

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARCH 22, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

Trustee Doug Stormont called the meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees to order on March 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall with Trustee Rod Pritchard, Township Administrator James Jewell, Road Superintendent Dave McAninch, Recreation Director Michael Pollack, Zoning Director Dana Scott, Fire Chief Allen Scott, and Sheriff Deputy B. Haren 1078 present.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Stormont opened the meeting and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board appoint Dave McAninch as Fiscal Officer Pro Tem. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes - March 8, 2023 regular meeting minutes

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont made a motion to approve the March 8, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Franklin County Sheriff 's Office

Sheriff Deputy B. Haren 1078 gave the Sheriff's report for the last two weeks.

	Total	Change
Total Calls for Service/Self-Initiated Runs	432	-58
Total Reports Taken	59	+7
Arrests/Citations	31	-11
Thefts	7	+3
Suspicious Activity Stops / Calls	40	-25
Traffic Stops	58	+3
Stolen Vehicles	1	
Recovered Vehicles (with the help of the Flock cameras)	1	
Drug Related Arrests	2	
Overdose	2	
Burglaries	5	
Shooting	1	

In the last two weeks deputies have responded to six major incidents at 4707 Hilton Ave. Deputies responded to two overdoses, one of which was an overdose death. Two domestic violence arrests were made from two different apartments and one apartment was burglarized twice during this time. During one of the burglaries gun shots were fired during the incident. Detectives are investigating these incidents, but Deputy Haren has also notified Detective Sgt. Jodrey. He is involved with our undercover detectives and specializes in high crime areas like we have been seeing at this location. Deputy Haren will be working

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closely with him, providing more information to him as he gathers it, to hopefully stop these occurrences in the future.

Deputy Haren wanted to recognize Deputy W. Richards for doing great follow up work on a theft incident from a local business. Deputy Richards was able to identify the individual from video footage as a male that he has arrested multiple times. He was also able to locate him at one of his local hangouts while he was still in possession of the stolen property. He also possessed some illegal drugs that were discovered during his arrest.

Mr. Pritchard asked if we have the ability to declare a nuisance on a building that continues to be an issue. The City of Columbus has been doing it to get rid of similar problems they have been having. Is there anything we can do? Mr. Pritchard stated we have to declare trash nuisances every meeting at these properties. Deputy Haren is going to sit down with Dana and see if there is anything they can pursue.

Mr. Zalenski asked follow-up questions on what Deputy Haren presented.

Fiscal Officer 's Report

Approval of Warrants and Payroll

This week's warrants list detailed payments to 62 vendors totaling \$231,606.91. Mr. McAninch requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling \$231,606.91 along with 3/24/23 payroll of \$214,335.15 for a total cash disbursement of \$445,942.06.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont motioned "so moved". Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Transfer

Mr. McAninch asked the Board to approve the following transfer:

Amount	From	To	Purpose
\$72,335.36	4302 (West Broad)	1000 (General)	Entire fund moved to General

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the transfers as presented. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Standing Business

Fire Department

EMS Billing (Tabled Item): Chief Scott asked the Board to approve the 10% EMS Billing Rate increase that was presented at the March 8th regular meeting.

Comments/Issues: None

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Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a 10% increase to the current EMS billing rates as presented and authorize the Fire Chief to execute any necessary documents. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Battelle MOU: Chief Scott asked the Board to approve the renewal of our MOU with Battelle Institute. We sign this agreement annually to provide services to Battelle Institute.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a renewal to the MOU with Battelle Institute and authorize the Fire Chief to execute the necessary documents. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Resignation of Part Time Firefighter: Chief Scott asked the Board to accept the resignation of PT FF Kenny Lambert. Kenny has a full-time position in Knox County and can no longer fulfill his obligations to PTFD. We want to thank him for his service to Prairie Twp. and wish him luck.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board accept the resignation of part-time firefighter Kenny Lambert as a part-time firefighter effective March 22, 2023. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Hiring of Part Time Firefighters: Chief Scott asked the Board to consider the following candidates for part-time FF positions: Remel Barbee, Dan Sherrill, Braden Watts, Nicolas Laser, Nautica Smith, Bryson Partlow, Drew Conkel, Brant Griggs, Jarrett Munyan, and Lane Applin. These candidates will serve a one-year probation beginning March 23rd, 2023. These members will replace the 10 that have been moved to full-time.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont motioned "so moved". Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Pharmacy Board Inspection Announcement: On March 9th, PTFD had a site inspection from the State Board of Pharmacy. This was the first site inspection since 1994 and we passed with a few minor discrepancies that were corrected the following day. This is another example of the high standards that our members strive to reach each day.

ESO Annual Software Request for Payment : Chief Scott asked the Board to authorize a payment of \$17,207.98 to ESO Solutions, Inc. This annual payment covers Fire and EMS software use including automatic data to our billing company, auto import of CAD (computer-aided dispatch) information and various accesses in the software system. The cost last year was \$16,706.78, so this is an increase of \$501.20 and it is already appropriated in the budget.

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Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize a payment to ESO Solutions, Inc. for an annual software agreement in the amount of \$17,207.98. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Zalenski asked about the Pharmacy Board inspection. Chief Scott explained we have a pharmacy license due to medications and narcotic medications and we must abide by pharmacy rules and how they are stored. There is medication in the firehouse and vehicles.

Community Center

Personal Service Contract (Res. 12-23) : Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve Resolution 12-23, which authorizes the Community Center to enter into contract with the following:

Contractor	Instruction	Effective Date	Rate
Lisa George	TOPSoccer Instructor/Organizer	4/15/23 - 12/31/23	\$25 per person not to exceed \$3,000

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 12-23, "A Resolution authorizing a Personal Service Contract for Contractors in the Recreation Department ". Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

OneField Sign: Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve a sign for the OneField. This sign outlines rules for the field as well as contact information if they want to request a permit.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the OneField signage as presented. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

PTCC Salary Increases: Mr. Pollack presented wage increases for part time positions at the Community Center. These increases align with other local centers.

Position	Current Pay Range		Proposed Pay Range		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	
Aquatics - Aquatics Instructor	\$ 17.00	\$ 26.00			NO CHANGE
Aquatics - Head Guard	\$ 12.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 21.00	

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Aquatics - Lifeguard	\$ 10.20	\$ 12.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 17.00	
Aquatics - Swim Instructor	\$ 12.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 21.00	
Aquatics - Water Fitness	\$ 17.00	\$ 26.00			NO CHANGE
Camp - Assistant Director	\$ 10.10	\$ 11.15	\$ 14.50	\$ 16.50	
Camp - Director	\$ 10.15	\$ 11.77	\$ 16.00	\$ 18.00	
Camp - Leader	\$ 10.10	\$ 11.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 15.00	
Child Care Attendant	\$ 10.10	\$ 11.00	\$ 10.10	\$ 13.00	
Fitness - Fitness Attendant	\$ 10.10	\$ 12.50			NO CHANGE
Fitness - Group Exercise Instructor	\$ 13.00	\$ 16.00			NO CHANGE
Fitness - Personal Trainer	\$ 13.00	\$ 18.00			NO CHANGE
Front Desk Attendant	\$ 10.10	\$ 13.00			NO CHANGE
General Maintenance Assistant	\$ 10.10	\$ 11.00	\$ 10.10	\$ 13.00	
Gym Attendant	\$ 10.10	\$ 11.00			NO CHANGE
Manager on Duty	\$ 12.27	\$ 14.74	\$ 17.00	\$ 21.00	
Recreation Leader	\$ 10.10	\$ 19.85			NO CHANGE
Recreation Official	\$ 20.00	\$ 22.00			NO CHANGE
Sports Field Director			\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	NEW POSITION

