



2014 Township Report

Prairie Township

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prairietownship.org

Board of Trustees: Ronald Ball, Steve Kennedy, Doug Stormont
Fiscal Officer: F. Dan McCardle / *Administrator:* Tracy Hatmaker

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2014 Township Report

General

This report was designed to provide an in depth review of the townships finances, as well as the facilities, services and projects being provided by the township in 2014. The focus of the report is ultimately the flow of public funds into and out of the township. This report is not intended to meet any statutory requirements, but to provide the public with an overview of the township during the year 2014.

Governance

The Prairie Township departments discussed in this report operate under the governance of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees governs under authority accorded to it in Title 5 of the Ohio Revised Code. Prairie Township operates under a Limited Home Rule Township form of government as defined and provided for in Section 504 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Elected Officials:

Trustee, Ronald Ball has served since January 1, 2010.

Trustee, Steve Kennedy has served on the Board since January 1, 2006.

Trustee, Doug Stormont, has served on the Board since January 1, 2004.

Fiscal Officer, Dan McCardle has served since April 1, 2010

Administration Department

The Administration office assists the Board of Trustees by coordinating their meetings and activities; overseeing and coordinating township department activities; assisting in the development and implementation of township activities; providing the Board with day-to-day oversight of township business; and by working with the board and other township officials to formulate and implement township budgets and appropriations . Various Township improvement planning and economic development projects are coordinated through the Administration Office. The Administration office also works with personnel from all township departments and outside consultants to obtain grants for various township projects such as for Road Improvement projects. An important function of the Administration office is to minimize the township's expenses and maintain a balanced budget.

- Administration works with all departments and all funds.
- Projects directly overseen by Administration are almost always funded by the General Fund.
- Administration works to strengthen and diversify General Fund revenues, and township revenues in general, through a number of efforts including: promoting development that strengthens the tax base; identify new revenue sources; and working with the Ohio Township Association and others to minimize cuts to State funding.

- Administration leads efforts to formulate and implement multi-year budget plans for the general funds and assists and coordinates with department heads in similar efforts for other funds.

2014 Projects

This year the Administration office worked on a variety of projects. This office works on projects with the direct supervision and participation of the Board of Trustees. Some of the major projects of 2014 include:

- The final phase of “Pension Pick-up” phase out which began in 2013, is now complete, as of December 31, 2014. Township employees now pay 100% of their mandatory contribution to their pension program (OPERS or OP&F).
- Big Darby Accord – the township, along with the City of Columbus and Brown Township contracted with Development Concepts Incorporated to continue its efforts to refine and identify specific steps toward implementation of the Big Darby Accord Town Center project.
- Bond Rating – Township Administration cooperated with Standard & Poors to complete an annual review of the township’s rating in 2014, and the “AA” rating was “un-changed”. This “AA” Rating is the product of the Township’s excellent financial management. The township saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest due to the “AA” bond rating that was received.
- Community Recreation Center – The Administration department continued with preparations for the Community Recreation Center during the year 2014, including supporting the Board of Trustees in hiring a Recreation Director. See page 24 for additional information on the Prairie Township Community Recreation Center.
- Galloway Road Sports Complex – Administration provided assistance and coordination in efforts to plan and identify funding for a sports & recreation complex on Galloway Road, just north of the Village of Galloway.
- OPWC Projects
 - Evergreen Terrace and Gladys Road – OPWC grant/loan applications were submitted for these projects. However, the projects were not funded.
- West Broad Streetscape - This project has been in the planning stages since 2007, with the idea that a JEDD and JEDZ would assist in ultimately making it a reality. Prairie Township initiated the streetscape improvements, which will cost over \$2,000,000, by applying for a Federal Grant through MORPC in 2008. The Township’s portion of the funding for this project was made possible in part to the JEDZ and JEDD. Prairie Township will also maintain the street lights and landscaping in the corridor once it is installed. The project is slated to begin in 2015.
- Electricity Aggregation –The Township’s first complete year of the electric aggregation program was successful with many residents pleased with their savings. The contract with the aggregation provided expired in January 2015, so the township worked diligently to secure a new contract for the residents. The new contract, with IGS energy will go into effect in May of 2015 and will offer residential and commercial participants a fixed rate of 7.89 cents per kWh, and will be in effect until January 2017.

- Gas Aggregation - Township voters approved this program in November 2014. The township is currently in the process of becoming a natural gas aggregator and setting up the program. The estimated start date is April/May.
- Metro West Apartments – Many of the structurally unsafe buildings at this complex were demolished with the assistance of the Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation. The cost for demolition, which was assessed to the property, was \$863,173.49 (the assessments will be used to reimburse the COCIC once collected).
- Prairie Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) – The Township was instrumental in helping to fund and staff the CIC in 2015. The Prairie CIC Board was very active during 2014, with meetings held monthly and the Board worked to develop a strategic plan for the Township as well as identify areas of concern related to economic development within the Township.

The CIC Board also initiated a Sign Grant Program for businesses along the West Broad Street Corridor who will have to relocate their signs due to the West Broad Street Streetscape project. The program offered up to \$10,000 per business (50% grant and 50% interest free, 5 year loan) to replace their existing signs with new, monument style sign, which include a brick or masonry base and/or sides, as well as landscaping. As of December 31, 2014, 4 applications have been granted. Funding for this program was provided by the Prairie Township Board of Trustees and the Prairie-Obetz Joint Economic Development Zone Board.

- Township Website – The Township was very excited to launch their new website in 2014. The new website was designed to allow residents to sign up to receive notifications, emergency alerts, request township services and file complaints. In addition, the township feels that the new website will allow more and better communication with its residents. The new website has features that allow administrators to monitor use of the website and see how many subscribers the website has. We have seen these numbers continue to grow each month.

In addition to the new website, the Township also established social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter. These social media tools provide township staff with the means to communicate regularly with the public.

- Franklin County Sheriff's Office – Prairie Township Substation – The Township began working with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Franklin County Commissioner's Office in an effort to add a substation for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office within the township. The proposal is for the township to finance the project and provide a long-term lease to the Sheriff's Office for use of the facility. An agreement for purchase of a property located on N. Murray Hill Road was executed, and at the end of 2014. The Township and its partners were beginning to work on due diligence of the property, financing options, renovation options, and lease options.
- Child ID's – Township staff worked with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Community Relations Bureau to offer Child ID's to area residents. This 2-day event took place at the Prairie Township Hall in November of 2014. The ID's were issued, free of cost, and included a photo identification card with the child name, date of birth and description, along with the child's fingerprint. The event was very successful with 150+ ID's issued. The Township is looking forward to working with Sheriff's office to do more community programs in the future.

Revenue

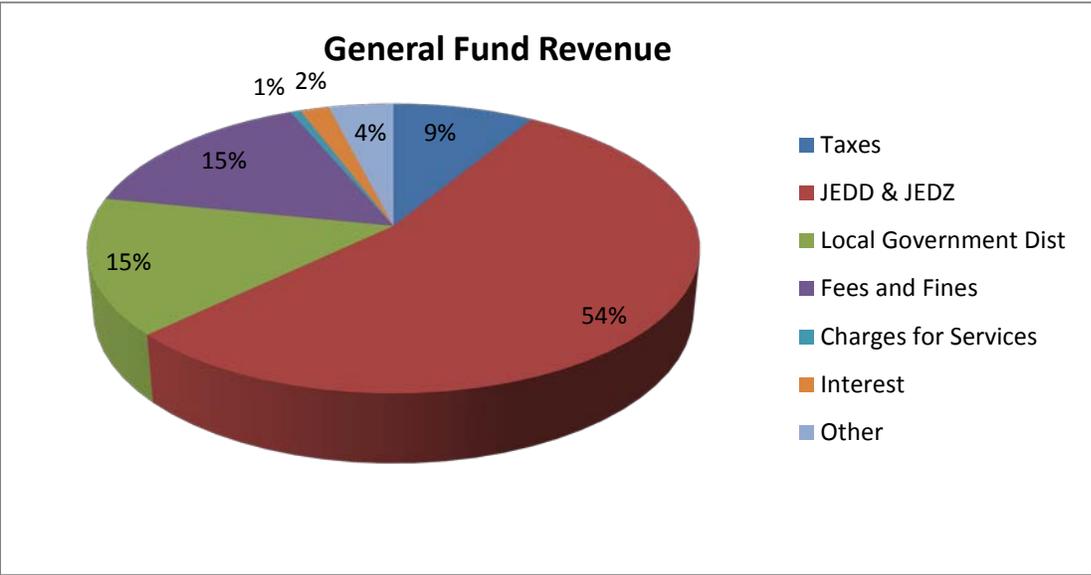
Revenue for 2014 was slightly higher than the township's initial projections. Some of the revenue highlights for 2014 include:

- Slightly higher than anticipated Local Government Distribution.
- Higher revenue from the JEDZ and JEDD.

<u>General Fund Revenue</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
General Property Tax-Real Estate	\$ 146,411.57	\$155,633.79
Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$ 19.06	\$0.00
Permissive Sales Tax	\$ 30,569.42	\$31,134.30
Other-Local Taxes	\$ -	
Other - JEDD	\$ 23,177.07	\$48,350.61
Other-Charges for Services	\$ 3,095.00	\$4,475.00
Other-Charges for Services {Zoning}	\$ -	
Other-Charges for Services {SC-Rents}	\$ 21,030.00	\$9,150.00
Other-Charges for Services {SC}	\$ 685.00	\$1,298.97
Fees	\$ 23,128.50	\$27,756.75
Fees {Drainage Review}	\$ 5,476.36	\$2,725.81
Fees {Zoning}	\$ -	
Cable Franchise Fees	\$ 203,083.13	\$203,846.03
Other-licenses, Permits and Fees	\$ 119,169.84	\$82,068.38
Fines	\$ 70,511.98	\$42,276.48
Estate Tax*	\$ 106,294.51	\$0.00
Local Government Distribution	\$ 377,933.14	\$369,528.15
Liquor Permit Fees	\$ 17,346.70	\$14,865.90
Cigarette License Fees	\$ 865.41	\$780.07
Property Tax Allocation	\$ 22,158.82	\$23,133.89
Intergovernmental Receipts	\$1,258,560.10	\$1,265,852.15
Other-Special Assessments {nuisance}	\$ 20,128.63	\$14,326.45
Interest	\$ 42,278.41	\$42,908.02
Rentals and Leases	\$ 3,237.50	\$0.00
Other-Misc - non-operating	\$ 65,022.43	\$14,448.52
Transfers in		\$0.00
Advances In**	\$1,044,407.78	\$67,317.18
Sale of Fixes Assets	\$ -	\$6,050.00
Other-Other financing sources	\$ -	\$0.00
TOTALS	\$3,605,184.36	\$2,427,926.45

*The Estate Tax was discontinued in 2014

**The Advances in for 2013 were high due to the General Fund being reimbursed for expenses incurred on the Community Center project, prior to the sale of the bonds.



