

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



## PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FEBRUARY 24, 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, Fiscal Officer Sherry Henning, Township Administrator Rob Peters and Recreation Director Michael Pollack were all in attendance at the Township Hall. Fire Chief Allen Scott attended remotely. All other Department Heads were excused in advance from tonight's meeting.

### Approval of Minutes - February 10, 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 February 10, 2021 Regular Meeting were approved.**

### Fiscal Officer's Report

#### Approval of Warrants and Payroll

This week's warrants list detailed payments to 53 vendors totaling \$179,773.29. Two large payments in this week's warrants listing are for Compartment mounting for E241 of \$22,678.15 and the Franklin County Commissioner for Health Insurance for March in the amount of \$96,117.91.

Ms. Henning requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling \$179,773.29 along with the 2/25/21 payroll of \$244,704.53 for a total cash disbursement of \$424,477.82.

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.**

Ms. Henning spoke on behalf of the year end closing process. During this process, she learned a lot about the Township and noticed areas that need attention and to be able to create efficiencies going forward. Ms. Henning found some things that need cleaning up and will do that as quickly as possible. Overall, it was a good process.

### Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Hamilton presented the bi-weekly report of the following: 530 runs, 26 were 911 calls, 49 traffic stops, 19 alarm drops, 76 suspicious vehicles, 19 disable vehicles, 41 accidents, 63 reports were taken.

### Standing Business:

#### Fire Department

#### Resignation of Part-Time Firefighters

Chief Scott asked the Board to accept the resignations of part-time firefighters Ty Reynolds effective February 28, 2021 and Tim Rushley effective February 19, 2021. Chief would like to thank Ty and Tim for their service and wish them best of luck.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board accept the resignations of Ty Reynolds as part time firefighter effective February 28, 2021 and Tim Rushley as part-time firefighter effective February 19, 2021. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

Chief Scott announced the ice training on Galloway Road was able to provide EMS to the dive team themselves. Nine members are to provide support to the members themselves. The firefighters used this

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training to save two teenagers.

### Community Center

#### Spectator Guidelines

In an effort to promote social distancing and reduce capacity, all recreation programs and activities at the Community Center may only have one adult parent/guardian with the participant. Masks are required for all spectators.

Comments/Issues: Ms. Schmelzer inquired about the details on how this would work with two parents.

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve Spectator Guidelines allowing only one adult parent/guardian to accompany a participant in the Community Center. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

#### Cash Transactions

Mr. Pollack asked the Board to allow the Community Center to begin accepting cash as a form of payment beginning March 1, 2021. Due to COVID-19, the center has not accepted cash since the temporary shut-down last march.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Community Center to begin accepting cash as a form of payment beginning March 1, 2021. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

#### Basketball Reservation Policy

Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve the Basketball Reservation Policy that was submitted prior to the meeting. This policy includes guidelines, age requirements, and missed reservations.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the Basketball Reservation Policy as submitted. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

#### Annual Maintenance Shutdown

Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve the annual maintenance shutdown dates for August 30 through September 3 with the pool reopening September 7.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve August 30 through September 3 for the annual maintenance shutdown with the pool reopening September 7. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department

#### GRSC Improvement Project Award

Mr. Peters recommended the Board approve awarding The Galloway Road Improvements and Private Storm Sewer Improvements for Prairie Township Sports Complex Phase 2 Project to Trucco Construction for \$845,344.00. Mr. Peters also asked the Board to authorize the Service Director to sign all necessary documents for this contract. Stantec has reviewed all of bids and the bid from Trucco was the lowest bid and was in order. The engineers estimate for the project was \$957,790.00, so the bid came in \$112,446.00 under the engineers estimate.

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Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve award the Galloway Road Improvements and Private Storm Sewer Improvements to Trucco Construction at a cost of \$845,344.00 and authorize the Service Director to sign the necessary documents. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Task Order

Mr. Peters recommended the Board approve a task order under the Master Service Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services for Construction Management and Inspection of the portion of The Galloway Road Improvements and Private Storm Sewer Improvements for Prairie Township Sports Complex Phase 2 Project that is on the Sports Complex Property in an amount not to exceed \$23,952.60. Mr. Peters also asked the Board to authorize the Township Administrator and Fiscal Officer to sign the task order.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve a task order with Stantec Consulting Services for the Construction Management and Inspection of the Galloway Road Improvement and Private Storm Sewer Improvement projects at a cost not to exceed \$23,952.60 and authorize the Township Administrator and Fiscal officer to sign the task order. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### West Broad Street Lighting Proposal

Mr. Peters recommended the Board approve converting the West Broad Street Streetlights from the current Metal Halide Lamps to LED Lamps. The total cost for this would be \$19,080.26. We would buy the LED Retrofit Kits from DBall Communications at a cost of \$9,035.26 and have Jess Howard install them at a cost of \$10,045.00. Mr. Peters also asked the Board to authorize the Service Director to sign all necessary documents related to these purchases. Mr. McAninch believes we will recover our cost within a 3-year period. In 2020, we paid \$9,052.34 for electricity for these street lights, the new LED lights will last longer and use 25% of the electricity the current bulbs use.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve converting the West Broad Street streetlights to LED lamps at a cost of \$19,080.26 and authorize the Service Director to sign the necessary documents. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### 2021 ODOT Road Mileage

Mr. Peters recommended the Board sign the 2021 Prairie Township Highway System Mileage Certification. There is a small change from last year; the Township is responsible for maintaining 55.750 miles of public roads. The change is from an annexation on Hilliard Rome Road East of .12 miles.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the 2021 Highway Mileage System Certification. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Accepting Donation GRSC

Mr. Peters recommended the Board accept a donation from Galloway Baseball Club for \$196,127.64. This donation would be for the construction of two additional baseball field at the GRSC. Mr. Peters also asked the Board to authorize the Township Administrator, Fiscal Officer and Service Director to sign all necessary documents related to building these two fields. The Galloway Baseball Club would like the Board to extend their current field usage agreement by five additional years. They would also like to name the smaller of the two fields The Jay Staton Memorial Field. They would also like approval to use two of the multi-purpose fields for football in the fall and they have agreed to pay for the expenses for football including the equipment needed for the kids and purchasing the goal post for the fields.

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Comments/Issues: The soccer and baseball fields programs at the Galloway Sports Complex will be set up for both to be used on the property.

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board accept a donation from the Galloway Baseball Club for \$196,127.64 for the construction of two additional baseball fields at the Sports Complex and authorize the Township Administrator, Fiscal Officer, and Service Director to sign the necessary documents. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve extending the current field usage agreement with Galloway Baseball Club by an additional five years. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**  
**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Galloway Baseball Club to name the smaller of the two baseball fields "The Jay Staton Memorial Field ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the use of two of the multi-purpose fields for football in the Fall. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Crack Seal Material Agreement

Mr. Peters recommended the Board authorize the Service Director to sign an agreement with DJL Material for crack seal material for a cost of \$.92 per pound. This is the same price as last year. This agreement includes the use of the crack seal machine from DJL at no cost as long as we buy and use their material. Mr. Peters also asked the Board to authorize spending up to 25,000.00 for this program in 2021.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Service Director to sign an agreement with DJL Material for crack seal material at a cost of \$.92 per pound. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### City of Columbus Salt Approval

Mr. Peters asked the Board to authorize the Service Director to receive salt in lieu of monetary payment from the City of Columbus from the agreement the Board authorized at their July 29, 2020 regular Trustee meeting. We are going to get approximately 100 tons of salt at the same price as our current ODOT contract of 64.41 per ton. Mr. McAninch will work with Ms. Good when we submit the bill to document the lower invoice from the agreement the Board approved.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Service Director to receive salt in lieu of monetary payment from the City of Columbus. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Dump Truck Repair

Mr. Peters recommended the Board approve the repair of our 2016 F-550 Dump Truck for a cost of \$10,172.00. Pengwyn will do the repair. Rob has approved this repair as an emergency expenditure so that the work can begin. We are asking the Board's formal approval of this repair.

