

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING/JUNE 12, 2002

The regular meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees, held at the Hubbard Road Firehouse, was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Nourse, with Ms. Keller, Mr. Wharton and Ms. Easter present. Also attending were: Chief Lavelly, Dave McAninch, John Holderby, Elizabeth Anderson and Donetta Brock. (See attached list).

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the minutes as written for the regular meeting on May 29, 2002 and the special meeting on June 11, 2002. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton introduced 2 Brownies from Troop 1449 from Cypress Wesleyan Church to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk presented the following items:

1. The Clerk presented an invoice from Bischoff & Associates for \$2,223.25 for services from 4/24/02 to 5/23/02 which will be paid by Franklin County upon approval of Prairie Township. After the Hilton Avenue project is completed, Franklin County will do one total disbursement for reimbursement from Ohio Public Works and Prairie Township. The Chairman's signature on the invoice is approval for Franklin County to pay.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the Chairman to sign and Franklin County to pay the invoice from Bischoff & Associates in the amount of \$2,223.25. Vote; Aye.

2. The Clerk reported that Frank Harmon with Ohio Insurance Services is available to hold an employee meeting regarding medical/health/drug insurance if the Trustees feel it is needed. Mr. Nourse recommended the meeting be held during the end of 2002 beginning of 2003 to explore insurance options for the next union contract.
3. A letter was presented from Dick Curtiss, Emergency Management Agency Township representative, requesting a meeting with Mr. Vernon Poe, EMA, Trustees, Clerk and key Township employees to present a review of the reporting process and procedures to follow in the time of a crisis. Mr. Nourse stated that he would like to coordinate a meeting with Mr Glen Hymer and Dick Curtiss at the Township Hall.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the Clerk reduce the Fifth Third Sweep account by \$150,000.00. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the following appropriation. Vote; Aye.

\$26,500.00 from Road & Bridge 2031-330-599-0000 to 2031-760-740-0000

The Trustees received and reviewed the financial statements for the month of May, 2002.

After the Trustees viewed the pending warrant list, Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the payment of the ADP payroll in the amount of \$71,908.24 and approve payment of the following bills (See pending warrant list). Vote; Aye.

Ms. Elizabeth Anderson, Assistant Zoning Inspector, addressed the Board with the following Zoning Department issues:

1. An open house was held on June 11, 2002 with the Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Plan.

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2. Ms. Anderson is meeting the Franklin County Prosecutors office on June 13, 2002 in an effort to resolve some outstanding zoning violations and proceed to court at a faster rate.
3. Noxious weeds are to be reported to the Township Hall by an abutting property owner and by signing a formal complaint form. The Zoning Department is willing to work with the residents to resolve these issues.

Chief Lavelly addressed the Board with the following Fire Department matters:

1. Chief reported that the annual Fish Fry will be held on June 28, 29, 2002 and raffle tickets are available.
2. On April 28, Medic 243 responded on Moss Court to an 18 month old child in a pool and the medics used a very aggressive approach on the child and the child is recovering remarkably well. Chief Lavelly thanked Mark Goldhart, Matt Stickel and part-time fireman Kevin Wade.

Dave McAninch, Road Superintendent, addressed the Board with the following Road/Cemetery department matters:

1. Dave McAninch reported that Shelly & Sands was the low bidder on the 2002 Road Improvement Project and their bond and paperwork is in order and was thoroughly reviewed by Franklin County. The bid is in the amount of \$870,162.55. The Clerk presented the Board with a contract and resolution awarding the contract to Shelly & Sands. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve awarding Shelly & Sands the 2002 Road Improvement contract in the amount of \$870,162.55. The project is to be completed by September 16, 2002. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Nourse; Aye.

2. The Road Superintendent reported that a tree was down as a result of a storm on May 31, 2002 on Lennox Avenue in the first alley north of Broad Street. Peterman Tree Service removed the tree on an emergency basis at a cost of \$600.00.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve Peterman Tree & Lawn Service remove a tree on Lennox Avenue on an emergency basis as a result of a storm at a total cost of \$600.00. Vote; Aye.