Expenditures

Administration Expenditures

Salaries

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Trustees	\$ 60,518.43	\$ 60,120.90
Fiscal Officer	\$ 27,950.00	\$ 27,652.11
Township Administrator	\$ 96,900.00	\$ 99,341.39
Administrator's Staff	\$ 45,334.62	\$ 46,372.74

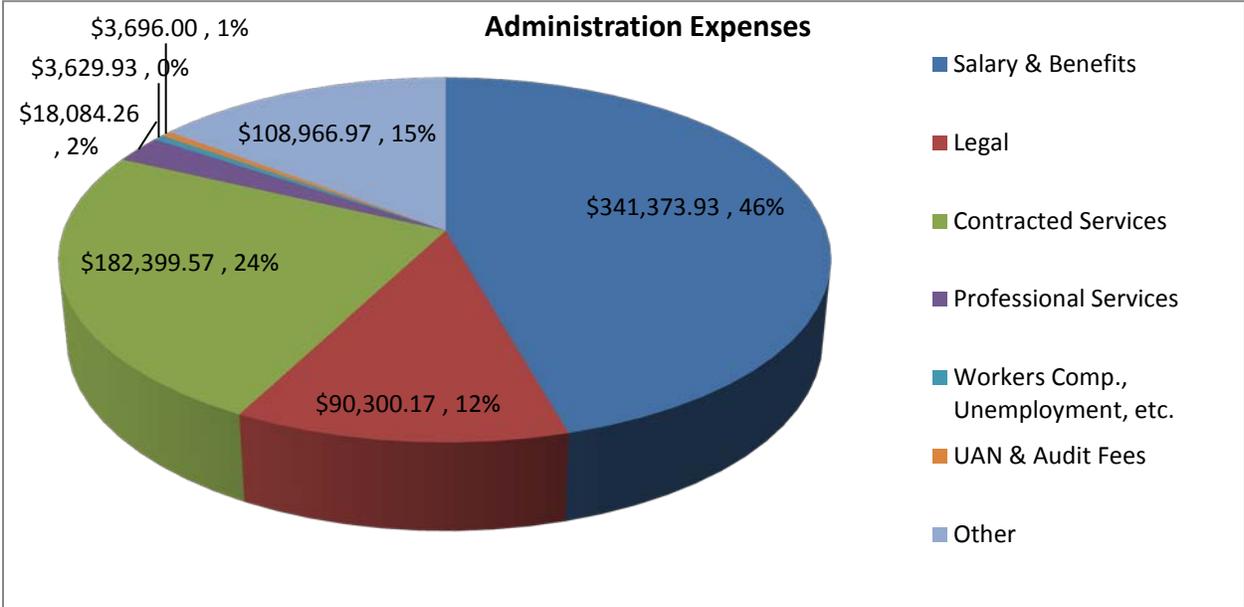
Insurance

Medical	\$ 109,164.92	\$ 107,886.00
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	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
OPERS	\$ 28,700.37	\$ 32,586.13
Medicare	\$ 3,327.53	\$ 3,585.20
Volunteer Firemen's Dependents	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Workers Compensation	\$ 4,716.04	\$ 0.00
Unemployment Compensation	\$ 1,642.82	\$ 3,629.93
Accounting/Legal Fees	\$ 60,916.70	\$ 90,300.17
Auditing	\$ 6,352.02	\$ 0.00
UAN Fees	\$ 4,350.00	\$ 3,696.00
Tax Collection Fees	\$ 5,065.00	\$ 3,826.94
Election Expenses	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00
Engineering Services	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 3,187.50
Other-Professional/Technical	\$ 6,478.01	\$ 14,896.76

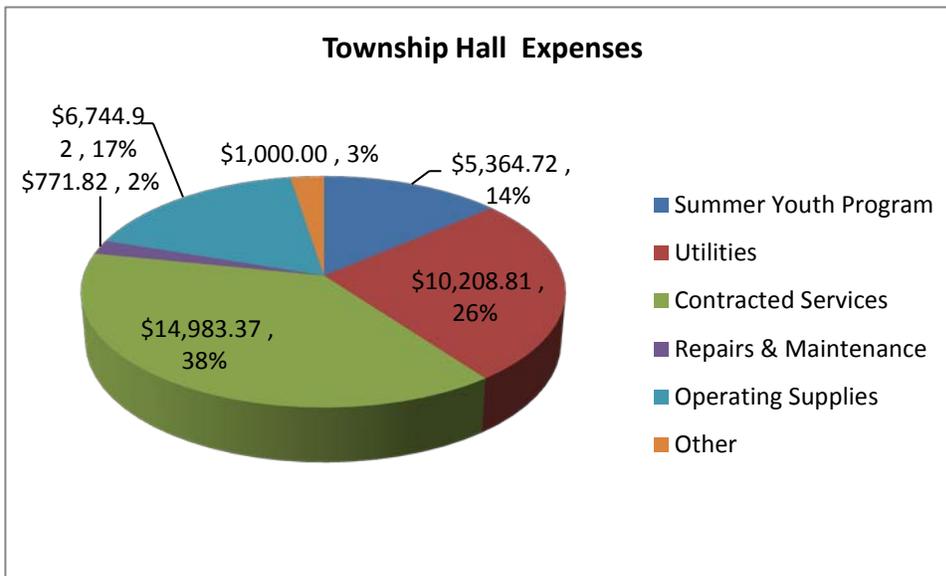
Travel and Meeting Expenses	\$ 1,304.47	\$ 1,407.54
Advertising	\$ 2,656.32	\$ 2,463.60
Utilities	\$ 1,618.16	\$ 1,556.67
Contracted Services	\$ 45,050.00	\$ 48,450.26
Contracted Services {Special}	\$ 61,744.53	\$ 133,949.31
Liability Insurance Premiums	\$ 1,741.75	\$ 1,492.18
Office Supplies	\$ 2,632.74	\$ 2,708.43
Contributions to other organizations	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Other-other expenses	\$ 7,438.34	\$ 65,111.45

ADMIN TOTAL **\$ 591,602.77** **\$ 1,125,996.09**



Township Hall Expenditures

Salaries	\$ 4,978.18	\$ 4,646.78
OPERS	\$ 795.01	\$ 650.60
Medicare	\$ 71.08	\$ 67.34
Repairs and maintenance	\$ 2,856.36	\$ 771.82
Utilities	\$ 10,592.31	\$ 10,208.81
Contracted Services	\$ 15,291.02	\$ 14,983.37
Operating Supplies	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,744.92
Other-other expenses	\$ 1,211.14	\$ 1,000.00
Mach. Equip. Furniture	\$ -	\$ -
TOWNSHIP HALL TOTAL	\$ 36,450.83	\$ 39,073.64

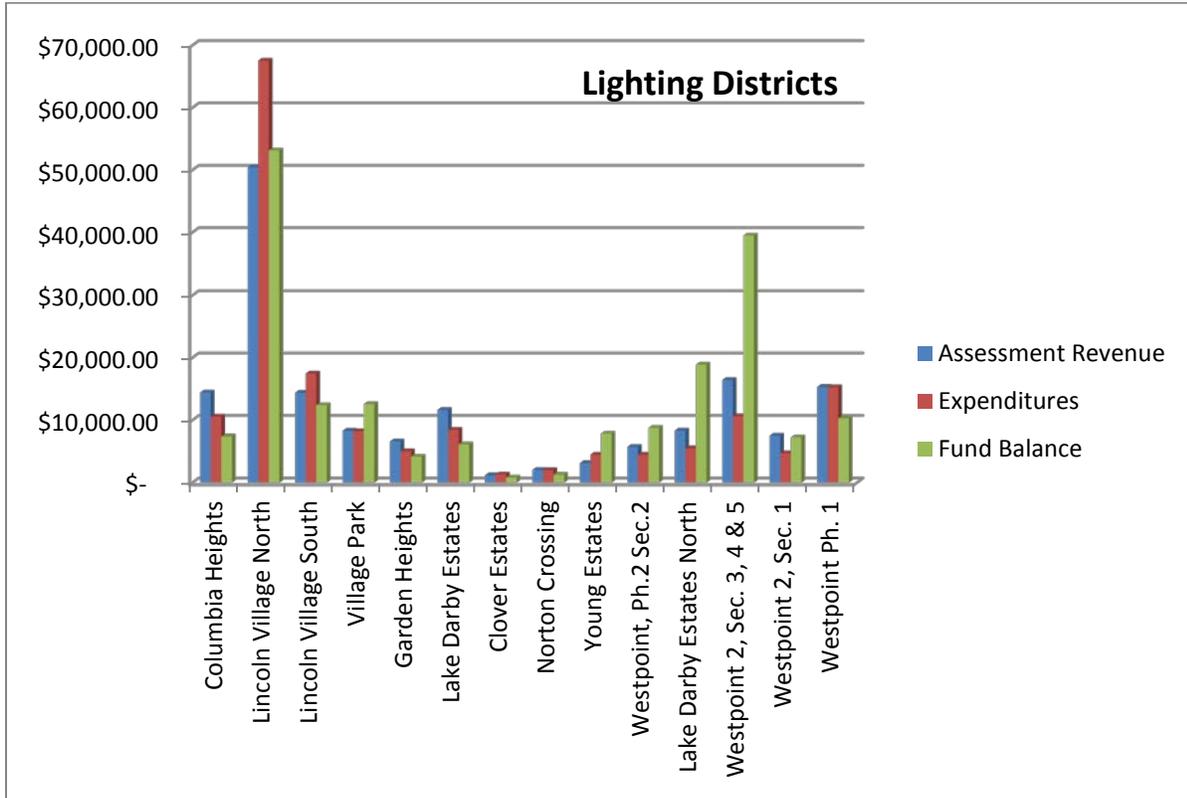


Other

	Franklin County Sheriff	\$ 24,135.07*	\$232,398.41
	Dues and Fees		
	General-Contracted Services (1000-310-360)	\$ 6,619.25	\$ 7,000.00
	Payment to another political (1000-420-370)	\$ 59,999.54	\$ 62,213.76
	Land (1000-760-710)	\$ -	\$ -
OTHER TOTAL		\$ 90,753.86	\$ 301,612.17
Transfers Out		\$ 372,000.00	\$ 250,600.00
Transfers Out -OPWC Payments		\$ 63,039.80	\$ 117,194.85
Transfers Out - Parks		\$ 16,000.00	\$ 101,000.00
Advances Out		\$ 828,655.25	\$ 50,000.00

