

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APRIL 5, 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 April 5 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall with Trustee Cathy Schmelzer, Trustee Rod Pritchard, Township Administrator James Jewell, Road Superintendent/Assistant Township Administrator Dave McAninch, Recreation Director Michael Pollack, Zoning Assistant Alicia Armentrout, 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. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, 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	582	+150
Total Reports Taken	66	+7
Arrests/Citations	44	+13
Thefts	13	+6
Suspicious Activity Stops / Calls	58	+18
Traffic Stops	71	+13
Stolen Vehicles	4	
Recovered Vehicles (with the help of the Flock cameras)	3	
Drug Related Arrests	3	
Overdose	6	+4
Burglaries	0	
Shooting	2	

Deputy Haren gave an update of the EMS related incident that happened at Norton Middle School this week.

Deputy Haren recently contacted our school resource officer, Deputy Dan Adkins, at Westland High School requesting the layouts for all of the schools in Prairie Township that we respond too. He emailed these layouts to all of the deputies that work patrol in an effort to make them more prepared in the event that a critical incident does occur in one of these schools.

Deputy Haren wanted to remind residents that April 22 is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. The Sheriff's Office will be sponsoring a location at the Kroger on Cemetery Rd. in Hilliard from 10am to 2pm. If residents have any unused or unwanted prescription medications bring them and drop them off.

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Mr. Zalenski asked about an incident early morning at 4707 Hilton Avenue on April 2, 2023. Deputy Haren will investigate this and get back to him.

Approval of Minutes - March 22, 2023 regular meeting minutes

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont made a motion to approve the March 22, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Fiscal Officer 's Report

Approval of Warrants and Payroll

This week's warrants list detailed payments to 78 vendors totaling \$199,375.82.

Mr. McAninch requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling \$199,375.82 along with 4/10/23 payroll of \$242,648.47 (\$241,602.48 Gross + \$1,045.99 PR Processing) for a total cash disbursement of \$442,024.29.

Comments/Issues: None

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

Standing Business

Fire Department

Cot Care and Repair Agreement: Chief Scott asked the Board's permission to enter into a Cot Care and Repair agreement with FERNO-Washington. There is no cost associated with this agreement. We recently sent 3 of our members to a Cot Repair and Maintenance course, which cost \$1,500.00. This program will allow these members to service our cots in-house. Previously, we paid a 3rd party repair service to repair and maintain our cots. In 2022, we paid that vendor \$2,600.00.

Comments/Issues: Mr. Pritchard asked what they will be providing. They will be doing the maintenance and repairs on the cots in house and do not have to pay an outside company to do the repairs. We will keep an inventory of spare parts.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a Cot Care and Repair agreement with FERNO-Washington and authorize the Fire Chief to execute any necessary documents. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

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Hiring of Part Time Firefighters: Chief Scott asked the Board to approve hiring Donald Goldhardt and Taylor Collins as part-time firefighters effective April 6th, 2023. These members will serve a 1-year probation. One of the candidates presented for consideration at the last meeting declined the position. Taylor Collins will replace that position and Donald Goldhardt is a former part-time member who left for a full-time position outside the fire service and has asked to return. We are excited to have him back.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve hiring Donald Goldhardt and Taylor Collins as part-time firefighters effective April 6, 2023 with a one-year probation. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Open House: Chief Scott asked the Board's approval to hold an open house on Thursday April 27th from 11am to 2pm, to celebrate the retirement of Captain Rob Cloud at Station 241. The 27th will be his last day of work. (I will ask the Board to approve his resolution at the April 19th regular meeting and present it to him at the Open House on the 27th).

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve an open house at Station 241 on April 27, 2023 from 11am - 2pm to celebrate Captain Rob Cloud 's retirement. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Monthly Report - March 2023:

Copy (10) of Annual Performance Report with Monthly Breakdowns	Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 Time: 10:57:47 AM
Alarm Date between 2023-03-01 and 2023-03-31	

Incident Count By NFIRS Code

Incident Type Group	2023-03-01	Total
300 - EMS	322	322
100 - Fire	4	4
600 - Series	64	64
400 - HAZMAT	6	6

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700 - False Alarm	11	11
500 - Service Call	16	16
200 - Series	1	1
Monthly Total	424	
Fire	102	424
EMS	322	

Incident Count by Station

Station	2023-03-01	Total
Prairie Township Fire Station 241	350	350
Prairie Township Fire Station 243	74	74
Total	424	424

Aided Agency Name	Details
Central Twp	1
Columbus	132
Franklin Township	1
Jackson Township	2
Jefferson Township	14
Norwich Township	8
Pleasant Valley Township	2
	160

A question was asked about open burning. Chief responded there can be no burning outside during the months of March, April, May, October, and November from 6a.m. to 6p.m. If we get complaints, we do have to come out.

Mr. Pritchard asked for an update on the EMS incident at Norton Middle School. Chief Scott stated he could not share major details but did hear the patient is improving. The Sherriff's office escorted the medic to the hospital.

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Community Center

Cleaning Company: Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve a Service Agreement with City Wide Facility Solutions for janitorial services at the Community Center. Services will be provided 7 times per week at a monthly cost of \$4,887.65. We are experiencing issues with our current cleaning company and some of our staff has had to supplement cleaning in some areas. This new contract is \$271.65 more than we pay currently, however this quote includes all equipment and cleaning supplies that the company provides. I will also ask the Board to authorize me to send a 30-day notice to our current company cancelling our agreement.

Comments/Issues: Ms. Schmelzer asked if we bought the cleaning supplies with our current company. Mr. Pollack stated yes.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a Service Agreement with City Wide Facility Solutions for janitorial services at the Community at a cost of \$4,887.65 per month, authorize the Recreation Director to sign the necessary documents, and authorize the Recreation Director to send a 30-day cancellation notice to the current cleaning company. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Monthly Report - March 2023:

Community Center Monthly Report

Numbers as of **31-Mar-23**
percentage

Total Current Community Center Members	7,086	
Total Members that are Prairie Township Residents	2,161	30.50%
Total Members that are Non-Residents	4,925	69.50%
Total Members that are JEDZ	143	2.02%
Total Members that are Senior Citizens	4,796	67.68%
Total Unique Senior Citizen Visits	7,349	
Number of new members/renewals since last report	189	
How many memberships that expired that were not renewed	192	
Retention rate percentage	99	
Events or significant programs		
Group Fitness Classes	1192	
Basketball	848	

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Pickleball	198
Spanish	14
Homeschool Gym	46
Parents Night Out	19
Guitar	5
Soccer Clinics	34
Volleyball	31
Lego	10
Writing your Children's Book	8
Bird Watching	54

Roads, Cemeteries, and Parks Department

Nuisance Tree / Order to Remove (Res. 15-23): Per §5571.14, the Township can declare objects bounding any Township Road and located wholly or in part to the abutting landowner, which may endanger the public, as a public nuisance, and order the property owner to remove the object. If the property owner does not remove the object within 30 days, the township can remove the object and assess the cost of removal to the abutting property owner's tax duplicate. Notice was sent to the owner of the property at 331 Hiler Road on March 24, 2023, advising them that the Board would be considering declaring a tree located on their property as a nuisance. Dave provided photographic evidence to the Board at the last Trustee meeting.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 15-23 "A Resolution declaring an object bounding Hiler Road and maintained on or bordering upon property owned or occupied by Isidro D Cordova and Yeni C Quintanilla and located at 331 Hiler Road in Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio, a nuisance". Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board authorize the Chair to sign a notice to the property owner at 331 Hiler Road advising them of the declared nuisance tree and order to remove within 30 days from the date of the letter. Mr. Stormont seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

ODOT Winter Salt Contract (Res. 16-23): Mr. McAninch recommended the Board approve a resolution with ODOT for salt purchases for the winter of 2023/2024. 200 tons is the amount of salt Dave recommends to purchase. We will be required to buy 90% (180 tons).

Comments/Issues: Mr. Pritchard asked how much we use. Mr. McAninch stated it depends on the winter we have.

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Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 16-23, "A Resolution authorizing participation in the ODOT road salt contracts awarded in 2023. " Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Monthly Report - March 2023:

11 Graves sold
10 funerals
Chipped tree limbs at 49 address's
Cut down 1 tree at 896 Master Drive
Trash, weeds W Broad Street
Groom OneField twice
Potholes with Hot Mix 2 days
Nuisance abatements at 10 properties
Install 3 military marker
Continue 2023 sign list 4 days
Continue tile job Evergreen and Owen going north 8 days
Install 4" drain tile for turf fields GRSC 2 days
Start and Finish 2023 Catch Basin cleaning program 11 days
Install 2 catch basins and tile for One Field entrance
Haul dirt and gravel for new turf fields 4 days
Take snow and ice equipment off trucks
Hang batting cage nets GRSC
Topsoil, seed, fertilizer and straw east side of One Field outside of fence 3 days
Install water meter for GRSC Concession stand and check for leaks
Put up orange fence around forms for new entrance to One Field 3 days
Apply pre-emergent on W Broad islands, cemetery flower beds, township signs and S Grener roundabout

A question was asked about the 2023 road work, specifically Lombard Road. Mr. McAninch stated the quote for Lombard Road alone was significant. Asphalt and concrete prices are a lot higher this year.

Commercial Building and Zoning Department

Monthly Report - March 2023:

Zoning Monthly Report - MONTH 2023

Development/Informational Meetings	131
Nuisance Inspections	166
Declared Nuisances	30
Junk Motor Vehicle Inspections	1
Trash Resolution Inspections	35

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EPMC Com+MFR Inspections	17
EPMC Com+MFR Citations	17
Zoning Inspections	301
Zoning Violations	104
Do Not Knock Registries	5
Contractor Registrations	2
Zoning Permits	35
MS4 Land Disturbance Permits	1
Commercial Permits	3
Zoning Revenue	\$1,480.00
Commercial Building Revenue	\$6,811.70
Contractor Registration	\$300.00
Trash Citation Revenue	\$150.00

A question was asked about an update on Galloway Village. They are still going through the citation process. They contacted us this week to set up a meeting with us and our lawyers to clean up the issues.

A question was asked about a property at the northeast corner of Evergreen and Mt. Royal. Ms. Armentrout stated we do not have a residential property maintenance code, so we cannot enforce anything. We can have something removed via the unsafe structure process through a Franklin County Building Department or Fire Department recommendation. Mr. Pritchard asked if it was zoned residential. Ms. Armentrout believes it is but will check on it.

A question was asked regarding an open excavation at 123 North Greener. Ms. Armentrout stated they began their project and have two years to finish. Only partial fencing has been added. Spoke with Franklin Soil and Water. We would like to see fencing, but there is not a requirement. Mr. Pritchard asked if there is anything we can do about it. It is a safety hazard. Mr. Jewell stated he would contact OSHA.

Administration

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

Galloway Village Trash & Debris Nuisance locations :

Address	Parcel Number
4951-4973 Eastham Way	240-004822
4820 Medfield Way	240-004847

*strike-through addresses not declared

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-1 3-23, "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with refuse and debris. " Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

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Other Trash & Debris Nuisance locations :

Address	Parcel Number
4570 West Broad Street	240-002865
4580 West Broad Street	240-004016
39 North Grener Avenue	240-002868
55 North Grener Avenue	240-002870
93 Pasadena Avenue	240-000877
5348-5350 West Broad Street	240-006745
240-006737 West Broad Street	240-006737
8744 Hubbard Drive South	240-000485
374 Kellybrook Place	240-005757
4773 Hilton Avenue	240-004309
278 Mix Avenue	240-001392
280 Mix Avenue	240-001394
375 Mix Avenue	240-000328
511 Mix Avenue	240-001198
520 Mix Avenue	240-001434
547 Mix Avenue	240-006869
542 South Grener Avenue	240-006849
40 Center Street	240-000122
6425 West Broad Street	240-001532
6489 West Broad Street	240-001633
6447 Hunter Street	240-001731

*strike-through addresses not declared

Comments/Issues: A discussion was had about 4580 West Broad Street. It was not declared at the meeting.

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

Zoning Assistant Step Increase: Mr. Jewell recommend that the Board approve the (1) year step raise for Sam Swisher to \$26.24/hour starting April 4, 2023.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the one-year step increase for Sam Swisher at a rate of \$26.24 per hour effective April 4, 2023. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Speed Signs Update: Mr. Jewell provided an update on the 4 radar speed signs, 2 along South Grener Road and 2 on Fernhill Avenue. No Board action was required.

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Disaster Plan Update: Mr. Jewell provided an update on the Township's disaster plan progress and timeline so far. No Board action was required.

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Friday, November 18, 2022 - First Franklin County Hazard Mitigation Action Planning Team Meeting

- This is a 5-year regulatory of the plan. Per Federal regulation, all local governments must have a FEMA-approved HMP in order to be eligible to apply for and receive federal mitigation grant funding for public and private mitigation projects.

Tuesday, December 6, 2022 - Filled out worksheets

- Annex Outline (timeline of tasks)
- Worksheet A – Hazard Event History
- Worksheet B – Capability Assessment
- Worksheet C – NFIP Floodplain Administrator Questionnaire
- Worksheet D – Building Permits and New Development
- Worksheet E – 2018 Actions Review

Monday, December 12, 2022 - Submitted worksheets.

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 - Received request for Risk Assessment:

- **Critical Facilities/Community Lifelines -**
 - Modify existing critical facility information and/or identify additional facilities to be included in the HMP.
- **Problem Areas -**
 - Identify problem areas in your community to help develop potential mitigation actions.
- **New Development -**
 - Indicate recent or anticipated/known major new development/infrastructure in your community in the next five years.
- **Prairie Township listed as Completed.**

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 - Submitted all 3 surveys.

Thursday, March 16, 2023 - Request to participate in outreach by posting surveys on social media. We are posting once a week for 5 weeks and have copies available in our lobby.

Friday, April 7, 2023 at 9:00 am - at FCEM&HS- Risk Assessment Presentation

Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 1:00 pm - at FCEM&HS- Mitigation Strategy Workshop

Friday, May 12, 2023 at 1:00 pm (virtual) - Draft Plan Presentation

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Old Business

A resident stated the shop/semi off West Broad Street near Clover Meadows has been continuously loud. A lengthy discussion was had on the Township's noise resolution and the noise itself. The noise is all the time, especially spring and summer. Mr. Stormont asked if that was zoned manufacturing and if there were any other areas that are. The resident asked if a non-residential noise ordinance was possible. Mr. Jewell shared a statement from our Law Director that is against approving a resolution for commercial noise.

New Business

Terry Allen, past president of Lincoln Village Resident's Association, asked if we could have concerts at the sports complex. He has two bands that said they would play and could possibly look into food trucks or permitting alcohol too. Mr. Pritchard said it may be difficult to get permits since it is in the City of Columbus. We should get a proposal put together first.

The owner of the food truck was in attendance. Mr. Jewell shared the statement from our Law Director in response to the discussion at the last meeting. The food truck owner asked if he could have an extension. The Board stated no, we cannot give an extension.

Public Comment

None

Announcements

The OneField ribbon cutting ceremony will be this Saturday, April 8, 2023 from 9-11am at the Galloway Sports Complex.

The Bunny Trail is this Thursday, April 6, 2023 from 5:30-8pm throughout the Township. The Bunny will travel in one of our fire trucks.

Adjournment

Mr. Stormont adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Chairman Doug Stormont

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Fiscal Officer Pro Tem Dave McAninch