

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23 MAPLE DRIVE

SPECIAL MEETING/APRIL 2, 2008

The special meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees, which was posted in four places in the Township, was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Ms. Schlosser with Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Stormont, Mr. Hatmaker, and Chief Feustel present.

Ms. Schlosser moved to appoint Mr. Hatmaker clerk pro tem  
Mr. Stormont seconded  
Vote unanimous

Ms. Schlosser made the following motion at 5:01 pm:  
*I move that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of considering the discipline, promotion and/or demotion of a public employee or employees as per Section 121.11(G)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code.*  
Mr. Stormont seconded  
Roll call: Mr. Kennedy, yes; Mr. Stormont, yes; Ms. Schlosser, yes

Ms. Schlosser made the following motion:  
*I move that the Board resume the special meeting at 6:09 pm.*  
Mr. Kennedy seconded  
Roll call: Mr. Kennedy, yes; Mr. Stormont, yes; Ms. Schlosser, yes

Ms. Schlosser moved:  
*I move that the Board direct the Fire Chief to amend the Assistant Fire Chief's job description to address requirements related to responding to fire scenes after regular work hours.*  
Mr. Stormont seconded  
Vote Unanimous

Ms. Schlosser moved:  
*I move to direct the Township Administrator and the Fire Chief to pursue a written understanding regarding the Assistant Fire Chief Mark Good's remaining tenure at the Prairie Township Fire Department.*  
Mr. Stormont seconded  
Vote Unanimous

Chairperson Ms. Schlosser left the meeting at 6:16 pm. Trustees Mr. Stormont and Mr. Kennedy continued the meeting with a discussion of communications issues with Mr. Hatmaker and Chief Stephen Feustel.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he was concerned that there is a problem with communications in the township, starting with the Board at the top and going all the way up and down the chain of command.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the Fire Chief needs to know that he can talk to the trustees whenever he feels the need. He added that the Township Administrator should be kept abreast of any issues or directions resulting from such communications. Mr. Kennedy added that better communications would have avoided controversy over the proposed closing of Station 243 during a recent week-long class at Station 241.

Chief Feustel described the events surrounding the decision to not have Station 243 manned during the training and communications regarding this decision. He explained that last minute adjustments and past practices were the primary reason that trustees had not been briefed in advance concerning the station's status.

There was a discussion between Mr. Kennedy and Chief Feustel concerning various scenarios and what communications involving the Board should occur in each instance.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the Board needs to know about serious personnel issues early on, before they have a chance to fester. Mr. Stormont agreed.

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Mr. Kennedy asked if it wouldn't be a good idea to meet with union representatives on a periodic basis to discuss predetermined issues. Chief Feustel answered that this could be a dangerous practice in that it would create a bargaining situation outside of the normal accepted process.

Mr. Kennedy asked about morale in the Fire Department. Chief Feustel answered that there was currently a morale problem in the department caused by friction between him and the Assistant Chief. He added that he had seen a significant improvement Chief Good's attitude and their ability to work together over the previous week and that he thought that they could work together. As an example of this change, the Chief discussed recent work that Chief Good had completed regarding lesson plans for training regarding department standard operating procedures.

Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Stormont asked to be notified if there was any problem with Chief Good's progress. They also requested that the Chief complete and forward to the Board, a progress report three months and six months after Chief Good's new job description is put in place.

Mr. Stormont adjourned the meeting at 6:43 pm.

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Chairperson

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Clerk Pro Tem