

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE REGULAR MEETING/DECEMBER 6, 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, Mr. Hatmaker, Ms. Swisher and Mr. McAninch. (See attached list).

Mr. Stormont led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board approve the minutes as written for the regular meeting of November 20, 2006. Vote; Aye

Deputy Weiner introduced Lieutenant Croston as the second shift Lieutenant to the Board. Deputy Weiner highlighted the monthly statistics, 573 dispatched runs, 635 pick up runs, 38 domestic runs, 99 reports taken, 356 record checks, 10 felony arrests, 25 misdemeanor arrests, 12 felony warrant arrests, 31 misdemeanor warrant arrests, 29 prisoners conveyed, 4 stolen vehicles recovered, 68 non-crash citations, 27 total crashes investigated and 5 omvi arrests.

Deputy reported to the Board the last couple of weeks a string of criminal damaging in Lincoln Village North and South rocks are being thrown through residents front windows of their homes. One resident reported they saw three or four teenagers. They continue to work the warrants and the speed issue in on Lombard and Frost.

Mr. Will Davis asked when this was happening. Deputy Weiner responded from 9:00 p.m. until early morning and any day of the week and believes they are on foot. Deputy asked if anyone sees a group of juveniles walking to please call the Sheriff's Department so they can look into it.

Mr. Jamie Mueller stated Columbus had a conference about addressing gangs and graffiti and asked if the Sheriff's Department attended. Corporal Eing responded their community relations department currently handles gangs and graffiti and someone from that department would have attended but was not sure if someone did.

The Fiscal Officer presented the following items:

Ms. Montag announced to the Board that the Audit for 2003 and 2004 was received from the Auditor of State and they have a findings for recovery for \$4,942.73 against the previous board.

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

\$6,625.00 from 1000-110-240-0000 to 1000-110-131-0000.
\$1,566.59 from 1000-760-730-0000 to 1000-310-360-0000.
\$3,000.00 from 1000-110-599-0000 to 1000-910-910-0000.
\$3,000.00 from 1000-760-730-0000 to 1000-910-910-0000.
\$2,000.00 from 1000-760-740-0000 to 1000-910-910-0000.
\$10,000.00 from 2191-220-318-0000 to 2191-220-359-0000.
\$10,000.00 from 2191-220-420-0000 to 2191-220-360-0000.

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 \$142,207.19 and approve payment of the following bills. Vote; Aye. (See pending warrant list).

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

1. Ms. Swisher requested the Board approve to appoint Ms. Hulda Moffit to the Zoning Commission Board as an alternate for a two year term.

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Mr. Kennedy moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board approve to appoint Ms. Hulda Moffit to the Zoning Commission Board as an alternate for a two year term. Vote; Aye.

2. Ms. Swisher announced the Giant Eagle final lease was signed and the zoning permit has been issued and will hopefully be open in spring of 2007.

Ms. Montag presented to the Board two new liquor permits one for 4758 West Broad Street Get Go and 4780 West Broad Street Giant Eagle. No hearing requested.

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

1. Mr. McAninch requested the Board to approve a pay increase for Josh Hoffman from step four \$17.92 to step five \$20.93 per hour effective November 29, 2006 pay period.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board to approve a pay increase for Josh Hoffman from step four \$17.92 to step five \$20.93 per hour effective November 29, 2006 pay period. Vote; Aye.

2. Mr. McAninch requested to the Board to approve hiring Joe Carfagno full-time as a road laborer.

Mr. Stormont stated they would take his recommendation under consideration in executive session.

3. Mr. McAninch updated the Board on the Inah Avenue Project. The Township was awarded over \$900,000.00 issue II grant money and \$500,000.00 zero interest loan. The construction should start in 2008 for new sidewalks, curbs, drainage improvements and the road reconstructed.

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

1. Chief Feustel requested the Board to approve ten firefighters vacation carry-over for a total of 685.5 hours to be used in the first half of 2007.

Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board to approve ten firefighters vacation carry-over for a total of 685.5 hours to be used in the first half of 2007. Vote; Aye.

