

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



## PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARCH 24, 2021 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 123 INAH AVENUE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

Due to the current COVID-19 Health Emergency and limited space at the Township Hall, the meeting was moved to Fire Station 241 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 123 Inah Ave. Fire Chief Allen Scott attended remotely. All other Department Heads were excused in advance from tonight's meeting.

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

### Franklin County Sheriff 's Office

Deputy Wood reported since bars are reopened through 2:30am, the drunk driving has increased. Lake Darby area has reports of ATV and dirt bikes in areas that are not authorized and theft from vehicles with their doors left unlocked. Three cars have been stopped on N. Greener Ave., citizen assault, and an increase in drug overdoses at the New Rome Hotel.

Deputy Wood stressed the importance of; if you see something unusual, please call.

Deputy Hamilton reported 546 total calls, 69 reports filed, 45 traffic stops, 39 accidents, 70 suspicious activity, 26 alarms, 18-911 calls. The speed trailer is placed on N. Greener Ave.

### Fiscal Officer 's Report

#### Approval of Warrant s and Payroll

This week's warrants list detailed payments to 52 vendors totaling \$160,553.18.

The only large payment in this week's warrants listing is the Franklin County Commissioners for health insurance in the amount of \$97,067.91.

Ms. Henning requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling \$160,553.18 along with the 3/25/21 payroll of \$235,139.28 for a total cash disbursement of \$395,692.46.

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.**

### Audit Update

At this time, we do not have a date set for the audit. I do want to clarify the Single Audit requirements. The federal threshold for the single audit is \$750,000 of expenses in federal funds in a single year.

### Other

Ms. Henning requested the Trustees have an Executive Session at the end of the next meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to discuss personnel matters. Trustees responded okay.

### Standing Business:

#### Fire Department

Chief Scott provided an update on the Tamara houses being used for fire training purposes. They are using the structures for search and research training, vertical ventilation, garage doors, through the demolitions.

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No items.

### Community Center

#### 2 Hour Pool Rental

Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve 2 hour pool rentals on weekends beginning April 10 to provide patrons and members an opportunity to have recreation swimming. Rental times would be Saturdays from 12:45 -2:45 pm and 3-5 pm and Sundays from 1:15-3:15 pm and 3:30 -5:30 pm. The charge for the rental times would be \$160 for residents/members and \$190 for non-residents.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve 2 hour pool rentals as submitted. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

#### Lap Lane and Deep Water Policy Update

Due to the drop in COVID cases we would like to update our current pool policy to allow 2 people in the same household to use a lap lane or a deep water lane.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve updating the current pool policy to allow 2 people in the same household to use a lap lane or deep water lane. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

#### Personal Service Contract (Res. 05-21)

Mr. Pollack asked the Board to adopt Resolution 05-21, which authorizes the Community Center to enter into contract with Jodi Osborne for art instruction within the center at a fixed rate of compensation of \$120.00 per class not to exceed \$600. The Personal Service Contract is in effect from March 31, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution 05-21, "A Resolution authorizing a Personal Service Contract for Contractors in the Recreation Department". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

#### Assistant Day Camp Director Pay

Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve an adjustment to the maximum pay rate of the Assistant Day Camp Director position with Spring Break Day Camp and Summer Day Camp approaching. The maximum rate adjustment would be from \$10.61 to \$11.15. The new pay range would be \$9.15-\$11.15 effective March 1, 2021.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve adjusting the Assistant Day Camp Director pay range to \$9.15 - \$11.15 per hour effective March 1, 2021. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department

#### 2021/2022 ODOT Winter Salt Contract (Res. 06-21)

Mr. Peters recommended the Board to approve a resolution with ODOT for salt purchases for the winter 2021/2022. 200 tons is the amount of salt Mr. McAninch recommends to purchase. We will be required to buy 90% (180 tons) and will be able to purchase 110% (220 tons).

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Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve Resolution 06-21, "A Resolution authorizing participation in the ODOT road salt contracts awarded in 2021. "Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### 2021 Sidewalk Program (Res. 07-21)

Mr. Peters asked the Board to adopt a resolution declaring its intent to proceed with this year's sidewalk program, setting a public hearing for the program and approving advertisement of the hearing. The public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 5, 2021. This year's program will be on a voluntary-bases like last year.

Comments/Issues: Mr. Peters stated this is available to residents with a payment up to ten years interest free.

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution 07-21 "A Resolution declaring intent to repair certain sidewalks and levy special assessments, to set a public hearing at which the Board will hear comments about said repairs and to authorize advertisement of the public hearing ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### GRSC Task Order

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve a Task Order under our Master Service Agreement with Stantec Engineering for \$129,605.00. The task order is for updating the GRSC Master Plan, Development of Construction Documents and specifications for numerous items (please see attachment for a list of the items, a topo survey, Development of Construction Documents and Specifications for storm water and CC submittal to the City of Columbus and bidding services.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve a task order with Stantec for updating the GRSC Master Plan, Development of Construction documents and various other items at a cost of \$129,605.00 and authorize the Township Administrator and Fiscal Officer to sign and execute the agreement. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Hydro-Excavating Services

Mr. Peters asked the Board to authorize the Service Director to sign a contract with Metropolitan Environmental Services Inc. establishing hourly rates for Hydro-Excavating services for 2021. Mr. Peters also asked the Board to approve using this service on an as needed basis.

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Service Director to sign a contract with Metropolitan Environmental Services Inc for 2021 Hydro-Excavating services and authorize using this service on an as needed basis. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### Commercial Building and Zoning

Postcards for this year's Spring Clean Up will be going out to residents early April.

No items.

### Administration

#### Nuisance Cases

**Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-17 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 107 Lawrence Avenue ". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

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Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-18 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 98 Lennox 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-19 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 4927-4949 Eastham Way". 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-20 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 4637 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-21 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 4669 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-22 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 4756 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-23 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 417 Emmitt Avenue (240-001174)". 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-24 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 417 Emmitt Avenue (240-000894)". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

### 2021 Permanent Appropriations

Mr. Peters presented the 2021 permanent appropriations for adoption.

Comments/Issues: None

Kennedy moved that the Board approve the 2021 permanent appropriations as presented and authorize the Township Administrator to file with the County Auditor. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

### Letter to Budget Commission

Mr. Peters asked the Board to approve sending a letter to the Budget Commission for the following changes in revenue:

Reduce revenue in the 2021 Sidewalk Fund (#2431) to \$50,000.

Increase revenue in the EMS Capital Fund (#2281) to \$110,000.

Increase revenue in the Road District Fund (#2141) to \$750,000 (plus the \$273,067.36 carryover from 2020)

Increase revenue in the Parks Capital Fund (#4301) to \$1,727,194.55.

Comments/Issues: None

Kennedy moved that the Board approve sending a letter to the Budget Commission for the revenue changes as submitted. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

### Sherriff'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: None

Mr. Stormont that the Board approve the 2021 Police Service Agreement with the Franklin County

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**Sheriff's Office. Mr. Kennedy seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.**

### **New Business**

A question was asked as to why salt is purchased at this time of year. Mr. Peters explained that we purchase salt as it has been used to refill the holding area back to full capacity.

### **Old Business**

Pleasant-Prairie Solar Project continues discussions and questions about the projects impact on the residences, schools, and the property owners zoning allowability to use the property for the solar project. Question: Will the Trustees and the zoning commission set standards for rezoning with restrictions related to the solar project. Mr. Kennedy stated the zoning commission sets the standards and zoning requirements that then go to the Trustees for a vote. The Board of Zoning Appeals is independent of the Trustees.

Mr. Newbury has concerns for the solar project and is requesting the Trustee's support and for Invenergy to work with the residences affected by the solar project. Various residents stated their concerns with the property value and the outdoor visual impact of the solar project in a rural area.

Mr. Kennedy stated the Invenergy meeting is on April 9<sup>th</sup> at a local hotel for people to bring their questions and gather information about the project. He does not have an opinion at this time one way or another. If Mr. Galbreath can increase the value of his property without negatively affecting the residents in the community, he should be able to do so.

Jeff Patterson from Invenergy commented the project could bring 30 million dollars to the schools. The House and Senate bills regarding Invenergy was not negative. OPSV is a period during this process that provides an opportunity to anyone to ask questions. The invitations will be in the mail with the specifics on the open house with time slots due to covid restrictions.

### **Public Comment**

Nancy Daniels cannot hear in the meetings in the fire hall with the presenters wearing masks while speaking. The meetings are currently being held at the fire hall to accommodate the residents to attend the open meeting and remain in compliance with the covid restrictions.

Motorcycle ordinance was requested to be passed by the zoning commission from a resident at Clover Meadows.

### **Announcements**

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

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Chairman Steve Kennedy

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Fiscal Officer Sherry Henning