

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



## PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JANUARY 27, 2021 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

Due to the current COVID-19 Health Emergency, this meeting was closed to the public and livestreamed via Webex on the Township's website.

Mr. Kennedy opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Steve Kennedy, Vice Chair Doug Stormont, Trustee Cathy Schmelzer, Township Administrator Rob Peters and Recreation Director Michael Pollack were all in attendance at the Township Hall. Fiscal Officer Sherry Henning and Fire Chief Allen Scott attended remotely. All other Department Heads were excused in advance from tonight's meeting.

### Approval of Minutes - January 13, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy motioned "So Moved". Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. The meeting minutes for the January 13, 2021 Regular Meeting were approved.**

### Franklin County Sheriff 's Office

Deputy Hamilton provided a report from the last two weeks that included 400 runs, 74 vehicles, 28 traffic stops, 32 accidents, and 42 reports filed out of the 400 runs.

### Fiscal Officer 's Report

#### Approval of Warrant s and Payroll

This week's warrants list detailed payments to 74 vendors totaling \$300,083.22.

Mc. Henning requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling \$300,083.22 along with the 1/25/21 payroll of \$348,064.40 (substantially higher than normal due to holiday cash payout and sick leave conversion payments) for a total cash disbursement of \$648,147.62.

Comments/Issues: None

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

### Liquor Permits

Ms. Henning asked the Board if they would like to request a hearing on liquor permits located at 4780 West Broad Street (Giant Eagle), Columbus, Ohio 43228 and 925 Darby Creek Drive (Darby House), Galloway, Ohio 43119.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board not request a hearing on the advisability of issuing a liquor permit to an establishment located at 4780 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43228. Mr. Stormont seconded. The Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board not request a hearing on the advisability of issuing a liquor permit to an establishment located at 925 Darby Creek Drive. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Reallocation

Ms. Henning asked the Board to authorize reallocating \$25,000.00 in the Fire Fund from the salaries line to the overtime line. Overtime has been unusually high to due extended illness and injuries within the department. The Chief expect overtime to return to normal levels within the next couple of months.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Fiscal Office to reallocate \$25,000.00 in the Fire**

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**Fund from the Salaries line (2191-220-190-0000) to the Overtime line (2191-220-190-0001). Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

Mr. Kennedy inquired about the progress of year end. Year end is progressing.

### Standing Business:

#### Fire Department

##### U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Receipt

Chief Scott asked the Board to approve the receipt of \$16,088.68 from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). \$11,753.95 was received in April 2020 and \$4,334.73 was received in December 2020. These are COVID related funds earmarked for Emergency Care Providers. These funds have been matched to COVID related spending. I simply need Board approval to sign and return the attestation forms to HHS.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Fire Chief to sign and return the receipt of \$16,088.68 to the US Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

##### VFIS Agreement

Chief Scott asked the Board's permission to renew the agreement with VFIS at a cost of \$3,135.00. VFIS will provide supplemental income for part-time firefighters who are injured on duty and lose their income.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve entering into an agreement with VFIS for disability insurance benefits at a cost of \$3,135.00, and authorize the Fire Chief to execute the necessary paperwork. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

##### Annual Training Agreement with Doctors

Chief Scott asked the Board to authorize the Fire Chief to renew the annual training agreement with Doctors Hospital. This agreement allows emergency room residents to train with our medic crews.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Fire Chief to renew the annual training agreement with Doctors Hospital. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Community Center

**Mr. Peters moved that the board authorize an outside vendor for the concession stand at the Galloway Sports Complex and to authorize the Director to issue an RFP to bid for the concession stand. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department

#### Electrical Pricing for West Broad Street

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve the attached price list for electrical services from Jess Howard Electric Company for work along West Broad Street for the street lighting and associated electric services along that corridor. Mr. Peters also asked the Board to authorize the Service Director to use them on an as needed basis for these services. This price list is for the 2021 calendar year. The rates are the same as