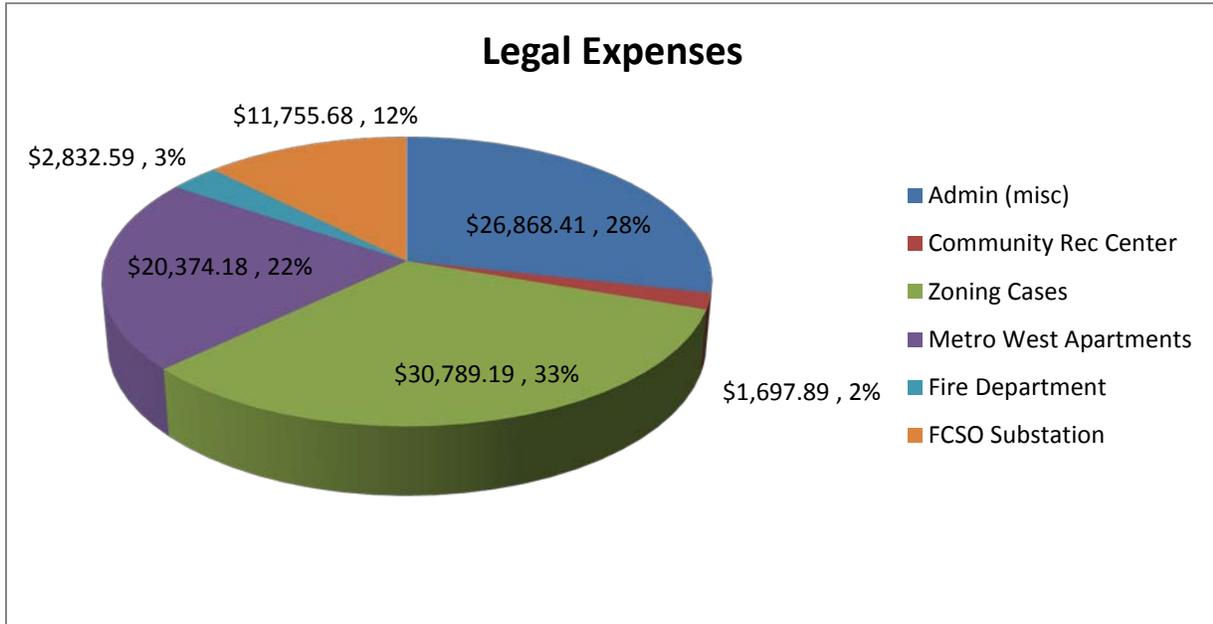
*Expense appears lower than actual due to reallocations of funds/payments

Lighting Districts



Legal Expenses

Legal expenses that the township incurred were higher than last year. The township required legal services for some major projects including zoning court cases, the demolition of the Metro West apartment complex buildings and the beginning work for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Substation.

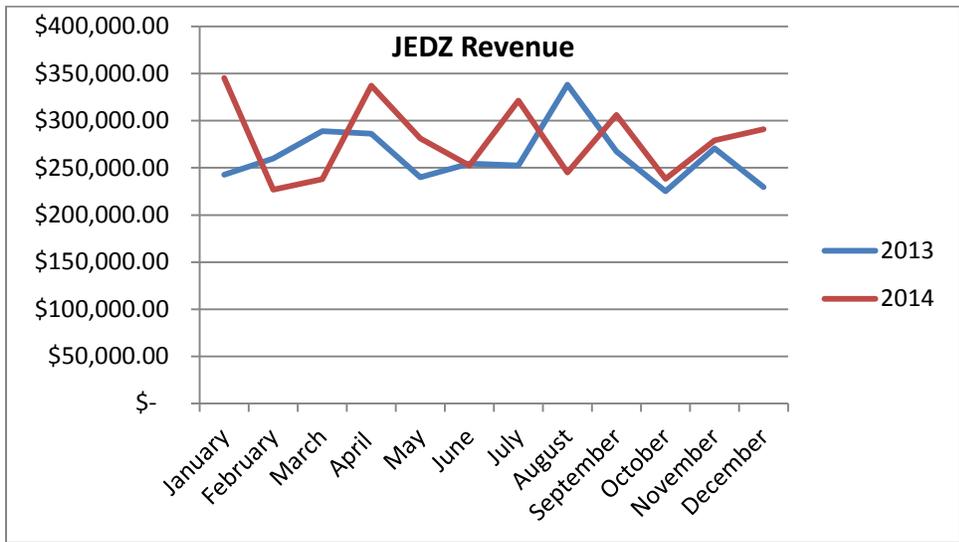


JEDZ

The Prairie Obetz Joint Economic Development Zone “JEDZ” Collections were slightly higher than in 2013. Total collections for 2014 totaled \$3,362,706.60. Of the total collections, \$66,284.32 was distributed to the JEDZ Board, \$2,587,047.20 was distributed to Prairie Township and the remaining \$709,375.08 was distributed to the Village of Obetz.

JEDZ Collections should be higher in 2015 as the Village of Obetz passed a .5% income tax increase, which automatically increases the JEDZ income tax rate.

JEDZ related expenses include \$572,027.36 in payments to the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office for the 2014 police protection contract. The JEDZ provided \$30,000.00 in funding to the Prairie CIC Sign Grant Program. \$424,506.26 was paid from the JEDZ Fund to make the Community Center bond payments for 2014 and the JEDZ Fund also contributed to the W. Broad Street Streetscape project.

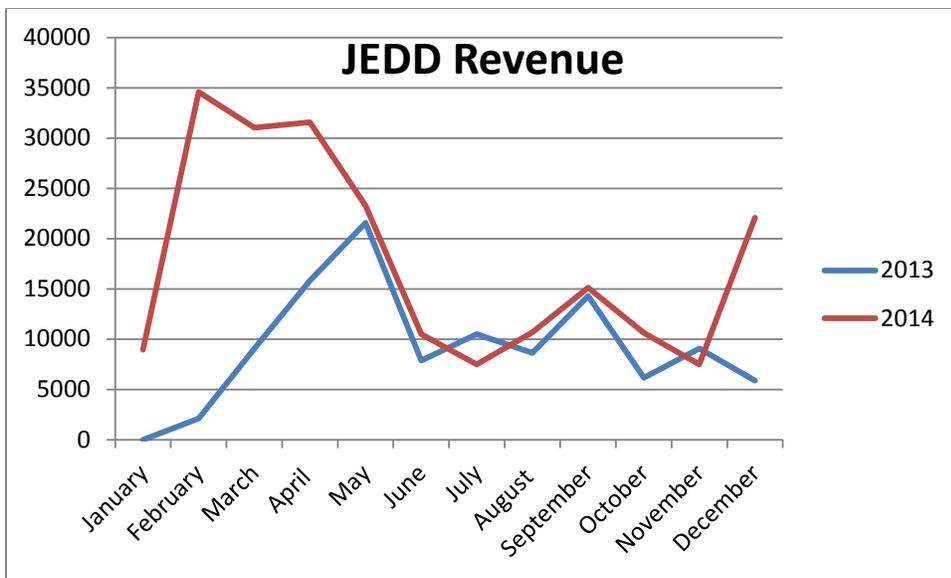


JEDD

The Joint Economic Development District “JEDD” also had higher collections than projected. The project revenue totaled \$96,701.44 which went into the JEDD Fund (Fund #2904), and the Party Revenue totaled \$48,350.61.

JEDD project expenses include payment of \$10,383.84 for the OPWC loan payment on South Grener Road Phase 3, and an additional \$10,383.84 was transferred to the South Grener Phase 3 fund for the 2015 payments.

The current fund balance in the JEDD Fund is \$122,287.86 as of December 31, 2014



*graph represents monthly net collections (including the City of Columbus’ collection and party fees)

Zoning & Commercial Building Department

Introduction

The Zoning and Commercial Building Department's goals are to serve the residents of Prairie Township, enforce Prairie Township's land use regulations and improve Prairie Township resident's quality of life by helping to maintain suitable standards.

- The office administers and enforces the townships land use laws, issues all required permits, process public hearing applications and present at monthly meetings for both zoning boards and assists the public with everyday requests. Meets with developers on proposed development and re-development projects in the township and assist through the permit process. Coordinate communications with all other departments.
- Facilitate the operations of the townships commercial building department and coordinate correspondence with Asebrook & Co. for review and inspections on all permits submitted to the township. Maintain accurate records, collects all fee's, pay State of Ohio monthly (3%) on total revenue received by the building department, and keep all departments linked with necessary information on development.
- Facilitate the operations of the township's nuisance abatement program - all complaints received are inspected and information gathered is recorded. Nuisance properties are then filtered through the townships process in addition to states owner process for declared properties, owners/properties are notified, all information gathering is recorded and unmaintained properties are abated in a timely manner then assessed.
- Maintain fiscal responsibility with the department's approved annual budget.