Comments/Issues: Mr. Pollack stated we are trying to stay competitive with local areas. These are in the 2023 budget. We have not had a rate increase since 2019. Mr. Pritchard noticed some rates seemed a little low that we are not changing. Mr. Pollack responded the main focus was aquatics and camp staff. The other positions are similar to other areas. We are in need of lifeguards.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve wage increases to the part-time positions the Community Center as presented, effective March 23, 2023. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Roads, Cemeteries, and Parks Department

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Nuisance Tree: Mr. McAninch asked the Board to approve the removal of dead limbs on a nuisance tree at 331 Hiler Road. Peterman Tree and Lawn Service will remove the dead limbs for \$307.00. The township will haul any wood away and chip any brush to help lower the cost. As of now we will need to proceed with this as involuntary, but hopefully I can reach the homeowner and get them to sign the paperwork to make it voluntary, either way they get the same procedure which is the township pays for the removal and the homeowner pays us back over 5 years interest free. I have attached photographic documentation of the tree showing if it fell in the public right of way, it could hurt someone or something.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Pritchard moved that the Board approve holding a public hearing on April 5, 2023 and authorize the Chair to sign a notice to the property owner at 331 Hiler Road advising them of the meeting to determine if a tree located on their property, is a public nuisance. Mr. Stormont seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

2023 Road Work: Mr. McAninch recommended the Board approve the roads in the attachment to be included in the 2023 Franklin County Engineer's Road Contract for townships. The estimate Dave is recommending comes to \$376,253.70. This only an estimate. The work still needs to go to bid. We have \$250,000.00 in the Road District Fund and \$50,000.00 from the Gas Tax Fund. The balance will be paid for from the Road and Bridge Fund and anything left from the 2023 contract/estimate.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve Board approve the 2023 road work as presented. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

2022 Highway Mileage Certificate: Mr. McAninch recommended the Board sign the 2022 Prairie Township Highway System Mileage Certification. There is a small change from last year; the township is responsible for maintaining 54.833 miles of public roads. The change is minus .758 due to LBRS incorporation of Franklin County.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the Prairie Township Highway System Mileage Certification as presented. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Ms. Martinez asked about trash in the right of way on the property. Mr. McAninch stated we can pick up anything in the right of way. We pick up a lot of trash. Volunteers will often go out during the Spring Clean Up and clean up trash.

Commercial Building and Zoning Department

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Court Case: Ms. Scott recommended that the Board approve starting the legal process for an injunction against Thomas Sullivan & Charlee J. Sullivan, and all occupants at 6800 Alkire Road, Galloway, Ohio 43119, and giving Brosius, Johnson, and Griggs permission to represent this case on behalf of Prairie Township. This injunction would be for the removal of inoperable junk motor vehicles, open storage, junk, living in the RV, and other related violations.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve moving forward with a legal process for an injunction against Thomas Sullivan, Charlee J. Sullivan, and all occupants at 6800 Alkire Road, Galloway, Ohio 43119 and granting Brosius, Johnson and Griggs permission to represent this case on behalf of Prairie Township. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Administration

Nuisance Resolutions : Mr. Jewell presented the nuisances to be declared tonight.

Galloway Village Trash & Debris Nuisance locations :

Address	Parcel Number
4820 Medfield Way	240-004847

*strike-through addresses not declared

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-11-23, "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with refuse and debris. " Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Other Trash & Debris Nuisance locations :

Address	Parcel Number
279 Garden Heights Avenue	240-004189
60 Lennox Avenue	240-000470
23 Pasadena Avenue	240-000568
473 Smith Road	240-004943
392 Darbyhurst Road	240-003655
80-160 Old Village Road	240-006829
308 Hubbard Road	240-005838
5934 Hall Road	240-004113
4669 Hilton Avenue	240-004320
4710 Hilton Avenue	240-004274
4739 Hilton Avenue	240-004313
4678-4688 Hilton Avenue	240-004278
4694-4702 Hilton Avenue	240-004276
290 Inah Avenue	240-002514

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122 Norton Road	240-003088
4709 Stiles Avenue	240-004461
4775 West Broad Street	240-004909
240-005190 West Broad Street	240-005190
240-001806 Woodlawn Avenue	240-001806
6800 Alkire Road	240-002553

*strike-through addresses not declared

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the adopt Resolution NU-12-23, "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with refuse and debris. " Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

2023 Permanent Appropriations: Mr. Jewell presented the 2023 permanent appropriations for adoption.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the 2023 permanent appropriations as presented and authorize the Fiscal Office to file with the County Auditor. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

2022 Township Report: Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve the annual Township Report that was provided prior to the meeting.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the 2022 Township Annual Report as presented. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Letter to Budget Commission: Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve sending a letter to the budget commission increasing the revenue in the following funds:

Fund	Increase to Revenue
2181 (Zoning)	\$500.00 (\$810,750 new total)
1000 (General)	\$72,335.36 (\$3,184,835.36 new total)

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve sending a letter to the Budget Commission to increase revenue in the funds as presented. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

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Sedgwick Agreement: This is the annual agreement to provide workers compensation program management for the Township. We no longer qualify for re-enrollment in the group rating program but have been invited to join the retro group. Fees for the enrollment period of 1/1/24 - 12/31/24 is \$8,895.00 (approximately 5% higher than last year).

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the Township to enter the 2023 Ohio Township Association Retro Group through Sedgwick at an annual cost of \$8,895.00, authorize the HR Director to execute the necessary documents, and authorize the Fiscal Office to issue a warrant on March 23, 2023. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Unsafe Structure: At the February 22, 2023 meeting, the Board approved a resolution authorizing notice to be sent to owners/lienholders of 454 Mix Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43228, Parcel No. 240-001413 regarding the unsafe structure on the property. Fire Marshal Powers provided a letter of recommendation and the Zoning Department sent notices giving them the chance to request a hearing before the Board within 20 days. We did not receive any responses. I will ask the Board to approved Resolution 12-23 which authorizes myself to move forward with having the structure removed and any cost will be entered as a tax duplicate on the property.

Comments/Issues: Ms. Martinez asked about this property. Ms. Scott gave an update on the ownership of the property. The owner is deceased. This would have to go through probate if the son gets the property. We are working to get this structure taken down. The seller of the property would have to pay back assessments on the removal of the structure.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 13-23, "A Resolution to proceed with the removal of the insecure, unsafe, and structurally defective structure from the property owned by Jerry E. Frazier (aka Jerry Frasier), located on Franklin County Parcel No. 240-001413, in Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio ". Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

JEDZ Board Appointments (Res. 14-23): Mr. Jewell asked the Board to re-appoint Randi Good and Lindsey Ostring to the JEDZ Board. Randi's term expired December 31, 2022 and Lindsey's is set to expire June 30, 2023. Randi's new term will expire December 31, 2024 and Lindsey's will expire June 30, 2025.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 14-23 "A Resolution re-appointing members to the Board of Directors of the Prairie- Obetz Joint Economic Development Zone. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Hubbard/Dellinger Road Open House Recap: Mr. Jewell gave an overview of the Open House that was held on Wednesday March 15 regarding a proposed park at the corner of Hubbard Road and Dellinger

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Road / no Board action required. We've had 34 responses. The most popular response was walking paths and playground equipment. Based on the results it looks like people are interested in the parks.

Old Business

None

New Business

The owner of the food truck at Woodlawn and West Broad Street was in attendance. He gave an overview of the steps he has taken thus far. Per our Law Director, there is no way to apply for a variance for the truck. The food truck owner spoke to a lawyer and asked the Trustees if he can keep the truck there. Mr. Pritchard stated it would have to be an amendment to the zoning. Ms. Scott stated we are a home rule. Mr. Pritchard stated we would have to have a hearing and cannot vote on it tonight. The owner plans to leave on the 31st but wanted to get this process figured out. The Township cannot make an exception for one truck and not others. A lengthy discussion was had on this topic. Ms. Scott will get ahold of our Law Director and get guidance.

Public Comment

None

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Mr. Stormont adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Chairman Doug Stormont

Fiscal Officer Pro Tem Dave McAninch