

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JANUARY 11, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

Trustee Doug Stormont called the meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees to order on January 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall with Trustee Cathy Schmelzer, Trustee Rod Pritchard, Fiscal Officer Natalie McKay, Township Administrator James Jewell, Recreation Director Michael Pollack, Zoning Director Dana Scott, Fire Chief Allen Scott, and Sheriff Deputy B. Haren 1078 present.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Stormont opened the meeting and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes - December 28, 2022 regular meeting minutes and December 28, 2022 special meeting minutes

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont made a motion to approve the December 28, 2022, regular meeting minutes and December 28, 2022, special meeting minutes . Ms. Schmelzer seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye ; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Franklin County Sheriff 's Office

Sheriff Deputy B. Haren 1078 gave the Sheriff's report for the last two weeks.

Comments/Issues: None

12/28/22-1/11/23	Total
Total Calls for Service/Self-Initiated Runs	487
Total Reports Taken	51
Arrests/Citations	34
Thefts	2
Suspicious Activity Stops / Calls	50
Traffic Stops	63
Stolen Vehicles	0
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	2
Drug Related Arrests	4
Overdose	2
OVI	1

The Sheriff's Office worked closely with a local business in the township that was working a theft prevention operation. The Sheriff's Office made multiple theft, warrant and drug arrests on December 23rd and December 30th during the operation.

Early on January 1st deputies responded to a call of a male brandishing a firearm at O'Toole's bar. When deputies arrived on scene they gave a great description of the vehicle that the male was traveling in and of the male himself. Deputy Ball and Viers were able to locate the vehicle on W. Broad and executed a traffic stop on it. Deputies did not locate a firearm during the stop but they made an arrest for drug possession.

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If any resident in the township is interested in participating in the Sheriff's Office Citizen Academy they can register on the FCSO website.

2023 Re-organization

Election of Officers :

Ms. McKay conducted the election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair for 2023, beginning by requesting nominations for Board Chair. Ms. Schmelzer nominated Mr. Stormont for Board Chair.

After hearing no further nominations, Ms. McKay moved that the Board elect Mr. Stormont as Board Chair for the calendar year 2023 . Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Abstain. Motion passed.

Ms. McKay called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Mr. Pritchard nominated Ms. Schmelzer for Vice-Chair.

After hearing no further nominations, Ms. McKay moved that the Board elect Ms. Schmelzer as Vice-Chair for the calendar year 2023 . Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Abstain; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Ms. McKay turned the meeting back over to Board Chair Mr. Stormont.

Appointment of Fire Marshal :

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board appoint Matt Powers as Fire Marshal for the calendar year 2023. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Cemetery Chain and Flag : The continuation of employment of Floyd Cochran at the Galloway and Alton Cemeteries and the Galloway Road Sports Complex.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board continue the employment of Floyd Cochran, Chain and Flag, at Galloway Cemetery at a rate of \$200.00 per month and at Alton Cemetery at a rate of \$250.00 per month and at the Galloway Road Sports Complex at a rate of \$100.00 per month.

Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Trustee salaries :

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the Township to pay each Member of the Board of Trustees an annual salary as per ORC Section 505.24 (D) , calculated per ORC Section 505.24 (A) , payable monthly.

Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Fiscal Officer Salary :

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the Township to pay the Fiscal Officer an annual salary as per ORC Section 507.09, payable monthly.

Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer,

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Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Township employees :

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board rehire all township employees for the year 2023.

Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Board of Trustees meeting times :

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board set its regular meeting times for every-other Wednesday beginning with the next meeting on January 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Township Hall, 23 Maple Drive, Columbus, Ohio.

Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Expenses : The 2023 standard mileage as set by the Internal Revenue Service is 65.5 cents per mile (up 3 cents from 2022) for business miles driven. Other stipulations for payment of expenses are also included.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board allow administrative expenses at actual cost, including parking, meals and mileage at the standard mileage rates set by the Internal Revenue Service for all travel outside of the township and further these expenses be allowed at the same rate and on the same basis for any other township employee authorized to travel of behalf of the township and that the Zoning Inspectors be allowed mileage at this same rate for all travel within the township if the zoning vehicle is not available.

Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Advance of tax monies :

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize a request, if necessary, for advances of tax monies from the Franklin County Auditor in 2023 as money becomes available.

Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Payroll:

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the payment of third party (HR Butler) payroll processing through automatic withdraw from the township checking account.

Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Ohio Police and Fire Pension payments :

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the online payment of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund contributions through automatic withdraw from the township checking account.

Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

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Ohio Public Employees Retirement System :

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve online payment of OPERS payments through automatic withdraw from the township checking account.

Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Volunteer Firefighters Indemnity Board Appointment :

Mr. Stormont appointed Mr. Pritchard and Ms. Schmelzer to serve on the Volunteer Firefighters Indemnity Board for the year 2023.

Trick or Treat : (as per MOPRC Resolution 11-09) When Halloween, October 31, falls on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, Trick or Treat is held the Thursday prior to October 31. When October 31 falls on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, Trick or Treat is held on October 31.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board designate Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. as the 2023 Trick-or-Treat hours in Prairie Township.

Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

2023 Sick Leave Conversion Plan : In order for sick leave conversion to be counted as pensionable income, a conversion plan must be filed with OPERS annually. This conversion plan would make all employees sick leave conversion payments count toward their Final Average salary.

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board approve the 2023 Conversion Plan and authorize the Chair to sign the plan for submittal to OPERS . Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Spending Limits for Township Administrator and Department Heads : In 2019, the Ohio Legislature approved Township staff to make purchases and expenditures up to \$10,000. Mr. Jewell recommended that department heads be empowered to approve purchases and expenditures up to \$2,500, and the Township Administrator be empowered to approve purchases and expenditures up to \$7,500.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board empower department heads to approve purchases and expenditures up to \$2,500 the Township Administrator be empowered to approve purchases and expenditures up to \$7,500.

Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Approval of Warrants and Payroll

Ms. McKay gave the Fiscal Officer's report. This week's warrants list detailed payments to 80 vendors totaling \$223,035.18.

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Ms. McKay requested the Board’s approval to pay all items on this week’s warrant list totaling \$223,035.18 along with 1/10/23 payroll of \$229,275.65 for a total cash disbursement of \$452,310.83.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont motioned “so moved”. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion . The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Transfers from the General Fund

Ms. McKay asked the Board for authorization to transfer \$627,091.84 from the General Fund, based on the previously approved 2023 budget, for various Roads and Capital Improvements, and Parks and Recreation expenditures.

Amount	From (Transfers Out)	To (Transfers In)	Purpose
\$250,000.00	General 1000-910-910-0000	Road District 2141-931-0000	Road Work
\$12,658.96	General 1000-910-910-0008	Inah 4401-931-0000	OPWC Loan payments
\$8,318.79	General 1000-910-910-0008	S. Grener 1 4402-931-0000	OPWC Loan payments
\$3,231.98	General 1000-910-910-0008	S. Grener 2 4404-931-0000	OPWC Loan payments
\$7,989.12	General 1000-910-910-0008	Palmetto 4405-931-0000	OPWC Loan payments
\$6,821.58	General 1000-910-910-0008	Beacon Hill 4406-931-0000	OPWC Loan Payments
\$9,271.41	General 1000-910-910-0008	Woodlawn 4407-931-0000	OPWC Loan payments
\$250,000.00	General 1000-910-910-0010	Parks Capital 4301-931-0000	Galloway Sports Complex
\$17,000.00	General 1000-910-910-0014	Community Center 2905-931-0000	Operating
\$61,800.00	General 1000-910-910-0018	West Broad Street 4302-931-0000	Operating
\$627,091.84			

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the Fiscal Office to make the transfers as presented. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Consulting Engagement : Ms. McKay asked the Board for approval to engage Kaiser Consulting, LLC to perform an assessment of the Township’s internal fiscal controls and policies.