2. Chief Feustel requested approval to dispose of three fx-21 handheld computers and two HP DeskJet 360 portable printers. The Board approved.
3. Chief Feustel announced the Fire Department will be collecting toys for the "Firefighters 4 Kids Toy Drive". Toy donations can be dropped off at Prairie Township Fire Station 241, 123 Inah Avenue between now and December 24, 2006. Drop of new, unwrapped toys only. Cash donations are also accepted. Checks can be made out to "Firefighters 4 Kids Toy Drive". If you or someone you know is in need of assistance with toys this Christmas, please call 614-252-2799.

Mr. McAninch stated Mr. Hatmaker sent the letter to the Franklin County Engineers office requesting a study be done. Mr. McAninch stated the criteria has changed since the last time a study was requested.

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

1. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to declare 299-329 Mix Avenue and 4619-4625 Stiles Avenue nuisance properties and to have the trash and debris removed on or after December 12, 2006.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board to declare 299-329 Miss Avenue and 4619-4625 Stiles Avenue nuisance properties and to have the trash and debris removed on or after December 12, 2006. Vote; Aye.

2. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to approve OhioHealth Behavioral Health to provide an employee assistance program for township employees at a monthly cost of \$1,080.00.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board to approve OhioHealth Behavioral Health to provide an employee assistance program for township employees at a monthly cost of \$1,080.00. Vote; Aye.

Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded to authorize the Chair to sign the OhioHealth Behavioral Health agreement. Vote; Aye.

3. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to approve the Medical Mutual agreement modification for administration of a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA).

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded Board to approve the Medical Mutual agreement modification for administration of a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). Vote; Aye.

Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded to authorize the Chair to sign the Medical Mutual agreement modification. Vote; Aye.

4. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to approve the Comprehensive Plan amendments and approve to retain MSI planning consultant at \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 to complete the project.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board to approve the Comprehensive Plan amendments and approve to retain MSI planning consultant at \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 to complete the project. Vote; Aye.

5. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to approve to increase Chief Feustel vacation time to 250 hours per year.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board to approve to increase Chief Feustel vacation time to 250 hours per year. Vote; Aye.

6. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to approve the transfer of \$8,000.00 from the transfers out to the Palmetto Street Improvement Fund to make the loan payment.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board to approve the transfer of \$8,000.00 from the transfers out to the Palmetto Street Improvement Fund to make the loan payment. Vote; Aye.

7. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board approve and authorize Mr. Hatmaker to sign the letter to the Budget Commission establishing the Norton Crossing Lighting District Fund and increase appropriations to \$1,852.00 and increase appropriations in the Palmetto Street Improvement Fund to \$8,000.00.

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Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board approve and authorize Mr. Hatmaker to sign the letter to the Budget Commission establishing the Norton Crossing Lighting District Fund and increase appropriations to \$1,852.00 and increase appropriations in the Palmetto Street Improvement Fund to \$8,000.00. Vote; Aye.

8. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to approve and authorize the Chair to sign a letter to the PUCO disputing the rate increase to residents.

Mr. Kennedy moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board to approve and authorize the Chair to sign a letter to the PUCO disputing the rate increase to residents. Vote; Aye.

9. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to approve and authorize the Chair to sign a letter to Rinehart, Walter, Danner & Associates for eligibility of certain defense and indemnification expenses for coverage for prior Board members Teresa Keller, Jeff Nourse and Joe Wharton.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded to forward to the townships liability insurance carrier the request from Teresa Keller, Joseph Wharton and Jeffrey Nourse asking the Board to defend and indemnify them from any claims resulting from the Ohio Auditors of the State audit of the townships fiscal years 2003 and 2004 and authorize the Chair to sign the letter of request. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Kennedy stated over two years ago he started sending in information to the auditors on the drainage work and he thought it was inappropriate and was wrongful use of public monies on private property. The auditors said it had to wait for a regular audit to look at the information. In May of 2004 I started to send a packet of information in. After I sent the information in I was told they would look at it at the regular audit. What happened from that information, on May 31, 2006, there was a proposed finding and recovery for the full amount and the auditors agreed with everything that I had said. On the proposed finding on May 31, 2006 it gave the former Board five business days to respond. On June 29, 2006 the current Board received a response from Bricker and Eckler disputing the findings for recovery. At that time on May 31, 2006 no one was notified at the township of anything. No one from the township got a chance to respond to Bricker and Eckler's response. After the auditor's received Bricker and Eckler's response they then on November 17, 2006 there were three findings one for Tamara Avenue work, Weymouth & Carilla and Annhurst. From Bricker and Eckler's response the auditor dropped Tamara Avenue, Weymouth & Carilla and issued findings for recovery only for Annhurst. That finding was issued on November 17, 2006. After that the Board received another letter from Bricker and Eckler asking the Board for indemnification and legal defense. On November 30, 2006 the Board received a letter from the auditor explaining their position on all three cases. The Board received legal advice they need to turn this all over to the insurance carrier and let the insurance carrier make the decision.

Ms. Pam Williams asked they are asking for their legal fees to be paid, how much is that? Mr. Kennedy responded that is between the auditor's office and the insurance company.

Mr. Neil Distlehorst what did indemnification mean. Ms. Schlosser responded they are seeking indemnification from their insurance company. So they need to send the paper work to file the claim to the insurance company. Then the insurance company takes into consideration all the evidence and determines whether or not they are covered by the policy and are entitled to indemnification for all their expenses the findings of recovery and legal fees.

Ms. Melinda Shoaf asked about the street lights in WestPoint. Mr. Hatmaker responded that per Greg Zorich with AEP the drawings are still in engineering.

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Mr. Will Davis asked about the street lights on West Broad in New Rome. Ms. Montag responded she turned those lights into ODOT and as of last night the lights have been turned back on.

Mr. Jim Morrison asked how close the Big Darby comes to Lake Darby Estates. Mr. Hatmaker responded that Lake Darby Estates is part of the Big Darby Accord. A discussion followed.

Old Business:

Mr. Virgil Hibbs asked about the community center. Ms. Schlosser responded that the City of Columbus is working on a design with the architects and holding public hearings in the areas of consideration for the center.

Mr. Virgil Hibbs stated the Board offered no support for no thru trucks on South Murray Hill Road. Mr. McAninch responded the signs are standard size and trucks are permitted to use the road if making deliveries. Mr. Stormont asked Mr. Hatmaker to address the issue with Major Mann.

Mr. Gene Jones complained of drive thru traffic on South Greener from Sullivan to Broad.

New Business:

Public Comment:

Mr. Will Davis announced that he has phone cards available for family members that have veterans overseas.

Ms. Judy Stalter thanked the Board on behalf of the Zoning Commission for approving the comprehensive plan amendments and planning consultant.

Announcements:

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board adjourn into executive session at 8:10 p.m. pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 121.22(G)(1) for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment and/or promotion of a public employee. Roll call resulted as follows: Ms. Schlosser; Aye, Mr. Kennedy; Aye, Mr. Stormont; Aye.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board resume the special meeting 8:57 p.m. pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 121.22(G)(1) for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment and/or promotion of a public employee. Roll call resulted as follows: Ms. Schlosser; Aye, Mr. Kennedy; Aye, Mr. Stormont; Aye.

Mr. Stormont moved, Ms. Schlosser seconded the Board to approve the hiring of Joe Cafagno as a Road Department Laborer, at a step three employee as to the road department salary schedule due to his ten years experience at Dublin, with standard benefit package, 80 hours of vacation after successful completion of a six month probationary period, also 100 hours of sick leave to be credited on start date, balance of documented sick leave from City of Dublin to be credited after six month probationary period. Holiday as per the Ohio Revised Code, this is contingent upon successful completion of a physical and drug test. A roll call resulted as follows: Ms. Schlosser; Aye, Mr. Kennedy; Aye; Mr. Stormont; Aye.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Chairperson

Fiscal Officer