

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING/JANUARY 21, 2004

The regular meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees was called to order by the Chairperson Mr. Wharton, with Mr. Stormont, Ms. Keller and Ms. Montag present. Also attending were: Chief Lavelly, Mr. Hatmaker, Ms. Swisher, Mr. McAninch. (See attached list).

Mr. Wharton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the minutes as written for the regular meeting of January 7, 2004. Vote; Aye

The Clerk presented the following items:

1. The Clerk presented an invoice from Feller, Finch & Associates, Inc. for \$4,428.75 for services from 11/3/2003 to 11/30/03 pertaining to 2003 Curb Ramps 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.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board approve the Chairman to sign and Franklin County to pay the invoice from Feller, Finch & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$4,428.75 for services pertaining to the 2003 Curb Ramps Improvements. Vote, Aye.

2. The Clerk presented an invoice from Feller, Finch & Associates, Inc. for \$4,435.00 for services from 11/3/2003 to 11/30/03 pertaining to 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.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board approve the Chairman to sign and Franklin County to pay the invoice from Feller, Finch & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$4,435.00 for services pertaining to the Medfield Way Improvements. Vote, Aye

3. The Local Government Officials' Conference is planned for March 17, 18 & 19, 2004 at the Convention Center at a cost of \$135.00 for two days or \$195.00 for three days. The cost includes all conference materials, continental breakfast, lunch and break refreshments and is open to Trustees and Clerks. The Clerk requested three day attendance and reimbursement for travel and parking expenses.

Mr. Wharton suggested to table until mid February so calendars and schedules can be checked. Ms. Keller concurred.

After the Trustees reviewed the pending warrant list, Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the payment of the ADP payroll in the amount of \$123,147.00 and approve payment of the following bills. Vote; Aye. (See pending warrant list).

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

1. Chief Lavelly requested the approval of the Board to hire a full-time firefighter to replace fulltime firefighter Brian Gatley.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve hiring Jack Ellis as a full-time firefighter to replace full-time firefighter Brian Gatley. Effective January 26, 2004. Vote; Aye

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Deputy Foster addressed the Board with the following matters:

They have responded to many traffic accidents within the last two weeks and several domestic violence situations.

The sign he reported missing at the last Trustee meeting located at the Big Bear exit was replaced. Deputy Foster requested the Board to purchase strobe lights for the dedicated sheriff's vehicles for life flight.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded to purchase strobe lights for the two Township Sheriff cars in the amount of \$100.00. Vote; Aye

Mr. Ison informed the Board that he will be meeting with Sheriff Karnes on January 30, 2004 and will mention any other concerns residents might have.

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

1. Ms. Swisher requested the Board appoint Lani Cunningham to the Zoning Commission effective January 26, 2004 to fulfill an unexpired term.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded to appoint Ms. Cunningham to the Zoning Commission. Vote; Aye

2. Ms. Swisher requested the Board appoint Ms. Jan Pitts to the Board of Zoning Appeals effective January 26, 2004 to fulfill an unexpired term.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded to appoint Ms. Pitts to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Vote; Aye

3. Ms. Swisher provided the Board with a proposed development for the northwest corner of Inah and Palmetto of three office buildings. The project to date has met all Township zoning requirements and Capt. Sanders has also approved the proposal. Road and drainage issues are still being reviewed.

Mr. Wharton requested Ms. Swisher contact the City of Columbus and find out if a fill permit has been issued for the dirt being brought in on the property north of 175 Galloway Rd.