Department Funding Sources

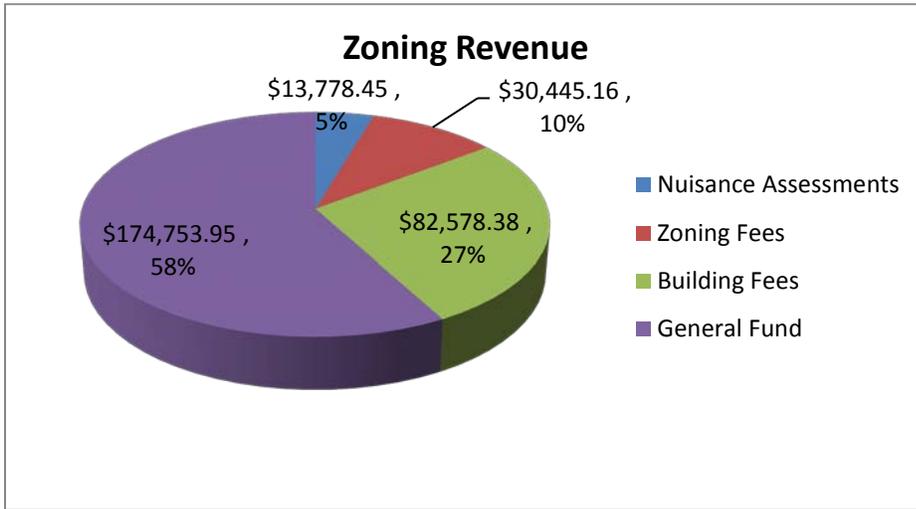
In 2014

\$126,801.99 was reimbursed back into the General Fund from the following sources:

\$13,778.45 was reimbursed through nuisance assessments

\$30,445.16 was reimbursed through zoning fees

\$82,578.38 was reimbursed through building fees



2015 Priorities and Projects

- The department will continue efforts with the township's Nuisance Abatement Program to provide stability to Prairie Township neighborhoods and minimize the adverse effect blighted properties have on them and more directly the impact they have on the adjoining properties. This program also helps the township to maintain the grass of vacant homes when properties are abandoned. Last year the township recorded 52 vacant homes that went through the nuisance process.
- Annual Spring Clean-Up- the zoning department increased funds for this program by \$3,000.00 this year (increased the budget from \$5,000.00 to \$8,000.00) to accommodate; increased costs at the landfill and tire disposal. We plan to continue to provide the same service as before (tire & trash dumpsters for 7 days).

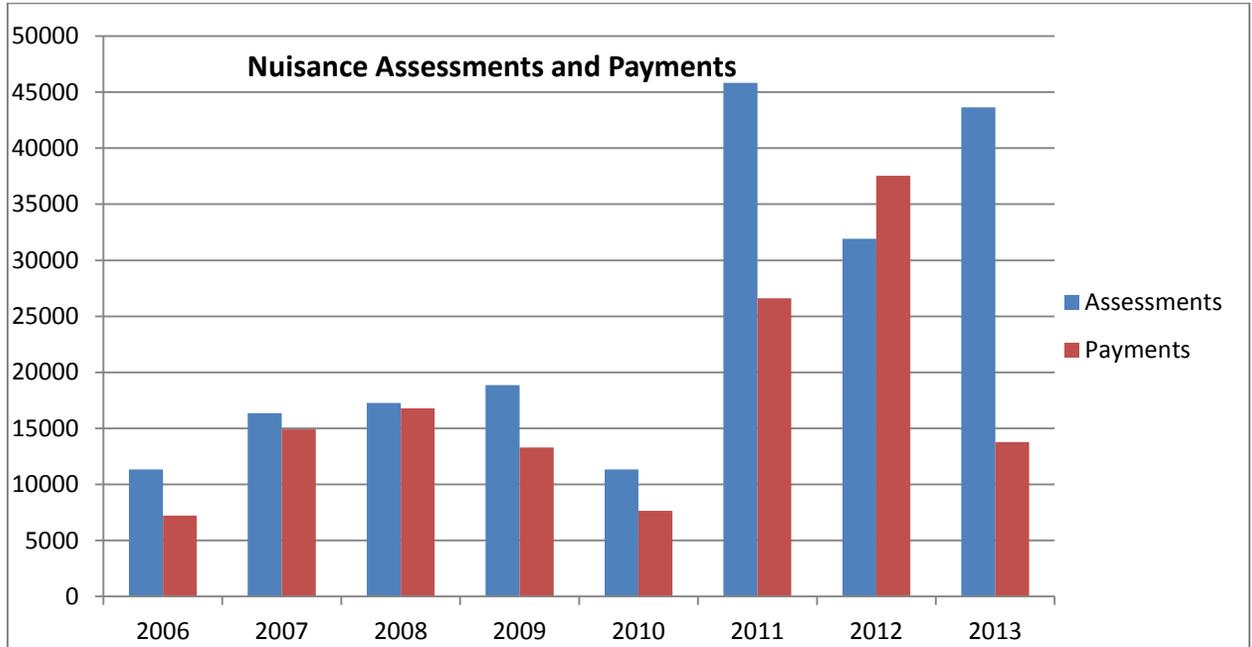
WRAP-UP REPORT FOR 2014 ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP

3 – 30 Yard Dumpsters -	Total Trash Dumped 57.91 tons
1 – 30 Yard Tire Dumpster -	Total Tires Dumped 12.63 tons
	Total Money Spent \$7,050.03

**Had twice as many tipping passes last year and the township exceeded budget by \$2,050.00 for the 2014 clean-up.*

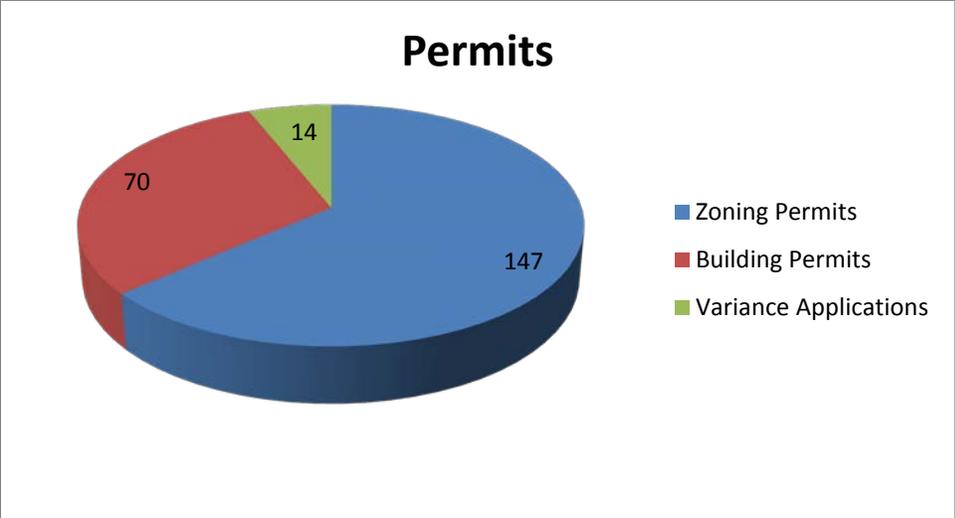
- Resolution - updates to the zoning resolution are on-going. To date we have a new formatted document with proposed updates indicated (in red) ready for the amendment process. Additionally, discussions are starting with Administration and an outside consultant to implement design guidelines into the resolution that will achieve quality infill development regulations in the Broad Street Corridor plus re-investments potentials in our Hilton Ave and Mix Addition areas. Including this to the zoning resolution will benefit future growth opportunities. These amendments will be consistent with the townships comprehensive plan vision and encourage quality infill development projects resulting in long term economic return for Prairie Township.
- Rec-Trac – we are adding an automated system that will allow us to receive credit card payments that are made directly to the zoning office via email, website, or by phone. This helps to expedite processing permits. Applicants: residents, contractors, builders, will no longer have to come into the office to make a payment. Once Rec-Trac is on-line (Feb. March 2015). We have already made the necessary arrangements to connect our department. Thank you James!

- Nuisances – last year the Zoning Department processed 291 nuisance complaints; out of the 291 processed there were 156 declared, resulting in 68 nuisance abatements out of the 156 declared. (48) Of the 68 abated were re-occurring nuisance problems during the year. The chart below captures nuisance assessment and payment data. This revenue is divided between the General Fund and the Road Department.



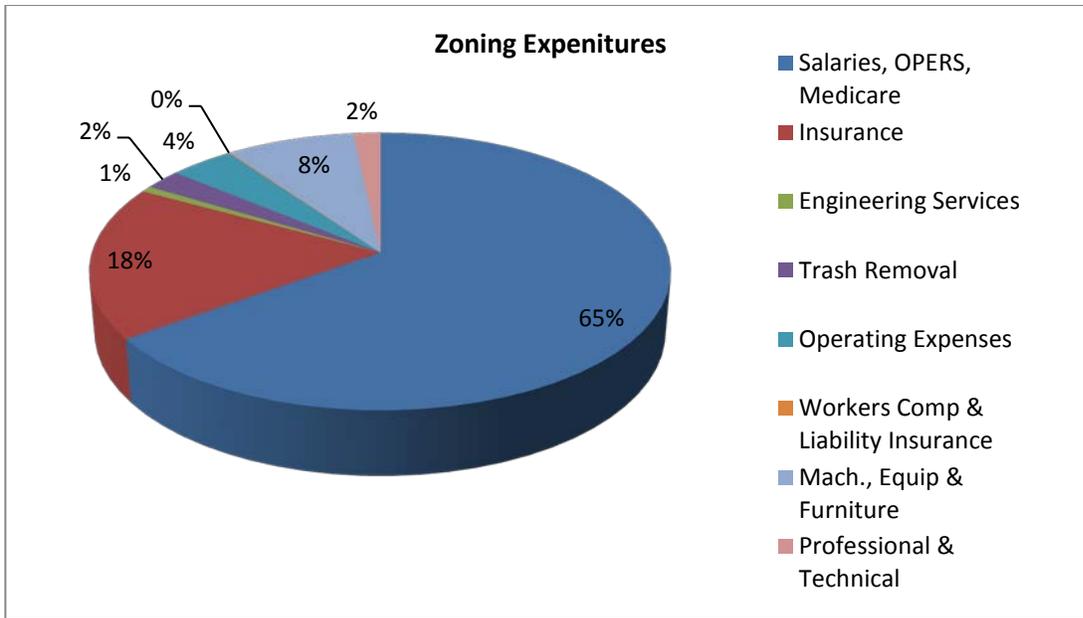
Statistics for Zoning Department

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
Zoning Permits	147	147	\$30,445.00
Building Permits	76	70	\$82,578.00
Variance	12	14	



2014 Zoning Department Expenditures

	2013	2014
Comp of Board Members	\$ 4,161.37	\$ 1,847.98
Salaries	\$159,143.71	\$163,002.65
Salaries {Overtime}	\$ 5,669.73	\$ 5,269.99
OPERS	\$20,838.75	\$ 23,531.06
Medicare	\$ 2,555.00	\$ 2,523.98
Medical Insurance	\$51,703.82	\$ 53,943.00
Life Insurance	\$ 19.80	
Dental Insurance	\$ 485.72	
Workers Compensation	\$ 3,138.87	\$ 3,700.00
Engineering Services	\$ 7,519.26	\$ 2,115.40
Professional & Technical	\$ 1,194.00	\$ 5,181.00
Garbage & Trash Removal	\$ 4,912.80	\$ 7,021.03
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 606.88	\$ 589.32
Advertising	\$ 735.00	\$ 1,594.26
Liability Insurance	\$ 321.80	\$ 293.18
Office Supplies	\$ 2,714.10	\$ 2,420.00
Operating Supplies	\$ 2,859.78	\$ 5,709.79
Other Expenses	\$ 1,479.33	\$ 2,000.00
Mach. Equip. & Furniture	\$ 748.16	\$24,513.30



2014 WRAP-UP REPORT FOR ZONING

COMMERCIAL REVENUE	\$ 82,578.38
ZONING REVENUE	\$ 30,445.16

	\$113,023.54
TOTAL PAID TO ASEBROOK	\$ 32,100.33

	\$ 80,923.21
BUILDING PERMITS	70
ZONING PERMITS	147
MISC. LOG REPORTS	88
VIOLATION LETTERS	144
GARAGE SALE PERMITS	26
TRANSIENT VENDOR PERMITS	1
TOTAL VARIANCE APPLICATIONS	14
TOTAL COND. USE APPLICATIONS	2
TOTAL NUISANCE CASES	291 (Processed)
	156 (Declared)
	68 (Abated)

2015 Budget Statement and Department Objectives

- Prepare for Zoning Resolution Update – This is a major project that will be based on needed updates to the Prairie Township Zoning Resolution, law changes, community needs and improvements, Broad Street Corridor initiatives, and Big Darby Watershed and Town Center development.
- Staff and Zoning Commission have worked for several years to produce an updated zoning resolution. The new formatted code is ready with additional minor changes being discussed at regular monthly meetings. These amendments will move forward in the next few months. Continued ongoing efforts with the township Administrator and outside professionals will ensure a sound strategic plan will be in place for the residents of Prairie Township. More specifically;
 1. New districts and guidelines for future quality infill development.
 2. Potentials for redevelopment reaching south of West Broad Street in areas on Hilton & Mix Avenues along I-270.
 3. Expanding on the initiatives provided in the Prairie Township Comprehensive Plan and create zoning regulations and guidelines for the new conservation developments in the Big Darby Accord Watershed and the Town Center.

Road, Cemetery and Parks

Introduction

The Roads, Cemetery and Parks Department is staffed by one full-time Superintendent, five full-time employees, and one part-time employee. Some of the functions of the department include:

- Evaluate and maintain approximately 56 miles of township roads, this includes maintaining the storm sewer system and all of the signage along these roads.
- Maintain four cemeteries two active and two in-active.
- Maintain five township parks and several open space areas.
- Operate the chipping program and the leaf program.
- Support the nuisance process.
- Purchase and maintain fleet of vehicles and equipment.
- Budget and appropriate various funds.

Department Funding Sources

- Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund: 5% collected from motor vehicle registration and renewal fees, throughout the state that goes to township based on their portion of road mileage.
- Gasoline Tax Fund: 6% of the state collected per gallon tax is distributed to townships. The distribution is based on number of motor vehicle registrations and township lane miles.
- Road and Bridge Fund:
- Cemetery Fund: fees from sale of graves, opening and closing fees and foundation fees.
- Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax: \$5.00 levied by the township and \$3.00 of the \$10.00 levied by the county goes to the township for a total of \$8.00 per vehicle.

- Road District Fund: transferred from the general fund
- Parks Capital Fund: transferred from the general fund
- Sidewalk Program Fund: transferred from the general fund
- General Fund Parks: a sub category of the general fund
- General Fund Leaf and Chipping: a sub category of the general fund

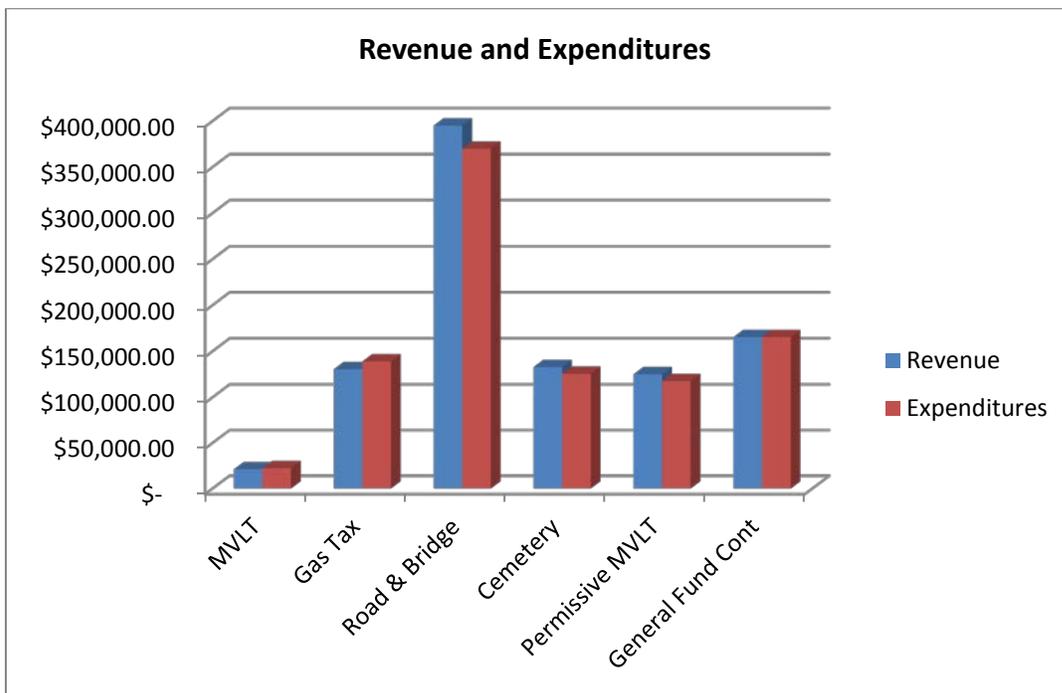
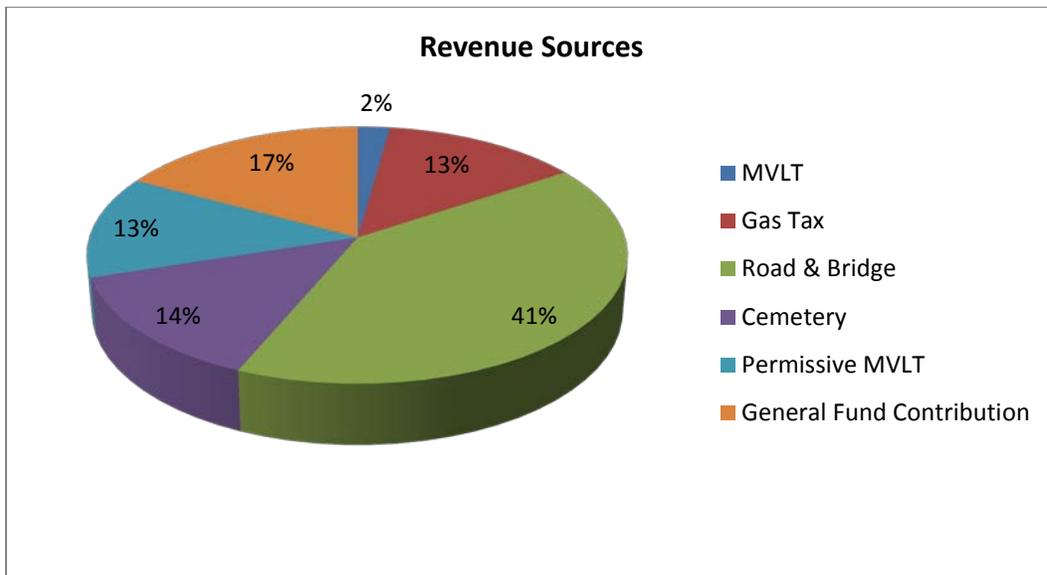
2014 Priorities and Projects

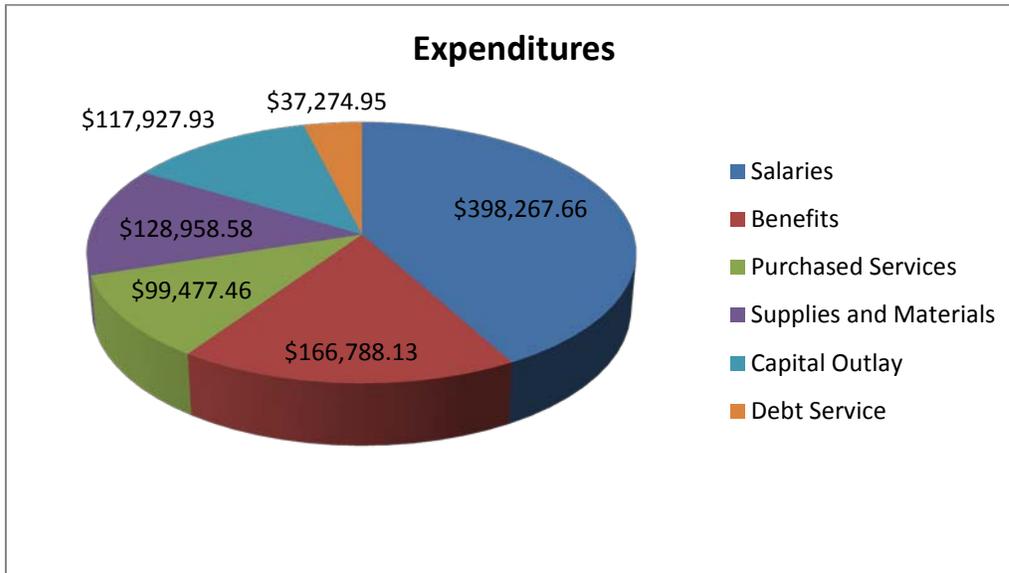
- Annual Road Maintenance Project: This process starts with the superintendent reviewing and evaluating all township roads. A wish list is submitted to the county engineer for an estimate. This list is prioritized to coincide with the amount the trustees transfer from the general fund to the road district fund. The county engineer combines Prairie's list with the other participating county townships and put them out for formal bidding. The county engineer oversees the whole project. The following roads had maintenance performed under this contract in 2014: Cindy Ellen Court, Owen Street, Postle Boulevard, Redmond Road and Smith Street.
- Annual Crack Seal Program: This program started in 2009 and is done in house with township road department employees. The township purchases the product from DJL Material & Supply and in return DJL provides the machine and performs all maintenance on the machine. The following roads received maintenance in 2014: Areas in Village Park Sub-division.
- Annual Sidewalk Program: This program started in 2003. Any resident can get on the list for a quote for work either on their sidewalk, driveway approach or curb as long as it is in the townships ROW. The first several years the work was performed by the contractor who received the annual road contract through the county engineer. The last two years the township has sought out pricing from local contractors for the work. If the resident agrees with the quote they have two payment options. The first and most popular is to allow the township to pay for the work and then assess their property taxes over ten years interest free. The second is to pay up front for the work. In 2014 48,025.17 worth of work was completed.
- Sign Replacement: Once a year a township employee drives all township roads and compiles a list of signs that have lost their reflectivity. The signs are ordered at that point and replaced.

- Cemeteries: The Township has two active cemeteries Alton and Galloway. There were no cemetery fee increases in 2014. Both cemeteries combined average approximately 85 burials per year. Mowing, trimming, recordkeeping and footer installation are the other functions of maintaining the cemeteries. The two in-active cemeteries are Alton M.E. and Clover Cemetery. Alton Cemetery 72 graves were sold in 2014 27 to residents and 45 to non-residents. There were 55 regular burials in 2014: 16 resident burials 15 during the week and 1 on Saturday. 39 non-resident burials 34 during the week and 5 on Saturday. Galloway Cemetery 11 graves were sold in 2014 6 to residents and 5 to non-residents. There were 18 burials in 2014: 4 resident burials all during the week. 15 non-resident burials 12 during the week, 2 on Saturday and 1 on a holiday. There was 15 cremation burials in both cemeteries combined. The township charged 4 funerals for late fees. The township also dug 60 footers in both cemeteries combined.
- Parks: The Township has five parks currently with some sort of play equipment or facilities. In 2012 a parks capital fund was established. The township purchased 111 acres of land on Galloway Road for future park development.
- Chipping Program: This is a new program initiated by the trustees. It was kicked off in January of 2012 with a Christmas tree Recycling Program. The program runs all year long. Residents can request the chipper by calling the township or after major storm events the Township checks all of the roads.
- Leaf Program: This is an old program that was revived by the trustees. The program started October 15th and will run through the first of December. The township has been split into nine areas that are rotated through continually. Daily updated on leaf pick up progress are available on our website at www.prairietownship.org
- Nuisance Program: The Road Departments portion of this program consists of evaluating the property after proper notification as to whether it is still a nuisance. If the property owner fails to clean up the property, the road department will abate the nuisance.
- OPWC Projects: No new projects have been funded from the OPWC during the last 2 rounds of applications/submittals.

2014 Revenues & Expenditures

- In 2014 the combined revenue (not including General Fund contributions for leaf/chipping and parks) was \$804,656.69. The expenses were \$774,342.08
- In 2014, the five main funds that the Road Department operates out of had brought in \$30,314.61 more that it has spent.





*includes General Fund contributions for Leaf & Chipping and Parks

2015 Budget Statement

- Have revenues exceed expenditures
- Continue to provide quality services to township residents
- Develop Capital Improvement Plan
- Continue to gather information about cemetery trends to establish when and where to purchase land for expansion.

Community Center



The Township Trustees and administrative staff worked continuously throughout the year with Moody Nolan and Barton Mallow to keep construction of the Prairie Township Community Center on time and on budget.

The 38,000 square foot building is expected to open in May of 2015. The building will be a full recreation facility with fitness area, an indoor walk/jog track, a leisure pool with climbing wall, gymnasium, kitchen, child care room, and multi-purpose rooms. There will also be an outdoor spray ground. The facility will also be the new home of the Prairie Township Senior Center.

Funding for this project was made possible due to the creation of the Prairie-Obetz JEDZ. The Center will add an important amenity to the community. This will not only improve the health of our area residents, but make the Prairie Township Community a more desirable place to live, work and do business.

The Township hired the first ever Recreation Director in August. The Community Center will create at least seven full time jobs with approximately 40 part-time positions with a total payroll of approximately \$650,000 annually. The Township firmly believes that this new amenity will create and retain jobs throughout the W. Broad Street corridor.

At the end of 2014 the Township had paid \$5,443,280 towards the Community Center construction with anticipation of spending the remaining \$4,296,720 to complete the building in 2015.

For 2015 the Community Center staff are preparing to open and build an amazing program for the Prairie Township residents. The department is offering its first ever summer day camp for kids ages 6-12 years old. The Community Center is also beginning to offer swim lessons for kids and adults, along with new and exciting fitness classes such as Zumba, TRX and Cycling classes.

Please check out our website for Community Center updates

www.prairietownship.org

Senior Center

Introduction

The Prairie Township Senior Center, located in the Lincoln Village Plaza is a social and recreation center that provides activities for senior citizens. The center has a part-time Director, to plan and coordinate the activities hosted by the center. The Center is also staffed with volunteers to ensure that the center can remain open during its normal posted hours. In addition, Weight Watchers holds regular meeting at the center. The Prairie Township Senior Association, a non-profit corporation, was formed in 2004 to assist with fundraising to help cover some of the centers expenses. Some of the activities that take place at the senior center are:

- Daily exercise classes
- Monthly potluck
- "Lunch Bunch"
- Seminars on various topics (open to the public)
- Lunch and Learn (for member only)

A monthly newsletter and calendar detailing the events at the Senior Center are available at www.prairietownship.org

2014

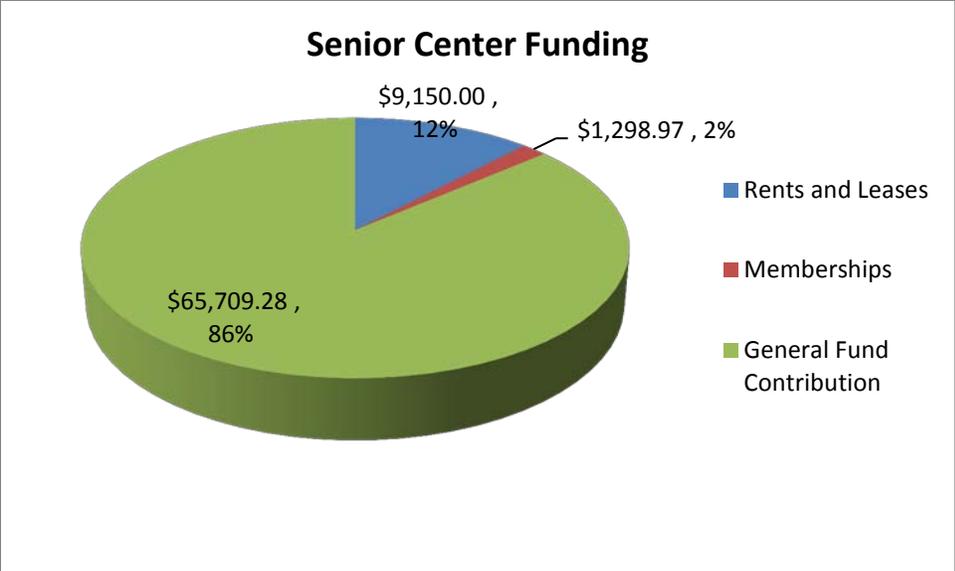
The Senior Center brought in revenue during the year 2014 from membership dues as well as rent from Weight Watchers. The Senior Center currently has 252 members, of which 45 were new to the center. Membership is \$15.00 annually for Prairie Township residents and \$25.00 annually for non-residents. This revenue helps to off-set the expenditures of the center.

There were many exciting things going on at the center this year including 12 monthly potlucks. The center, along with AARP provided donation based tax preparation services for 400 people. Diabetes support and grief counseling services were also added at the center. The center and its members also collected food throughout the year for the Westland Food Pantry and collected for the Toys for Tots program.

Revenue/Expenditures Report

In addition to the membership fees and Weight Watchers rent revenue, the PSA contributes to the Senior Center. The PSA raises money through various fund raisers and contributes approximately \$5,000.00 to the Senior Center for various items such as furniture, operating supplies, etc.

