

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



## PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DECEMBER 30, 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 30, 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 December 16, 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 Brian Toffe reported that the Sheriff's Department has been relatively busy. He stated that there have been a lot of property crimes. He indicated that the Sheriff's Department has a person of interest suspect related to these crimes in custody. Deputy Toffe advised residents to collapse large television boxes, etc., before putting them out for the trash – as criminals notice these items when they are set-out for pick-up. Deputy Toffe also advised that residents are leaving their garage doors open and encouraged everyone to keep them closed.

### Public hearing concerning unsafe structures (Res. 33-09, 34-09 and 35-09)

The public hearing was opened at 7:10 pm.

The Board held a public hearing to take public comments on the question of whether or not houses located at 330 Mix Avenue, 324 Mix Avenue and 200 Evergreen Terrace are unsafe structures that should be demolished and removed by the Township. If the Township takes this action for any or all of the properties, it will report the costs of the demolition and removal to the Franklin County Auditor for assessment on the tax duplicate of the subject property.

The Board heard a request to delay the demolition and removal of the structure at 330 Mix Avenue during the December 16, 2009 meeting from the family of the owner of record.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 33-09, "A Resolution to Proceed with the Removal of a Building at 330 Mix Avenue." Ms. Schlosser seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Schlosser, Nay; Mr. Stormont, Nay; Mr. Stormont, Nay. The resolution failed, allowing the family until March 31, 2010 to resolve.**

Nick Stavants, a Vinton County resident, who owns the building at 324 Mix Avenue spoke. Mr. Stavants stated that he is committed to securing the property by March 31, 2010. The Board has given the owner until March 31, 2010 to restore the building to usable condition. Chief Feustel expressed his concern that vagrants may enter and occupy the building. The Trustees also advised the owner to work with Chief Feustel in ensuring that the property has been secured properly.

Another resident asked about the Township's Legal Liability for the property in the event a tragic incident occurred on the property. Trustee Schlosser explained that as a standard mode of operation, the township follows the letter of the law and the township does not assume any liability for the property.

Trustee Schlosser pointed out that even a vacant lot may still have property issues.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 34-09, "A Resolution to Proceed with the Removal**

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*of a Building at 324 Mix Avenue.” Ms. Schlosser seconded. The roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Schlosser, Nay; Mr. Kennedy, Nay; Mr. Stormont, Nay. The motion to adopt the resolution failed thus allowing the owner until March 31, 2010 to resolve.*

No one spoke in favor or against the motion to proceed with the removal of the building located at 200 Evergreen Terrace.

*Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 35-09, “A Resolution to Proceed with the Removal of a Building at 200 Evergreen Terrace.” Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Schlosser, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. This resolution passed.*

*The public hearing was closed at 7:24 pm.*

### Fiscal Officer's Report

#### Supplemental Appropriation

Mr. McCardle requested that the Board approve a supplemental appropriation moving \$1,000.00 from General Fund / Contract Services Roads (1000-330-360-0000) to General Fund / Payments to Another Political Subdivision (1000-420-370-0000). These funds need to be moved back into this line item to make a payment to the Board of Health on the mosquito program. The funds had been moved to another line item because this payment is billed, and usually paid, in August of each year.

*Mr. Stormont motioned “So moved”. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. This motion passed.*

Mr. McCardle requested the following motions for supplemental appropriations in order to cover OPERS and Social Security payments:

Mr. McCardle requested that the Board approve a supplemental appropriation moving \$100.00 from Admin/Tax Collection Fees (1000-110-314-0000) to Administrator's Salary (1000-110-131-0000) to cover the final 2009 employee OPERS payment.

*Mr. Stormont motioned “So moved”. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. This motion passed.*

Mr. McCardle then requested that the Board approve a supplemental appropriation moving \$476.60 from Cemetery/Improvement of Sites (2041-760-730-0000) to Cemetery/OPERS (2014-410-211-0000) to cover the final 2009 employer OPERS payment.

*Mr. Stormont motioned “So moved”. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. This motion passed.*

Mr. McCardle requested that the Board approve a supplemental appropriation moving \$111.47 from Fire/Repairs and Maintenance (2191-220-323-0000) to Fire/OPERS (2191-220-211-0000) to cover the final 2009 employer OPERS payment.

*Mr. Stormont motioned “So moved”. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. This motion passed.*

Mr. McCardle then requested that the Board approve a supplemental appropriation moving \$26.00 from Fire/Repairs and Maintenance (2191-220-323-0000) to Fire/Social Security (2191-220-212-0000) to cover the

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final 2009 Social Security employer payment.

**Mr. Stormont motioned "So moved". Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. This motion passed.**

#### Approval of Warrants and Payroll

Mr. McCardle asked for the Board's approval for payment of this week's warrants summing \$47,807.34 along with this week's payroll summing \$108,625.05 for a total cash disbursement of \$156,432.39.

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

#### Standing Business

##### Roads and Cemetery Department

Pam Williams, township resident, complimented the Road Department for the treatment of the roads during the last snow storm.

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

The Fire Department did not have any items to bring to the Board's attention, however, Chief Feustel was in attendance to answer any raised questions.