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Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved to authorize, empower, and appoint, on behalf of the Board and the Township, Natalie McKay, Township Fiscal Officer, to negotiate, review, and execute an agreement on behalf of the Township and the Board, substantially consistent with the Proposal - Accounting Assessment dated January 9, 2023, with Kaiser Consulting, LLC, along with any changes or amendments thereto that are not adverse to the Township, for the purpose of hiring a consulting firm to help assess and establish the Township 's internal fiscal controls and processes.

Standing Business

Fire Department

Fire Chief Allen gave the Fire Department report.

Resignation of Full-Time Firefighter : Chief Scott asked the Board to accept the resignation of full-time firefighter Kevin Wade, effective January 3rd, 2023. Kevin has resigned due to a medical condition. Chief Scott thanked him for his 20+ years of service and wished him good health.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board accept the resignation of Kevin Wade as a full-time firefighter, effective January 3, 2023. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Resignation of Part-Time Firefighter: Chief Scott asked the Board to accept the resignation of part-time FF. Matthew Fredrick, effective immediately. Matthew has been unable to fulfil his part-time obligations. Chief Scott wished him luck in his future.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board accept the resignation of Matthew Frederick as a part-time firefighter, effective January 11, 2023. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Sick Leave Transfer for New F/T Firefighter : Chief Scott asked the Board to allow newly hired FF Nathan Wright to transfer up to 76.08 hours of sick time from the Marion Township Fire Department, in accordance with the CBA.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve transferring 76.08 hours of sick leave for Nathan Wright from Marion Township to Prairie Township. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as

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follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Copy (10) of Annual Performance Report with Monthly Breakdowns

Date: Tuesday, January 3, 2023
Time: 11:05:15 AM

Alarm Date between 2022-12-01 and 2022-12-31

Incident Count By NFIRS Code

Incident Type Group	2022-12-01	Total
300 - EMS	316	316
500 - Service Call	35	35
600 - Series	63	63
400 - HAZMAT	6	6
700 - False Alarm	23	23
100 - Fire	9	9
Monthly Total	452	452
EMS Total		316
Fire Total		136

Incident Count by Station

Station	2022-12-01	Total
Prairie Township Fire Station 241	368	368
Prairie Township Fire Station 243	84	84
Total	452	452

Automatic Aid

Aided Agency Name	Details
Columbus	139
Franklin Township	1
Jefferson Township	17
Norwich Township	2

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Pleasant Township	2
Pleasant Valley Township	1
	158

PTFD members logged 133 hours of training

This included the onboarding and orientation training of 9 new part-time members

The Fire Marshal completed 98 Inspections

PTFD achieved 40% ROSC (return of spontaneous circulation)

40% of all cardiac arrest victims regain pulses prior to arriving at hospital.

Community Center

Mr. Pollack gave the Community Center report.

OPRA Conference : Michael asked the Board to allow Community Center staff to attend the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Conference beginning January 29-February 1 at the Kalahari Convention Center in Sandusky. The registration cost for five staff members to attend the conference is \$1,590. Staff received a discount of \$765 for being on the conference committee. The total cost for registrations less the discount is \$825.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve registration for five Community Center staff to attend the Ohio Parks and Recreation Conference from January 29 - February 1, 2023 at a cost of \$825.00. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Community Center Monthly Report

Numbers as of **31-Dec-22**
percentage

Total Current Community Center Members	6,659	
Total Members that are Prairie Township Residents	2,067	31.04%
Total Members that are Non-Residents	4,592	68.96%
Total Members that are JEDZ	170	2.55%
Total Members that are Senior Citizens	4,586	68.87%
Total Unique Senior Citizen Visits	5,316	

Number of new members/renewals since last report 258

How many memberships that expired that were not renewed 121

Retention rate percentage 97

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Events or significant programs

Group Fitness Classes	822
Basketball	608
Pickleball	152
Breakfast with Santa	103
Cookies and Canvas	25
Winter Wreath Class	24
Winter Break Camp	15
Senior Social Programs (Lunch & Learns, Bingo, Euchre, Wii Bowling, Pot Lucks, Etc.)	214

Roads, Cemeteries, and Parks Department

Mr. Jewell gave the Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department report.