	2013	2014
<u>Revenue</u>		
Charges for Services (Rents and Lease)	\$ 21,030.00	\$9,150.00
Charges for Services (Misc)	\$ 685.00	\$1,298.97
TOTALS	\$ 21,715.00	\$10,448.97
 <u>Expenditures</u>		
Salaries	\$ 25,539.31	\$14,142.04
OPERS	\$ 2,815.81	\$2,040.04
Medicare	\$ 195.05	\$220.00
Workers Compensation	\$ 481.56	\$0.00
Rents and Leases	\$ 44,278.15	\$40,291.55
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ -	\$5,700.00
Utilities	\$ 9,324.33	\$7,827.91
Contracted Services	\$ 5,300.00	\$4,359.56
Liability Insurance Premiums	\$ 99.53	\$68.22
Office Supplies	\$ 1,594.84	\$1,012.83
Operating Supplies	\$ 487.91	\$147.83
Other-other Expenses	\$ 803.16	348.30
Machinery, Equipment and Furniture	\$ 2,354.84	\$0.00
TOTALS	\$ 93,274.49	\$76,158.25



2015 Budget Statement

The lease for the Senior Center space is through 5/31/2015. The Senior Center will stay in its current location at Lincoln Village Plaza through the end of the current lease. There are no plans for facilities upgrades for the remainder of the lease. The Senior Center will be moved into the new Community Center once complete.

Fire Department

The Chief's Report – Chris R. Snyder, Fire Chief

As I complete my first full year as Chief, and 30 years with the department, it has been an honor to serve the residents of Prairie Township. Over the years I have been a part of, and witnessed, much advancement that has been made to make us equipped to better handle the needs of those we serve, both in Fire and EMS. We have been blessed over the years by the support that has been shown to our department by our residents. This is not something that we take lightly. It is our continued endeavor to supply a helping hand in any occasion to those in need and to do it with the latest technology, equipment and training standards. Our dedicated and professional staff allows us to meet those needs.

Creative thinking by our staff is strongly encouraged throughout the year. Among many things, our members developed and exercised an Active Shooter Training. This training not only allows us to be better prepared in the protection of our students and faculty within the schools but is flexible enough to be executed in other facilities as well. Our fulltime dispatchers attended and became certified in a nationally recognized training program that makes them better prepared to offer assistance prior to EMS arrival. In conjunction with Ohio Health, our department hosted an EMS Madness week that provides recertification hours to our members along with the central Ohio area. From a community involvement standpoint, we had another successful Fish Fry. This is an annual community event that acts as a homecoming for our residents and extended families. We also held our second annual Mother's Day flower sale, continued our reading with the firefighters, offered our first ever movie night and a community 9-11 memorial service. This just names a few of the events that were offered as we continue to remain actively involved with those we serve.

Administratively we continue to develop policies and procedures that continue to make our operation more efficient while remaining fiscally responsible with our taxpayer's funds. We are seeing the demolition of blighted properties such as the Lincoln Park Apartments as many of us know them. Security has been enhanced at our fire stations and to our dispatch office. Payroll has been moved to an outside vendor which eases the burden upon our staff and simplifies what was previously was a very complicated system.

2014 reflected a baseline of a typical operational year without any contributions to the capital funds or major capital expenses. Financially we ended 2014 with a cash balance of \$2,086,015.25 in the fire fund and \$561,907.84 in the EMS Fund. Compared to 2013, both the Fire and EMS Funds experienced an increase in revenues over 2013. Fire and EMS expenses stayed steady with a slight decrease in both funds. Our overall financial picture shows an annual collective increase of \$785,877 in our cash balance at the end of 2014 as compared to January 1, 2014. Currently our 2015 temporary appropriations are reflecting an increase of \$802,244.40. The bulk of this increase is due to the development of our seven year Capital Improvement Plan which forecast our ongoing equipment and capital improvement projects. Secondly, this year brings contract negotiations. Associated costs related wages and benefits have also been projected.

This represents a few snapshots of what has and is happening at the Prairie Township Fire Department. We are honored to serve you and look forward to 2015 as we continue to progress individually and professionally.

Fire Prevention-Fire Marshal Altomare

There are over 500 inspections that are conducted annually. This is including re-inspections and special inspections. All assemblies are inspected two times with multiple re-inspections as needed.

Renovations were again completed at Doctor's Hospital within the surgical suites and the PACU. Two new schools were completed, Prairie Norton and Alton Hall, with the start of Stiles and Prairie Lincoln.

The "Reading with a Fire Fighter Program", that was also developed and implemented in 2013 by Fire Fighter Matt Powers is still in existence and continued in 2014. FF Powers conducts one hour sessions weekly reading to the children of Prairie Township and the surrounding areas. Station tours and fire safety education is also provided at this time.

Training Completed: Over 41 hours of Fire Inspector training was completed as well as 57 hours of Investigator training in 2014. 38 additional hours were completed in incident management and command. 34 fire prevention/fire safety classes were conducted in 2014. 2400 students were taught about fire safety. Education classes were conducted with the Senior Center, WABA and Columbia Heights.

Fire Incidents

The Prairie Township Fire Department responded to 704 fire incidents in 2014. Responses ranged from structure fires, explosions, rescues, hazardous conditions, service calls, good intent calls, false alarms, severe weather and special incidents/complaints. We responded to 120 fires with 69 being in Prairie Township. By law all fires are investigated. 15 of the fires are currently still under investigation with 7 being ruled arson. Of the 7, 4 of those were Molotov Cocktails of which charges have been filed in 2 of the cases.

EMS Highlights

- EMS responded to 3,780 calls (this is a decrease of 172 runs from 2013)
- Secured two grants:
 - Aladdin Shriner's Grant for \$3,540.00
 - State EMS Grant for \$4,500.00
- Hosted 8th Annual CE Madness week in partnership with Doctor's Hospital
- Conducted 87 classes with 832 attendees and awarded 1,820 EMS continuing education hours
- Conducted 3 Airway procedure labs for Grant/Lifeline Paramedic School
- Conducted Doctor's Hospital EMS Residents Extrication and Airway Training Class

- Certified 10 new members as CPR instructors
- Purchased 8 new adult and infant CPR mannequins
- Purchased 4 Physio AED training monitors for up to date training courses
- Conducted an Active School Shooter/Large scale multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional drills with over 15 separate entities at West Franklin Elementary School
- Conducted and hosted numerous multi-jurisdictional training events.
- Conducted first time department wide Core Competency Evaluation Testing – with outstanding results

2014 Revenue and Expenditures

In 2014, Fire Fund revenues, in the amount of \$4,688,184.10, accounted for 88% of the department’s revenues, while the EMS Fund Revenues, in the amount of \$602,018.95, accounted for the remaining 12%. Below is a breakdown on the combined sources of revenue that contribute to the Fire Department from the Fire Fund and the EMS Fund.

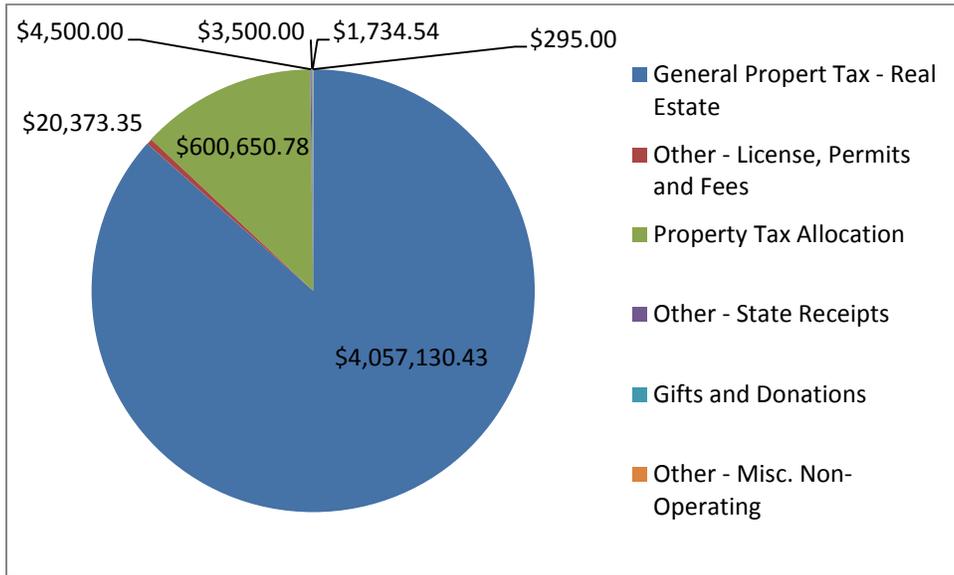
The Fire Department depends upon having skilled, professional firefighters and EMT’s on duty 24/7. As a result, the Department’s expenses are primarily for salaries and benefits. The 2014 breakdown of these and other expenses by fund are as follows:

Fire Revenue	
General Propert Tax - Real Estate	\$4,057,130.43
Other - License, Permits and Fees	\$20,373.35
Property Tax Allocation	\$600,650.78
Other - State Receipts	\$4,500.00
Gifts and Donations	\$3,500.00
Other - Misc. Non-Operating	\$1,734.54
Sale of Fixed Assets	\$295.00
	\$4,688,184.10