##### Administrator

##### **Employee Raises for 2010**

The 2010 budget and temporary appropriations included 2% raises for non-union employees in 2010. Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board if it wishes to authorize this increase effective January 1, 2010. The proposed increase would affect all current pay levels of non-union employees and revise the current step level pay schedules for the non-union positions to reflect this increase.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a two percent (2%) pay increase for all non-union township personnel and that the Board direct the township administrator to revise the step level pay schedules to reflect this increase. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. This motion passed.**

##### Approval of Benefits for the Trustees Beginning Terms in January 2010

Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board to approve paid medical, dental and life insurance benefits for trustee-elect Ron

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Ball and re-elected trustee Steve Kennedy.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the paid medical, dental and life insurance benefits effective January 1, 2010, for Ron Ball, the newly elected Prairie Township Trustee. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Abstain; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.**

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the paid medical, dental and life insurance benefits effective January 1, 2010, for Steve Kennedy, the newly re-elected Prairie Township Trustee. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Abstain; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.**

### Letter to the Franklin County Treasurer

Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board to consider sending a letter to Franklin County Treasurer, Ed Leonard. Mr. Leonard's office recently awarded Prairie Township \$30,000.00 to assist with nuisance abatement efforts. These funds were provided to various Franklin county entities, including the Treasurer's office, by the Federal Stimulus program. Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board to consider approving and signing a thank you letter to Treasurer Leonard for this grant.

**Ms. Schlosser moved that the Board forward a letter to Franklin County Treasurer Edward Leonard thanking him for awarding \$30,000.00 in grant funding to Prairie Township for nuisance abatement activities. Mr. Kennedy seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. This motion passed.**

### South Greener Phase I Change Order #5

Mr. Hatmaker recommended that the board approve Change order #5 for the South Greener Issue II Phase I project for an increase in the amount of \$1,641.79 for the following items:

- #1 Oil spill clean-up \$6,200.23
- #2 Additional stripping for school on pavement in 2 locations \$660.00
- #3 Asphalt revisions and storm additions to apartment parking lot 320 Greener \$5,260.00
- #4 Water line repair at Sta. 19+86 \$1,399.45
- #5 Increase in material quantities from plan quantities in the amount of \$58,572.36
- #6 Decrease in material quantities from plan quantities in the amount of \$(70, 450.25).

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve change order #5 in the amount of \$1,641.79 for Phase I of the South Greener Avenue Road Improvement Project. Ms. Schlosser seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. Motion passed.**

### South Greener Phase II Plan Approval

Mr. Hatmaker presented the plans for Phase II of the South Greener Avenue Road Improvement Project for approval by the Board. The plans have been reviewed and approved by the Franklin County Engineer.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the plans for Greener Avenue Reconstruction – Phase II. Mr. Kennedy seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. This motion passed.**

### Amendment to Agreement with Assistant Fire Chief

Mr. Hatmaker presented two items related to a proposed amendment to Assistant Chief Good's April agreement with the Board. The first item was a proposed amendment to the agreement stating that Assistant Chief Good and the Board agree that Assistant Chief Good will submit a letter of resignation, effective May 11, 2010, to the Board and that language in the Agreement will be amended to reflect his new retirement date

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the "Amendment to Agreement by and Between Prairie**

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**Township and Prairie Township Assistant Fire Chief Mark Good” as presented. Mr. Kennedy seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schlosser, Aye. The motion passed.**

Mr. Hatmaker then proposed another related item in a resolution accepting Assistant Chief Good’s letter of resignation and authorizing the Chair to forward a letter onto the Assistant Chief informing him that this has been done.

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution 36-09, “A Resolution Accepting the Letter of Resignation of Assistant Fire Chief Mark Good.” Ms. Schlosser seconded. The roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Schlosser, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. This resolution was passed.**

#### **Resolution Supporting Westland Mall and the Former Delphi Plant Site as Locations for the Central Ohio Casino Development**

Mr. Kennedy had attended a recent meeting concerning this issue. After much discussion, everyone in attendance was in favor of the casino possibly being developed in the Westland Mall and former Delphi plant site as locations for the Central Ohio casino. The casino may offer up to 2000 jobs. There are 4 or 5 other Central Ohio areas competing for the Casino development. Mr. Kennedy believes that this is a great opportunity to revitalize our area.

Neil Distlehurst (township resident) added that in his experience, he views casinos as well served, first class facilities. He too thinks that this is a great opportunity for the Columbus West Side.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 37-09, “A Resolution Supporting the Westland Mall or Former GM Delphi Plant as Locations for the Proposed Central Ohio Casino.” Ms. Schlosser seconded. The roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Schlosser, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. This resolution passed.**

#### **Old Business**

Pam Williams encouraged everyone to attend the court hearing set for Monday, January 4, 2010, At the dirt pile located in Old Galloway.

#### **New Business**

None

#### **Public Comment**

#### **Announcements**

Ms. Schlosser wanted to thank the residents of Prairie Township for allowing her to serve during the past four years. She stated that she has learned a lot and that she hopes Prairie Township will have her back in the future. Ms. Schlosser commented that she has a high level of respect for her fellow Trustees, she learned a lot from the township employees, and also thanked Mr. McCardle and especially Mr. Hatmaker for their continued efforts. She also wished Mr. Ball the best of luck as he begins his term.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer