

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE

REGULAR MEETING/APRIL 30, 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, Dave McAninch, Jim Strunk and Elizabeth Anderson. (See attached list).

Mr. Wharton introduced 4 members of Boy Scout Troop 161 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the minutes of the April 16, 2003 meeting as written. Vote; Aye.

Ms. Easter introduced Shelley May, Bob Monds and Andy Unger on behalf of Franklin County Auditor Joe Testa, to introduce and explain a program called "Operation Flag". Operation Flag is dedicated to preserving the memories of veterans in Franklin County. Originally members of Operation Flag ensured that all veterans headstones had a flag on Memorial Day and many of the veterans headstones had been damaged. Today, the program is to preserve and restore gravesites and headstones for the veterans. The cemetery restoration projects include cleanup, planting flowers, removing weeds and repairing or replacing headstones. Alton M.E. Cemetery, located behind 6530 W. Broad Street, will be the location of a "clean-up" party on May 10, 2003 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. A re-dedication ceremony for Civil War Veterans, Pvt. John Hammond and Pvt. John O'Harra will be held at the Alton M.E. Cemetery on Memorial Day, May 26, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. Descendants of the veterans are invited to attend the ceremony and place a wreath on the grave of their relative. For more information or questions, contact Shelly May at 462-6272.

This meeting has been declared a public hearing concerning the Board of Trustees intent to repair sidewalks on Carilla Lane, Weymouth Lane, Musket Way, Yarmouth Lane, Revere Court, Maple Park Way, Maple Park Drive, Birch Park Way, Birch Park Drive (and two properties on Carilla Lane and Musket Way with addresses on Darbyhurst Road and Annhurst Road) in Prairie Township. The Clerk and Dave McAninch, Road Superintendent, invited residents to ask questions about the upcoming sidewalk repair program in conjunction with the 2003 Road Improvement Project.

The Clerk presented the following items:

1. The Clerk presented a liquor permit transfer request from Bogart's Billiards, Inc., 4932 W. Broad Street to Hot Shots Billiard & Deli, Inc., 4812 W. Broad Street. No hearing was requested.

After the Trustees reviewed the pending warrant list, Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the payment of the ADP payroll in the amount of \$69,985.75 and approve payment of the following bills. Vote; Aye. (See pending warrant list).

Mr. Jim Strunk, Zoning Inspector, addressed the Board with the following Zoning Department matters:

1. Mr. Strunk stated that 14 violation letters have been sent since the last Trustee meeting primarily for outdoor storage, junk and debris.
2. The Zoning Inspector reported that a final judgment has been received against R&R Roofing. They are permanently prohibited from parking their commercial trucks at or near their residential property and from operating an illegal business from their residence.

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3. Mr. Strunk received a final judgment on the Rodney Ross case and all outdoor storage must be removed from the property by June 1, 2003. The Galloway Mill case is scheduled for a court hearing on May 9, 2003.
4. The Zoning Commission unanimously recommended the rezoning of Bound Tree Medical, Bausch Road, from R-2 to Select Commercial Planned District (SCPD) and Bethel Road Investments, Galloway Road, from Rural to R-6, R-8 and General Business. Mr. Strunk recommended the Board hear these rezoning requests at the regular meeting on May 28, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the trustee hearing for Bound Tree Medical and Bethel Road Development be scheduled for May 28, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Ison expressed concerns with the Bound Tree Medical rezoning and Mr. Nourse explained that there have been no long-term concessions made by Prairie Township and Bound Tree Medical is obligated to create 44 new jobs as a result of the expansion.

5. The Zoning Inspector stated that the Board of Zoning Appeals will hear an application for a Conditional Use Permit on May 13, 2003. The applicant has applied for a permit to allow the construction of a new road into a proposed subdivision off of Bausch Road because the cul-de-sac road will be crossing 40-45 feet of floodplain area.
6. The Zoning Commission has unanimously approved the initiation of the adoption of the Township Comprehensive Plan at their April 22, 2003 meeting. The Plan has been reviewed at the informal and formal tech review by Franklin County. The Franklin County Planning Commission will review the proposed plan and provide comments at the May 14, 2003 meeting.

