

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE

REGULAR MEETING/MAY 14, 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).

Ms. Keller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the regular and special meeting minutes of April 30, 2003 and the special meeting minutes of May 6, 2003 as written. Vote; Aye.

Ms. Erika Jackson, Franklin County Board of Health, introduced herself and explained the upcoming mosquito control program in the Township. The Ohio Department of Health has declared West Nile an urban epidemic. The Franklin County Board of Health is stressing education in the community and a yard and home checklist was distributed, a list of chemicals used and a mosquito complaint reporting line (614) 462-2483. Blue jays and crows are known to carry the West Nile virus and the Ohio Department of Health is testing these birds. Please report suspicious birds to the Franklin County Board of Health for tracking purposes.

Ms. Keller asked Mr. Kennedy if the recent rains drained sufficiently in the Tamara Avenue area and he stated that they have drained and there is no standing water to breed mosquitoes.

The Clerk presented the following items:

The Clerk presented an estimate from Franklin County on the Tamara Drainage Improvement project in the amount of \$48,906.00. Mr. Jim Pajk, Franklin County Bridge Engineer, requested that the Board of Trustees pass a motion stating that Prairie Township will reimburse the Franklin County Engineers office for the materials and labor associated with the project. The Clerk explained that the project will be planned and scheduled for June/July 2003. Discussion followed.

Mr. Nourse moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve for the Franklin County Engineers to complete the Tamara Avenue Drainage Improvement project at an estimated cost of \$48,906.00, including materials and labor associated with the project. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

2. The Clerk presented a liquor permit transfer of ownership from Sir Punch Inc., 5436 W. Broad Street to New Rome Market Ltd, at the same address and inquired whether a hearing is requested. No hearing is requested.

A renewal of the medical/prescription insurance for all fulltime Township employees and officials was presented to the Board with an increase of 9.3% for the renewal, effective June 1, 2003. The renewal rate for family coverage is \$899.74 and single coverage is \$291.46 per month with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield with no change in the medical/prescription coverage that is currently in place.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the renewal of the medical/prescription insurance for all fulltime employees and officials with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield at a renewal rate of \$899.74 for family coverage and \$291.46 per month for single coverage effective June 1, 2003. Roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Nourse; Aye, Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye.

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

\$10,000.00 from 2191-760-720-0000 to 2191-220-599-0000

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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 \$82,029.71 and approve payment of the following bills. Vote; Aye. (See pending warrant list).

Ms. Anderson introduced representatives from Care Works and WorkHealth in regard to implementing a transition work program in Prairie Township. Ms. Stephanie Risteff, MBA, PT with Ohio Health, explained the transition work grants that are available through the Bureau of Workers Compensation. WorkHealth is the occupational medicine branch of Ohio Health. Transitional work is a rehabilitation program that helps an employee, who is out of work due to a work related injury, progress from their restricted duty ordered by the physical to full duty. The goal is to minimize re-injury, safely accommodate the injured worker at work and help the Township reduce medical and lost-time costs. A copy of the grant was distributed to the Board of Trustees. There is no cost to the Township for implementing the program. Ms. Jamie Mayberry is with Care Works who is Prairie Township's managed care organization (MCO). Care Works is a vendor to the Bureau of Workers Compensation and they medically manage anyone injured at work. Care Works does not make decisions about whether claims are allowed and they do not pay out compensation costs, they are a neutral party paid by BWC. Care Works deems whether treatment is appropriate and then they pay medical bills. Andy Frank, Frank Gates Service Company, is an employer advocate and represents the Township at hearings and they do investigative work. A sister company of Care Works is Voc Works which provides transitional work development and vocational management services. Mr. Nourse stated that all injuries are tracked for scope and cause of accident.

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

1. Hydrant flushing in the eastern portion of the Township is scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup>- May 27th, 2003 and a news release is available for distribution.
2. Chief Lavelly requested funds for two firemen to attend IAFF/IAFC Peer Fitness Trainer Certification Program at Plain Township June 2-6, 2003. The cost is \$595.00 per person. FF Cloud will be one of the attendees and the other will be named in the future.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve two firemen attend the IAFF/IAFC Peer Fitness Trainer Certification Program at Plain Township June 2<sup>nd</sup> through June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at a total cost of \$1,190.00. Vote; Aye.

3. Chief Lavelly requested permission from the Board to donate used fire equipment stored in the old bay at the Township Hall. Mr. Nourse tabled the decision to donate used fire equipment at this time.

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

Elie Sabbagh addressed the Board regarding the timing of the 2003 Road Improvement Project. Community Development Block Grant funds were awarded for the project and Mr. Bill Harris, Franklin County Community Development, will have to approve the bid packet before it is distributed. Mr. Sabbagh suggested that the Township bid the project as one project and not separate the CDBG portion to gain approximately two weeks. The project is tentatively scheduled to bid in June, begin construction in July and complete the project by the beginning or mid-October, 2003. Mr. Sabbagh and Dave McAninch, Road Superintendent, discussed the grant work for the 2004 year and would like permission from the Board to delay the Garden Heights (OPWC) project and apply for funds for the Palmetto area due to the increased traffic from the M/I subdivision and school in the area well as the City of Columbus project

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on Norton Road. Mr. Sabbagh stated that he feels that Palmetto will score well with OPWC if the Township takes out an interest free loan for the work and set the money aside. He will look into prepayment and the estimate for the project on Palmetto, 200 feet east of Norton Road to Redmond Road, is \$923,000.00. The application must be submitted by September 8, 2003.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded, the Board approve postponing the Garden Heights project and apply for Ohio Public Works funds for the Palmetto project, 200 feet east of Norton Road to Redmond Road, which is estimated to cost \$923,000.00. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve Feller, Finch & Associates submit an application, including a loan for 30% of the project, to the Ohio Public Works Commission for the Palmetto project which is 200 feet east of Norton Road at a total cost of \$1,500.00. Vote; Aye.

