

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 3, 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 May 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall with Trustee Cathy Schmelzer, Trustee Rod Pritchard, Fiscal Officer Natalie McKay, Township Administrator James Jewell, 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.

Franklin County Engineer 's Presentation : Mr. Jewell explained that some time back the Board asked Mr. Jewell to engage the Franklin County Engineer's Office (FCEO) in evaluating the effectiveness of the traffic circles on Beacon Hill. Mr. Jewell introduced Mr. Bill Hebble, Assistant Mobility Engineer with the FCEO, to speak about his findings.

Mr. Hebble cited results from data collected at the two traffic circles on Beacon Hill—at Lawrence Avenue and Buena Vista –saying that the circles seem to be effective traffic calming devices as the data shows the average speeds in the circles are between 24-29 mph in a 25 mph zone. The data also showed an average of 4,500 vehicles using the route per day.

Beacon Hill Road west of Buena Vista Avenue		
	EB	WB
ADT	2,263	2,083
Average Speed	24 MPH	27 MPH

Mr. Hebble said the FCEO staff performed field observations to assess the driver behavior at two of the traffic circles located on Beacon Hill—at Lawrence Avenue and Buena Vista Avenue. He said that several vehicles were observed not yielding to traffic as they enter the traffic circle, and some vehicles were observed turning left in front of the traffic circle instead of entering the circle and turning exiting it to the left. He shared specific results:

Thursday October 13, 2022 from 7-9am

- Vehicles not yielding before entering traffic circle: 10
- Vehicles turning left in front of the traffic circle: 10

Thursday October 13, 2022 from 4:15 - 5:30pm

- Vehicles not yielding before entering traffic circle: 25
- Vehicles turning left in front of the traffic circle: 5

Mr. Hebble recommended, based on his observations, the Board consider updating the striping and signage to something more modern.

Voytek Zaleski of 4756 Hilton Avenue commented that he understands the residents around the traffic circles don't want them and asked Mr. Hebble if he studied removing the circles? Mr. Hebble replied that he didn't study removing them because he wasn't asked to do so. Mr. Jewell spoke up saying that because the traffic circles were successful traffic calming devices, there was no decision to remove them.

Mr. Pritchard praised the FCEO's recommendation saying restriping and re-signing seemed to be the least costly alternative for improvement. Mr. Jewell said that he and Mr. McAninch already started gathering cost estimates—one from a contractor to do the work estimated to cost \$10,000.00, and Mr. McAninch's estimate based on his department doing the work, for around \$2,600. There is still some

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 3, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

question as to the type of paint to be used, and Mr. Jewell will get better estimates if the Board wishes him to pursue looking into the matter. The Board agreed Mr. Jewell should move forward with gathering more information and bringing a motion back to the Board.

A resident in Lincoln Village South asked why a similar study and improvements can't be done on Stiles where there are more than double the number of cars per day, and more pedestrian traffic. He said he's asked for sidewalks and crosswalks and been denied, and questioned how people are supposed to safely cross the street if they are unable to walk across the bridge. Mr. Jewell reminded the audience that a speed study was done in the resident's neighborhood and as a result, radar signs were installed and are capturing data. Based on the data collected to date, Mr. Jewell said, he believes he'll be going back to the FCEO's soon asking for them to perform a similar exercise.

Approval of Minutes -

Mr. Stormont asked if there were any changes or additions to the April 19, 2023 meeting minutes.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont made a motion to approve the April 19, 2023, regular meeting minutes . Ms. Schmelzer seconded. The votes were as follows: 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.

From 4/19/23 - To 5/3/23	Total
Total Calls for Service/Self-Initiated Runs	509 (-3)
Total Reports Taken	78 (+8)
Arrests/Citations	31 (-13)
Thefts	13 (+2)
Suspicious Activity Stops / Calls	61 (-5)
Traffic Stops	59 (+7)
Stolen Vehicles	5 (+2)
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	3
Drug Related Arrests	3 (-3)
Overdose	1
Burglaries	2
OVI	

Deputy Haren reported:

- On April 21st Deputy Mayeran being trained by Deputy J Anderson responded to a complaint of a minibike riding back and forth on Annhurst in the middle of the roadway. When they arrived they made contact with a male riding the bike and issued him a couple of citations and impounded the minibike.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 3, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

