

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING/OCTOBER 29, 2003

The regular meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees was called to order by the Chairperson, Ms. Keller, with Mr. Wharton, Mr. Nourse and Ms. Easter present. Also attending were: Chief Lavelly, Connie Swisher, Jason Thomas, Dave McAninch, Tracy Hatmaker and Peter Griggs; Loveland & Brosius (See attached list).

Ms. Keller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the regular meeting minutes of October 15, 2003 as written. Vote; Aye.

Deputy Foster addressed the Board and stated that the drive-thru on S. Murray Hill was robbed on Monday morning. Deputy Foster recommended that residents call Chief Jones (462-3300) who is in charge of the Patrol Division, for details in setting up a block watch. Mr. Nourse discussed speeding enforcement and the need for proper signage in the areas where speed limits are reduced. The Road Superintendent has surveyed the Township and identified areas where additional signage is needed and will be installed.

Mr. Nourse presented a Resolution Objecting to an Annexation Petition to Annex 7.1 Acres of Land, more or less, from Prairie Township to the City of Columbus. Mr. Nourse explained the new Expedited Type II Annexation guidelines. In very limited areas, the Township is able to object to an annexation. The first step to object to an annexation is to pass a resolution. Mr. Nourse read the resolution opposing the annexation on Doherty Road stating that the petition fails to meet the conditions for approval. Several residents in the area of Doherty Road expressed their concern and objection to the proposed annexation by the City of Columbus. Mr. Nourse explained that the petition was not signed by 100% of the property owners. Mr. Peter Griggs; Loveland & Brosius, stated that it is extremely important for the residents to voice their opposition to this annexation prior to the Franklin County Commissioners voting on the annexation.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board pass the Resolution Objecting to an Annexation Petition to Annex 7.1 Acres of Land, more or less, from Prairie Township to the City of Columbus. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; Aye, Mr. Nourse; Aye, Ms. Keller Aye. (Resolution 32-03).

The Clerk presented the following items:

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the supplemental appropriations as follows:

\$ 1,000.00 from 1000-760-740-0000 to 1000-110-314-0000
\$30,000.00 from 2191-220-420-0000 to 2191-220-599-0000
\$ 5,000.00 from 1000-120-359-0000 to 1000-760-740-0000
\$ 6,000.00 from 1000-110-240-0000 to 1000-210-370-0000
\$50,000.00 from 1000-110-141-0000 to 1000-210-370-0000

1. The Clerk presented an invoice from Feller, Finch & Associates for \$9,200.00 for services pertaining to the Medfield Way Improvements which will be paid by Franklin County upon approval of Prairie Township. The Chairman's signature on the invoice is approval for Franklin County to pay. The Clerk presented the preliminary plans for the Medfield Way Improvement Project.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the Chairman to sign and Franklin County to pay the invoice from Feller, Finch & Associates in the amount of \$9,200.00 for services pertaining to the Medfield Way Improvements. Vote; Aye.

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2. The Clerk presented an invoice from Feller, Finch & Associates for \$741.00 for services pertaining to the 2003 Curb Ramp Improvements which will be paid by Franklin County upon approval of Prairie Township. The Chairman's signature on the invoice is approval for Franklin County to pay.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the Chairman to sign and Franklin County to pay the invoice from Feller, Finch & Associates in the amount of \$741.00 for services pertaining to the 2003 Curb Ramp Improvements. Vote; Aye.

After the Trustees reviewed the pending warrant list, Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the payment of the ADP payroll in the amount of \$84,044.49 and approve payment of the following bills. Vote; Aye. (See pending warrant list).

Mr. Nourse stated that Mr. Doug Stormont had requested information from the Clerk's Office and had not received all of the information that he requested. The Clerk stated that Mr. Stormont received all of the information that was available from the Clerk's Office with the exception of the proposed sewer project legal documents prepared by Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease. The Clerk's Office was awaiting their approval to release the information.

Mr. Jason Thomas, IT Coordinator, addressed the Board with the following matters:

1. Mr. Thomas presented the proposal from JH Architects, Inc. for services to be provided with sufficient detail for obtaining permits and construction for a new generator for the Township Hall. The contract states that the total liability to the Client for any and all injuries, claims and losses, expenses, etc. shall not exceed \$10,000.00. The total cost of the proposal is \$1,800.00.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the Chairman to sign the proposal from JH Architects, Inc. for services to be provided with sufficient detail for obtaining permits and construction for a new generator at the Township Hall at a cost not to exceed \$1,800.00. Vote; Aye.

2. The IT Coordination recommended purchasing a new, portable laptop computer for Captain Sanders. This will enable him to connect to the network and store more information in the new computer. The old computer will be used in the Township Hall for backup. Mr. Thomas suggested a Dell Latitude D600 at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the purchase of a Dell Latitude D600, for Captain Sanders at Station 241, at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton requested an update from the IT Coordination on the EMS billing software issue. Chief Lavelly explained that there is a problem and the situation is being investigated with MBI.

