

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

.....*Ohio*.....

MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Prairie Township Board of Trustees remains committed to the improvement of communications and financial transparency. This summary report provides an overview of the Township financial information, priorities and accomplishments from 2015, as well as goals and challenges for 2016. For more information about Prairie Township's financial activity, go to the Online Checkbook at <https://prairietownshipfranklin.ohiocheckbook.com>

The Prairie Township Board of Trustees is proud to present this brief summary of its activity during 2015. This was an important year because it saw the opening of the Prairie Township Community Center and the beginning of construction on the West Broad Street Streetscape and Safety Project. Groundwork was also put into place for a new Sports Complex at the Galloway Road property and West Broad Street corridor redevelopment projects.

In the meantime, the Township continues to maintain and improve a high level of services while maintaining solid financial management. At a time when it is rolling out a top notch recreation program and facilities, the township's other services continue to be delivered at a high standard. Roads, cemeteries, parks, snow plowing, nuisance abatement, building and development services, EMS and Fire protection and more services are delivered at a level of quality that makes us a regional leader in local government services. Sound financial management allows Prairie Township to maintain these high standards while also investing in the equipment and facilities that will ensure that our staff has the best tools with which to serve you.



ELECTED OFFICIALS

Trustees:

Ronald Ball

Mr. Ball is currently in the middle of his 2nd term as a Trustee, and his current term expires on December 31, 2017. Trustee Ball served as the Chairman during 2015.

Steve Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy is mid-way through his 3rd term as a Trustee, and his current term also expires December 31, 2017.

Doug Stormont

Mr. Stormont was just re-elected to a four year term which began on January 1, 2016 and will expired on December 31, 2019. Mr. Stormont is now serving his 4th term on the Board.

Fiscal Officer:

Dan McCardle was re-elected as Prairie Township Fiscal Officer. His new term begins on April 1, 2016. This is Mr. McCardle's 3rd term in office.



2015 Highlights

Community Center – The center opened its doors for business in June of 2015. The main goal for the Community Center, in its first year, was to attract and retain members. In addition to memberships, the Community Center was busy establishing classes and programs that are of interest to its members. The Community Center also held its first summer camp program in the summer of 2015, which was well received, and is expected to grow in future years.

Streetscape Construction – ODOT commenced construction of the West Broad Street streetscape and safety improvement project. The project will include new pavement, waterlines, storm sewers, bike lanes, sidewalks, street lights, mast arm signals, and landscaped medians. The project is slated for completion in late 2016.

Galloway Sports Complex – Planning was completed on this proposed complex of ball fields, ball diamonds, fishing ponds, and other uses. Phase I construction is slated to begin during the first half of 2016.

Redevelopment Study – The Prairie Township Trustees and the Prairie-Obetz joint Economic Development Zone Board funded planning efforts by the Prairie Community Improvement Corporation that will layout an agenda for increasing private investment and development in Prairie Township.

Joint Economic Development Zone (“JEDZ”) – The Village of Obetz passed a 0.5% income tax increase in 2014, which went into effect January 1, 2015. This increase automatically increased for for employees who work within the JEDZ in Prairie Township.

Capital Funds – The Fire Department increased its proactive use of the Fire and EMS Capital Funds, and implemented improved capital expenditure planning tools. The parks capital plan and fund was also updated. It is anticipated that similar efforts will follow for road related infrastructure and economic and community development projects.