Mr. Ison expressed concerns with the 300 acre development on Galloway Road by Bethel Road Development and would like to eliminate the possibility of Columbus connecting to the Township roads in this development. Mr. Nourse explained that if Franklin County or the City of Columbus owns the road the thoroughfare plan must be followed. On an exclusive Township road, an access management plan must be followed by any developer in the Township or seek a waiver. Prairie Township is in the process of finalizing an access management plan and expects the plan to be completed within 6 months. Ms. Keller stated that Prairie Township is working with Bethel Road Development and encouraging the developer to stay in the Township but there is no guarantee that the property will not be annexed to Columbus in the future.

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

1. Chief Lavelly informed the Board that Dr. Sherry Stevens has resigned as Township Medical Director effective immediately due to her busy schedule but has offered to continue until another Director is named. Mr. Nourse requested copies of the correspondence from Chief Lavelly with regard to the resignation of Dr. Sherry Stevens as Medical Director.
2. The Fire Department will be flushing hydrants in the eastern portion of the Township from May 21 – 27, 2003.
3. Chief Lavelly presented a service contract for the new heart monitors (EKG's) that were recently purchased from Medtronic Physio-Control on state bid. The 5-year contract is \$12,096.00 and will be billed annually.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the purchase of a 5-year service contract from Medtronic Physio-Control Corp. for the 3 heart monitors (EKG's) recently purchased on state bid at a total cost of \$12,096.00. Vote; Aye.

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4. Chief Lavelly stated the FF Donald Goldhardt, who is on injury leave at this time, has been approved for light duty and recommends approval from the Board. FF Goldhardt has been informed of the light duty and is anticipating surgery in the near future.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve FF Goldhardt to return from injury leave to light duty work. He will work a 40 hour week and be paid his annual salary at the 40 hr/week hourly rate, effective 5/1/03. Vote; Aye.

5. Chief Lavelly would like to address the issue of hiring additional part-time firemen as there are 5-6 active part-time firefighters and there is a need for at least 6 additional part-time firemen at this time. Ms. Keller would like to discuss hiring additional part-time firemen in the near future when the union contract is finalized.

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

Dave McAninch introduced Mr. Elie Sabbagh, Feller, Finch & Associates, to address the Board with several issues. Mr. Sabbagh discussed the study on Owen Avenue, Palmetto Road and Inah Avenue and distributed a report to the Board. The Roadway Access Management Regulations Development permit forms were distributed to the Board. Mr. Sabbagh would like to meet with the Board at their earliest convenience, after review of the forms and regulations, to make necessary adjustments.

Mr. Sabbagh stated that he had a telephone call from Mr. Mark Jones, Blue Heron Development, regarding his development. Mr. Nourse stated that when finalized the Access Management Regulations of the Township will supercede Franklin County and the City of Columbus as to how Township roads are regulated and the Comprehensive Plan will address access management. Both of these documents are in draft form at this time. A meeting was suggested between Mr. Sabbagh, Mr. Jones, Capt. Terry Sanders; Fire Marshall, Dave McAninch; Road Superintendent and Jim Strunk; Zoning Inspector.

Mr. Sabbagh stated that the Community Development Block Grant has been received and the CDBG portion of the 2003 Road Improvement Project includes monies set aside for 8-9 hours of time should Feller, Finch & Associates be required to assist with the project.

Dave McAninch presented the preliminary estimate from Franklin County for the 2003 Road Improvement Project which includes handicap intersections, resurfacing the basketball court at Lakota Park, three walking paths around 3 parks, curb work, manhole cover repair and sidewalk repair work and the estimate total is \$1,177,767.95. The Road Superintendent would like to advertise for the road project, after the bid books are ready, as soon as possible. The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) will have to review the advertisement and bid book before publication and distribution.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the advertisement for the 2003 Road Improvement Project after review by the Community and Economic Development Department, Mr. William Harris. Vote; Aye.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the removal of three trees in Galloway Cemetery by Peterman Tree and Lawn Service at a total cost of \$800.00. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Nourse asked Dave McAninch about the status of the hanging pipe repair by Franklin County in Lake Darby. The Road Superintendent stated that the repair

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approved by the Board is within 4-5 working days from completion including restoration and the residents in the area, as well as Dave McAninch, are satisfied with the progress of the project.

Mr. Nourse stated that Prairie Township has signed an agreement with Franklin County where the Township would partner with other townships, the City of Columbus and City of Hilliard for Stormwater Management in Western Franklin County to meet the requirements of the National Point Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II dealing with stormwater. The agreement is, with Franklin County Soil & Water overseeing the project, a total dollar amount including state matching funds, would be distributed among the different entities. The total local share is \$407,500.00 and Prairie Township's share is \$37,000.00, less in-kind contributions of \$10,000.00, the Township is responsible for \$27,000.00. This project meets the federal and state requirements that are in place.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve payment of \$27,000.00 to Franklin County for the Township's share of the NPDES Phase II distribution for stormwater management. Vote; Aye.

Dave McAninch stated that the Memorial Day ceremonies are being planned for May 26, 2003 at the Alton and Galloway cemeteries and times and locations will be printed in the area newspapers and sent to area churches. Current lists are available at the Township Hall of all veterans buried in Alton and Galloway Cemeteries.

Ms. Elizabeth Anderson, Township Administrator, addressed the Board with the following Administrative issues:

1. Ms. Anderson stated that interviews have been conducted for the Zoning Clerk position and would like to recommend Ms. Rebecca Thurn for employment with the Township as Zoning Clerk at a rate of \$10.50 per hour starting Monday, May 5, 2003 and is hired at the will of the Board with full medical and dental and retirement benefits immediately. The Zoning Clerk will accumulate sick leave immediately and will be available for use after 90 days. The Zoning Clerk will be entitled to paid vacation and holidays after six months. The Township Administrator will send letters to the other candidates that applied for the position, thanking them for their time.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve hiring Ms. Rebecca Thurn at a rate of \$10.50 per hour starting May 5, 2003 with full benefits effective immediately. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton, Ms. Keller; Aye.

2. The Township Administrator addressed the issue of promoting Jason Thomas to a position of IT Coordinator. Ms. Anderson recommends Mr. Thomas for this position and will present a job description and duties with a salary recommendation at the next meeting.
3. The spring clean-up is planned to start May 2nd thru May 12, 2003 with dumpsters at the Township Hall, Road Department and Hubbard Road firehouse.
4. Ms. Anderson stated that the junk and debris at the 330 Evergreen property has been removed by the Road Department and the total cost for the removal including labor is \$1,540.62. The Township Administrator would like to thank Dave McAninch and the Road Department for handling this matter.

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Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the Clerk file an assessment with the Franklin County Auditors office for the cleanup of the 330 Evergreen property at a cost of \$1,540.61. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

5. Ms. Anderson stated that there has been interest in the summer youth program and ten candidates have filled out applications. The program would be for 8 weeks and would pay minimum wage.

Ms. Vaneta Eckle, 482 Redmond Road, expressed concern with the potential installation of a skateboard park in Lakota Park and presented a petition with 34 signatures from area residents that are not in favor of the skateboard park. The increased traffic and other teens from Cherry Creek will be drawn to the park. Mr. Nourse stated that the best place for the skateboard park is on school property where the neighbors and traffic are accustomed to the children, but the schools are not interested in discussing the possibility. Mr. Nourse recommended the residents contact the Southwest City School Board and express their feelings on this issue.

Mr. Willis, a resident of 488 Redmond Road for 35 years, addressed the Board with additional concerns about the skateboard park as he is now picking up trash and debris. He has also experienced the youths using profanity, urinating in public as there are no adequate facilities and parking concerns. Mr. Willis suggested the park be installed in the old Kroger parking lot. Mr. Willis thanked the Board of Trustees for the installation of the flag pole at the entrance to the park.

Ms. Lani Cunningham, Lincoln Village North resident, stated that the youth need a place to play and is in favor of the skateboard park. Should there be an accident in the park, the Township is not responsible but if there is an accident in the right of way, with children playing in the street, the Township is liable.

Ms. Jackie Hartigan, 494 Redmond Road, addressed the Board and stated that she is in favor of the park but Lakota Park is not a good location. Lakota Park is not safe and there are problems with violence in Lakota Park. Eliminating access to the park from Sullivant Avenue may improve the problem.

During the upcoming cleanup, Mr. Ison would like the Township Hall yard appearance improved along the fence line to the north of the Township Hall.

Mr. Richard Hartigan would like confirmation from the Board of Trustees that there is not going to be any building of a skateboard park in Lakota Park and the discussions will continue. Mr. Nourse stated that no decision has been made about the location of the skateboard park at this time. Ms. Keller stated that there is a need for further idea sharing and discussion regarding skateboard parks.

Mrs. Bradford, Dorothy Richardson and Dick Schellhaas addressed the Board as they own 80 acres of property in Brown Township and would like to annex into Prairie Township for future development. The Board suggested the family circulate a petition among the voters of Brown Township and Prairie Township and Mr. Nourse offered to be of any assistance.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Chairperson

Clerk