3. Dave McAninch reported that the following tree trimming and removal is to be addressed as soon as possible as a result of a storm. The prices were quoted by Peterman Tree & Lawn Service as follows:

a. Clover Cemetery-Ash tree limb down and limb in tree	\$150.00
b. Alton Cemetery – Limb removal	\$ 45.00
c. Galloway Cemetery-Broken limb in Cedar tree	\$ 75.00
d. Little Farms back alley – 2 dead trees	\$150.00

TOTAL: \$420.00*

*prices include grinding the stump and removing debris

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve Peterman Tree & Lawn Service trim and remove trees as indicated in Clover Cemetery, Alton Cemetery, Galloway Cemetery and Little Farms back alley at a total cost of \$420.00. Vote; Aye.

4. The Road Superintendent reported that a bridge that Franklin County maintains, on Kunz Road over the Hellbranch, was in need of repair. A temporary repair has been done on the bridge. The complete repair is scheduled for 2003 as an in-house project. Pictures were circulated.

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5. Last year in Lake Darby, M/I homes repaired three pipes that the Nature Conservancy called "hanging pipes", off of Lakefield Drive. Franklin County fixed one pipe in the area and this left one pipe to be repaired. Franklin County indicated that they will have a price for the repair of the final pipe by July 26, 2002.
6. Dave McAninch requested vacation for July 5, 2002.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve Dave McAninch take vacation on July 5, 2002. Vote; Aye.

7. A resident called about Oxley & West Broad Street regarding a gravel sidewalk, posts and some chain that has been installed in the right-of-way. The Zoning Department is working with Kelly's Auto Sales regarding parking issues and an off-premise site in Alton. This case is scheduled to be discussed with the prosecutor's office.

Mr. Nourse discussed the extension request from Darby Creek Excavating concerning the curing time for the concrete. Darby Creek has not communicated with the Township. This topic will be discussed next meeting.

Mr. Nourse addressed the park issues in the Lake Darby area and presented maps of the area and options for mountings, plantings and play equipment as well as benches. A questionnaire was distributed allowing an area for comments.

The meeting was recessed at 7:20 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

An agreement with Bricker & Eckler, LLP was presented and discussed and their responsibility in representing the Township will be to advise the Township on home rule issues and to assist the Township in drafting the appropriate resolution(s). Ms. Rebecca Princehorn, Bricker & Eckler LLP, may also be requested to attend one or more public meetings in the course of the foregoing. The Township will be billed at a rate of \$205/hour for all partners, regardless of seniority and \$140 to \$200 for associate attorneys, depending on level of expertise and experience.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve entering into an agreement with Bricker & Eckler to represent the Township on home rule issues at a rate not to exceed \$205/hour. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Abstain; Mr. Nourse; Aye.

Mr. Nourse stated that it is time to get serious and fight and to explore any opportunity available to the Township in an effort to stop the City of Columbus from "gobbling us up". It is time to do what we feel is best for our community with the least amount of hindrance from outside elements. Mr. Nourse stated he feels that home rule is the way to go. There are 17 home rule townships in Ohio. Washington Township in Dayton has been very helpful in sharing their experience as a home rule township. Home Rule allows the option of establishing our own police force. The home rule topic is to be explored in depth with extensive public input. A public hearing will be held to discuss the pros and cons of home rule on June 26, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at 23 Maple Drive, at the regular trustee meeting. A discussion was held as to what will be discussed at the June 26th meeting. The Ohio Township Association, a Bricker & Eckler representative and a Washington Township representative will be invited to attend the meeting on June 26, 2002. Several residents expressed their concern with the threat of annexation by the City of Columbus.

Mr. Kennedy asked "What is negative with home rule"? Mr. Nourse stated that on June 26th there will be a detailed discussion with facts and figures. Mr. Randy Nininger expressed concern, in Lake Darby, with the Sheriff Department and lack of

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regular visibility in the area. Mr. Nourse will contact the Sheriff Department and communicate these concerns.

A resident expressed concern with what the City of Columbus has done in the Thornapple area and Hall Road area. "We better do something".

The parks in Lake Darby were discussed and two residents volunteered to distribute questionnaires and return them to the Township Hall by June 21st. The results of the voting will be tabulated and posted on June 24th. A vote will be taken by the Board at the June 26th meeting about plantings, moundings and equipment in the parks.

The recent Spring-Summer 2002 newsletter was discussed and several residents stated that they did not receive the newsletter in "The Bag". Mr. Nourse will investigate and fine tune the circulation of the Township newsletter. Delivery of the newsletter in this manner was very cost effective.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk