

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE

REGULAR MEETING/MAY 12, 2005

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

Mr. Stormont led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Elie Sabbagh requested the Board to approve the final pay request including the change order for \$600.00 in the amount of \$5,324.57 for 2K General.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board to approve the final pay request including the change order for \$600.00 in the amount of \$5,324.57 for 2K General. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Elie Sabbagh updated the Board on the Palmetto Project he received seven bids with Miller Pavement as low bid at \$989,397.09. After review the corrected amount is \$986,252.10. Mr. Sabbagh requested the Board to approve and sign the notice to proceed with Miller Pavement for OPWC.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board to approve and sign the notice to proceed with Miller Pavement for OPWC. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Elie Sabbagh requested the Board to approve the OPWC letter for the chair to sign changing the chairman and clerk.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board to approve the OPWC letter for the chair to sign changing the chairman and clerk. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Ison asked of the \$986,252.10 what portion is the Township responsible for. Mr. Sabbagh replied the total project was estimated at \$1,264,400.00. The Township is responsible for \$379,320.00 a zero interest loan and \$885,080.00 is from grants.

Deputy Timbrook asked if anyone in audience called on May 4th to report a suspicious person in the area of Oak Park and Hall. An arrest was made for possession of drugs. On May 4th there was an arrest made of a person passing counterfeit money. On May 6th in Lincoln Park area an arrest was made for crack/cocaine and two hand guns. On May 7th an arrest was made for a stolen car from Speedway. A drive by shooting on Arnold Ave. an arrest was made. In the Hilton Ave area a white male is robbing people in the area if you see anyone suspicious please call the Sheriff's Department.

The Clerk presented the following items:

After the Trustees reviewed the pending warrant list, Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the payment of the ADP payroll in the amount of \$101,566.80 and approve payment of the following bills. Vote; Aye. (See pending warrant list).

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

1. Chief Feustel thanked everyone for their support of the passage of the fire levy.
2. Chief Feustel announced May 15th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. is Open House at 123 Inah Avenue for EMS week

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

1. Mr. McAninch gave a presentation of the park equipment that is in the

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE

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Township. Mr. McAninch requested the Board to approve \$24,237.00 for Anderson Equipment for playground equipment in Carl Frye Park.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board to approve \$24,237.00 for Anderson Equipment for playground equipment. Vote; Aye.

2. Mr. McAninch updated the Board on shelter house pricing and he will have that for the next meeting.

Ms. Lani Cunningham thanked Ms. Connie Swisher for supporting the Lincoln Village Residents Association Spring Flea Fantasia.

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

1. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to approve Ohio Insurance Services for medical insurance coverage at \$43,954.24 per month for the Township employees.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board to approve Ohio Insurance Services for medical insurance coverage at \$43,954.24 per month for the Township employees. Vote; Aye.

2. Mr. Hatmaker updated the Board on the copier proposals and will have additional information at a later date.
3. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to approve the revised overtime rates to be effective May 18, 2005 and retro overtime rates to include longevity.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board to approve the revised overtime rates to be effective May 18, 2005 and retro overtime rates to include longevity. Vote; Aye.

4. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to approve Timothy Beathard & Associates to advertise New Rome Auction on May 22, May 29 and June 5, 2005. Auction date is June 16, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. and real estate at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board to approve Timothy Beathard & Associates to advertise New Rome Auction on May 22, May 29 and June 5, 2005. Vote; Aye.

5. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to approve the Chair to sign the Auction Agreement, Sale Contract and Disclosure Statement for Timothy Beathard & Associates.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board to approve the Chair to sign the Auction Agreement, Sale Contract and Disclosure Statement for Timothy Beathard & Associates. Vote; Aye.

6. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to approve Ohio Insurance Services for Cobra Insurance administration for \$600.00 per year and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement.

Mr. Wharton moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board to approve Ohio Insurance Services for Cobra Insurance administration for \$600.00 per year and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Ison asked is the township is paying for Cobra administration and is it for employees that have left township employment. Mr. Hatmaker replied yes the township is paying for Cobra administration for employees.

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE

REGULAR MEETING/MAY 12, 2005

Mr. Ison asked who has clear title to the New Rome property located at 30 Maple Drive. Mr. Griggs replied we have having a title search done on the property and New Rome owns it right now. A discussion followed.

Old Business:

Ms. Keller announced she received the written resignation for John Holderby, Zoning Field Inspector effective July 8, 2005. Ms. Keller requested the Board to accept the written resignation of John Holderby, Zoning Field Inspector, and effective July 8, 2005.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board to accept the written resignation of John Holderby, Zoning Field Inspector, and effective July 8, 2005. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Neil Distlehorst asked about if land in Galloway east of Galloway Road that runs to Alkire Road were annexed into City of Columbus those children would go to South Western City Schools. Mr. Wharton replied it is where ever the win win agreement line goes. Mr. Distlehorst stated it is not part of the win win agreement and if it is annexed they would go to City of Columbus schools if it isn't annexed they would go to South Western City Schools.

Mr. Wharton announced the Columbus Dispatch published an article "Soaring Sewer Rates Feared". Mr. Wharton suggested to everyone to please read the article.

