

at 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

DATE: NOVEMBER 05, 08

The Chairperson Ms. Schlosser called the regular meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees to order with Mr. Stormont, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. McCardle present. Also in attendance were Assistant Fire Chief Good, and Mr. Hatmaker, Township Administrator. (See attached list).

Ms. Schlosser led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Stormont seconded and the Board approved the minutes for the regular meeting of October 22, 2008. All voted aye.

Public Hearing held for the Lake Darby North Lighting District

Ms. Schlosser moved to reopen the public hearing on the Lake Darby Estates 2, Lake Darby Estates 2 Extended and Lake Darby North Proposed Lighting District. Motion was seconded by Mr. Stormont. All voted aye.

Ms. Schlosser explained that if anyone in attendance at this hearing plans to speak before the Board to testify for or against the lights in the district, they must now please stand to be sworn in. Ms. Schlosser gave the oath to all that intended to speak. Mr. Kennedy stated to the attendees that this is a mere formality and required by law. Ms. Schlosser asked that anyone that wished to speak in favor of the lights speak first.

Residents speaking for the lights:

Allison Wallace of 8930 Stillwater Drive spoke: "I have lived in Darby Estates for 30 years. I don't know if you have ever been thru Darby Estates after dark but it is very dark out there. I just think we would be safer if we had this lights out there."

Jerry Vaido of 8930 Stillwater spoke: "I have two grandchildren that get on the bus at 6:30 a.m. I also have a son that also catches the bus at 6:30 in the morning. It is dark out there. I really think we need lights out there. I know when the light went out over my porch that is when my house got egged. Since the bulb was replaced this has not happened again."

JoAnn Reynolds of 8923 Stillwater Drive spoke: "I started the petition because I felt that for the safety of the people in our neighborhood; we need these streetlights. We have had a rash of homes egged, bicycles stolen, homes have been broken into. Some homeowners have installed security cameras around their homes."

Residents against the lights:

Joe Wilson of 8995 Robinson Court spoke: "I am against the lighting simply for the fact that I don't see how it is going to stop crime. It may or it may not. We live in a court and people say it is dark out there. People wake up, it is nighttime and it is dark at night. Basically that's my speech. I am not for the lights."

Chris Wallace of 8850 Stillwater spoke: "I am against the lights simply because I don't believe that it worked out at West Point. Secondly, you are telling me that it going to cost me \$5 to \$10 per month." (Mr. McCardle advised the resident that the estimated cost per month would be accessed at \$5 per month).

Grant Fish of 870 Candy Lane spoke: "Cost, I agree is minimal. At \$5 per month I probably would not miss it. The biggest issue I have is the appearance of the lights. Are these lights going to be just like the lights that are just south of us? (Mr. McCardle explained that these lights would be top post lamps like those installed in West Point.) I don't think we need them. I don't think we have the crime out there

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like people say there is.”

Robert Merry of 8904 Canoe Drive spoke: “I am against the lights. The reason I moved out here from Clinton is to get away from the lights. I like the darkness at night. When I lived in Clinton it was very well lighted and they still had cars vandalized, homes broken into and property stolen. So the lights in this area did not stop the crime. Also, I do not want my yard torn up when they install the lights and I don’t want to have to keep the weeds cut from around the posts. If people need lights, they should do what I did, install lampposts. This is why I am against the lights.”

Debbie Wilson of 8995 Robinson Court spoke: “We have a lot of people in our neighborhood and one individual is a diabetic, mostly bedridden, and on fixed income. We have another lady who lost her husband and is on fixed income. I just think the cost is too much for them. I don’t want the lights. I don’t like them.”

