

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APRIL 7, 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, Recreation Director Michael Pollack, Zoning Inspector Connie Swisher, Fire Lieutenant Jim Troesch, and Fire Administrative Assistant David Donofrio were all in attendance at 123 Inah Avenue. Fire Chief Allen Scott attended remotely. All other Department Heads were excused in advance from tonight's meeting.

Zoning Public Hearing

Mr. Kennedy read the meeting rules for virtual and in-person participation.

Ms. Swisher read through the property and zoning details packet.

Dean Bollinger, architect on the project made a statement.

A questions was raised by Matt Howard of 238 Fernhill Rd regarding additional right of way on the property.

The Board heard comments regarding Application Number 185-RZ-21 and request to rezone from R-4 to R-8 for the property located at 264 Norton Road. Zoning Commission recommended approval of Application No. 185-RZ-21 at their February 23, 2021 Public Hearing. A resolution will be on the next agenda for adoption based on which option is decided.

Option #1 - Approve recommendation of the Zoning Commission (1st motion)

Option #2 - Deny recommendation of the Zoning Commission (2nd motion)

Option #3 - Approve the recommendation of the Zoning Commission with modifications (3rd motion)

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve Application Number 185-RZ-21. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Franklin County Sheriff 's Office

Deputy Wood reported 662 runs, 89 suspicious vehicles, 49 alarm drops, 21- 911 calls, 5 drug over doses, 20 carsl tagged, 5 junked vehicles at Lake Darby, O'tooles shooting suspected to be a gang related shooting, and a gang threat to shoot up the high school that prompted the onsite police presence at Westland High School.

A question was raised regarding ATV and dirt bikes being ridden around the streets of the township. Deputy Hamilton requests residents to call them if they see them.

Mr. Daniels, a resident on Alton-Darby, has requested the speed trailer on his street.

Approval of Minutes - March 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 March 24, 2021 Regular Meeting were approved.

Fiscal Officer 's Report

Approval of Warrant s and Payroll

This week's warrants list detailed payments to 66 vendors totaling \$444,814.65. The largest payment is to

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Franklin County Engineers for \$308,861.87 for 2020 resurfacing project (voiding and reissuing), and the City of Grove City for \$54,588.77 for First Quarter Dispatching services.

No payroll is requested this meeting. The township payroll period went from bi-weekly to bi-monthly in 2019. With the township meetings bi-weekly, we have two meetings a year that do not require payroll approval.

Ms. Henning requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling \$444,814.65.

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. Motion passed.

Transfers

Ms. Henning asked the Board to authorize the following transfers: Ohio Public Works Commission

\$12,658.96 from 1000-910-910-0009 to 4401-920-920-0000 (OPWC - Inah)
\$8,318.76 from 1000-910-910-0009 to 4402-920-920-0000 (OPWC - S. Grener #1)
\$3,232.00 from 1000-910-910-0009 to 4404-920-920-0000 (OPWC - S. Grener #2)
\$7,988.84 from 1000-910-910-0009 to 4405-920-920-0000 (OPWC - Palmetto)
\$9,271.41 from 1000-910-910-0009 to 4407-920-920-0000 (OPWC - Woodlawn)

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Fiscal Office to make the transfers to the OPWC Funds, as submitted. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Advances

Ms. Henning asked the Board to approve advancing \$50,000 from the General Fund (1000) to the 2021 Sidewalk Fund (2432).

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve advancing \$50,000 from the General Fund (1000) to the Sidewalk Fund (2432). Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Standing Business:

Fire Department

Resignation of Part-Time Firefighter

Chief Scott asked the Board to accept the resignation of part-time firefighter, Brendan Bobo, effective immediately.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board accept the resignation of part-time firefighter Brendan Bobo, effective immediately. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Request to Hire

Chief Scott asked the Board to approve hiring part-time firefighter Logan Spieles as a full time firefighter effective April 21, 2021. Logan has been part-time with the department since November 2019 and scored first in the recent hiring interviews.

Comments/Issues: None

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Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve promoting Firefighter Logan Speiles to full-time status, effective April 21, 2021. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

2021 Fish Fry

Lt. Troesch asked the Board to approve holding the Fish Fry and Cruise-In on June 25 & 26, 2021.

Covid guidelines will be followed by spreading out the tables and chairs, and wearing masks. Mr. Peters stated the Health Director rescinded 18 health orders today.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize holding the Fish Fry and Cruise-In on June 25 & 26. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Beer Garden

Mr. Donofrio asked the Board to consider allowing the Beer Garden at the Fish Fry. This was done at the last Fish Fry in 2019.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize having a Beer Garden at the Fish Fry with the condition that the Fire Association provide additional insurance. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Chief Scott presented the Fire Department's monthly report for March 2021.

Incident Count By NFIRS Code

Incident Type Group	2021-03-01	Total
300 - EMS	360	360
500 - Service Call	35	35
400 - HAZMAT	5	5
600 - Good Intent	100	100
700 - False Alarm	9	9
100 - Fire	7	7
Monthly Total	516	516

Incident Count by Shift

Shift	2021-03-01	Total
Unit 2	176	176
Unit 3	166	166
Unit 1	174	174
Total	516	516

Incident Count by Station

Station	2021-03-01	Total
Prairie Township Fire Station 241	435	435

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Prairie Township Fire Station 243	81	81
Total	516	516

Incident Count by Unit

Unit	2021-03-01	Total
M241	324	324
E241	259	259
M243	102	102
CAR243	21	21
L240	10	10
E243	13	13
GF243	1	1
Total	730	730

Aided Agency Name	Details
Columbus	<u>191</u>
Franklin County Sheriff	<u>2</u>
Franklin Township	<u>7</u>
Jefferson Township	<u>9</u>
London	<u>3</u>
Norwich Township	<u>3</u>
Pleasant Township	<u>4</u>
	219 Rows

3-9-21 Small garage fire on Amity Rd.

Community Center

Part-Time Pay Increases

Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve the following pay increases for part-time staff. Each staff member has worked at least 12 months (or will have within the next week), has worked at least 936 hours and has a satisfactory annual evaluation. At the May 11, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting, the Board approved the requirements for part-time employees to receive pay increases.

Employee	Start Date	Position	Current Rate	Hours worked since starting	Proposed Rate (3%)
Dominic Chase	3/5/19	Life Guard	\$10.20	1,053.03	\$10.51
		Head Guard	\$12.00		\$12.36
Heather Domitrovic	6/10/19	Front Desk Att.	\$10.00	1250.57	\$10.30
		MOD	\$12.27		\$12.64
		Rec Leader	\$9.00		\$9.27
Lisa Disinger	9/16/19	Child Care Att.	\$9.00	1020.63	\$9.27
		WSI	\$12.00		\$12.36
Erin Gant	8/16/2019	Fitness Att.	\$9.50	1051.81	\$9.79
		Life Guard	\$10.20		\$10.51
		WSI	\$12.89		\$13.28
Christopher Staudt	8/5/17	Aquatics Inst.	\$17.00	4743.49	\$17.51
		Life Guard	10.76		\$11.08

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Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve pay increases for part-time recreation staff, as presented. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Voting Agreement

Mr. Pollack presented an agreement with the Franklin County Board of Elections for use of the Community Center as a polling location for 2021 (May 4 Primary and November 2 General Election), and will ask the Board to authorize him to sign the agreement.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Recreation Director to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Franklin County Board of Elections for use of the Community Center as a polling location in 2021. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

General Maintenance Assistant Job Description

Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve a job description for a new position titled General Maintenance Assistant. This is a part time position and will be under the supervision of the current Maintenance Supervision and will perform various maintenance and custodial duties at the Galloway Road Sports Complex and Community Center. The ray range for this position is \$9.00 - \$11.00 per hour.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the General Maintenance Assistant job description. Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Resignation of Fitness Supervisor

Mr. Pollack asked the Board to accept the resignation of Tiffany Whetzel as Fitness Supervisor effective April 15, 2021.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board accept the resignation of Fitness Supervisor Tiffany Whetzel effective April 15, 2021. Mr. Stormont seconded. The votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Pollack presented the Community Center's monthly report for March 2021.