2023 Street Sweeping : Mr. Jewell recommended the Board approve two separate street sweepings in 2023 for the township roads that have curbs and gutters and authorize the Road Superintendent to sign all documents needed for these sweeps. The cost for each street sweeping is \$5,341.00 for a total of \$10,682.00. The contractor is SCA of Ohio LLC. This is a \$972.00 increase from last year. The sweeps have been tentatively set for the week of April 3, 2023, and the week of September 5, 2023, which is the Tuesday after Labor Day. Mr. McAninch believes this is a valuable service to the residents as far as how they feel about the upkeep of their neighborhoods and for the maintenance of the townships storm sewer system.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve two street sweepings of township roads that have curb and gutter at a cost of \$10,682.00 and authorize the Road Superintendent to execute all the necessary documents. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

2023 West Broad Street Sweeping: Mr. Jewell recommended the Board approve eight separate street sweepings in 2023 for West Broad Street from April 2023 through November 2023 and authorize the Road Superintendent to sign all documents needed for these sweeps. The cost for each street sweeping is \$667.00 for \$5,336.00. The contractor is SCA of Ohio LLC. This is an increase from 2022 of \$496.00. These sweeps would be from 270 to Hilliard-Rome Road and include both the inside and outside curb areas along West Broad Street. The township would provide traffic control by following the sweeper with a dump truck and arrow board. Mr. McAninch believes this is the best way to approach this. SCA of Ohio LLC also gave us an as needed price of \$667.00 per sweep if we feel we need to sweep in between the monthly sweeps. If the Board approves this then the dates for the sweeps will be as follows: April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 5, October 2 and November 6.

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Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve eight street sweepings of W. Broad Street at a cost of \$5,336.00 and authorize the Road Superintendent to execute all the necessary documents. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

- 8 Graves sold
- 14 funerals
- Chipped tree limbs at 7 address's
- Trash, weeds W Broad Street
- 2022 sidewalk program topsoil seed fertilizer and straw 6 properties
- Topsoil, fertilize, straw and cut down drains 2 tile jobs
- Repair 3 driveways blacktop from sidewalk program
- Groom OneField once
- Potholes with Hot Mix 3 days
- Finish install snow fence Kuhlwein Road
- Pick up 13 bags of leaves and two piles
- Check township roads for branches hanging in road and blocking signs
- Nuisance abatements at 21 properties
- Install No Dogs Allowed Signs at GRSC Baseball Fields
- Haul dirt from baseball fields GRSC being converted to turf fields 3 days
- Load excess dirt from shop to Shelly Dump 4 days
- Replace 2 broken concrete lids Beacon Hill E of Old Village and S Murray Hill and Daytona
- Pour concrete lids at shop for stock
- Install 1 military marker
- Truck Maintenance
- 2 snow and ice events
- Pick up Trash SE Taft and Emmit
- Haul 10 loads of salt from FCE to shop

Commercial Building and Zoning Department

Ms. Scott gave the Commercial Building and Zoning Department report

Zoning Monthly Report - DECEMBER 2022

Franklin County Courthouse Development/Informational Meetings	113
Nuisance Inspections	60
Declared Nuisances	16
Trash Resolution Inspections	53
Trash Citations	
Property Maintenance Inspections	4
Property Maintenance Violations	1
Zoning Inspections	114
Zoning Violations	46

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Do Not Knock Registries	7
Contractor Registrations	16
Zoning Compliances (Permits)	10
MS4 Land Disturbance Permits	1
Open Space Permit (Hunting)	
Commercial Permits	1
Variance Applications	
Conditional Use Applications	
Rezoning Applications	
Appeal Applications	
Amendments/EU Modifications	
Substantially Similar Application	
Citation Revenue	
Zoning Revenue	\$ 1,225.00
Commercial Building Revenue	\$12,756.27

Administration

Nuisance Resolutions :

Ms. Scott explained that all nuisances to be declared tonight were for trash & debris.