Mr. Thomas stated that the website is low on the priority list and he will have it up and running as soon as possible.

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

1. Chief Lavelly recommended hiring four part-time firefighters, Richard Lathem, Dan Hirsch, Bryan Gibson and Kevin Poole, on a one year probationary period as they have passed the required testing.

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Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve hiring Richard Lathem, Dan Hirsch, Bryan Gibson and Kevin Poole as part-time firefighters, on a one year probationary period, effective November 1, 2003, at a rate of \$8.25 per hour. Vote; Aye.

2. Chief Lavelly recommended the purchase of two total gyms for the Wellness and Fitness Program at a cost of \$1,870.00 each from EFI Sports Medicine. Firefighter Rob Cloud and his committee has researched equipment and supports the recommendation.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the purchase of two total gyms, one for each station, from EFI Sports Medicine at a cost of \$1,870.00 each, for a total cost of \$3,740.00. Vote; Aye.

3. Chief Lavelly was granted permission from the Board to conduct foam training in the garage on the township property on Cole Road.

Mr. Dave McAninch, Road Superintendent, addressed the Board with the following Road Department matters:

1. As discussed earlier, the speeding problems in Lake Darby and the Village Park subdivision were surveyed and are properly signed. There are nineteen, 25 MPH roads that lead off of Hubbard Road and Dellinger Road which are both 45 MPH roads. "Slow Children" signs were recommended on all the 25 MPH roads leading off of Hubbard and Dellinger Roads. The Road Superintendent will be installing 21 signs in the area off of Hubbard and Dellinger Roads at a cost of \$10.51 each.
2. Dave McAninch stated that the ADA compliant playground equipment has been installed in the park across from Doctors West Hospital. A slide presentation of the equipment and the installation process was given to all in attendance. Children are already using the equipment and the Road Superintendent has received positive feedback from the residents surrounding the area.

Ms. Connie Swisher, Zoning Inspector, addressed the Board with the following Zoning Department matters:

1. Ms. Swisher stated that a PTI has been issued for the corrugated pipe installation work on Hall Road.
2. The Darby Creek Association has informed the Zoning Department and residents of the Township of a public hearing on a variance request in the Darby Creek Moritorium area. The Association has invited everyone to attend the meeting on November 5th at 2:00 p.m., 910 Dublin Road, 1st Floor. Mr. Kennedy explained that three hardship cases have been granted prior to this and Ms. Cheryl Roberto, City of Columbus, is granting the variances. Mr. Kennedy expressed his frustration with the City of Columbus granting these hardship variances. Mr. Wharton stated that the City of Columbus is ignoring the moratorium. Discussion followed. Mr. Tracy Hatmaker, Township Administrator, explained the Hellbranch Watershed and overlay district where the variances are occurring. The ESDA does not cover the entire Darby Watershed as they only cover the western border of the Hellbranch and eastern border of the Darby Creek. Mr. Wharton explained that one side of these waterways is protected. Ms. Swisher stated that anyone with questions or to confirm the meeting, call Sharon Smith at 645-3956.
3. Ms. Swisher stated that the Franklin County Engineer informed the Zoning Department that the new Galloway Road Development that is to connect to Ashpark Drive will be before the Planning Commission on November 13th

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and a traffic study will be conducted on November 13th also. As a Home Rule Township, the Franklin County Engineer is the Engineer for the purposes of planning or contracting only. The desire of the Township is that there is no connection to the City of Columbus via Ashpark Drive. Mr. Nourse will communicate this desire to the Franklin County Engineer.

2. Ms. Swisher stated that the Zoning Commission has started discussions on adopting three Residential Conservation Development Districts which would be used as an overlay to the zoning map and assist in providing a balance between development and conservation as required by the Comprehensive Plan. A presentation will be given to the Board in the near future after the Prairie Township Zoning Commission researches and discusses these districts. Mr. Tracy Hatmaker stated that in establishing the PUD overlay, the Township is providing new development standards in the area.

Mr. Tracy Hatmaker, Township Administrator, addressed the Board for the first time in this capacity and stated that he is familiarizing himself with the Township residents and employees and appreciates the warm welcome he received. Mr. Hatmaker is addressing policies and manuals and individual department operations.

Sheriff Jim Karnes addressed the Board and stated that he has received contacts after the last meeting as residents are complaining about the difficulty they are having in getting in touch with the Sheriff's office. Sheriff Karnes explained several options to reach the Franklin County Sheriff and his office. The current contract with Prairie Township was discussed and services were outlined. Any complaints with the Franklin County Sheriffs services are to be addressed with Sheriff Karnes. Mr. Nourse explained that the monthly Sheriff's report details the runs made and will be made available to the residents in the lobby of the Township Hall. Mrs. Pitts explained that the Township has passed a curfew resolution and the Deputies patrolling the Township refuse to enforce it. Sheriff Karnes asked that residents with complaints call Chief Jones at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Prairie Township is the busiest area in Franklin County and has fairly good coverage and draws cars from other areas of the County when needed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Chairperson

Clerk