

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MAY 20, 2009 – REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M.

23 MAPLE DRIVE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

The regular meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees was called to order on May 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Stormont, with Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Schlosser and Mr. McCardle present. Also in attendance were Mr. Hatmaker, Township Administrator, Chief Feustel and see attached list.

Mr. Stormont led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation of the Prairie Township Fire Department Medal of Merit Award

Chief Feustel appeared before the Board to make a special presentation on behalf of the Fire Department recognizing medical achievements during National EMS Recognition Week. There are three awards in the fire service that are nationally recognized, "The Medal of Honor", "The Medal of Valor" and "The Medal of Merit". The "Medal of Merit" is the only one that can be given to a citizen.

Chief Feustel announced that the recipients of the "Medal of Merit" award are Catherine J. Kistler and Tim Jansen who performed heroic acts on September 28, 2008 in rescuing Mr. Lupton from a burning car. Chief Feustel read Resolution No. 11-09 which details the events that took place on September 28th and requested the Board approve this Resolution.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded that the Board adopt Resolution 11-09, "A Resolution Recognizing the Heroic Efforts of Catherine J. Kistler and Tim Jansen and Honoring them as the First Recipients of the Prairie Township Fire Department Medal of Merit."

Roll call vote resulted as follows: Ms. Schlosser, aye; Mr. Kennedy, aye; Mr. Stormont; aye.

Mr. Lupton presented Mr. Jansen and Ms. Kistler with the Fire Department "Medal of Merit". The Board held a recess for a reception in honor of Mr. Jansen and Ms. Kistler.

The Chairman resumed the Trustee meeting.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded the Board approve the minutes for the regular scheduled meeting held on May 6, 2009. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion passed

Sheriff's Report

Deputy Weiner and Corporal Goodrich appeared before the Board and read the statics for the month of April. Deputy Weiner spoke on the issues in the Lake Darby/Westpoint areas. Cars are being broken into and it seems to be happening between midnight and 6:00 a.m. He stated there have been several thefts from businesses throughout the township.

Camp Chase Rails to Trails Project Briefing

Mr. Hatmaker introduced Steve Studenmund, Director of Planning for Metro Parks, who thanked everyone for voting for the metro park levy and also introduced Ronda Border-Boou and Eric Oberg. They will explain the "Camp Chase Rails to Trails Project. Ms. Border-Boou stated they are from Rails to Trails Conservancy, which is headquartered in Washington, D.C. In the twenty years they have been in business, there have been 15,000 miles of rail to trail conversions.

Ms. Border-Boou stated this project is very exciting as it is only one of a few projects of this nature across the country. Rails to trails means that there is still going to be an active rail line that will have a trail line adjacent to it. The "Camp Chase Rails to Trails Project" is a very critical link in the Ohio to Erie trail system and when this project is completed, you can go from Cleveland to Columbus to Cincinnati on one continuous trail.

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Mr. Oberg stated the trail will be 11 miles long, starting from Wilson Road down to Madison Township up to Sullivant Avenue and connecting to the City of Columbus. The estimated cost for the entire project is ten million dollars. Phase 1 construction will begin this fall. There will be public meetings on June 8th and June 23rd at Battelle Darby Metro Park, Cedar Ridge Lodge. Any property owner who abuts the railroad will be getting a personal invitation to the meetings.

Mr. Oberg stated the trail will enter the township on Alkire Road between Alton and Darby Creek Road and will end at Sullivant Avenue, about five and one-half miles of the trail. The trail was obtained through a nineteen foot easement between Metro Parks and Camp Chase Railroad. Mr. Kennedy asked if this project was completed any where else, if it is going to be a blacktop trail and have there been any concerns of crime along the trail. Mr. Oberg stated it was completed west of Lilly Chapel, it will be white asphalt and there haven't been any complaints of crimes along with the trail. Mr. Kennedy also asked about the buffers, projected usage, hours of operation and if there would be camping opportunities. Mr. Oberg stated there is a vegetation buffer, there isn't any projected usage, they are open 24/7 and there would not be camping opportunities at this time.

Fiscal Officer's Report

The Fiscal Officer informed the Board we received a notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for the Ten Mile Inn. Property owner, Floyd Hummel, is transferring his liquor license to Old Cumberland Trail, LLC. The president of Old Cumberland Trail is Rose Ackley. This notice requires the Board make a determination as to whether they will request a hearing. Board members indicated that they did not think that a hearing was necessary. Mr. McCardle will return the request stating the Board will not request a hearing.

Mr. McCardle requested the Board approve this week's warrants summing \$122,308.24 with this week's payroll summing \$121,824.16 for a total cash disbursement of \$244,132.40.

Mr. Stormont motioned "So Moved". Motion was seconded by Ms. Schlosser. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. Motion Passed.

Standing Business:

Zoning Department:

The Zoning Department had no items on tonight's agenda therefore Ms. Swisher had been excused from attending tonight's meeting.

Road and Cemetery Department:

The Road Department had no items on tonight's agenda therefore Mr. McAninch had been excused from attending tonight's meeting.

Fire Department: Chief Feustel presented his agenda item earlier in the meeting.

