

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOVEMBER 4, 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 Administrator Rob Peters were all in attendance at the township hall. Deputy Ronk attended via Webex. All other Department Heads were excused in advance from tonight's meeting.

Approval of Minutes - October 21, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Comments/Issues: None

Ms. Schmelzer: So Moved". Mr. Kennedy seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. The meeting minutes for the October 21, 2020 Regular Meeting were approved.

The Snack Shack - Mr. Rob Conner presented his business for consideration for the Galloway Road Sports Complex Concession Stand.

Franklin County Sheriff's Office / No Action Required

Deputy Ronk's report is for the last two weeks from October 21st through November 4th:
562 calls, 46 reports, 7 drug related, 2 breaking and entering, 1 motor vehicle, 6 thefts. Overall, this is a good drop over the last two weeks. The main change is more coordination has been done between the police officers.

Discussion: Mr. Peters brought to the Trustees attention an email received from resident Paula Self addressing speeding and nuisances in her neighborhood on Fernhill Ave and the Postal Ave area. Mr. Peters requested to Deputy Ronk to move the speed trailer to that area and to address the potential BB gun problem.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Approval of Warrants and Payroll

This week's warrants list detailed payments to 62 vendors totaling \$589,038.18. The largest is our bond payments and interest payment to Huntington National Bank of \$410,362.50. The other two largest payments are Performance Fields of \$34,377.68 for the baseball fields at the Sports Complex and Hager Construction of \$48,158.60 for Covid upgrades to township buildings from the CARES Act Funds.

Ms. Henning then requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling \$589,038.18 along with the 10/26/20 payroll of \$228,394.40 for a total cash disbursement of \$817,432.58

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.

Discussion: Mr. Kennedy inquired about bank reconciliations being up to date. With a new Fiscal Officer coming into the position on April 1st in the midst of COVID, the need to catch up banking and bank reconciliations from the past Fiscal Officer, and the work of managing through refunds due to COVID has created an undesirable lag with the statements. Bank reconciliations will be caught up by the end of December.

Standing Business:

Fire Department

Renewal of Dispatch Agreement

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve the 2021 agreement with the City of Grove City for dispatching

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services. The agreement cost will be \$218,355.06 and will be in effect for 1 year. This is, approximately, a 3% increase over the original agreement signed in 2018. The Township is extremely happy with the services provided by the Grove City Police Department and highly recommend the continuation of this relationship.

Comments/Issues: None

Ms. Schmelzer made a motion that the Board approve the renewal of the Communication Services Agreement with the City of Grove City for 2021 at a cost of \$218,355.06. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Purchase of Turnout Gear

Mr. Peters asked the Board for approval to purchase 27 sets of Janesville Structural Firefighting turnout gear from Phoenix Safety Outfitters, at a cost of \$2,495.00 per set. The total cost will be \$67,365.00. Three separate quotes were received, Janesville, Morning Pride (\$2598.60 per set), and FireDex (\$2474.00 per set). Janesville turnout gear exceeded expectations. Points that were considered, fit / sizing, durability / quality and service / repair. Janesville also offers upgrades for cancer prevention that can be made at a later date at a minimal cost.

Comments/Issues: None

Ms. Schmelzer made a motion to approve the purchase of 27 sets of turnout gear from Phoenix Safety Outfitters at a cost of \$67,365. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Approval to Dispose of Unused Gear

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve the disposal of ballistic vests, several sets of obsolete turnout gear, and some other miscellaneous items. Most of these items have been discovered during some extensive cleaning at each station. They hold virtually no value.

Comments/Issues: None

Ms. Schmelzer made a motion to approve the disposal of obsolete and unneeded equipment to include ballistic vests, turnout gear and other miscellaneous items. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Resignation of Part-time Firefighter

Mr. Peters asked the Board to accept the resignation of part-time firefighter Justin Rice. Justin has recently been appointed to a full-time position at the West Licking Joint Fire District in Pataskala. I would like to thank Justin for his service to the township and wish him good luck.

Comments/Issues: None

Ms. Schmelzer made a motion to accept the resignation of part-time firefighter Justin Rice. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Request to Convert Sick Time to Injury Leave

Mr. Peters asked the Board to allow FF Jeff Taynor to convert 204.5 hours of sick time to injury leave. He suffered an on-duty injury and is awaiting further diagnosis.

Comments/Issues: None

Ms. Schmelzer made a motion to approve firefighter Jeff Taynor convert 204.5 hours of sick leave to injury leave. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Community Center

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No items

Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department

Perimeter and Home Run fencing for GRSC ball fields

Mr. Peters recommended the Board approve the installation of approximately 2000' of 6'tall outfield fence, 1280' of 6' tall side fence and 4 12'wide 6' tall gates at the four GRSC Baseball Fields. The cost for this fencing is \$60,000.00 and the contractor is Gateway Fence Company.

Comments/Issues: None

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board approve the installation of perimeter and home run fencing at the 4 baseball fields at Galloway Road Sports Complex. The installer is Gateway Fence Company at a cost of \$60,000. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Donation Acceptance from Galloway Baseball Club

Mr. Peters recommended the Board approve accepting a \$30,000.00 donation toward the above agenda item from Galloway Baseball Club toward the GRSC fence.

Comments/Issues: None

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board accept the donation from the Galloway Baseball Club of \$30,000 toward fence installation at the Galloway Road Sports Complex. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Commercial Building and Zoning

No items

Administration

Nuisance Cases

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU- 227-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 399 Garden Heights Avenue ". Mr. Stormont 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- 228-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 334 Danhurst Road ". Mr. Stormont 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- 229-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 400 Yarmouth Lane ". Mr. Stormont 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- 230-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 370 S. Murray Hill Road ". Mr. Stormont 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- 231-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 396 Celina Road ". Mr. Stormont 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- 232-20 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 4764 Palmetto Street ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Vote s were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

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Braumiller Development - Request for payment

Mr. Peters asked the Board to authorize me to send a letter to Braumiller Development LLC. (Ron Sabatino) requesting a check for 2% of the construction cost of the Galloway Road Improvement Project. The estimated total project cost is \$569,722.50 making the project administrative fee \$11,394.45

Comments/Issues: None

Ms. Schmelzer moved the Board authorize the Township Administrator to send a letter to Braumiller Development requesting payment for the 2% administrative fee of \$11,394.45 for the Galloway Road Improvement project. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mod Con 2021

Mr. Peters updated the Board on Mod Con's plan for another project in Prairie Township in 2021. A contribution of \$50,000 from the Township has been requested. They will be looking for homes in the Mix Avenue & Stiles area. Anyone that wants to be considered, please contact MonCon.

Old Business

Open to the Public Meetings

Mr. Kennedy asked for an update regarding meeting technology to be able to have people attend township meetings virtually. Mr. Peters has been working with staff on preparing to use technology for virtual hearings for the Board of Zoning Appeals and believes he can use this technology for the township meetings. Mr. Kennedy is questioning the cost versus benefit of having the equipment and staff time available to run the software as Mr. Peters cannot run the meeting and be the moderator for questions at the same time. Mr. Peters provided more information about how it could work during the public meetings and believes it is can be done.

New Fire Engine

Mr. Stormont inquired about the new engine at #241. Mr. Peters stated the new engine should be back in two weeks.

New Business

None

Announcements

None

Executive Session

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board go into executive session per ORC section 121.22 (G) (1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee and to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 per ORC 121.22 (G) (2) . Mr. Stormont seconded the motion. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

At 8:54 p.m., Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board come out of executive session. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm

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Chairwoman Cathy Schmelzer

Fiscal Officer Sherry Henning