1. The Road Superintendent reported that the cost for the Road Department to complete a 150' storm sewer extension on Elm Alley in Galloway will be approximately \$3,843.74.

Mr. Nourse moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the Elm Alley 150' storm sewer extension project by the Road Department at an estimate cost of \$3,843.74. Vote; Aye.

2. Dave McAninch invited everyone to the Memorial Day services on May 26th at Galloway Cemetery at 9:30 a.m., Alton Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. and the rededication at Alton M.E. Cemetery at 3:00 p.m.

A resident expressed concern with the seeding on Topsfield Road that has not been completed from the 2002 Road Improvement Project and the Road Superintendent stated that he is aware of the work to be completed and monies have been held to finish the work satisfactorily.

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

1. Mr. Strunk stated that 12 violation letters have been sent out since the last Trustee meeting for junk, debris and illegal outdoor storage.
2. The Zoning Inspector informed that Board that a hearing is scheduled for June 9, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. for the junk vehicles and illegal outdoor storage on the property at 424 N. Grener Road. The Galloway Mill hearing has been rescheduled for the end of May.
3. The Board of Zoning Appeals unanimously approved, with stipulations, a conditional use permit for Bausch Oaks Development for the construction of a road, culvert, drainage pipes and retention ponds into a proposed new subdivision off Bausch Road where a portion of the property is within the floodplain. The stipulations on the permit are that all culverts, ponds, drainage pipes and paving construction drawings are to be reviewed and approved by the Township's engineering consultant. This will ensure that the flow of flood waters will not to be impeded by the proposed improvements within the floodplain which might have the potential for affecting other properties within the same hydrological system. It is further stipulated that said area be developed using the plans submitted making use of the wetland near the Hellbranch waterway.
4. Mr. Strunk stated that the Franklin County Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the comprehensive plan and the Zoning Commission will formally receive the recommendation at their May

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27th meeting. Mr. Strunk stated that a copy of the comprehensive plan is available to anyone interested.

Mr. Ison spoke in favor of a skateboard park and activities in the Township for the kids. The property at Beacon Hill and Maple Drive is a desirable site for a park.

Mr. Pitts, Village Park resident, complimented the Zoning Department for handling the Village Park issues in a timely manner.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he felt that the zoning code stated that there should be absolutely no interference with the 100 year floodplain. He suggested that the plan be reconstructed and not "mess with" the 100 year floodplain.

Mr. Neil Distelhorst stated that the proposed development on Bausch Road is not a Columbus project, it is for 16 homes on 64 acres and the density is much less than the comprehensive plan proposes in that part of the Township and it will be a great project for Prairie Township.

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

1. The cleanup is over and Ms. Anderson thanked the Road Superintendent for his efforts as well as the cooperation of the Township residents. A fall cleanup was proposed and will be discussed at a later date.
2. The Administrator thanked Care Works and WorkHealth for their presentations and stated that a decision on Transition Work will be made at the next meeting.
3. Ms. Anderson requested permission for Jim Strunk and John Holderby to attend a conference through Career Track on July 29th and July 31st at a cost of \$149.00 each. Each employee will attend a different conference in order to have coverage in the Zoning Department.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve Jim Strunk and John Holderby, Zoning Department employees, attend a conference offered by Career Track entitled "How to Handle People with Tact and Skill" on July 29th and July 31st at a cost of \$298.00 total. Vote; Aye.

4. Ms. Anderson requested permission to attend the Ohio Township Administrators Network Spring Forum (OTAN) at Deer Creek Park on May 30, 2003 at a cost of \$30.00 per person and hotel expenses at \$75.00 per night plus tax. The discussion will include conservation development and smart growth, annexation law, and personnel and management practices.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Nourse seconded the Board approve the Township Administrator attend the Ohio Township Administrators Network Spring Forum on May 30, 2003 at a total cost of \$30.00 per person and hotel expenses of \$75.00 per night plus tax. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Wharton stated that the spring cleanup was very successful and residents have expressed interest in a fall cleanup in September or October. Additional dumpsters may be made available for trash disposal for the fall cleanup.

Mr. Wharton was interested in looking into a Township wide contract for a trash pickup and residents with interest or concern regarding this should call Trustee Joe Wharton. More information will be available in the near future.

Mr. Ison expressed concern, during the public comment section of the meeting, regarding a young man in the Township Hall office who is being considered for a

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promotion who cannot seem to get himself to work on time and his attitude needs some modification. This employee has two immediate supervisors, Mr. Jim Strunk and Ms. Elizabeth Anderson. Ms. Anderson stated that she has addressed the situation and the promotion is not going to be presented at this meeting. Mr. Wharton stated that the employee who is being discussed has been under a lot of pressure and tremendous demands have been put on him. Ms. Keller stated that this topic is to be discussed in executive session and Mr. Ison is out of line to propose a solution.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Clerk