Another concerned township resident stood and stated: “I want to see first if I qualify for this. I live in Prairie Township. My parents live at 8802 Canoe Drive. I would like to know if I can legally testify against the lights. (Ms. Schlosser stated that since she is not a property owner in the district she cannot legally testify, but she could make a public comment). Mr. Kennedy stated that the property at 8802 Canoe Drive has already been recorded as a No vote on the lights but she still could make a public comment. My daughters frequently visit my family on Canoe Drive and they frequently take walks at night from 10:30 until midnight and have had no problems. I don’t think there is as much crime in the area as people are claiming there is.”

Ms. Schlosser made a motion to close this public hearing on the Lake Darby Estates 2, Lake Darby Estates 2 Extended and Lake Darby North Proposed Lighting District at 7:21p.m. Motioned was seconded by Mr. Stormont. All voted aye.

Ms. Schlosser explained how this process works. “There was a legal petition filed with the Township office. We mailed notices out to all of the affected residents. This evening at 6:00 p.m. the board visited the site to see the neighborhood to also see how dark it was at 6:30 p.m., and also see other factors such as how many people were out on the streets and sidewalks. From there we came back to the Township Hall and reconvened the meeting at 7:00p.m. We have received requests from some individuals that their name be removed from the petition. We also had some people request that they be able to sign the NO petition. After taking in consideration all the above, we still have 66% of the residents indicating that they want the lighting district. Ms. Schlosser explained that we as a township cannot put in a lights unless there is a safety concern. The petition to put in these lights must be, and has been, initiated by the residents of the district. Since a majority of the residents have indicated that they want the lighting district, I would be in favor of approving this lighting district.”

Mr. Kennedy made the following additional comments. “I have the same thoughts as Ms. Schlosser. We look at the YES petition as well as the NO petition to help us make our final decision. We do not make our decision solely on the majority YES petition. Tonight the original total of the YES petition and the NO petition has changed a bit with the additions and deletions of people wanting to change. I have tried to contact the 14 people who wanted to change their vote to find out what their reason was for changing their minds. Due to either wrong addresses or wrong telephone numbers I was only able to talk to 2 of these people and they said that their reason why they wanted to change their vote was because of the uncertainty of the fixed amount of the cost of the lights. The process is complete and according to my calculation we have 74 properties that want the lights and we have 39 properties that do not want the lights. Actually there at 38 properties that do not want the lights due to the fact that one person owns two properties. With that in mind, my vote is that we proceed with the lighting district.

Ms. Schlosser made the following resolution: “I move that the Board adopt resolution 41-08, a resolution declaring the necessity of artificial lighting along designated streets and public ways within portions of Lake Darby Estates 2 subdivision and all of Lake Darby Estates 2 Extended and Lake Darby North subdivisions.” Motion was seconded by Mr. Stormont. Roll call votes were: Mr. Kennedy-Aye. Mr. Stormont-Aye. Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Resolution passed.

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Ms. Schlosser also made the following resolution: "I move that the Board adopt resolution 42-08 levying assessments against property owners within the lighting district located within portions of Lake Darby Estates 2 subdivision and all of Lake Darby Estates 2 Extended and Lake Darby North subdivisions and directing the Fiscal Officer to certify a copy of this resolution to the county auditor so that he may collect said assessments". Motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Roll call votes were: Mr. Kennedy-Aye. Mr. Stormont-Aye. Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Resolution passed.

Franklin County Sheriff's Report:

Deputy Plum of the Franklin County Sheriff's Department highlighted the September Crime Statistics for Prairie Township: 543 Dispatch runs: 45 Domestic violence runs: 5 of those dispatch runs involved guns: 101 reports: 7 Felony arrests: 40 Misdemeanor arrests: 3 Felony warrants: 17 Misdemeanor warrants: 48 Citations for traffic violations (4 of which were OVI's):

Deputy Plum also shared the fact that Undercover Officers did a big roundup on Hilton Avenue. The raid on Hilton (October 22 – 24) resulted in 35 total arrests: 12 of these arrests resulted in trafficking and drugs; 5 for possession of drugs; 6 for prostitution; and 4 arrests for selling alcohol to a minor. An additional 10 other felony drug traffic charges are awaiting to be filed. The Officers also recovered \$3,000 cash, 3oz of cocaine, 1oz of crack cocaine, 20 unit doses of heroine, and 5 firearms.