Administration:

Mr. Hatmaker appeared before the Board to discuss the following items:

1. He informed the Board there was several high grass nuisance cases and one trash and debris nuisance case and he is looking to the Board for their guidance in these cases.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Prairie Township Board of Trustees find the conditions at 54 Lennox Avenue, 66 Amity Road, 8650 Cadet Drive South, 575 Murnan Road, 6241 Alkire Road, 717 Cordelia Drive and 499 Buena Vista Avenue, to be a nuisance and that the Board hereby

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directs staff to abate said nuisance at the expense of the property owner(s) as per the requirements in Ohio Revised Code Section 505.87.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. This motion passed.

2. Mr. Hatmaker stated in 2006, the township received Ohio Public Works funds for improvements on Medfield Way. This project involved a township match to the OPWC funds. At the time, \$65,727.88 too much was transferred to the Medfield Way fund. According to law, the township can't move monies from special project funds to the General Fund. Mr. Hatmaker requested the Board approve Resolution No. 10-09 approving the transfer of funds from the Special Improvement Fund to the General Fund. This resolution will be the first step toward the Prosecuting Attorney applying to the Court of Common Pleas for the permission to move these funds into the General Fund.

Mr. Stormont moved, Mr. Kennedy seconded that the Board adopt Resolution 10-09, "A Resolution Approving the Transfer of Funds from the Special Improvement Fund to the General Fund."

Roll call vote resulted as follows: Ms. Schlosser, aye; Mr. Kennedy, aye; Mr. Stormont; aye.

3. Mr. Hatmaker's next item is the hiring of the summer youth supervisor. Dave McAninch, Road Superintendent is recommending the Board ask Donald Berry, the 2008 supervisor, return this year and Mr. Berry is willing to return. Mr. Hatmaker is requesting the Board approve his hiring at a pay rate of \$11.00 per hour which would begin on June 10 – August 4.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board hire Donald Berry as the Prairie Township Summer Youth Program supervisor at a rate of \$11.00 per hour effective June 10, 2009 and ending on August 4, 2009.

This motion was seconded by Ms. Schlosser. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. This motion passed.

4. For Mr. Hatmaker's final agenda item, he stated that at the May 6th meeting, the Trustees approved the preliminary engineering and design work for the West Broad Street Streetscape Program. This program would add bus shelters, street lighting, trees, median landscape and hardscape treatments, mast arm traffic signals and other streetscape beautifications and safety features to the ODOT West Broad Street project which is to begin in the fall of 2013. Mr. Hatmaker asked the Board to authorize him to send a letter to the Franklin County Budget Commission asking to appropriate \$117,000.00 for this project.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board request the Franklin County Budget Commission's approval to appropriate an additional \$117,000.00 in General Fund line item 1000-110-360-0000 (Contract Services) for the purpose of funding the preliminary planning for the West Broad Street Streetscape Plan.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Votes were: Mr. Stormont-Aye: Mr. Kennedy-Aye: Ms. Schlosser-Aye. This motion passed.

Mr. Hatmaker was asked if the residents will be assessed for lighting on West Broad Street and Mr. Hatmaker stated no as that is an ODOT function.

Old Business:

Ms. Daniels, Bolingbrook Drive, presented pictures of the railroad and 1445 Bolingbrook Drive to the Board. Ms. Daniels asked Mr. Kennedy if he was able to contact the railroad and he stated the contact

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numbers are still good, the maintenance men are still there and Ms. Daniels asked "are they going to mow". Mr. Kennedy stated "they said they were going to mow." When Mr. Kennedy was there, he stated "the grass looks like it could be cut, but it isn't real bad yet". Ms. Daniels said this is the beginning of the season and the grass is 12". Ms. Daniels asked "how about these people the Board said were a nuisance, how high was their grass?" Ms. Schlosser stated "very high and that it has to be tall enough to harbor vermin". Ms. Daniels wanted to know why this issue was not on the nuisance list. Mr. Kennedy stated in his opinion "the main thing is it going to effect health issues on the neighbors and what intensity the health issues are. You have to make a judgment on every property. Right or wrong, there are gray areas that need to be crossed. He further stated it is everybody's own perspective of what it is and the Board looks to see if the property is adversely affecting the neighbors property and are there any health issues currently happening on that property". During the winter, the Board of Health was contacted and asked to check the property for any health issues and there were none. Mr. Kennedy further stated "his view is this should be worked out between the neighbors but if it gets to the point where it is adversely affecting other neighbors, the Board will keep an eye on it and in his opinion the resident at 1445 Bolingbrook Drive has made major improvements to his property". The Zoning Department said they could not find any poison ivy on the property. The Trustees requested the Board of Health be contacted to re-check the property.

New Business:

None

Public Comments:

None

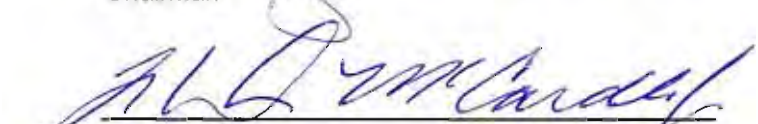
Announcements: Memorial Day services will be held at the Prairie Township cemeteries on Memorial Day (May 25th) as follows:

Galloway Cemetery...9:30 (by Grove City Memorial VFW Post #8198)

Alton Cemetery...11:30 (by Camp Chase American Legion Post #98)

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


Chairman


Fiscal Officer