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

1. Mr. McAninch stated that the cost of the strobe lights for the sheriff cars would be greater than \$100.00.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board rescind the motion to purchase strobe lights for the two Township Sheriff cars in the amount of \$100.00. Vote; Aye

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded to purchase strobe lights for the two Township Sheriff cars in the amount of \$150.00. Vote; Aye

2. Mr. McAninch presented to the Board the John Deere Government Program Renewal for the purpose of mowing parks and the right-of-ways. Yearly the tractor is turned in to JD Equipment for a flat rate of \$750.00 plus \$5.00 per hour for the use. Trade difference this year is \$1,730.00.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the trade-in of a 2003 John Deere Tractor for a new 2004 John Deere Tractor from J.D. Equipment on the governmental purchase plan at the total cost of \$1,730.00 which is \$750.00 plus \$980.00 (\$5.00 x 196 hours). Vote; Aye.

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3. Mr. McAninch presented a Resolution to reduce the speed limit on Doherty Road.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board adopt the Resolution to reduce the speed limit on Doherty Road. (Resolution 02-04) Roll call resulted as follows: Ms. Keller, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Wharton, Aye.

4. Mr. McAninch reported he spoke with Mr. Shockley, Franklin County Sanitary Engineer and gave the Board a status on the work which is being done and scheduled to be done for the storm lines where problems have been reported. Additional reports will be given to keep residents updated on their progress.

Mr. Stormont requested Mr. McAninch inform residents of the findings on Old Hall Rd. and new Hall Rd. and problems created by the City development at that location.

5. Mr. McAninch stated that farm tiles in the area have been broken and he notified the City of Columbus they informed him that they have not released the contractor from his responsibilities. The City is doing additional investigation. When weather permits the Township Road Dept. will excavate in the Township right-of-way and the City has agreed to put a camera in the tile to locate the damage and make necessary repairs. A discussion followed.

Mr. Tracy Hatmaker, Administrator, addressed the Board with the following Administrative matters:

1. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board provide him with their comments at the next regular meeting on the personnel policy and return to work policy drafts.
2. Mr. Hatmaker informed the Board that he has a meeting scheduled on February 4, 2004, with the Franklin County Community and Economic Development Department.

Mr. Wharton asked if any residents would be interested in sitting on the Tax Incentive Review Committee. Mr. Ison said he was interested. Mrs. Judy Stalter said she would also be interested. Ms. Keller suggested any residents interested should get in touch with Mr. Hatmaker.

3. Final information on assessments and costs are still needed before the public hearing can continue for the Norton Crossing Lighting District.
4. Mr. Hatmaker informed the Board that he will be working with the Clerk and staff during the month of February to finalize recommendations on permanent appropriations. He will provide the Board with agendas on priorities for the next two years.
5. Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission has been working on a multi county regional strategy and are proposing a series of workshops. They have requested Township representatives be present at these workshops. The first one is scheduled for January 30, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. and the second is scheduled on February 6, 2004 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Wharton expressed concern to have Prairie Township influence at these meetings and the benefits of providing them with the Prairie Township Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Hatmaker said they requested and received a copy of the Comprehensive Plan several weeks ago.

Mr. Ison requested the Board place a fence along the north property line of the Township Hall and make the necessary changes in the meeting room to better provide

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the public with visibility to power point presentations. A discussion followed.

Mr. Worthington requested the Board entertain the idea to limit the time residents speak.

Mr. Pitts informed the Board that members of the Village Park Homeowners Association attended and met with the Lincoln Village North Homeowners Association. The residents discussed and are requesting the Township Trustee's appoint a committee of homeowner association liaisons/residents to report about storm water and drainage. Mr. Wharton asked they provide the Board with a structure in writing.

Mr. Scior asked for an update on the Senior Center Director. Mr. Wharton gave a status on the position. A discussion followed.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded to place an ad in the newspaper seeking a Senior Center Director. Vote, Aye;

Mr. Berton questioned the union securities not received. Clerk stated the check will be ready by the end of the next business day.

Mr. Distlehorst requested the Board provide residents with an income statement/ source of revenue. Where the money is coming from and where it is being spent. He also requested minimum information be provided on a website for the Township. Mr. Wharton provided Mr. Distlehorst with a packet of information on Township funds. A discussion followed regarding the website.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Chairperson

Clerk