New Business:

Public Comment:

Mr. Neil Distlehorst is extremely upset by the "Trustee Talk" article written by Mr. Wharton that appeared on the front page of the Newsletter. He is upset that Mr. Wharton considers the residents as second class citizens unless they agree with what Mr. Wharton thinks is best for the township. In second he also stated that Mr. Wharton thinks without Limited Home Rule government that the township is doomed for failure. The Home Rule section of the Ohio Revised Code provides that the Trustees could have put this issue before the voters of Prairie Township. But they decided to bypass the voters which they could under the ORC and adopt it. Mr. Wharton and the other two trustees who severed when this was adopted didn't want the residents to of the township to vote on this highly important township issue. Also stated in paragraph two is that "large un bid contracts were awarded without competitive bidding as required by law". He is well aware that this township has been audited by the State Auditor through 2002, but he is not aware that any finding of such "lawbreaking" were cited in the audit report, thus bringing into question this supposed statement of fact by Mr. Wharton. What he doesn't tell you is that in the past two years the township has entered into contracts with Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease , that has cost the township over \$180,000 so far with more to come. This contract was not bid. The Trustees also contracted with GGC Engineering for a study of the Gutheil land and this was also a UN bid contract for \$9,945.00. Also the township entered into a contract to have the Gutheil land appraised with no bidding. Also the township has received a report from GGC but no report has ever been given to the residents as to exactly what Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease has been doing to be paid over \$180,000.00 in the last two years. He thinks such a report would be of great interest to the residents. The third paragraph really rips the hardworking, dedicated township employees. He wasn't aware that until Mr. Wharton was elected we had a second class underdeveloped township government, in his words the basic services we got were snow plowing by the road department and did not mention anything else they do; also he states we had "questionable fire protection" and he is sure our firefighters have learned how to better protect us since Mr. Wharton was elected. Mr. Wharton goes on to accuse the zoning department of selective enforcement, he would like to hear from Ms. Swisher her reaction to that statement, because of his nine years on the BZA and Zoning Commission he never heard of

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE

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anything like this. Mr. Wharton goes on to say the "eastern border of the township was allowed to be annexed into the City of Columbus for new development". He doesn't know where the words "allowed" comes from since the Franklin County Commissioners approve all annexation, and he was unaware that any requested annexations from Prairie Township to Columbus have been denied at the request of Prairie Township since Mr. Wharton was elected, so nothing has changed, although Mr. Wharton seems to want you to think otherwise. Mr. Wharton is well aware, although his article is select on the issue, nothing the township can or will do can stop property owners from annexing to Columbus if their property abuts Columbus. Mr. Wharton also complains about a new reporter who was contracted to produce the township newsletter saying it was hard for him to believe he could be objective if he also reported on the township. It's hard for me to believe we have had a more biased, one-sided article ever appear in our township newsletter that the township paid to have put in there. Something that Mr. Wharton failed to mention in his article is that in the four years prior to his election, the township general fund increased over 3.4 million dollars, while in the three years since he has taken office the township general fund has declined almost 3.3 million, and if it continues in this manner he believes the township will be asking for a tax levy within three to 5 years.

Mr. Wharton commented the township had an increase from an estate tax from Galbreath.

Mr. Ison commented on being a second class citizen. He feels anyone who comes to a meeting should be considered a second class citizen.

Mr. Greg Hart stated his dad John Hart prided himself and this township. Since Mr. Wharton and Ms. Keller were elected they have tried to make this a little city and were not going to be a little city. He took great offense of what Mr. Wharton said about his dad.

Ms. Judy Statler was livid when she read the article in the newsletter. She is not a second class citizen. She was not a trustee who did nothing. John Hart and her served and did a good job. Our fire department was excellent, our road department was excellent, our zoning department was excellent and we didn't have to spend millions of dollars to do it. Ms. Statler asked if there is a kick back on the single trash hauler.

Mr. Stormont stated he and Ms. Keller did not see the newsletter nor did he know what was going to be put in the article until it already went to print. Mr. Wharton informed Mr. Hatmaker not to let them see it. They had no knowledge of it until it was sent to be bagged.

Announcements:

Mr. Stormont announced he tried to get Ohio American Water here to speak at the meeting and what they can do for the township but he received an email from Randy stating he was called out of town and that he would attend a meeting in June.

Ms. Keller announced on May 24th from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in front of the State House a Rally for the legislatures to change how schools are funded.

Mr. McAninch announced the Memorial Day Services at Alton Cemetery on May 30, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. and Galloway Cemetery on May 30, 2005 at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Hatmaker announced a public meeting on the Darby Accord at Alton Hall School. The time has not been set yet he will update everyone as information comes available.

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE

REGULAR MEETING/MAY 12, 2005

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Wharton seconded the Board recess into executive session pursuant to the ORC 121.22 (g) (1) for the purpose of considering the appointment and/or promotion of a public employee and pursuant to ORC 121.22 (g) (2) for the purpose considering the purchase of property for a public purpose. A roll call resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Stormont; Aye.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Wharton seconded to resume the regular meeting at 9:17 p.m. pursuant to the ORC 121.22 (g) (1) for the purpose of considering the appointment and/or promotion of a public employee and pursuant to ORC 121.22 (g) (2) for the purpose considering the purchase of property for a public purpose with no further action taken. A roll call resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; Aye, Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Stormont; Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Chairperson

Clerk