Fiscal Officer's Report:

Mr. McCardle requested the Board's approval of a supplemental appropriation to move \$909.30 from Administration's Other, Communications, Printing, etc. (Line item 1000-11-349-0000) to Administration Supplies (Line item 1000-110-410-0000) to cover costs related to the printer/scanner/copier and to move \$100.00 from Parks Machinery, Equipment, Furniture (Line item 1000-610-740-0000) to Parks-Utilities (Line item 1000-610-359-0000) to cover utilities costs related to Parks.

Ms. Schlosser made the following motion: "I move that the Board approve supplemental appropriations moving \$909.30 from 1000-110-349-0000 (Other/Communications) to 1000-110-410-0000 (Supplies) and \$100.00 from 1000-610-740-0000 (Parks/Machinery, Equipment, and Furniture) to 1000-610-359-0000 (Parks/Utilities). Motion was seconded by Mr. Stormont. Votes were: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. McCardle then requested the Board's approval to pay both the items listed on this week's warrants list summing \$39,900.32 and also this week's payroll summing \$125,415.26. The total amount requested for approval was \$165,315.58. Ms. Schlosser stated "So moved" and the motion was seconded by Mr. Stormont. Votes were: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed.

Fire Department:

Assistant Fire Chief Good began by requesting the Board to certify the promotion list for Lieutenant's and Captains.

Ms. Schlosser made the following motion: "I move that the Board approve the promotion list for the Prairie Township Fire Department as submitted." Motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye. Mr. Kennedy-Aye. Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed.

Chief Good also requested that the Board approve the promotion of Richard D. Critchfield to the rank of Fire Lieutenant, effective immediately.

Ms. Schlosser made the following motion: "I move that the Board approve the promotion of Firefighter

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Richard D. Critchfield to the rank of Fire Lieutenant". Motion was seconded by Mr. Stormont. Votes were: Mr. Kennedy-Aye. Mr. Stormont-Aye. Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed.

Chief Good then swore in Richard D. Critchfield as Fire Lieutenant.

Chief Good next asked the Board to approve a resolution to amend the adoption of the Prairie Township Fire Code.

Ms. Schlosser made the following resolution: "I move that the Board adopt resolution 38-08. A resolution to amend resolution 22-08 which adopted a new Prairie Township Fire Prevention Code". Motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Kennedy-Aye. Mr. Stormont-Aye. Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Resolution passed.

Chief Good also requested the Board to approve the purchase of three RAD 57 monitors for a total cost not to exceed \$12,000. Chief Good explained that the fund utilized to purchase this equipment has been donated to the Prairie Township Fire Department by the Shriners.

Ms. Schlosser made the following motion: "I move that the Board authorize the purchase of three RAD 57 monitors for a total cost not to exceed \$12,000". Motion was seconded by Mr. Stormont. Votes were: Mr. Kennedy-Aye. Mr. Stormont-Aye. Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed.

Chief Good also announced that the Fire Department is anticipating that it will be hiring up to 6 new part-time fire fighters in the near future.

Road Department:

The Road Department did not have any item on the agenda and Mr. McAninch was excused from attending this board meeting.

Zoning Department:

The Zoning Department did not have any item on the agenda and Ms. Swisher was excused from attending this board meeting.

Administration Department:

Mr. Hatmaker began with the announcement that there were no nuisance cases to review for this week's meeting.

