

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



## PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JUNE 17, 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.

Mr. Kennedy 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 via webex and/or telephone. All other department heads and Deputy Ronk were all excused in advance from the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes** - June 3, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes and June 5 Special Meeting Minutes

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy: So Moved". Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont , Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer , Aye. The meeting minutes for the June 3, 2020 Regular Meeting and June 5, 2020 Special Meeting were approved.**

### Fiscal Officer 's Report

#### Approval of Warrant s and Payroll

This week's warrants list detailed payments to 77 vendors totaling \$394,849.83. Approximately 72% of this total is comprised of a payment to Columbus Title Agency in the amount of \$188,471.10 for acquisition of a property under the FEMA Mitigation grant and payment to the Franklin County Sheriff's office for \$96,612.73 for police services.

Ms. Henning requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling \$394,849.83 along with the June 10, 2020 payroll of 204,525.63 for a total cash disbursement of \$599,375.46.

Comments/Issues: None

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

#### Approval to Process 6/25/20 Payroll Related Warrants

Ms. Henning asked the Board for approval to process the 6/25/20 payroll related warrants including: Deferred Comp, Metlife, Dearborn Life Insurance, Garnishments and Flexible Spending

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Fiscal Officer to process payroll related warrants. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Standing Business:

#### Fire Department

##### Request to Hire

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve the hiring of two part-time firefighters; Caleb Rizer and Alexander Owens, effective June 18<sup>th</sup> 2020. Each member will serve a one year probation.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve hiring Caleb Rizer and Alexander Owens as part-time firefighters effective June 18, 2020. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

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Fire Department Announcement: Mr. Peters made the following announcement on behalf of the Fire Department: "The fire department has received and accepted 30 new self-contained breathing apparatus, 30 extra air bottles, and 64 face pieces. These air packs utilize state of the art technology and will replace the outdated breathing apparatus that we are currently using. 95% of the project cost, \$206,165.20, was funded by a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant. The Township cost of the project was \$10,850.80."

### Community Center

Mr. Peters asked the Board to accept the resignation of Matt McCallum, effective June 8, 2020.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board accept the resignation of Matt McCallum effective June 8, 2020. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Phase Re-opening Update:

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve the next phase of re-opening for the Community Center. The details of this phase of reopening were distributed prior to tonight's meeting.

Comments/Issues: The Center opened on June 1<sup>st</sup> and Recreation Director, Michael Pollack, has recommended to increase to the next phase, phase 2.

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the next phase of re-opening for the Community Center, as presented. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Farmers Market Guidelines

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve guidelines presented for operating the 2020 Farmers Market at the Community Center. First one is June 29<sup>th</sup> with Social Distancing that are on the guidelines

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve Farmers Market guidelines, 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

#### Nuisance Tree

Mr. Peters recommended the Board declare a tree at 315 Lawrence Avenue a nuisance tree. The township received an anonymous letter about this tree. Dave went and looked at the tree, it is obviously dead, and he believes if it would fall that it could harm someone in the public right of way. Dave spoke with the homeowner and they said they had plans on removing the tree in the middle of July. He also spoke with Pete Griggs, Township Attorney, and he advised that we should go ahead and declare the tree a nuisance if the Board believes it is and we could stop the process if the resident removes the tree themselves. The process without her consent will take a little while and the wheels will be in motion in case she does not have it removed. Photographic evidence of the tree was provided in advance of the meeting.

Comments/Issues: None

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Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution 2 4-20 "A Resolution Declaring an object bounding Lawrence Avenue and maintained on or bordering a property owned or occupied by Michele Stead and located at 315 Lawrence Avenue in Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio, a Nuisance. Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

### Commercial Building and Zoning

No items

### Administration

### Nuisance Cases

Comments/Issues: There was a discussion on the wooded area around Postle Blvd., Sullivant Avenue and Oxley Road regarding the homeless camps that keep showing up on these vacant parcels. Mr. Kennedy recommended working with the owner to get the areas cleaned up instead of declaring the properties a nuisance due to the concern of the cost. Mr. Peters reported that phone calls and messages to the property owner were not being returned. The nuisance case is to remove brush, weeds and trash, while leaving the trees.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 102-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 506-508 Buena Vista Avenue ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 103-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 331 N. Murray Hill Road ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 104-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 465 Amity Road ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 105-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-000195 (Vacant lot on Hubbard Road) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 106-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-005852 (Vacant lot on Hubbard Road) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 107-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-002300 (Vacant lot on Evergreen Terrace) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 108-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-002301 (Vacant lot on Evergreen Terrace) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 109-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-002302 (Vacant lot on Evergreen Terrace) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 110-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-002303 (Vacant lot on Evergreen Terrace) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



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Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 111-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 163 Fernhill Avenue. Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 112-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 307 Woodlawn Avenue ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 113-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-001806 (Vacant lot on Woodlawn Avenue) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 114-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-002836 (Vacant lot on Postle Boulevard) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Nay; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 115-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-002839 (Vacant lot on Postle Boulevard) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Nay; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 116-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-002837 (Vacant lot on Postle Boulevard) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Nay; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 117-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-002841 (Vacant lot on Postle Boulevard) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Nay; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 118-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-002843 (Vacant lot on Postle Boulevard) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Nay; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 119-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-002851 (Vacant lot on Postle Boulevard) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Nay; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 120-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 240-002741 (Vacant lot on Sullivant Avenue) ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Nay; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 121-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 76 vacant lots owned by Western Estates Corporation, per attached list ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Nay; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

### 2020 Budget Hearing

Mr. Peters asked the Board to set the Public Hearing for the 2020 Budget for July 15, 2020 and approve advertisement of that hearing. A copy of the draft budget will be available in the Fiscal Office by the end of the day on July 1, 2020, as required by the Ohio Revised Code. This meeting will be either electronic, or in person if permitted.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board set a hearing to hear public comment regarding the proposed 2021 Budget for 7:00 pm on July 15, 2020 and authorize the Township Administrator to advertise the hearing as per requirements of the Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as

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

### Coronavirus Relief Funding (Res. 23-20)

The "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" in House Bill 481 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly (HB 481) was passed and provides funding for local government to offset the cost of unplanned expenses due to COVID-19. In order to receive the funds, the Board must pass a Resolution. Acceptance of these funds also require established a new, separate fund for receipt of the money.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution 23-20 Affirming Requirements of Funding Provided By The "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, And Economic Security Act ", In House Bill 481 Of The 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly ", and authorize the Fiscal Office to establish a new fund for this funding. Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### HUD Agreement Renewal

Mr. Peters asked the Board to authorize an agreement with the Board of County Commissioners to participate in U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs administered by the County. Specifically, this agreement reaffirms Prairie Township's participation in the Franklin County Community Development Block Grant and HOME programs. This is a 3 year agreement.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve renewal of the Franklin County Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Entitlement Program for a three year period, and authorize the township administrator to execute the necessary paperwork. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Announcements

The Prairie Township Annual Cleanup has been rescheduled for June 18-20 and June 25-27.

- o Thursday, June 18 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- o Friday, June 19 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- o Saturday, June 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m
- o Thursday, June 25 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- o Friday, June 26 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- o Saturday, June 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Budget discussion with the regards to the reduction in revenue is probable due to Covid-19 in anticipation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter impact with the JEDZ, property tax reduction in payments and the lost revenue dollars from the Community Center. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act also known as the CARES Act Grant is approximately \$500k and may assist with filling some of the revenue shortfall depending on the details of the grant.

### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

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Chairwoman Cathy Schmelzer

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Fiscal Officer Sherry Henning