

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



## PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARCH 10, 2021 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

Due to the current COVID-19 Health Emergency, this meeting was opened to a limited number of public attendees 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 24, 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 24, 2021 Regular Meeting were approved.**

### Franklin County Sheriff 's Office

Deputy Hamilton presented the bi-weekly report of the following: Cars 445, 60 reports filed, 34 traffic stops, 63 suspicious, 20 alarm, 6- 911 calls. Mr. Kennedy requested speed enforcement on North Greener Ave, North of Becon Hill.

### Fiscal Officer 's Report

#### Approval of Warrant s and Payroll

This week's warrants list detailed payments to 66 vendors totaling \$172,285.92. The largest payments in this weeks warrants listing are the Franklin County Sherriff's Office for \$80,809.69 and the City of Grove City for IT Services of \$22,032.00.

Ms. Henning requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling \$172,285.92 along with the 3/10/21 payroll of \$215,644.26 for a total cash disbursement of \$387,930.18.

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.**

At the last meeting, Ms. Henning reported that year end was closed. The auditors at BHM, CPA firm has contacted her to gather a little information for the upcoming audit. The audit will include CARES Act funds of \$1,593,571 for the calendar year 2020. CARES Act funds are Federal funds. A Single Audit is required to happen in conjunction with the regular audit if you have federal funds over the \$750,000 limit. Therefore, we will have a Single Audit for the 2020 year.

### Standing Business:

#### Fire Department

#### Termination of Part-Time Firefighter

Chief Scott asked the Board to consider terminating the employment of part-time probationary firefighter, Alexander Owens.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved to terminate the employment of part-time probationary firefighter Alexander Owens, effective immediately. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### LifeCare Alliance Agreement

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Chief Scott asked the Board to approve the Fire Chief to sign a renewed business agreement and memorandum of understanding with LifeCare Alliance. The fire department regularly refers elderly patients to LifeCare Alliance as a resource for a multitude of services. There is no cost associated with this agreement.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Fire Chief to sign a business agreement and memorandum of understanding with LifeCare Alliance. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Full-Time Hiring List

Chief Scott asked the Board to approve a full-time hiring list which will be established on Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>.

1. Logan Spieles
2. Kevin Reynolds
3. Jack Ferguson
4. Phil Cavinee
5. Braydon Cordle
6. Kenny Lambert
7. John Dible
8. Phil Olesh

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the full-time hiring list as submitted. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

The Fire Department monthly report for February 2021 was presented.

### Incident Count By NFIRS Code

Incident Type Group	2021-02-01	Total
700 - False Alarm	11	<b>11</b>
600 - Series	88	<b>88</b>
300 - EMS	322	<b>322</b>
500 - Service Call	25	<b>25</b>
100 - Fire	8	<b>8</b>
400 - HAZMAT	4	<b>4</b>
900 - Special Incident	1	<b>1</b>
200 - Series	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>460</b>

### Incident Count by Shift

Shift	2021-02-01	Total
Unit 1	155	<b>155</b>
Unit 2	128	<b>128</b>
Unit 3	177	<b>177</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>460</b>

### Incident Count by Station

Station	2021-02-01	Total
Prairie Township Fire Station 243	68	<b>68</b>
Prairie Township Fire Station 241	392	<b>392</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>460</b>

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Aided Agency Name	Details
Central Twp	1 Rows
Columbus	144 Rows
Franklin Township	5 Rows
Jackson Township	1 Rows
Jefferson Township	8 Rows
London	2 Rows
Norwich Township	6 Rows
Pleasant Township	4 Rows
	<b>171 Rows</b>

Chief Scott announced the dive team is doing training every other Thursday.

A question was raised if the Fire Department is having the Fish Fry this year. Chief Scott said it is too early to tell how they will have the Fish Fry or the details but anticipates they will more to report soon.

A question was made regarding the fire fighter that was terminated. The fire fighter was still in the probationary period and they felt it best to terminate.

