

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE

REGULAR MEETING/AUGUST 2, 2006

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

Mr. Stormont led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board approve the minutes pending corrections for the regular meeting of July 19, 2006. Vote; Aye

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board to replace the April 12, 2006 and May 10, 2006 minutes with the approved amended minutes of April 12, 2006 and May 10, 2006. Vote; Aye.

Ms. Montag stated she has sent a letter to Mr. Ron O'Brien, Franklin County Prosecutor, regarding the discrepancy of the minutes of what needs to be included in the minutes. Mr. Kennedy stated they have received legal advice on the issue and bottom line is the minutes are the Board of Trustees minutes and their job as Trustees is to keep accurate and complete minutes. Mr. Kennedy asked if Mr. Distlehorsts' statement didn't happen or was their anything in Mr. Distlehorsts' statement that was false. Ms. Montag responded she did summarize his statement and that is all that is required by law is a complete summary. Mr. Kennedy stated he talked with Mr. Rob Williams and he stated the minutes are the Boards meeting minutes and they have control over their contents. He also stated even though they are signed, minutes that are inconsistent with those approved by the Board are not official and the Board can correct them without going through any special process. Ultimately, he said the Board may force the Fiscal Officer to replace the incorrect minutes with the correct minutes by filing a writ of mandamus. This is conscious to a lawsuit that if the Board would prevail would result the court ordering the Fiscal Officer to correct the minutes. Mr. Kennedy suggested replacing the amended minutes. Ms. Montag asked the Board to wait for an opinion back from Mr. Ron O'Brien's office. Mr. Kennedy stated the motion is made and carried and either you can replace the minutes or they will take it to the next step.

Corporal Eing and Lieutenant Bain reported to the Board there have not been as many burglaries in the last couple of weeks.

Mr. Mueller asked if the Sheriff's Department has a special department to handle graffiti in the community. Lieutenant Bain responded they do have a special department to handle gangs. Mr. Mueller asked if they have any literature on how to deal with graffiti. Lieutenant Bain stated if he sees anyone doing any graffiti to call the Sheriff's Department and report it.

Mr. Stormont presented two proposals for comprehensive property and liability insurance coverage. Rinehart-Walter-Danner and Associates for \$34,869.00 and Burnham and Flowers for \$36,329.00.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board approve Rinehart-Walter-Danner and Associates for \$34,869.00 for comprehensive and property and liability insurance coverage. Vote; Aye.

The Fiscal Officer presented the following items:

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board approve the following supplemental appropriations. Vote; Aye.

\$3,333.50 from 1000-110-314-0000 to 1000-420-370-0000.

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After the Trustees reviewed the pending warrant list, Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board approve the payment of the ADP payroll in the amount of \$112,704.33 and approve payment of the following bills. Vote; Aye. (See pending warrant list).

Ms. Montag presented to the Board the sufficient signatures for the Senior Center Initiative Petition Tax Levy and requested the Board for a resolution or letter to file with the Board of Elections to place the issue on the ballot. Ms. Schlosser stated there is no requirement from the Board of Trustees to do so. Mr. Kennedy read two legal opinions stating no resolution is required from the board of trustees. Ms. Montag stated at least 4 different times that the Board of Elections informed her that something needed to come from the legislative body to place it on the ballot. Mr. Kennedy stated that we are at the point where the petition process got messed up last time. And after telling the fiscal officer at least 5 different times that the next step in this process is for the Fiscal Officer to certify the sufficiency and validity of the initiative petition and the way to do that is to make sure all the steps are met and to take it back down to the board of elections. Ms. Montag stated she would take the petitions and file them with the Board of Elections. And if there were any problems she would inform the board at the next trustee meeting.

Ms. Williams asked for a complete budget for the Senior Center for the past year and also the number of township residents that belong to the Senior Center. Mr. Kennedy responded the budget and appropriations are on the website. Ms. Cunningham stated there are 237 township residents that are members. Mr. Stormont stated Mr. Hatmaker would have copies of the budget for her.

