

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO
43228

Due to the current COVID-19 Health Emergency, this meeting was closed to the public and livestreamed via Facebook.

Ms. Schmelzer opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairwoman Cathy Schmelzer, Vice Chair Steve Kennedy, Trustee Doug Stormont, Fiscal Officer Sherry Henning, and Township Administrator Rob Peters were all in attendance at the township hall. All other department heads and Deputy Ronk were all excused in advance from the meeting.

Approval of Minutes - September 9, 2020 Regular Meeting

Comments/Issues: None

Ms. Schmelzer : So Moved". Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont , Aye: Mr. Kennedy , Aye; Ms. Schmelzer , Aye. The meeting minutes for the September 9, 2020 Regular Meeting were approved.

Franklin County Sheriff 's Office

No report for the Sheriff's office

Fiscal Officer 's Report

Approval of Warrant s and Payroll

This week's warrants list detailed payments to 73 vendors totaling \$248,029.56.

Ms. Henning requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling \$248,029.56 along with the September 25, 2020 payroll of \$229,739.60 for a total cash disbursement of \$477,769.16.

Comments/Issues: None

Ms. Schmelzer motioned "so moved". Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr . Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer , Aye. Motion passed.

Reallocation s

Ms. Henning asked the Board to approve the following reallocations:

\$6,400.00 from 1000-610-720-0000 (Buildings) to 1000-610-360-0049 (Contracted Services - GRSC)

\$5,000.00 from 1000-610-420-0000 (Operating supplies) to 1000-610-360-0049 (Contracted Services - GRSC)

\$10,952.74 from 2191-220-319-0000 (Prof. & Technical Services) to 2191-220-314-0000 (Tax Collection Fees)

\$8,583.78 from 1000-110-360-0008 (Contracted Services - Special Projects) to 1000-420-370-0000 (BOH Fees)

\$8,000.00 from 1000-110-360-0008 (Contracted Services - Special Projects) to 1000-110-314-0000 (Tax Collection)

The reallocations are necessary for future expenses.

Ms. Schmelzer motioned that the Board approve the requested reallocations . Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Standing Business:

Fire Department

New Engine Equipment

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Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve Fire & Marine to mount and organize tools and equipment on the new fire engine. The cost will be no more than \$22,000.00. This is a planned and budgeted expense. This will also be the last step in preparing the truck for service.

Ms. Schmelzer motioned that the Board approve expenses not to exceed \$22,000.00 for mounting of tools and equipment for the new fire engine . Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Community Center

Personal Service Contract (Res. 32-20)

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve Resolution 32-20, which authorizes the Community Center to enter into a contract with Madaline Montiel as a group exercise instructor with a fixed rate of compensation of \$25.00 per class (not to exceed \$1,500.00). The Personal Service Contract is in effect from September 25, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board adopt Resolution 32-20 "A Resolution authorizing a Personal Service Contract for Contractors in the Recreation Department ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, No; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Drive-thru Trick or Treat

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve a "Drive-thru Trick or Treat" on October 24, from 6-8 pm at Westland High School.

This is a free event where families can drive-thru and receive candy from local businesses. Each local business will get two parking spaces to setup their station. Businesses will also be distanced apart. Cars will enter through Westwoods Blvd. and exit on to Galloway Road.

Guidelines

Children and adults will need to stay in cars.

Children are encouraged to wear costumes.

It is encouraged that both children and adults wear face coverings during the event.

It is recommended that vendors and children maintain a 6 foot social distance while distributing candy.

Recommendations for participants include bags outside of cars or trick or treat bags connected to poles.

No common candy bowls. Vendors will need to distribute treats to children.

Each vendor will need to provide hand sanitizer.

Ms. Schmelzer motioned that the Board approve a Drive-thru Trick or Treat event on October 24, 2020, as presented. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department

No items

Commercial Building and Zoning

No items

Administration

Nuisance Cases

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 203-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 47 Maple Drive ". Mr. Kennedy seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 204-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 418 Maple Drive ". Mr. Kennedy seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.



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Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 205-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 246 Rome Hilliard Road ". Mr. Kennedy seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 206-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 244 Deerfield Road ". Mr. Kennedy seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 207-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 295 Deerfield Road ". Mr. Kennedy seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 208-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 417 Emmitt Avenue". Mr. Kennedy seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 214-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 197 Mix Avenue ". Mr. Kennedy seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Discussion of residential trash program

Mr. Peters presented "Residential Trash Service Recommendations" to the Board for consideration:

**Residential Trash Service Recommendations
9/17/2020**

In an effort to help our residents eliminate the rat problem that has been identified and continues in the denser populated areas of Prairie Township, I recommend the following:

- 1) Create a schedule for all collections to occur Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Township wide.
- 2) All trash collection contractors will be on the same schedule. Each street will have only 1 pickup day per week.
- 3) No trash collection will occur on National Holidays.
- 4) All residential units within R-2, R-4, R-6 and R-8 zoning will be required to have trash collection. If requested, proof of service will need to be provided to the Township Administration Offices. This would be requested due to a complaint.
- 5) An approved trash collection container must be used at each address. An example of an approved trash receptacle would be a plastic cart with a full closing lid. The specific standards will be expanded on later. The size of the container is up to the resident. The resident will be responsible for providing the cart either through a program with their chosen vendor or provide one themselves. No bags or loose trash may be on the ground at the curb.
- 6) Trash collection companies will be required to be licensed by the Township to be a vendor in the Township. A nominal fee of \$100 will be charged for processing and maintaining the license. If a company does not comply with the rules and regulations for trash pick-up, they will lose their license and not be permitted to do business in the Township.
- 7) Create a home rule resolution and implement the new program by January 1, 2021.

Ms. Schmelzer provided an overview that lead up to the residential trash hauling program discussion. The main concern is the ongoing rat problem. The township is looking to address this by reducing the open trash which is one of the rat food sources. The discussion is to limit the trash hauling days of the week to 3 days in the township versus 7 days, to eliminate overflowing trash cans, and to eliminate bags being

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placed on the curb without a trash can. This creates a continued food source for the rats.

Mr. Peters voiced his concerns over the rat problem continuing for 2 years now and receiving emails from residents and the Department of Public Health.

Ms. Schmelzer has voiced concerns of ongoing problems over the last 2 years and read an email she received from Sarah at the Department of Public Health regarding this problem:

“Given how many complaints I receive directly from residents in Prairie Township or that are passed on from zoning inspectors I have obviously surpassed that 5% to the point that we are reevaluating our rat program internally. I think it is fair to say the approach we have been taking the past 2 years in Prairie Township is not working and has encroached on time I should have been spending on our mosquito and our tick program.”

The trash nuisance is thought to be enforced by a resident filing a complaint to the township with enforcement by either the nuisances or zoning violations departments. There will be more to come regarding the details.

Mr. Peters will follow up with the Trustees questions and bring the answers back to the Trustees at a future meeting for continued conversations for a possible resolution.

Announcements

Mr. Peters shared an idea from Michael Pollack to implement a drive-in movie program for the Community Center. More information to come.

Trick or Treat is October 29th · please follow the State Department of Health guidelines for Trick or Treat.

Monday the September 28th is the last farmer’s market of the season.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm

Chairwoman Cathy Schmelzer

Fiscal Officer Sherry Henning