- On April 22nd The FCSO participated in National Prescription Drug Takeback Day at 7 different locations throughout the county. The FCSO collected over 900 lbs of prescription medication throughout the different locations.
- On April 28th Deputy S. Brintlinger and multiple other third shift deputies found themselves in a short pursuit on W. Broad St. with an unreported stolen vehicle. Deputy S. Brintlinger and C. Brintlinger were able to take the male suspect into custody after a short foot pursuit. The suspect was charged with RSP, Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle and Failure to Comply.
- On April 30th Deputy Ball along with other third shift deputies responded to a suspicious persons call on Eastham Way. Deputy Ball located two males matching the description given, exiting a parked Hyundai sedan when he arrived in the area. He attempted to make contact with the males but they both ran on foot. Deputy Ball and Deputy Romine were able to take one of the males into custody after a foot pursuit. The other male was not located. The male that was apprehended was charged with Criminal Damaging and Obstructing.

Comments/Issues: None

Fiscal Office

Approval of Warrants and Payroll

Fiscal Officer McKay reported this week's warrants list detailed payments to 62 vendors totaling \$454,243.79, including a single payment to Huntington bank in the amount of \$167,000 for the semi-annual bond payment. She requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling the same.

Mr. Stormont motioned "so moved". Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Advance: Ms. McKay asked the Board to approve advancing \$100,000 from the General Fund (1000) to the 2023 Sidewalk Fund (2434) to cover the anticipated 2023 expenditures.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve advancing \$100,000 from the General Fund (1000) to the 2023 Sidewalk Fund (2434). Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Transfer: Ms. McKay asked the Board to approve transferring \$100,000 from the JEDZ Fund (2903) to the Community Center Fund (2905) to cover operating expenses.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve transferring \$100,000 from the JEDZ Fund (2903) to the Community Center Fund (2905). Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Comments/Issues: None

Standing Business

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 3, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

Fire Department

Fire Chief Allen gave the Fire Department update.

Electronic Keys: Chief Scott asked the Board to approve the purchase of 5 electronic keys, 5 vehicle mounted security key boxes, the associated hardware, and necessary software from KnoxBox Company at a total cost of \$8,790. The electronic keys will allow the Fire Dept access to buildings that have KnoxBox key safes and can function in other jurisdictions. Our current keys do not function outside the township. The vehicle key boxes will help secure our KnoxBox keys in the vehicle and allow for better tracking. We would like to install them into our 5 front-line vehicles now and then add them to each new vehicle as they are purchased.

When asked if the KnoxBox was similar to the box realtor's use, Chief Scott said yes, it's similar. He said the same key opens all the boxes. The Fire Dept gets a key to open the box, and the owners put a key in the box. He said the program is used all across the country..

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the purchase of 5 electronic keys, 5 vehicle mounted security key boxes, the associated hardware, and necessary software from KnoxBox Company at a total cost of \$8,790 and authorize the Fire Chief to execute the necessary documents . Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Discussion:

Mr. Pritchard asked for an update on the medic unit. Chief Scott said he talked to the salesman on Friday and they are ready to start building the box, but they don't have enough staff to do the work. The original back in service date was estimated to be March, now it is July or August. Mr. Prichard also asked for an update on the engine truck and Chief Scott said two engines are in the shop now—the backup engine is in for routine maintenance and the other engine is supposed to go to Wisconsin at the end of May.

Mr. Zaleski asked if the boxes required or mandatory on multi-family residential properties. Chief Scott said they are mandatory for new builds, and there is no requirement to retro-fitting existing properties (not required for existing properties).

Community Center

Mr. Pollack gave the Community Center update:

Summer Day Camp: Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve the cost to hold Summer Day Camp at Alton Hall Elementary School. The total cost will be \$7,807.00. We have used Darby Woods for several years for the program, but it's under construction so we'll use Alton Hall this year.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve using Alton Hall Elementary School for the 2023 Summer Day Camp program at a cost of \$7,807.00. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed .

Annual Maintenance Shutdown: Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve the annual maintenance shutdown at the Community Center for August 28-September 1, 2023. The pool would reopen on Tuesday, September 5 after Labor Day.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 3, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the annual maintenance shutdown at the Community Center for August 28-September 1, 2023. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed .

Pool Closure: Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve closing the pool on Sunday, May 21 for lifeguard training.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve closing the pool on Sunday, May 21, 2023 for lifeguard training. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed .

Mr. Pollack closed by providing an update on the Health Fair that took place at the Community Center this past Saturday. He reported there were around 100 attendees and 25 vendors; the Fire Department came out and some of the guys did Zoomba.

Discussion: None

Roads, Cemeteries, and Parks Department

Mr. McAninch was not in attendance, so Mr. Jewell presented the Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Departments agenda topics along with the Administration agenda topics (see below).

Commercial Building and Zoning Department

Ms. Scott said there were no Commercial Building and Zoning Department items tonight.

Administration

Mr. Jewell gave the Administration update.

Nuisance Assessments :

None

Nuisance Resolutions :

Galloway Village Only:

Address	Parcel Number
4927-4947 Eastham Way	240-004823
4951-4973 Eastham Way	240-004822
4975-4997 Eastham Way	240-004841
4999-5023 Eastham Way	240-004840
4912-4934 Medfield Way	240-004820
4936-4958 Medfield Way	240-004821
99 Schoolhouse Lane	240-004824
111 Schoolhouse Lane	240-004825
44 Sturbridge Road	240-004839

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 3, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

66 Sturbridge Road	240-004012
--------------------	------------

*strike-through addresses not declared

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-17-23, “A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with uncontrolled vegetation. ” Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion . Roll Call Votes : Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Address	Parcel Number
4820 Medfield Way	240-004047
4960-4982 Medfield Way	240-004837
4984-5006 Medfield Way	240-004838

*strike-through addresses not declared

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resoluti on NU-18-23, “A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with uncontrolled vegetation and refuse and debris. ” Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Remaining Nuisances:

Address	Parcel Number
113 Buena Vista Avenue	240-000973
132 Buena Vista Avenue	240-000770
73 Maple Drive	240-000356
350 Pasadena Avenue	240-005088
8800 Hubbard Drive North	241-000469
165 Gladys Road	240-002465
80 South Murray Hill Road	240-004307
6551 West Broad Street	240-001618
240-001619 West Broad Street	240-001619
240-001662 West Broad Street	240-001662

*strike-through addresses not declared

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolut ion NU-19-23, “A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with uncontrolled vegetation. ” Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion . Roll Call Votes : Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Address	Parcel Number
193 Buena Vista Avenue	240-000717
4644 Beacon Hill Road	240-004022
80-160 Old Village Road	240-006829
8582 Abbot Cove Avenue	240-005234
8744 Hubbard Drive South	240-000489
294 Postle Boulevard	240-002762

*strike-through addresses not declared

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 3, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-20-23, "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.

Address	Parcel Number
465 Amity Road	240-004310

*strike-through addresses not declared

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-21-23, "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with uncontrolled vegetation and refuse and debris. " Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Comments/Issues: None

Stantec Change Order: On behalf of Dave, Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve Change Order # 1 to Task Order 211. This Task Order was for construction management of GRSC Phase 3.1. The change order is for the OneField drainage outlet and design of Stormwater swale to non-perform proposed structures 4 and 3. The change order is in the amount of \$5,950.00.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve Change Order #1 to Task Order 211 and authorize the Township Administrator to sign the necessary documents . Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

GRSC Pay Request - Phase 3.1: Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve Change Order #3 for the GRSC Phase 3.1. This Change Order is for revised quantity for final seeding and mulching. The net result of the change order was a \$16,392.00 increase to the current contract price adjusted by the previous change order. With the delays early on, we asked the contractor to seed last year hoping it would grow; it didn't do well—they honored their earlier price to regrade and reseed everything again.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve Change Order #3 for GRSC Phase 3.1 and authorize the Township Administrator to sign the Change Order . Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

GRSC Irrigation: Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve a three-year contract with O'Heil Irrigation Company for the startup and winterization of the existing irrigation system at the GRSC. The contract would be for 2024, 2025 and 2026; the total cost for the three years would be \$8,400.00. This is the same cost as the previous three-year contract. I would also like the Board to authorize the Road Superintendent to sign all necessary documents relating to this contract.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a three-year contract with O'Heil Irrigation Company for start-up and winterization of the irrigation system at the Galloway Road Sports Complex at a cost of

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 3, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

\$8,400.00 and authorize the Road Superintendent to execute the agreement . Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Renovations (Tabled from 4/19 meeting): Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve a quote from Hager Construction for the replacement of the remaining white tile flooring in the Administration Office hallways/restrooms and renovating the two restrooms. The tile flooring will be replaced with vinyl flooring that matches what was put in the offices back in early 2019 after the flooding incident in 2018. The restroom renovations include removing the blue metal partitions, adding new sinks and countertops, and fresh paint in the hallways, door frames and restrooms. The quote for the flooring is \$13,443.18 and the remaining renovations are \$14,765.38 which brings the total quote to \$28,208.56. These areas have not been renovated in a very long time and are showing their wear and tear. This work will be completed during non-business hours. Funds are already appropriated in the budget for this project.

Mr. Jewell said he obtained an opinion from legal counsel citing that while there are no comprehensive bid statutes for townships in Ohio (unlike counties and municipalities) and the Township is generally free to use whatever procurement method they deem best. However, the advice of counsel is that with respect to public improvements (remodeling/expansion/construction for buildings), if the project implicates the State of Ohio prevailing wage requirements ("New" constructions threshold for Building Construction: \$250,000; "Reconstruction, enlargement, alteration, repair, remodeling, renovation, or painting" threshold \$75,000), the Township should follow the competitive bidding process contained in ORC 153.12.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve installing new flooring and completing renovations in the Administrative Office as presented, approve the quote from Hager Construction LLC in the amount of \$28,208.56, and authorize the Township Administrator to sign the quote proposal . Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Nay; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Switch Upgrades: Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve a quote from Logicalis to replace 3 switches, two in the Administration Department and one at the Road Department. The total for the quote is \$15,125.28. We appropriated \$15,000 in our budget and have the funds available for the remaining \$125.28. Mr. Jewell said the parties to the contract will be the Township and Logicalis—not Grove City.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a quote from Logicalis upgrading three switches at a cost of \$15,125.28 and authorize the Township Administrator to sign the quote. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Land Acquisition Properties: Mr. Jewell discussed a Land Acquisition application we received. Staff will recommend moving forward with a bidding process. / No Board action required.

Hubbard/Dellinger Park Update: Mr. Jewell provided an update on the proposed park at Hubbard/Dellinger Road and updated feedback since the Open House in March. / No Board action required.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 3, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

Old Business

Ms. Kate Martinez presented a rough sketch of her Community Garden vision, after soliciting input and signatures from approximately 30 neighbors. She said the sketch is still a draft and will provide the Board with a copy soon. She also said that she is continuing to meet with local experts and met with one since the last meeting who gives donations of plants. Ms. Martinez asked if she and her neighbors can begin planting. Ms. Schmelzer asked if anyone knew if the basements of the apartments that used to be on the site were removed during demolition or just covered up with dirt. No one was certain, and Mr. Jewell said he would ask Mr. McAninch. There was some discussion about the safety of the soil and a need to have it tested before any planting can begin. Ms. Martinez asked if the Board is serious about her continuing to work toward her vision of bringing Community Gardens to her neighborhood because she's investing a lot of time in researching and responding to the Board's questions. Mr. Jewell was asked to research soil tests.

Ms. Debra Kurtz of 217 Evergreen asked for an update on the rebranding initiative. Mr. Jewell said he met earlier in the day with the consultant and showed him around the township to see the current signage and where the potential signage will go. Only the first two phases of the proposal were approved and it includes getting feedback from the community, including Township employees, via questionnaire. The questionnaire will be composed soon.

Mr. Zaleski offered his opinion that the apartments which were torn down at the site Ms. Martinez wants to establish community gardens did have a portion of the building underground. He also said that even if the foundation wasn't entirely removed, anything that remains likely won't interfere with growing flowers and vegetables because gardening doesn't require one to dig very deeply.

Ms. Kurtz commented that the recent chip and seal on her street has slowed traffic, however, she said that if you're interested in seeing speeders, she invites you to come over on Sunday night. She also said there is quite a bit of standing water across the street from her after the road was milled and asked if a catch basin be put in. She suggested that someone stop by soon to look at it following the recent rain, while there is still standing water visible.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Announcements

None

Adjournment

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 3, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

Mr. Stormont declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Chairman Doug Stormont

Fiscal Officer Natalie McKay