Mr. Hatmaker then outlined the Safe Routes To School Planning (SRTS) agreement with Stantec Consulting. Mr. Hatmaker explained that the Township applied for an ODOT SRTS grant last year and was awarded funding to complete a SRTS Travel Plan which would identify ways to improve and encourage students in grades K-8 to either walk or ride their bike to school (Stantec assisted in the completion of this application). Since the award of the application, the program policies have changed and communities are responsible for funding three quarters of the plan. Stantec Consulting has quoted a price of \$9,000 to help complete the required work. (This is up from an initial \$5,000 based on a reevaluation of the project). The plan, once approved by ODOT, would result in the funding of a short term improvement (which could include projects from \$40,000 to \$60,000). Mr. Hatmaker explained that it is our hope to use this funding to do a raised crosswalk at the site of the current pedestrian overpass on South Grener, as well as to cover sidewalk expenses in that area. (These sidewalks would thus be taken out of the South Grener project, and thereby reduce the required loan amount). Also, the township could use the same plan to ask for additional funding for another project which has been

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identified in the plan that could include sidewalk installation, traffic calming, or bike improvements (of up to \$250,000). Mr. Hatmaker is working with ODOT to see if the township can request an extension on the deadline but, as it stands, this needs to be completed as close to the end of the year as possible so that the township does not lose funding.

Ms. Schlosser made the following motion: "I move that the Board authorize the township administrator to execute an agreement with Stantec Consulting for an amount not to exceed \$9,000 for the purpose of completing Prairie Township's Safe Routes To School plan". Motion was seconded by Mr. Stormont. Votes were: Mr. Kennedy-Aye. Mr. Stormont-Aye. Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed.

Next Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board to approve payment #5 for the Inah Avenue Road and Drainage Improvement Project. This is the final pay request for this project but it does not include the return of the retainage fee. The amount of this payment is \$139,053.65.

Ms. Schlosser made the following motion: "I move that the Board approve payment disbursement request #5 for the Inah Avenue Street and Drainage Improvement project". Motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Votes were: Mr. Kennedy-Aye. Mr. Stormont-Aye. Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Hatmaker then requested that the Board approve the purchase of 61 trees for the expanded area of Galloway Cemetery. Because the trees will be planted by our Road Department, the original quoted cost has been reduced by more than 30%. The price of the trees is not to exceed \$5,569.50.

Ms. Schlosser made the following motion: "I move that the Board approve the expenditure of up to \$5,569.50 for the purchase of trees for the expanded area of Galloway Cemetery". Motion seconded by Mr. Stormont. Votes were: Mr. Kennedy-Aye. Mr. Stormont-Aye. Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Hatmaker announced that the SWACO-funded Prairie Township Welcome Sign, to be installed along U.S. 40 at the western boundary of the township, has arrived. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board's approval to pay the invoice from Signcom in the amount of \$6,241.

Ms. Schlosser made the following motion: "I move that the Board approve the payment of \$6,241 for the SWACO/Buy Recycled-funded Welcome Sign to be placed on U.S.40 at the western boundary of Prairie Township". Motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Votes were: Mr. Kennedy-Aye. Mr. Stormont-Aye. Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Hatmaker then presented to the Board a resolution that declares various furniture and office equipment items, all of which did not sell at the October 29, 2008 auction, to be of no use or value and order that they be discarded or salvaged.

Ms. Schlosser made the following motion: "I move that the Board adopt Resolution #40-08. A resolution to authorize the discarding and/or salvaging of various items found to be of no use or value". Motion was seconded by Mr. Stormont. Roll Call votes were: Mr. Kennedy-Aye. Mr. Stormont-Aye. Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Resolution passed.

Old Business:

Neil Distleherst asked about the fire department promotion list. He asked is it a matter of public record? In response, Ms. Schlosser read off the following list of personnel in the Fire Department: The Lieutenant/Paramedic list includes: Rick Critchfield: Matt Heinlein: Jeff Taynor: Jim Troesch: Dale Spring: and Bryan Lee. The Station Captain/Paramedic list includes: Rob Cloud: Duane Dellinger: and

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Tim Hannum.

New Business:

None

Announcements:

The Senior Citizens' Center will hold a Craft Bazaar from 9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. on this Saturday, November 8th

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Chairperson

Fiscal Officer