Community Center Monthly Report

Numbers as of **31-Mar-21**
percentage

Total Current Community Center Members	5,035	
Total Members that are Prairie Township Residents	1,486	29.51%
Total Members that are Non-Residents	3,549	70.49%
Total Members that are JEDD/JEDZ	105	2.09%
Total Members that are Senior Citizens	3,704	73.57%
Total Unique Senior Citizen Visits	3,322	
Number of new members/renewals since last report	129	
How many memberships that expired that were not renewed	184	

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Retention rate percentage	98
 Events or significant programs	
Group Fitness Classes	769
Basketball	187
Pickleball	144
Cookies and Canvas	6
Spring Break Day Camp	10
Gardening 101	10

Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department

No items.

A question on how the new trash hauling rules will be enforced was raised. Mr. Peters is working with legal to bring to the Trustees to address trash hauling enforcement for a vote.

A question regarding nuisance cases with weeds and junk at people’s homes was raised as well as what is being done about this. Mr. Kennedy stated the nuisance cases are driven by complaints turned into the Zoning Department for processing. For rat issues, please call the Franklin County Health Department. Ms. Daniels asked if a property maintenance code was in the works. Mr. Kennedy stated that he was not aware of one at this time.

A questions was raised as to why the 2019 amended meeting rules changed. Mr. Kennedy states we seldom implement the meeting rules. Meeting rules were implemented to allow residents a chance to speak.

Mr. Peters stated that the Spring cleanup will be April 29, 30, May 1st is at no cost to residents. On May 1st there will be a shredder onsite, which is new this year.

Commercial Building and Zoning

No items.

Mr. Peters presented the Commercial Building and Zoning monthly report for March 2021 .

Development/Informational Meetings	215
Nuisance Inspections	80
Declared Nuisances	11
Zoning Inspections	73
Zoning Violations	6
Do Not Knock Registries	31
Contractor Registrations	5
Zoning Compliances (Permits)	38
MS4 Land Disturbance Permits	9
Commercial Permits	8
Variance Applications	2
Zoning Revenue	\$3,208.00
Commercial Building Revenue	\$5,012.34

Administration

Nuisance Cases

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Kennedy moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-26 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 396 Celina 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-27 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 72 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-28 -21 "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at 474-480 S. Grener Avenue". Mr. Stormont seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

Care Works Comp Agreement

This is an annual agreement with Care Works Comp to provide workers compensation program management for the Township. Along with this service comes membership in the Ohio Township Association's group rating program, which will save the Township nearly 60% on workers comp premiums. The cost of this year's agreement is \$8,065.00, a 5% increase from last year.

Comments/Issues: None

Kennedy moved that the Board authorize the Township to enter the 2021 Ohio Township Association Group Rating Program through Care Works Comp at a cost of \$8,065.00 and authorize the HR/Operations Coordinator to execute the necessary documents to enter the program. 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 increasing appropriations in the Road District Fund (2141) by \$250,000.00 (this is for a check that was written in 2020 that was never delivered and returned to us by the Post Office) and Fire Fund (2191) by \$65,000.00.

Comments/Issues: None

Kennedy moved that the Board approve sending a letter to the Budget Commission to increase appropriations in the Road District Fund (2141) by \$250,000.00 and the Fire Fund (2191) by \$65,000.00. Stormont seconded. Votes were as follows: Mr. Stormont, Aye; Mr. Kennedy, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye. Motion passed.

New Business

Vicky Barbee, resident of Baker Ridge Drive and board of directors for Norton Crossing HOA, due to a lot of car break ins, they are asking for police patrolling in that area. Mr. Peters stated he spoke with Ms. Barbee on Monday regarding this and has talked to Deputy Hamilton and other officers to let them know about the problem. Mr. Kennedy said to talk to Deputy Hamilton first and then the Trustees if the situation is not resolved. Then they will work with the Deputies to address the issue.

Rod Pritchard, a resident of Mernan Rd., inquired regarding the Pleasant-Prairie Solar project and asked who is attending the meeting on Friday. Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Stormont, and Ms. Schmelzer will be in attendance. Mr. Pritchard stated he is looking forward to having additional conversations after this meeting with the trustees.

Old Business

None

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Public Comment

None

Announcements

None

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 9:00 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.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm

Chairman Steve Kennedy

Fiscal Officer Sherry Henning