8419 Blue Lake Circle, 8405 Blue Lake Circle, 200 North Murray Hill Road, 8480 Edencrest Court, and 138 Woodlawn to be a nuisance and that the Board hereby directs staff to abate said nuisance(s) at the expense of the property owner(s) as per the requirements in Ohio Revised Code Section 505.87. Mr. Stormont seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Ball, Aye. The motion passed.

Grener Avenue Phase II Pay Request #1 Revision

Mr. Hatmaker requested on behalf of Mr. McAninch that the Board revise pay request number 1 to Decker Construction Company for work on the South Grener Issue II Phase 2 project of \$90,996.65 from 89,081.46. The wrong amount was given because they took 10% retainage instead of the contract stated 8%.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the revised South Grener Avenue Road Improvement Project – Phase II Pay Request #1 amount of \$90,996.65. Mr. Stormont seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Ball, Aye. The motion passed.

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Grener Avenue Phase II Change Order #4

Mr. Hatmaker requested on behalf of Mr. McAninch that the Board approve change order number 4 for the South Grener Issue II Phase 2 project in the amount of \$650.00 because of the close proximity of the new power poles to the proposed back of the new curb, we request additional staking to ensure there would be no conflicts.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve Change Order #4, in the amount of \$650.00, to stake the back of planned curbs as part of the placement of new power poles for the South Grener Avenue Road Improvement Project – Phase II. Mr. Ball seconded the motion. The motion was signed by the Chair, Mr. Kennedy. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Ball, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye. The motion passed.

Grener Avenue Phase II Disbursement #2 Request

Mr. Hatmaker requested on behalf of Mr. McAninch that the Board approve Disbursement Number 2 for the South Grener Avenue Road Improvement Project – Phase II. This disbursement includes reimbursement to the Franklin County Engineer for engineering and bidding costs totaling \$108,010 and construction observation and project administration costs totaling \$8,306.69. It also authorizes the payment of the revised pay request #1 amount of \$90,996.65 directly to Decker. Finally, the form seeks reimbursement to Prairie Township in the amount of \$7,235.72 for right-of-way acquisition consultant costs. Disbursement #2 totals \$214,549.06, bringing the total project costs paid to date to \$294,054.06 of the \$3,064,953 OPWC funding amount.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve South Grener Avenue Road Improvement Project – Phase II Disbursement Number 2 in the amount of \$214,594.06 and authorize the Chair to execute the necessary documents. Mr. Ball seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Ball, Aye. The motion passed.

Bereavement Leave Request

Mr. Hatmaker on behalf of Mr. McAninch requested that the Board grant Josh Hoffman bereavement pay for Thursday, July 22, 2010 and Monday, July 26, 2010. Section 4.08 of the employee manual allows the employee to ask the Board to grant leave for members of their family not defined as immediate family in section 4.08. Mr. Hoffman's uncle passed away on Wednesday, July 21, 2010. The funeral was Monday July 26, 2010 and Mr. Hoffman took Thursday July 22, 2010 off to be with his family. Mr. Hoffman worked on Friday July 23, 2010. The request is for 16 hours of bereavement pay.

Mr. Kennedy was not in favor as he was concerned about setting a new precedent for this employee benefit.

Mr. Ball noted that no such benefit existed for the firefighters.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve 16 hours of bereavement pay for Road Laborer, Joshua Hoffman for July 22, 2010 and July 26, 2010 as per Section 4.08 of the Prairie Township Policy and Procedures Manual. No one seconded the motion. There were no votes. The motion failed.

OTARMA Renewal

OTARMA has submitted a proposal to renew Prairie Township's property and liability insurance coverage for an annual cost of \$30,354.00. The cost last year was \$26,829.00 and \$29,560.00 the year before. Premium costs are remaining constant, but various credits have varied over this period, resulting in the down and back up trend in total costs. The township did not receive any quotes from The Ohio Plan or any other competitors.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board enter into an agreement with OTARMA for property and liability insurance for the year August 7, 2010 through August 6, 2011 at total premium of \$30,354.00 and authorize the township administrator to execute all necessary documents to complete this agreement. Mr. Stormont seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Ball, Aye. The motion passed.

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HB 344 / SB 228 Support Resolution (Res. 24-10)

House Bill 344 and Senate Bill 228 are currently under consideration in their respective General Assembly chambers. They both aim to limit the amount of expenses related to rate increase requests that private water works and sewage disposal companies can pass on to their customers. These bills would only apply to companies with 15,000 or more customers, which includes Ohio American Water. The proposed resolution expresses the Board's support for these efforts.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution Number 24-10, "A Resolution to Express Support for House Bill 344 and Senate Bill 228 Limiting Recovery of Rate-Case Expenses for Certain Water Works and Sewage Disposal System Companies" Mr. Ball seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Ball, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye. The motion passed.

Ohio Township Association Workers Comp Group Rating Renewal

Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board to approve the Township's reenrollment in the OTA Group Rating program. The cost of the 2011 program, which is similar to the cost of the last few years, will be \$12,637. These funds go to the Frank Gates / Avizent which administers the program and provides direct support to the township in its management and administration of our workers compensation program. The projected direct savings for participating in the group rating program next year will be \$34,692. This amount is the difference between the individual premium of \$102,632 and the group rated premium of \$67,940.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the Township's participation in the 2011 Ohio Township Association Workers Compensation Group Rating program for a fee of \$12,637 and authorize the Township Administrator to execute the necessary documents. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Ball, Aye. The motion passed.

Revision of the Wetlands Restoration Project Funding Schedule for the Phillips Property

In December 2002, the Natural Resources Conservation Service provided \$261,080 for the purchase of a wetlands restoration easement on the Phillips property. These funds were used, along with \$160,000 in Township funds, Clean Ohio grant funds and assistance from the Nature Conservancy, to purchase the Phillips tract. This easement allows the NRCS to restore wetlands on the site at their expense, but commits the Township to cooperate. The NRCS has been pushing to complete this project since it completed plans in 2008. Tonight, I will ask the Board to approve an updated funding schedule so that the project can proceed. The project will include:

Wetlands Construction:	\$47,545
Planting and Prairie Burn:	\$115,610
Fencing:	\$47,169

The 2008 funding schedule provided a total of \$182,557, while the updated 2010 schedule that I'm asking you to approve provides \$210,324. The NRCS provided bid materials. The Township will pay to advertise the bids and will award the bids after the NRCS reviews them. NRCS will oversee construction. NRCS is obligated to pay, so any costs over and above the funding provided will be provided by them or a third party, otherwise the project will be turned over to NRCS to complete.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the revised Natural Resources Conservation Service Wetlands Reserve Program Conservation Plan for 2010 to 2012 for the Phillips tract, which is designated as Tract 209 on the subject document, and authorize the Township Administrator to execute the document. Mr. Stormont seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Ball, Aye. The motion passed.

Old Business

None

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New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Announcements

Trustee Kennedy announced that the township has torn down two buildings on Mix Avenue since the July 14, 2010 meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Handwritten signature of Steve Kennedy in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Chairman

Handwritten signature of A. W. McAuliffe in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Fiscal Officer