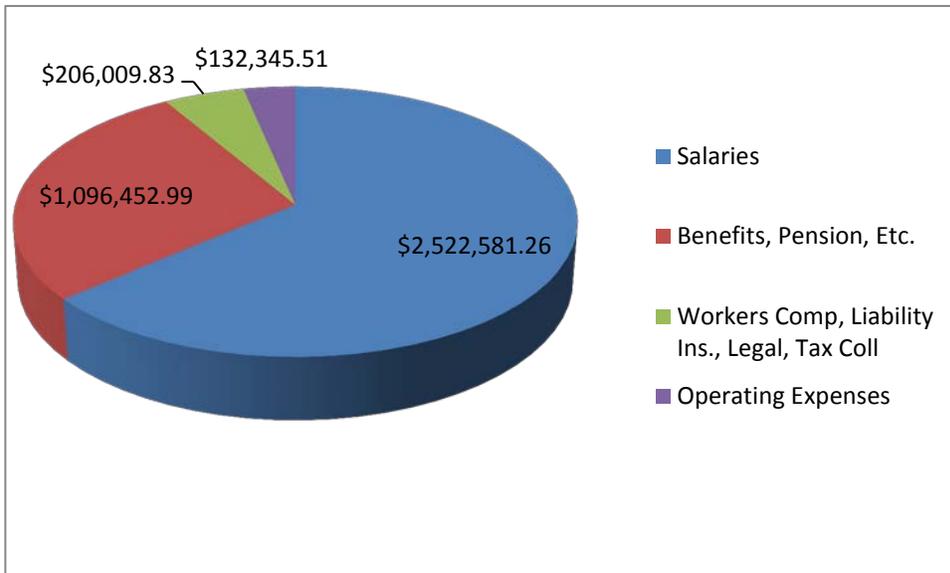
2014 Fire Expenses

Salaries - Fire Department	\$2,056,728.78
FF Overtime	\$26,447.42
Dispatcher Salary	\$195,258.00
Dispatcher OT	\$7,262.93
Part-Time Salaries	\$236,884.13
Ohio Public Employees Retirement	\$28,185.08
Social Security	\$14,694.63
Medicare	\$34,301.22
Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund	\$491,738.38
Medical/Hospitalization Insurance	\$527,533.68
Workers' Compensation	\$0.00
Legal Fees - External Law Firm	\$4,111.85
Tax Collection Fees	\$65,000.00
Training Services	\$8,614.50
IT Computer Services	\$0.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$34,939.46
Other - Utilities	\$45,000.00
Contracted Services	\$29,091.63
Liability Insurance Premiums	\$19,252.39
Office Supplies	\$1,599.90
Operating Supplies	\$47,545.91
Operating Supplies Fuel	\$24,939.10
Other - Supplies and Materials	\$33,404.42
Dues and Fees	\$580.00
Other Expenses	\$13,974.02
Buildings	\$0.00
Machinery, Equipment, Furniture	\$10,302.16
Transfers Out	
Advances Out	
Total	\$3,957,389.59

Fire Revenue



Fire Expenditures



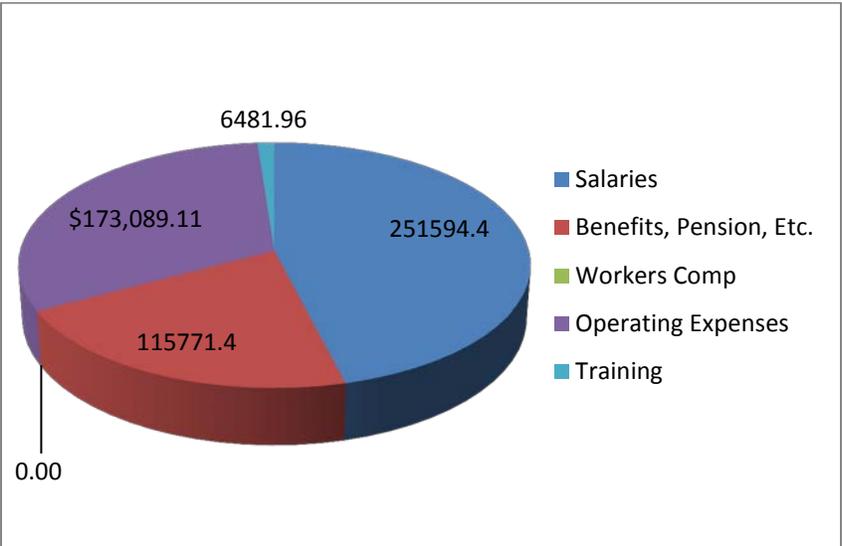
2014 EMS Revenue

Contracts for Emergency Medical Service	\$600,384.25	
State Receipts		\$0.00
Intergovernmental Receipts		\$0.00
Other - Charges for Services		\$1,634.95
Sale of Fixed Assets		\$0.00
Total Revenue		\$602,018.95

EMS Expenses

Salaries	\$249,839.32
Salries - OT	\$1,755.08
Medicare	\$3,660.18
Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund	\$58,168.22
Medical/Hospitalization Insurance	\$53,943.00
Life Insurance	\$0.00
Dental Insurance	\$0.00
Workers Comp	\$0.00
Training Services	\$6,481.96
Other-Prof. and Tech Services	\$13,277.50
Repairs and Maintenance	\$15,826.50
Other - Utilities	\$3,392.67
Contracted Services	\$70,165.38
Operating Supplies	\$45,980.74
Operating Supplies - Fuel	\$9,823.55
Other Expenses	\$12,414.82
Machinery, Equipment, Furniture	\$2,207.95
Transfers Out	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$546,936.87

EMS Expenditures



2014 Points of interest

Loss of Capt. Routte

TV Monitor in lobby

I/D cards

Deputy Chief Pressler turned 90

Demo of Lincoln Park

Created Limited Response Plan

Security Cameras

First year with HR Butler Payroll

New fish fry roof

Second annual Flower sale

Started honor guard

Completed ACLS

Active Shooter training

Fish Fry

Switched to Speedway for fuel

New Ice rescue Equip, grant from Shiners

Held regional explosive class

9-11 Memorial Service

First Movie night at Fire House

Reading with the Firefighter

BP & Glucose testing at Giant Eagle

Held Emergency Dispatching training

Fire Prevention Week

Started leadership program

Below you will find beginning balances, revenue, expenditures and ending balances for all of Prairie Township's various funds.

Fund	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expenditures	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$ 4,490,442.14	\$ 3,605,184.36	\$ 3,100,345.28	\$ 4,995,281.22
Motor Vheicle License Tax	\$ 7,458.00	\$ 21,239.95	\$ 22,195.76	\$ 6,502.19
Gasoline Tax	\$ 33,373.17	\$ 129,899.71	\$ 121,819.55	\$ 41,453.33
Road and Bridge	\$ 74,942.54	\$ 390,216.42	\$ 337,916.87	\$ 127,242.09
Cemetery	\$ 62,853.54	\$ 121,859.15	\$ 109,667.22	\$ 75,045.47
Fire Capital	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 9,575.00	\$ 40,425.00
Road District	\$ 10,792.93	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 196,071.77	\$ 14,721.16
Fire levy	\$ 1,036,320.80	\$ 4,430,301.58	\$ 4,062,804.61	\$ 1,403,817.77
Permissive Motor Vehicle License	\$ 26,941.58	\$ 124,833.55	\$ 111,311.87	\$ 40,463.26
Emergency Medical Services	\$ 439,237.68	\$ 543,054.95	\$ 511,715.02	\$ 470,577.61
EMS Capital Fund	\$ 97,170.00	\$ -	\$ 96,859.61	\$ 310.39
Columbia Heights Lighting District	\$ 1,967.77	\$ 11,890.93	\$ 10,326.14	\$ 3,532.56
Lincoln Village North Lighting Distri	\$ 83,623.59	\$ 51,406.31	\$ 64,767.51	\$ 70,232.39
Lincoln Village South Lighting Distri	\$ 16,030.74	\$ 15,707.54	\$ 16,249.42	\$ 15,488.86
Village Park Lighting District	\$ 15,350.87	\$ 5,780.92	\$ 8,647.89	\$ 12,483.90
Garden Heights Lighting District	\$ 2,068.72	\$ 5,320.29	\$ 4,779.00	\$ 2,610.01
Lake Darby Lighting District	\$ 6,400.95	\$ 4,677.31	\$ 8,146.59	\$ 2,931.67
Clover Estates lighting District	\$ 910.01	\$ 1,188.60	\$ 1,141.04	\$ 957.57
Norton Crossing Lighting District	\$ 1,297.95	\$ 1,993.95	\$ 2,040.84	\$ 1,251.06
Young Estates Lighting District	\$ 9,356.66	\$ 3,875.03	\$ 4,023.48	\$ 9,208.21
Westpoint, Ph 2, Sec 2 Lighting Dist	\$ 6,129.35	\$ 6,202.25	\$ 4,815.15	\$ 7,516.48
Lake Darby North Lighting District	\$ 12,886.08	\$ 8,598.00	\$ 5,442.30	\$ 16,041.78
Westpoint 2, Sec. 3, 4 & 5 Lighting I	\$ 26,282.68	\$ 19,287.82	\$ 11,870.00	\$ 33,700.50
Westpoint 2, Sec. 1 Lighting District	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 7,569.67	\$ 4,430.33
Westpoint Ph 1 Lighting District	\$ 9,484.67	\$ 15,589.65	\$ 14,876.42	\$ 10,197.90
JEDZ	\$ 632,654.47	\$ 1,195,632.71	\$ 1,591,535.22	\$ 236,751.96
JEDD	\$ -	\$ 46,354.10	\$ -	\$ 46,354.10
CRC Bond	\$ -	\$ 10,537,221.95	\$ 1,432,898.31	\$ 9,104,323.64
Parks Capital	\$ 16,681.81	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 28,614.00	\$ 4,067.81
West Broad Street StreetScape	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Inah Avenue Road Project	\$ -	\$ 25,317.92	\$ 25,317.92	\$ -
S. Grener Road Project - Phase	\$ -	\$ 16,637.54	\$ 16,637.52	\$ 0.02
S. Grener Road Project - Phase 3	\$ 233,727.12	\$ 198,540.64	\$ 421,883.92	\$ 10,383.84
S. Grener Road Project - Phase 2	\$ 1,357.30	\$ 5,106.66	\$ 6,463.96	\$ -
Palmetto Road Project	\$ -	\$ 15,977.68	\$ 15,977.68	\$ -
Beacon Hill Road Project	\$ -	\$ 1,333,276.28	\$ 1,333,276.28	\$ -
Woodlawn Road Project	\$ -	\$ 1,797,429.81	\$ 1,768,516.97	\$ 28,912.84
Cemetery Bequest 1 & 2	\$ 2,013.39	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.48	\$ 2,013.41
Developers Escrow	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Road Cut Permits	\$ 8,452.92	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,452.92