Galloway Village Parcels Only

Address	Parcel Number
4951-4973 Eastham Way	240-004822
4820 Medfield Way	240-004847
4960-4882 Medfield Way	240-004837
4984-5006 Medfield Way	240-004838
99 Schoolhouse Lane	240-004824
111 Schoolhouse Lane	240-004825
44 Sturbridge Road	240-004839

*Strike thru represents addresses not declared tonight.

Before moving on the nuisance resolution, Mr. Pritchard asked Mr. Jewell to recap the issues the Township has been working with Galloway Village Apartments to fix.

Mr. Jewell stated the issues with Galloway Village Apartments have been going on for some time now. The Township's roads department has cleaned up over ten tons of trash sitting around the outside of the dumpsters, abating the costs incurred to do so on the Galloway Apartment taxes. Mr. Jewell commented that new dumpsters had recently been delivered.

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Mr. Jewell said the Township has partnered with the Public Health Department, and the Environment Court and its assigned Deputy Sheriff, to resolve the issues.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-01-23, “A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with refuse and debris. ” Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Ms. Scott presented the non-Galloway Village Apartment nuisances to be declared:

Address	Parcel Number
150 Fernhill Avenue	240-003332
454 Hiler Road	240-004533
80 South Murray Hill Road	240-004307
4775 West Broad Street	240-004909
240-005190 West Broad Street	240-005190
4757 West Broad Street	240-000162

*Strike thru represents addresses not declared tonight.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-02-23, “A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with refuse and debris. ” Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Cheryl Cornelius of 203 Sturbridge Road asked how long a commercial property owner has to clean up their property once they are notified of an infraction. Ms. Scott said she believed the property owner had thirty days to clean up their property before reinspection. If the property wasn't cleaned up, a citation could be issued and the owner would have 7-14 days to pay the fine. The cost of a citation increases for subsequent occurrences

Voytek Zalenski of 4756 Hilton Avenue asked if there is still a rental office for Galloway Village Apartments at Medfield and Murray Hill. Ms. Scott said yes, but that she hasn't found them to be very helpful.

2023 Brosuis, Johnson, and Griggs Agreement (Res. 01-23) : Mr. Jewell presented a proposed resolution to employ Brosius, Johnson and Griggs, LLC as attorneys for various matters for the year 2023 at the rates stated in the resolution. Rates are the same as 2022.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 01-23, “A Resolution employing Attorneys on an annual basis for the Year 2023 ”. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Online Internet Auction (Res. 02-23): This resolution is an annual renewal of the township's authorization to sell property via internet auction, as required by law. The initial resolution was adopted on

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March 25, 2009. As per Ohio Revised Code Section 505.10, a Board of Township Trustees may sell property, which is not needed for public use, is obsolete or unfit for the use for which it was required. In addition, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 0968-08 authorizing the Franklin County Purchasing Department to assist any city or township located within Franklin County in disposing of surplus property through the Franklin County GovDeals online internet auction site at no cost. This assistance allows the township to take advantage of Franklin County's GovDeals agreement, as well as use Franklin County to oversee the bidding and payment process. The proposed resolution continues the township's participation in the county program.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 02-23, "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 2023." Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

CLOUT Membership (Res. 03-23): Mr. Jewell presented a proposed resolution to renew our Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships membership for 2023.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 03-23 "A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships in the year 2023" at an annual cost of \$200.00 and authorize the Fiscal Office to issue a check on January 12, 2023. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

MORPC Membership : Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve payment of \$10,645.04 to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for 2023 membership dues.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve payment of \$10,645.04 to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for 2023 membership dues and authorize the Fiscal Office to issue a check on January 12, 2023. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Debra Kurtz of 217 Evergreen asked why the Township needed a MORPC membership. Mr. Jewell explained that for every dollar invested, the Township gets back a certain percentage and that MORPC helps us with grants. Both he and Mr. Pritchard are on their board; they submitted a grant application for federal funding for the bike trail off Hubbard, which was denied. They intend to try again with MORPC.