Comments/Issues: Mr. Stormont does not see having the repair based on the high cost with all the welds that would be needed and then turn around to sell it in 6 months. Mr. Kennedy thinks Government trucks and the employees using it for liability purposes is a concern. He would like to get a second opinion.

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the repair of the 2016 F-550 Dump Truck at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 and to request two more quotes from different vendors. If the repair quotes exceed \$5,000; then instead it is approved up to \$10,172 for a new truck. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Commercial Building and Zoning

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### Annual Spring Clean Up Schedule

Mr. Peters asked the Board to schedule the Annual Spring Clean-Up for 2021 for April 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. This year there will be a shredder on site one day only for three hours on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00am - 1:00pm for residents to shred personal documents.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the 2021 Annual Spring Clean-Up schedule as submitted. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Request to Hire

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve hiring Maria Blaney to fill the vacant part-time assistant position in the Commercial Building and Zoning Department for a total of 1500 hours per year at \$14.00 per hour starting March 1, 2021.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve hiring Maria Blaney as a part-time assistant in the Commercial Building and Zoning Department at a rate of \$14.00 not to exceed 1500 hours. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Administration

#### Nuisance Cases

**Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-10-21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 4540-4560 Hilton Avenue ". 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-11-21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 4694-4702 Hilton Avenue ". 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-12-21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 174 Postle Boulevard ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

#### Newsletter

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve using The Messenger to print the semi-annual newsletter at a cost \$1,200.00 if we go with 2 pages or \$2,000 for four pages. When we last discussed this, The Messenger had a distribution that only covered 60% of residents. They are now changing their distribution to cover 100% of the Township. The newsletter will be distributed in the bag with the Messenger. If we go with the Messenger it will save us approximately \$8,000.00 per year in printing and postage costs. In addition they will provide us space in every edition of the paper to put in specific township items. The newsletter will also be available on the Township website.

**No action was taken.**

#### Old Business

#### Concession Stand Discussion

Mr. Peters recommended a 5 year agreement. Mr. Kennedy would like to have a 1 year agreement with an option to extend and wants legal to review the agreement. Mr. Peters will work with the contractor and the township to find the best agreement to present to the Trustees at the next meet.

#### Pleasant-Prairie Solar Project

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Scott Newbery, resident on Murnan Road, is requesting the Trustees stand together with the residents in not supporting the Pleasant-Prairie Solar Project. Mr. Peters stated the application was filed February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Mr. Peters will follow up with legal. The township has until June for the Trustees to agree or disagree.

Mr. Kennedy needs more information about the intervenor.

Mrs. Schmelzer, Jeff (resident), they want to have an in person meeting at the Community Center with up to 70 people. In the online WebEx chat, two residents said an in person meeting would be good.

Mr. Newbery, HB118; Senate bill; local zoning authority for industrial use. The township would have the authority if these were signed into law to provide the Trustees with the ability to say yes or no prior to these types of zoning matters.

Mr. Peters, this application has been filed and would not apply to this situation according to the township attorney. Mr. Kennedy does not have a problem supporting this bill. The township will look into this and get back to Mr. Newbery and Murnan residents.

Josh Hreha with Invenergy, posted and submitted the application for the project. The application was entered into last Friday. They are now in a new phase and looking for an open house place to have a meeting in Mid-March. Invenergy, the community center that can hold 70-80 people. Monday and Friday evenings only in the recreation center are available. No questions at this time by the Trustees.

Scott Newbery wants to be part of the communication efforts to let residents know about the project.

### **New Business**

None

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Announcements**

Mr. Peters announced that the Residential Trash Program starts March 1<sup>st</sup>. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and a container has to be used and approved by your provider. All the trash haulers are listed on the township website on the home page.

Debbie Chrisp of Elmhurt Circle asked if Alpha still be able to do our recycling trash hauling on every other Saturday. Recycling remains recommended to pick up the same day or on Saturday. Every other Saturday is recycling pickup. The Trustees have no desire to have recycling hauling stopped.

### **Executive Session**

**At 8:20 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board go into executive session per ORC section 121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee. G(2) To consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 of the Revised Code. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

**At 9:25 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board come out of Executive Session. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm

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Chairman Steve Kennedy

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Fiscal Officer Sherry Henning