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

1. Ms. Swisher stated July 28, 2006 was the deadline for job applications for the Zoning Field Inspector position. She received 17 applications, two with experience. She interviewed both applicants. Ms. Swisher's recommendation is Ms. Molly Mooney. Mr. Kennedy asked if the Board would like to interview the qualified candidates. Ms. Schlosser would like to interview Ms. Swisher's recommendation. Ms. Schlosser would like a special meeting on August 4, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. to interview Ms. Mooney.
2. Ms. Swisher updated the Board on the Mix/Stiles apartments. The state inspection has been completed, the building were not condemned and provided a list of items needing addressed before the buildings could be habitable. Mr. Stormont asked if there was a time frame when the repairs needed done. Ms. Swisher responded when she received that information from the judge she would update the Board.

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

1. Mr. McAninch requested the Board approve the chair to sign final forms and OPWC forms for the Palmetto Street Improvement Project.

Mr. Kennedy moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded Board approve the chair to sign final forms and OPWC forms for the Palmetto Street Improvement Project. Vote; Aye.

2. Mr. McAninch requested the Board approve advertising for bid dates for the salt shed on August 14 & 21, 2006, with bid opening on August 31, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board approve advertising for bid dates for the salt shed at 6725 Alkire Road on August 14 & 21, 2006, with bid opening on August 31, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. Vote; Aye.

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3. Mr. McAninch updated the Board on the nuisance cases. Mr. McAninch requested the Board to declare 4924 Owen Street and parcel number 240-002265 on West Broad Street nuisance properties and be cut by the township on or after August 3, 2006.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board to declare 4924 Owen Street and parcel number 240-002265 on West Broad Street nuisance properties and be cut by the township on or after August 3, 2006. Vote; Aye.

4. Mr. McAninch requested the Board to declare 4924 Owen Street a nuisance for trash and debris and authorize the Road Department to clean it up.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board to declare 4924 Owen Street a nuisance for trash and debris and authorize the Road Department to clean it up. Vote; Aye.

5. Mr. McAninch updated the Board on August 4, 2006 at 12:00 noon they will open bids on the Eastham Way Project.
6. Mr. McAninch updated the Board they started fogging for mosquitoes on August 1, 2006 and are fogging the entire township, it is also posted on the website.
7. Mr. McAninch updated the Board on the drainage project at 23 Maple Drive. It is completed and waiting for the asphalt patch.

Ms. Sue Randall addressed the Board with drainage and sewage problems behind 6538 West Broad Street in Alton which is affecting the camp ground in Alton. The Franklin County Board of Health has been notified and the property owner is complying with their suggestions. A more permanent solution to help with this public health concern would be to install drainage along the alley, eventually discharging into the storm sewer at West Broad Street. Mr. Stormont asked Mr. McAninch to get with ODOT and Franklin County to resolve the issue.

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

1. Chief Feustel announced they will be receiving the new medic on August 3, 2006 and putting in service on August 4, 2006 which was paid for from all the EMS fees collected.
2. Chief Feustel announced they have free box fans available for seniors and anyone who is in need of a fan.

Old Business:

Mr. Meuller asked for an update on the West Broad Street Corridor. Ms. Swisher respond Mr. Hatmaker is working on the signatures for the JEDD (Joint Economic Development District).

New Business:

Public Comment:

Announcements:

Ms. Lani Cunningham announced the Senior Center is hosting a spaghetti dinner on August 19, 2006 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., tickets are \$5.00 pre sale and \$6.00 at the door.

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Mr. Russ Pitts asked Mr. Kennedy about the minutes at the beginning of the meeting and asked if it was in regards to a letter that was read back in April. Mr. Pitts stated he thought the statement Mr. Distlehorst read was inappropriate because the article that Mr. Distlehorst was referring to was a few months old. Mr. Pitts stated the gentleman was complaining about spending their tax dollars in Prairie Township. The Board already voted and accepted the minutes and now the Board wants to change the minutes. Why? Mr. Kennedy responded it was a statement that was made, the minutes are ours, and you have to be able to follow what happened at the meeting. That statement took place, it was a factual statement, it was a statement from a resident and all other statements that were ever said have always been put in the minutes. This statement, just because it was against the Fiscal Officer she chose not to put it in the minutes. We feel as a Board that it needed placed in the minutes. Mr. Pitts stated that night that Mr. Distlehorst read that statement he knows two people keep their mouths closed because it was a dead issue, it was done and over with until he read that statement. He wishes now that he would have said something now so it would have been on record as well.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Chairperson

Fiscal Officer