### Community Center

#### Easter Egg Hunt

Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve an Easter Egg Hunt at the Galloway Road Sports Complex. The date is April 3 from 1-4 pm. The organizer is Robin Thompson. They are going to divide kids up by age groups at different times to limit the number of people at the complex. They will also make sure families are providing 6 feet social distance and wearing masks.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve and Easter Egg Hun at the Galloway Road Sports Complex on April 3, 2021 from 1-4 p.m. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

The Community Center report for February 2021 was presented.

#### Community Center Monthly Report

Numbers as of 28-Feb-21  
percentage

Total Current Community Center Members	5,090	
Total Members that are Prairie Township Residents	1,501	29.49%
Total Members that are Non-Residents	3,589	70.51%
Total Members that are JEDD/JEDZ	99	1.94%
Total Members that are Senior Citizens	3,671	72.12%

Total Unique Senior Citizen Visits 3,322

Number of new members/renewals since last report 137

How many memberships that expired that were not renewed 227

Retention rate percentage 98

#### Events or significant programs

Group Fitness Classes 549

Basketball 415

Pickleball 118

Homeschool Open Gym 20

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### Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department

#### Dumpster and Container Donation

Mr. Peters recommended the Board approve the donation of a dumpster and some roll around trash containers for the GRSC. The dumpster and containers would be from Boren Brothers and Galloway Baseball Club coordinated the donation. There will be no cost for the trash removal. The dumpsters will have padlocks so unauthorized use can be minimized. We will have to figure out a good location for the dumpster. We may have some cost in a pad for the dumpster.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the donation of a dumpster and trash containers from Boren Brothers for the Galloway Road Sports Complex. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

The Roads, Cemeteries, and Parks Department report for February 2021 was presented.

- 6 Graves sold
- 4 funerals
- Chipped tree limbs at 2 addresses
- 15 days working on snow and ice events
- Trash W Broad Street median 1day
- Passed Mandrel test GRSC Storm Sewer
- Patched potholes township 1 day
- Started 2021 sign replacement 2 days

### Commercial Building and Zoning

#### Request for Public Hearing

Mr. Peters asked the Board to set a Public Hearing to hear Application Number 185-RZ-21 and request to rezone from R-4 to R-8 for the property located at 264 Norton Road at the April 7, 2021 Trustee Meeting and approve advertisement of the hearing. Zoning Commission recommended approval of Application No. 185-RZ-21 at their February 23, 2021 Public Hearing.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board set a hearing for April 7, 2021 to hear public comment on Application Number 185-RZ-21 request to rezone from R-4 to R-8 at a property located at 264 Norton Road and authorize the Zoning Department to advertise the hearing as per requirements of the Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

The Zoning Department report for February 2021 was presented.

#### Zoning Monthly Report - February 2021

Development/Informational Meetings	125
Nuisance Inspections	31
Declared Nuisances	3
Zoning Inspections	58
Zoning Violations	7
Do Not Knock Registries	14
Contractor Registrations	2
Zoning Compliances (Permits)	8
Commercial Permits	2
Variance Applications	2
Zoning Revenue	\$1,784.00
Commercial Building Revenue	\$2,525.20

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### Administration

#### Nuisance Cases

Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-13 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 384 Lawrence". 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-14 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 156 Evergreen Terrace". 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-15 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 331 Hiler 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-16 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 4710 Hilton Avenue". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

#### Revised Job Descriptions

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve the revised job descriptions for road laborer - part time, Road Laborer 1 and Road Laborer 2. These changes were submitted to the Board prior to the meeting.

Comments/Issues: None

Kennedy moved that the Board approve the revised job descriptions as submitted. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

#### Sheriff's Contract

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve the 2021 Police Service Agreement with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. This agreement sets the terms for police services in the Township and is valid January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The cost for 2020 was \$80,809.69 a month (\$969,716.28 a year) with not to exceed maximum of \$999,000.00. The cost for 2021 is \$82,973.05 per month (not to exceed \$1,025,000.00).

Comments/Issues: Major Hickey explained the contract agreement is up for renewal, 2 dedicated cars 24/7, 1 dedicated 16/7 in addition to the other cars that are in the area that is for Prairie Township. Other services include but not limited to full service, swat team, bomb team, bike unit, and other services of the sheriff's office. Mrs. Schmelzer asked to table this prior to signing this agreement to have more conversations.

Item was tabled.

#### Release of Lien

The lien against the property at 6284 Alkrie Road owned by David Seeger has been paid in full. Township attorneys have prepared a Release of Mortgage to be filed to the county to release the township's interest in the property.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the Release of Mortgage for the lien against a property located at 6284 Alkrie Road. Mr. Kennedy seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

#### FEMA Demo Contract

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve an Asbestos Abatement and Demolition Contract between Prairie Township and DDS Services LLC for the demolition of the 5 FEMA houses. DDS Services LLC had the lowest quote of \$49,850.00 for all 5 houses. I will also ask the Board to authorize the Township

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Administrator and Fiscal Officer to sign the contract.

Comments/Issues: Mr. Kennedy asked about the FEMA demo timeline. Mr. Peters will work with the contractor to determine the timeline.

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve an Asbestos Abatement and Demolition Contract with DDS Services LLC for the demolition of the FEMA grant houses at a cost of \$49,850.00 and authorize the Township Administrator and Fiscal Officer to sign the contract. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Zoning Specialist I Payment Adjustment

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve adjusting Cassady Critchfield's hourly rate from \$21.54 to \$21.65 retroactive to January 1, 2021.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve adjusting Cassady Critchfield's hourly rate from \$21.54 to \$21.65 retroactive to January 1, 2021. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**  
**2021 Wellness Competition**

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve the 2021 Wellness Competition. This competition is between bargaining and non-bargaining staff for completion of the wellness program (earning the reduced deductible, getting a biometrics screening, and participating in 4 well-being activities). The winning team will have a \$0.00 insurance premium deduction on their 12/10/21 paycheck. The deadline for this competition is August 31, 2021.

Comments/Issues: None

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

### Concession Stand Agreement

Mr. Peters discussed the terms for Rob Connor renting and operating the concession stand building.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the general terms of agreement for the Galloway Road Sports Complex Concession Stand with Rob Connor. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### New Business

Mr. Peters update, House Bill 118, State Representative Lanese and State Representative Russo and Senate Bill 52, State Senator Kunze.

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board pass the letters of support of House Bill 118 and Senate Bill 52. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

Mr. Peters requested to add to the agenda a formal resolution when the application is approved to be interveners in the Pleasant-Prairie Solar Project. Legal council will submit it once the resolution is approved.

### Old Business

#### Darby Accord Town Center

Mr. Kennedy believes this will still progress as planned once the water and sewer issues are resolved. Rod Pritchard, comment regarding the Darby Accord project to the potential for development and residential home values to increase in that area.

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### Pleasant-Prairie Solar Project

Mr. Kennedy clarified information with regards to the township lawyer charges is not a free service or flat fee service for the township, but charges \$250/hr to the township.

Many residents in the Muran Road area addressed their concern of the health safety of the Pleasant-Prairie Solar Project and the impact of the property values. Residents clearly stated they do not want this in their back yards. They want the support of the Prairie Township Trustees to stop this project.

Squire Galbreath, family-owned land since 1935, the concern is not about the money. They sold/donated about 1,000 acres to the metro parks. They are concerned and want to minimize the impact of the area. Zero net carbon would be created by solar panels. \$4.5 mil is going into this project. More money would be generated through this program, through taxes, than what they are gaining now from the land. This should help with water runoff and no chemicals like farming.

Squire Galbreath is asking please look at the website of Invenergy for the facts and asking people to please educate themselves on the project.

Invenergy, Josh Hreha, is planning an open to the public meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>; He will send out notices and logistics. Open to discussing the application material, the scientific and engineering due diligence with anyone. Mr. Hreha is requesting people to review this project without comparing it to other projects as they are not the same. Land use and zoning use reviews for their environmental sciences have been done and he encourages people to look at this information.

### Public Comment

None

### Announcements

Next meeting may be moved to a new location to allow for more people to attend. Please look on the website for the location of the next meeting.

### Executive Session

**At 8:55 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 9:30 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.**

**No decisions were made during the executive session.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm

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Chairman Steve Kennedy

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Fiscal Officer Sherry Henning