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2020 with the exception of High Voltage cabling which only went up slightly and Mr. McAninch does not anticipate us using them for this.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Service Director to utilize Jess Howard Electric for lighting and electrical services, as needed, along West Broad Street. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**  
**Catch Basin Cleaning Program**

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve an estimated amount for the 2021 catch basin cleaning program of \$17,500.00. We would schedule this to start as soon as the weather allows. The \$17,500.00 is only an estimate of the cost and time it will take to clean all of the storm sewer catch basins. Mr. McAninch feels this is a valuable program for preventative maintenance for the townships storm sewer infrastructure. Mr. Peters also asked the Board to authorize the Service Director to sign a contract with Metropolitan Environmental Services Inc. establishing hourly rates for their services for 2021. The rates are the same as 2020.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize an agreement with Metropolitan Environmental Services for catch basin maintenance/cleaning at a cost of \$17,500 and authorize the Service Director to execute the necessary paperwork. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Pavement Cut Deposit Return

Mr. Peters asked the Board return the pavement cut deposit of \$9,600.00 to Danbert Construction Corp. 8077 Memorial Drive Plain City Ohio 43064. This was for pavement cuts from the FCSE Sanitary District 4: Sewer Point Repairs and Lining project. Mr. Peters also asked the Board to authorize the Fiscal Officer to cut a check on Thursday January 28 2021 and mail it to them.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve returning a \$9,600.00 pavement cut deposit to Danbert Construction Corp and authorize the Fiscal Office to issue a check on January 28, 2021. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Commercial Building and Zoning / No items

### Administration

#### Nuisance Cases

**Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-06 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 215-219 Danhurst Road". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

**Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-07 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 80-160 Old Village Road ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

**Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-08 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 342 Kellybrook Place". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

**Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-09 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 4707 Hilton Avenue ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

#### Nuisance Assessments

Mr. Peters asked the Board to execute a "Return and Statement to County Commissioners" requesting

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the assessments totaling \$5,195.03 for high grass and weed abatement at (10) properties in September, 2020 through January, 2021 as well as execute a "Return and Statement to County Commissioners" requesting assessments totaling \$8,766.76 for removal of trash and debris at (7) properties in September, 2020 through January, 2021.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board execute a "Return and Statement to County Commissioners " requesting the assessments totaling \$5,195.03 for high grass and weed abatement at (10) properties in September, 2020 through January, 2021 as well as execute a "Return and Statement to County Commissioners " requesting assessments totaling \$8,766.76 for removal of trash and debris at (7) properties in September, 2020 through January, 2021. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Legal Counsel for BWC Case

Mr. Peters asked the Board to formerly approve retaining Steptoe & Johnson to represent the Township in a current Workers' Comp injury case. Rates are as follows:

Attorney: \$405.00/hour  
Law Partner: \$295.00/hour  
Associate: \$235.00/hour  
Paralegal: \$200.00/hour

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize retaining Steptoe & Johnson to represent the Township in a current BWC case. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Old Business

None

### New Business

Pleasant Prairie Solar Project - Discussion regarding the Pleasant Prairie Solar Project with residents and the project managers for the Pleasant Prairie Solar Project (Geoff Patterson and Josh Hreha) with regards to providing information and where the project is in the process. Prairie Township is currently not part of the project or as a liaison in the project at this time.

Mr. Peters hasn't been able to receive anything on this project as of yet and has requested to start receiving information. The Trustees need to discuss this further once information is available. At this time, information and little contact has been provided to the Trustees.

Mr. Newbury, resident on Murnan Road, is requesting from the Board of Trustees to be an advocate for the residents and to intervene as needed.

Mr. Patterson and Mr. Hreha provided an overview of the project, answered residents' questions, and would like to continue to work with everyone. The outreach efforts to the residents and stakeholders are important to develop and be transparent for the project. Newspaper notices are done. The ORC (Ohio Revised Code) dictates are to blend into the area. OPCS application is coming soon within 2-3 weeks.

### Public Comment

None

### Announcements

Mr. Peters stated the capital budget was signed for 1.5mil and was awarded to Prairie Township.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm

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Chairman Steve Kennedy

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Fiscal Officer Sherry Henning