2016 Priorities

- Ohio Online Checkbook; Prairie Township has signed up on ohiocheckbook.com, a first of its kind website from the State Treasurer, that shows exactly how the township's money is being spent. The township site on ohiocheckbook.com is expected to be live in the very near future.
- Galloway Road Sports Complex: Phase 1 construction, which includes walking trails, picnic/shelter area(s), concessions & restrooms, parking, multi-use fields and baseball/softball fields. This work will be done by outside contractors as well as Prairie Township staff.
- West Broad Street Streetscape project completion is expected by the end of 2016.
- First steps toward implementation of the redevelopment study: The Board of Trustees and the Prairie Community Improvement Corporation ("CIC") are working together to generate new projects and improvements along W. Broad Street, from I-270 to Hilliard Rome Road. Initial projects will include major façade improvements, design guidelines and multi-family/commercial maintenance codes for the corridor.
- The Prairie Township Community Center opened strong in June of 2015, and we expect to see continued growth in 2016. This could mean easily exceeding the target 6,000 member goal for the first year (ending July 2016)
- Street Tree Program: The Board of Trustees recently adopted a street tree program. Through this program, residents, individually or through a homeowners/neighborhood organization, and other property owners can purchase street trees and have them planted through the Cost Share Street Tree Program. The Board of Trustees will also evaluate key areas for possible township-initiated and paid for street tree installations.
- Smoke Detector Program: The Prairie Township Fire Department, along with volunteers will continue the smoke detector program, and smoke detector drives in 2016.
- Continue to work with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to improve, and where possible, expand police services within the township.



Revenue (Major Funds)

Figure 1 illustrates Prairie Township's revenue for its major operating and capital funds.

Highlights:

- The General Fund revenue was \$91,480.21 more than the budgeted.
- Total Road, Cemetery & Parks Department Funds revenue was very close to or exceeded estimated amounts
- Fire and EMS Fund revenue both exceed estimated amounts
- JEDZ Revenue came in very close to budget amount
- JEDD revenue exceeded estimated amount by \$27,941.50

Total revenue (all funds) in 2015 was \$832,618.73 (7%) higher than in 2014.

Figure 2 illustrates expenses from the townships major operating and capital funds

Highlights

- General Fund contributions to the construction of the Community Center and beginning operations expenses were a major general fund expense in 2015. \$371,406.04 was spent towards the construction and \$340,000.00 was transferred to the Community Center operating fund.
- Franklin County Sheriff's Contract totaled \$799,266.07 and was split between the General Fund (24%) and the JEDZ Fund (76%)
- Legal expenses totaled \$166,260.75 (paid from General Fund, Fire Fund and Community Center Fund). Union negotiations and Community Center construction were contributing factors to the high legal expenses.
- The bonds that the township issued in 2014 to pay for the Community Center construction are being repaid from the JEDZ Fund. The payments for 2015 were \$499, 506.26.



- The JEDD and JEDZ Funds also contributed to the Community Centers operation expenses, transferred from the JEDD and \$150,000.00 was transferred from the JEDZ

Fund Balances

Expenditures for 2015 (all funds) were \$2,082,709.32 higher than in 2014. A major contributor to the increase in expenditures was the construction costs associated with the Community Center and the operations cost of the Community Center (salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.)

Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$ 5,245.16	\$ 4,333.34
Gasoline Tax	\$ 29,808.70	\$ 40,317.64
Road and Bridge	\$ 150,960.16	\$ 214,605.48
Cemetery	\$ 84,757.93	\$ 128,851.60
Fire Capital	\$ 40,425.00	\$ 60,473.74
Road District	\$ 396.48	\$ 12,245.79
Fire levy	\$ 2,086,015.25	\$ 2,171,868.82
Permissive Motor Vehicle License	\$ 47,954.94	\$ 31,561.66
Emergency Medical Services	\$ 561,907.84	\$ 400,513.24
EMS Capital Fund	\$ 310.39	\$ 201,650.39
Lighting Districts	\$ 190,354.21	\$ 207,616.59
JEDZ	\$ 78,848.89	\$ 266,435.03
JEDD	\$ 122,287.86	\$ 132,396.94
Community Recreation Center	\$ 6,480.59	\$ 29,214.34
CRC Bond	\$ 4,804,948.01	\$ 173,750.81
Parks Capital	\$ 95,799.01	\$ 31,377.73
OPWC Project Funds	\$ 106,964.71	\$ 63,772.31
Cemetery Bequest 1 & 2	\$ 2,022.53	\$ 2,035.95
Developers Escrow	\$ -	\$ -
Road Cut Permits	\$ 6,770.00	\$ 4,460.00

