

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DECEMBER 2, 2009 – REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

The regular meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees was called to order on December 2, 2009 at 7:00 PM by the Chairman, Mr. Stormont, with Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Schlosser, and Mr. McCardle present. Also in attendance were Mr. Hatmaker, Township Administrator and Fire Chief Feustel. (See attached sign in sheet for a complete list of additional attendees).

Mr. Stormont led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Stormont asked the board to approve the meeting minutes for the November 18, 2009 regular meeting. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. Motion passed.

Sheriff's Report

Deputy Weiner spoke briefly. He wanted to advise everyone, especially in the Lincoln Village North area, that several inflatable Christmas lawn displays have been stolen out of residents' lawns. Otherwise, the township has had a relatively regular routine the past couple of weeks.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Supplemental Appropriation;

Mr. McCardle asked the Board to approve a supplemental appropriation moving \$6,897.69 from Special Levy / Fire – Machinery, Equipment and Furniture (2191-760-740-0000) to Special Levy / Fire – Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (2191-220-215-0000). This supplemental appropriation is necessary because the Fire Pension Fund expenses have increased this year.

Mr. Stormont motioned "so moved". Ms. Schlosser seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. Motion passed.

Approval of Warrants and Payroll

Mr. McCardle then requested the Board's approval for payment of this week's warrants summing \$62,049.08 along with this week's payroll summing \$156,419.89 for a total cash disbursement of \$218, 468.97.

Mr. Stormont motioned "so moved". Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. Motion passed.

Standing Business

Roads and Cemetery Department

The Road Department did not have anything to bring to the Board's attention so Mr. McAninch was excused from

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this meeting.

Zoning Department

The Zoning Department did not have any items to bring to the Board's attention so Ms. Swisher was excused from this meeting.

Fire

Part-time Firefighter Resignation

Chief Feustel asked the Board to accept the resignation of one part-time firefighter, Michael Cullar. Mr. Cullar has accepted a full-time position in Washington D.C. and has submitted a proper resignation with our department. Chief Feustel expressed that Mr. Cullar will be missed and that he would re-hire him if he ever returned to the area.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board accept the resignation of part-time firefighter Michael Cullar. Ms. Schlosser seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. Motion passed.

Vacation Carryover Requests

Chief Feustel requested that the Board approve carryover vacation as per the union contract.

Mr. Stormont motioned that the Board approve the vacation carry-over requests submitted by members of the Fire Department as submitted. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. Motion passed.

Request to use Backup Medic for Toy Pick-up

Chief Feustel requested permission from the Board to use the backup Medic (Medic 244) to retrieve toys on December 18, 2009 from Frebis Ave., Columbus for the December 19, 2009 distribution date.

Mr. Stormont moved to authorize the Fire Department to use the backup medic to pickup donated toys as part of its participation in the 2009 Firefighters for Kids Toy Program. Ms. Schlosser seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.

Part-time Dispatcher Step-Pay Increases

Chief Feustel then requested approval for a step-pay increase for part-time dispatchers Waples and Rose to be moved to the top hourly rate of \$10.00 per hour. Chief Feustel explained that both dispatchers have previous experience which has benefited the department by shortening their training time, which is the main purpose of the graduated step-pay raises. Chief Fuestel explained that the department now has running experience with both dispatchers to assure that they are adequately trained to handle a major incident. (Mr. Waples has already handled such an incident on duty) Their normal progression would have placed them at this level in June of 2010. Chief Feustel explained that he was requesting the bump up of this step-pay increase to January because these employees are primarily working 3rd shifts and weekend hours which are difficult to fill and they have both responded quickly to filling shifts that are not scheduled.

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Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a step-pay increase to an hourly rate of \$10.00 per hour for part-time dispatcher Gary Waples effective January 1st. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a step-pay increase to an hourly rate of \$10.00 per hour for part-time dispatcher Brandy Rose effective January 1st. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.

Administrator

Nuisance Cases

Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board's guidance on the nuisance cases that were forwarded in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Prairie Township Board of Trustees find the conditions at 463 Woodlawn Ave. and 8649 Renna Ave., to be a nuisance and that the Board hereby directs staff to abate said nuisance(s) at the expense of the property owner(s) as per the requirements in Ohio Revised Code Section 505.87. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.

Temporary Senior Center Assistant

Mr. Hatmaker presented a proposal to authorize the hiring of Eleanor Jones for a temporary position at the Senior Center. This authorization is for one year and a maximum of 158 hours (an average of just over 3 hours per week). The position is being proposed in response to the fact that multiple health problems have resulted in Senior Center Manager Robin Comeans having to use all of his sick leave and much of his vacation leave. In other departments such a situation would put extra work on paid staff, but in this case it has put a strain on volunteers. The proposed position would fill staffing gaps that have resulted from Robin's illnesses. Eleanor has been a key volunteer at the Senior Center since its opening, performing the same tasks, at one time or another, which this position entails.

Township Resident, Pam Williams spoke of her concern about paying the Senior Citizen Center help \$12.00 per hour, yet we only pay our part-time firefighters between \$9.00 and \$10.00 per hour.

Neil Distlehorst also spoke of concerns about the relatively low hourly wage that our part-time firefighters are paid.

Chief Feustel explained that Prairie Township is competitive with other nearby fire departments.

Ms. Schlosser also spoke about how Chief Feustel has consistently evaluated the pay scales of neighboring central Ohio fire departments.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the creation of the position of Temporary Senior Center Assistant for a maximum of 158 hours through November 30, 2010 at a pay rate of \$12.00 per hour and that the Board name Eleanor Jones to fill this position beginning immediately. Ms. Schlosser seconded this motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.

Old Business

Mr. Kennedy spoke of the Ohio American Water rate hike. The staff report came out with a positive staff

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recommendation of less than 10% instead of the 60% over 3 years originally requested by Ohio American Water Company. Mr. Kennedy explained the remaining process. Mr. Kennedy anticipates that Ohio American Water will have many objections over the next 30 days. A compromise will ultimately ensue. If they cannot find a compromise, another hearing will be held.

New Business

None

Public Comment

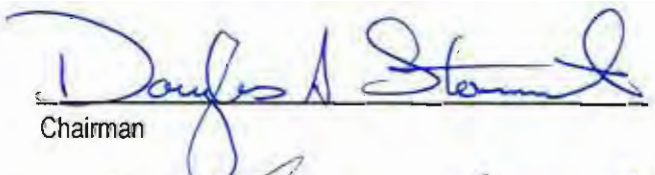
Neil Distlehorst asked the Board if much consideration had been given in planning the project to be built on the recently purchased property, and how that will coincide with Columbus Parks and Recreation long term plan to build a recreation center in Prairie Township. The Board members explained that this facility would not be built in the same scale as a Columbus Parks and Recreation Center. The Board also felt assured that the Columbus Parks and Recreation plans were at least 10-15 years out.


Announcements

None

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.


Chairman


Fiscal Officer