Cypress Church Emergency Shelter : Mr. Jewell asked the Board to allow Cypress Church to use our Community Center as needed for emergency shelter use under the church's emergency action plan.

Comments/Issues: None

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PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JANUARY 11, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board allow Cypress Church to use our Community Center facility when needed for emergency shelter use. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

2023 FCSO Annual Contract : Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve the 2023 Police Service Agreement with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. This agreement sets the terms for police services in the Township and is valid January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The cost for 2022 was \$86,868.15 a month (\$1,042,417.80 a year) with not to exceed maximum of \$1,094,000.00. The cost for 2023 is \$90,655.79 per month (not to exceed \$1,150,000.00).

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the 2023 Police Service Agreement with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Radar Feedback Signs : Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve the purchase of 4 radar feedback signs with support from Paul Peterson Company. These signs will be placed on South Greener and Fernhill. The price per unit is \$5,750.00 for a total cost of \$23,000.00. Speeding has been a recurring issue in these areas and we hope the additions of these sign will reduce driver speed.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the purchase of four radar feedback signs and supporting equipment at a total cost of \$23,000.00 from Paul Peterson Company. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Old Business

BZA Appointment :

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve appointing Matt Knight to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five-year term beginning January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2027. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Zalenski asked why Mr. Doug Owsley wasn't reappointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals, noting that he seemed very competent and followed procedural techniques. Mr. Pritchard said he wanted to see new members on the Board.

New Business

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A food truck owner who recently moved here from out of town spoke about his desire for the Board's approval to permanently park his food truck at 4875 West Broad Street. He has the proper vendor's license, mobile food vendor license and health department approval—all through the City of Columbus—and just recently learned that the Township has jurisdiction over the location he's currently renting from the property owner. He just learned that the Township allows a food truck to sit in a location for 90 days and then has to be moved. There was some discussion, and then Mr. Pritchard asked to table further discussion since there was no resolution for the Board to consider.

Marie Gooslin of 330 Mix Avenue, asked the Board for permission to build raised beds and plant wildflowers in the Township's property on her street. Mr. Pritchard said he wouldn't consider any permanent installation, but suggested she present something to the Board for consideration. Mr. Stormont suggested the Township Administrator seek legal advice on the Township's liability.

Ms. Gooslin said she heard the Township is considering cutting down the cottonwood trees near her home and asked the Township to involve OSU or someone else who can tell us of the value of the trees. She's seen fox in the neighborhood of the trees and also believes there is an eagle's nest in the trees. She also asked the Board what impact cutting down the trees would have on erosion and sound control. Mr. Jewell said he met with a contractor to get a quote for clearing the site and would get more information.

Mr. Zalenski asked the Board why they oppose food trucks. Ms. Schmelzer said that she is a business owner and takes pride in the corridor—that's why she's sitting on the Board. She said food trucks are competition for the restaurants, are transient, most of the time are not maintained, and attract the displaced. Mr. Pritchard said the Township has events for food trucks as temporary situations—not permanent.

Public Comment

A staff member from Senator Michele Reynolds office was present and commented that the Senator intends to send someone from her staff out to local meetings once in a while. He asked if there was anything he could pass along to the Senator.

Mr. Pritchard said we could use some help on home rule for townships, explaining that if we had the ability to take more actions, we wouldn't have trash problems like we have with Galloway Village Apartments.

Mr. Zalenski said the residents need help getting the water bills lowered.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at __8:25__ p.m.

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Board Chair Doug Stormont

Fiscal Officer Natalie McKay