- General Fund expenditures exceed revenue by \$413,535.59, which was anticipated due to the Community Center construction and start-up operation expenses.
- All Road Department Fund expenditures were in line or under the revenue received.
- Fire revenue exceeded expenditures by \$85,853.57; Ems Fund revenue was \$161,394.60 less than expenditures (Note: both the Fire and EMS Fund made large transfers to their respective capital funds, which is included as an expenditure)



Zoning Department Statistics

COMMERCIAL REVENUE	\$ 64,415.75
ZONING REVENUE	\$ 20,837.42
	TOTAL \$ 85,253.17
TOTAL NUISANCE CASES	
Complaints Received	328
Door Hangers Placed	248
Declared by Trustees	147
Not Declared by Trustees	112
Abated by Road Dep't	55
ZONING PERMITS	177
COMMERCIAL BUILDING PERMITS	73
VIOLATION LETTERS	205
GARAGE SALE PERMITS	31
TRANSIENT VENDOR PERMITS	22
LAND USE DISTURBANCE PERMITS	7
TOTAL VARIANCE APPLICATIONS	4
TOTAL COND. USE APPLICATIONS	1



TOTAL REZONINGS	1
TOTAL APPEALS	0
TOTAL AMENDMENTS/E.U. MOD.	0

2015 Spring Clean-up

(3) 30 yard trash dumpsters (At Stations 241 and 243 and Road Department)

TOTAL TRASH DUMPED: 37.55 TONS

(1) 30 yard tire sumpster (At Road Department)

TOTAL TIRES DUMPED: 11.49 TONS

TOTAL COST FOR CLEAN-UP: 5,321.02

Fire Department Highlights

All radios were replaced or upgraded to become compliant with the new digital technology.

Smoke detectors: 4 large scale smoke detector drives along with the American Red Cross, fire department members and volunteer groups such as Abercrombie & Fitch and Box 15.

The Prairie Township Fire Department would like to acknowledge program sponsors:

Doctors Hospital, Flyers Pizza, American Red Cross and Westland Area Business Association.

This is a huge community service project that will continue until every single family household within Prairie Township has been offered an opportunity to have working smoke detectors on every floor at no charge to the occupant.

It is estimated that we have reached 40% of our goal in 2015 and is desired to be at 100% by the end of 2016. The crews continue to knock on doors, nights and weekends, outside of our large organized drives while also remaining available for emergencies.

Run Volume	EMS	Approximately 4,000/ year
	Fire	2,171 Total



Community Center Highlights

The Prairie Township Community Center opened its doors in June of 2015. At the end of December, the Community Center had over 5,000 members and is continuing to grow. The Center offers a wide range of classes and programs for all ages. The Community Center was also approved to be a Silver Sneakers and Silver & Fit facility.

Special Events held at the Community Center in 2015 include:

- Farmers Market (Monday's throughout the Summer)
- Floating pumpkin patch/Trick-or-Treat event
- Tree Lighting ceremony (December)

The classes, programs and events will continue to grow throughout the years.

Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department Highlights

The Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department continues with all of the services that the township offers including street sweeping, leaf pick-up and chipper services.

2015 Sidewalk Program: This years' sidewalk program was one of the largest. This was the first year that the township required homeowners to repair sidewalks that were deemed unsafe. Residents who participated in the program, whether voluntarily or not, were able to get the costs of the repairs assessed to their property taxes and are able to pay over ten year period, interest-free.

Planning for the Prairie Township Sports Complex is still under way. The township expects to begin Phase 1 construction in 2016.

Phase 1 of the plan includes: walking trails, picnic/shelter areas, concessions & restrooms, parking, multi-use fields and baseball/softball fields.

The property also has two existing ponds which are stocked with fish and will be made open to the public for fishing.

