

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE

REGULAR MEETING/JULY 16, 2008

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

Ms. Schlosser led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board approve the minutes for the regular meeting of July 02, 2008. Vote; Aye.

Deputy Weiner highlighted the monthly statistics for June: 622 dispatched runs, 629 pick up runs, 41 domestic runs, 13 gun runs, 106 reports taken, 229 record checks, 170 business checks, 38 misdemeanor arrests, 3 felony warrant arrests, 34 misdemeanor warrant arrests, 47 prisoners conveyed, and 8 total crashes investigated. Copies of the June statistical report are available at the Township Hall for public viewing.

Deputy Weiner stated that it has been a normal couple of weeks for this time of year. The deputies are working the different traffic details that have come in by complaint or they have learned of through talking with people.

A resident questioned if there was a law restricting how many teenagers could be in a car if the driver is under 18. Corporal Goodrich stated that a 16 year old does not need to have an adult with them while driving, however they are limited to only one passenger.

Ms. Schlosser advised the deputies that a resident has requested that Old Village Road be monitored due to speeding.

A resident requested that Hall Road, Norton Road, and South Murray Hill Road be monitored for speed. He stated that South Murray Hill has had a number of accidents that were speed related. Ms. Schlosser replied that we can only enforce the speed that is within the Township and not all of Hall Road or Norton Road falls within the Township's boundaries.

The Fiscal Officer presented the following items:

After the Trustees reviewed the pending warrant list, Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board approve both the pending warrant list of \$70,844.72 and the payroll cash requirement of \$112,498.59 for a combined sum of \$183,343.31. Vote; Aye. (See pending warrant list).

Mr. McCardle reported that a solid response was received from the want ad ran in Sunday's newspaper as more than 79 resumes were received.

Mr. McCardle gave an update on the April IRS tax issue. PAYCOR is still not able to discuss the April IRS issue while they continue to wait for the IRS to process the Form 8821.

The transition to PAYCOR form ADP has been made. The switch went relatively smoothly.

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Standing Business:

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

1. Ms. Swisher updated the Board on the Commercial Building Department. There were two permits requested for Tim Horton's and Walgreens. Walgreens did receive partial approval for a foundation and shell. The process went smoothly.

There was no standing business for the Road and Cemetery Departments.

A resident thanked the Township. She stated that Garden Heights looks wonderful.

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

Chief Feustel introduced Firefighter Dale Spring. Mr. Spring has taken on the responsibility of following up on all of the communication equipment and has done a lot of research on this project. The fire department has had the 800 MHZ radio system before 1987. Three bids were not presented due to only one vendor is licensed to sell the programming for the Motorola radios.

Mr. Spring explained that the dispatch radio is from Z tron. It is designed to make the Townships system more efficient by dispatching both stations simultaneously and let all dispatchers use multiple talk groups and both talk groups be recorded. Currently, the department runs off the main dispatch frequency. There is a fire ground frequency; however it does not run through the recorder. The new radio will allow for the recording of the fire ground radio traffic. This is vital to allow for review of tapes in the event of discrepancies. The console will also allow for the monitoring of all other systems in the radio room that are regularly monitored.

Ms. Schlosser asked what will happen to the old system.

Mr. Spring stated that the old system will stay in place. The main 800 dispatch radio will stay in the radio room itself. The other radios and scanners will be put in another room in the station and ran to the dispatch console. The old 3386 low band will be coming out of the system as it is antiquated and not able to be repaired.

Chief Feustel explained that one of the advantages with the new radio will tie all of the radios into one place.

Ms. Schlosser questioned if the radio system was budgeted and appropriated for this year.

Chief Feustel confirmed that it was budgeted and appropriated.

Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board approve the purchase of a dispatch console and one 800 MHZ radio at a cost of \$20,071.00 from Boylan & Cannon Electronics. Vote; Aye.

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

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1. Mr. Hatmaker requested the board's guidance on several nuisance cases in the Township.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the process of determining a nuisance is becoming more difficult. A lot of the complaints are coming down to weeds in the fence line. If poison ivy is present in the fence line, that does qualify it as a nuisance as neighbors should not have to deal with poison ivy. Several properties are judgment calls and could go either way.

Ms. Schlosser stated that if there needs to be a lot of discussion or the Board is not in agreement, the Township should not go and cut down the weeds to assess the property.

The property being ruled on as a nuisance, 4711 Frost Avenue does have poison ivy in the fence line.

Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Prairie Township Board of Trustees find the conditions at 4711 Frost Avenue to be a nuisance and that the Board hereby directs staff to abate said nuisance at the expense of the property owner as per the requirements in Ohio Revised Code Section 505.87. Vote; Aye.

Mr. Kennedy asked Ms. Swisher to advise the residents at 4711 Frost Avenue that the property was declared a nuisance in order to give the residents an opportunity to clean it up themselves.

2. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board ask the Budget Commission increase the General Fund revenue and appropriations by \$35,000.00. The additional revenue will be in the form of a reimbursement from Franklin County for the demolition of the Mix and Stiles apartments and it will be appropriated to pay for an increase in the 2008 road improvement work.
3. Mr. Hatmaker also requested the Board approve requesting the Budget Commission create Fund 2416 which is the 2008 Sidewalk Assessment Fund and approve 2008 revenue and appropriations in the amount of \$19,875.09 which will pay for the 2008 Sidewalk Improvement Project.

Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Stormont seconded the Board request the Franklin County Budget Commission increase the General Fund revenue and appropriations by \$35,000.00; establish Fund 2416 (2008 Sidewalk Assessment Fund), approve 2008 revenue and appropriations in the amount of \$19,875.09 and authorize the Township Administrator to sign a letter of request on the Board's behalf. Vote; Aye.

Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board request the Franklin County Budget Commission amend the Township's 2009 budget to include Fund 2416 (2008 Sidewalk Assessment Fund) with an anticipated revenue and expenditures of \$3,000.00 and authorize the Township Administrator to sign a letter of request on the Board's behalf. Vote; Aye.

Ms. Schlosser moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board authorize the Fiscal Officer to advance of \$19,875.09 from the General Fund to Fund 2416, to pay for the 2008 Sidewalk Improvement Project and to advance monies back when they become available. Vote; Aye.

4. Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board to approve and agreement with Franklin County outlining the Township's role and responsibilities in demolishing the apartment buildings at Mix and Stiles and committing the county to contribute an amount not to exceed \$38,660.00.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board approve the proposed

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“Contract for Services between Franklin County and Prairie Township,” which authorizes the County to reimburse the Township for its share of the demolition of the apartment buildings at Mix and Stiles Avenues, and authorize the Chair to execute the agreement. Vote; Aye.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comments:

Mr. Jones, a township resident, questioned if anything could be done with neighbors that are leaving trash out on the curb for long periods of time.

Ms. Schlosser stated that the Township relies on the residents to call in and advise that there is a potential nuisance. Ms. Schlosser stated that trash cans on the curb are not a nuisance but may violate zoning laws.

Ms. Schlosser advised that the zoning department has very limited staff and it is not feasible for someone to be sent everyday to make sure the cans are not at the curb. However, when the property does require action, residents should call and advise the Zoning Department and Ms. Swisher will send someone out to inspect the property.

Announcements: None

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Fiscal Officer