

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING/AUGUST 31, 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: Asst. Chief Good, Mr. Hatmaker, Ms. Swisher, Mr. McAninch and Ms. Deuschle. (See attached list).

Mr. Stormont led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board approve the minutes as written for the regular meetings of July 6th, July 20th, August 3rd and the August 17, 2005. Vote; Aye

Mr. Stormont opened the public hearing on the Inah Avenue and Eastham Way Improvement Projects.

Mr. Brice Schmitmeyer of Feller, Finch and Associates gave an overview of the projects. The Inah Avenue project is roadway and drainage improvement on Inah Avenue from Sullivant Avenue to Broad Street approximately 3,250 linear feet. Replacing the existing nineteen foot roadway with a new 27 foot wide curb and guttered street also new sidewalks and curb ramps on both sides of the street and replace storm inlets and improvement to the existing storm drainage system. The Eastham Way project is roadway and drainage improvement on Eastham Way from Sturbridge to Schoolhouse Lane of approximately 1,200 linear feet. Replacing the existing 26 foot wide curb street with a 20 foot wide curb and guttered street add new sidewalks and curb ramps along south side of the road and replace storm inlets and improvement to the existing storm drainage system. Mr. Schmitmeyer requested the Board to approve AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO SEEK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SCIP/LTIP FOR FUNDING OF VARIOUS CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, and authorize the Chair to sign the APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST, APPLICANT CERTIFICATION.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board to approve AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO SEEK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SCIP/LTIP FOR FUNDING OF VARIOUS CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, and authorize the Chair to sign the APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST, APPLICANT CERTIFICATION. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Stormont closed the public hearing on the Inah Avenue and Eastham Way Improvement Projects.

Deputy Timbrook reported to the Board an increase of stolen vehicles in the area. Last week the Sheriff's Department recovered four stolen vehicles in the Township. Also, the Sheriff's Department performed four search warrants in Lincoln Park and after a two month investigation it resulted in 36 arrests, 12 felony drug trafficking arrest and 10 prostitution arrests.

Ms. Brenda Lowe asked why the Sheriff's Department doesn't fingerprint the vehicles that are broke into. Deputy Timbrook responded that is the responsibility of the detective bureau.

Mr. Stormont stated they have had several meetings and public input on the exclusive trash hauling contract. They have heard comments both for and against. Mr. Stormont asked each Trustee their position.

Mr. Wharton stated he has been in favor of the exclusive contract from the beginning its governments job to get the most bang for the buck for the residents and this is an opportunity for that.

Mr. Stormont stated he attended some the of trash committees meetings to see first

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hand the issues that were raised by the committee members. I would like to thank all those committee members for taking time out of their lives to assist the Board on this difficult issue. As many of you know, the committee's recommendation was to not proceed with an exclusive trash hauling contract for the Township for many different reasons. I agreed with the committee's vote on the issue at that time and I still believe that an exclusive trash contract is not wanted by the residents of this Township.

I have heard from numerous residents, and it is obvious to me that they want the right to choose whom they want for trash service. In addition, I am an independent businessman. I know the hardships and the struggles that small independent businesses face today. I will not be responsible for putting other independent businesses out of business when it is quite obvious the residents are happy with their service they currently have. I do not believe that the Township should not grant an exclusive hauler contract for trash and therefore I will be voting no on this issue.

Ms. Keller stated this issue came about because of universal problems with regard to trash. Almost all jurisdictions in Franklin County have a single trash hauler, including most townships. The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO), which is the unit that is charged with coordinating the collection and disposal of waste in central Ohio has encouraged this concept for many years. Therefore, the township looked into this concept for several reasons:

1. Recycling--landfills will quickly reach their capacity if we do not recycle. We are encouraged to do this to preserve current landfill life and to avoid higher costs for citing a new landfill, which we all will eventually absorb.
2. The contract require everything to be picked up by the hauler except hazardous waste at no extra charge, even bulk items and yard waste.
3. A single hauler would potentially lower the cost to all residents including senior citizens and those on fixed incomes.

Based on these concerns, it was decided that this should be explored. It was never intended as a power grab to take away rights of citizens and it certainly was not our intent to put anyone out of business. It is my personal opinion, that exploring this issue was a responsible decision. I have a concern about the long term affects of not recycling and the impact on our environment, but, I needed to collect more information regarding the pulse of the community. I have received a number of phone calls from both residents who are in favor and those who are opposed to a single trash hauler. Based on all of the communication via e-mail, letters, phone calls and face to face conversation, I would say that many more people have expressed concerns about the single trash hauler than those who are in favor. Unfortunately, as I randomly solicited views in the community, many, many people were indifferent.

After evaluating the feedback I have gotten, I can see that this issue has become a very divisive issue in the township, which is unfortunate and therefore has become counter productive. I can also see that much more education is needed to help people become aware of environmental issues such as recycling. Until we better understand the significance of this issue on an intellectual level rather than an emotional one, I sense that the township is not ready to take the steps encouraged by SWACO. I hope in the future that citizens everywhere will understand our generation's responsibility regarding this issue so as not to burden future generations.

Knowing that I must make my decision as an elected official, and putting my personal views aside, I will vote nay.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board not to proceed with the granting of the exclusive trash contract and reject all bids received for such purpose. A roll call resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; abstain, Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Stormont; Aye.

Mr. Cumberlander thanked the residents of Prairie Township for all their support and thanked the Board for their decision.

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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 \$98,686.52 and approve payment of the following bills. Vote; Aye. (See pending warrant list).

Mr. Brice Schmitmeyer requested the Board to approve the Chair to sign the contract for Newcomer Concrete Services for the Lincoln Village North and South Sidewalk Improvement Project and funding agreements.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Keller seconded the Board to approve the Chair to sign the contract for Newcomer Concrete Services for the Lincoln Village North and South Sidewalk Improvement Project and funding agreements. Vote; Aye.

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

1. Mr. McAninch requested the Board to adopt the new cemetery rules and fees effective January 1, 2006.

Mr. Wharton moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board to adopt the new cemetery rules and fees effective January 1, 2006.

Old Business:

Mr. John Holderby asked about the status of the Board of Health report that he requested. Mr. Hatmaker responded that he has the report and may pick up a copy of it.

Ms. Keller stated on August 1st we had a suggestion from Ron O'Brien Franklin County Prosecutor that the Township use his office for legal service. Ms. Keller contacted his office and is willing to use his office more. The prosecutors office can provide the township a law director but not until January 2006. Ms. Keller requested the Board approve the transfer of legal files to Assistant County Prosecutor Mr. Nick Soulus for future legal representation.

Ms. Keller moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board approve the transfer of legal files to Assistant County Prosecutor Mr. Nick Soulus for future legal representation. A roll call resulted as follows: Mr. Wharton; Abstain, Ms. Keller; Aye, Mr. Stormont; Aye.

Mr. Neil Distlehorst thanked Ms. Keller for her comments. He asked what action was taken at the special meeting. Mr. Stormont responded that no action was taken.

New Business:

Public Comment:

Mr. Russ Pitts stated Prairie Township was not fairly represented tonight and thanked Mr. Wharton for his efforts.

Ms. Jan Pitts stated she served on the single trash hauler committee and is disappointed that the rest of the township is going to suffer because a few residents from Lincoln Village North and South didn't want a single trash hauler. Now the entire community will continue to pay higher trash fees. Ms. Pitts thanked Mr. Wharton for his efforts and stated she was disappointed with the actions of the Board.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28p.m.

Chairperson

Clerk