

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



## PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 12, 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 July 12 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, Road Superintendent Dave McAninch, Recreation Director Michael Pollack, Zoning Director Dana Scott, Fire Chief Allen Scott, Law Director Jen Huber, HR Director Randi Good, 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.

**2024 Budget Hearing (Res. 26-23):** Tonight the Board held a public hearing on the 2024 Budget. Mr. Jewell started the hearing by educating the constituents about the work that goes into putting a budget together, and outlined the schedule of events leading up to the hearing tonight:

- Week of May 8<sup>th</sup> – share budget worksheets with Department heads
- May 31<sup>st</sup> – set date for budget hearing
- Week of June 12<sup>th</sup> – Mr. Jewell, Mr. McAninch, Ms. Good meet with Department heads
- June 28<sup>th</sup> – present worksheets to Trustees and Fiscal Officer

Mr. Jewell said the first step is to figure out what the carryover is. He described carryover as the money not spent or appropriated this year. The next step, he said was to determine their potential revenue or what they think the revenue is going to be. The carryover plus the revenue then, is how much money they have. Then they determine what initiatives they have to do. He said they get it all together and put a whole packet together and present it to them (the Board). Then, he said, we approve the budget.

Mr. Jewell summarized the overall process into three phases

- Budget Approval – a placeholder
- Preliminary Appropriations – enough to get us started
- Permanent Appropriations – continues on into the rest of the year

Mr. Jewell said all of the phases of the process have to be approved by the Trustees and as such, it is the Board who controls the money through every one of these phases. Mr. Jewell also described the expenditure limits the Trustees set at the first meeting of every year—Department Heads can spend \$2,500 and the Township Administrator can spend \$7,500—and said this is another of the checks and balances in place, along with the budget, and the appropriations.

Then Mr. Jewell offered some highlights of the budget:

	2023	2024
Approved Budget - Expenditures	\$16,058,748.99	\$17,531,417.28
Appropriations	\$20,463,437.52	

Mr. Jewell explained that the difference between the 2023 budget expenditures and the 2023 appropriations was due to projects that came up that they weren't anticipating: renovations, additional funds for the Fire Department's overtime, and inflation which drove up purchase prices.

Mr. Jewell explained that increases for this year's budget include salaries and benefits, \$121,000 for a full-time fiscal office assistant, \$13,000 for a new water heater at the Community Center, Shot Spotters/Raven and continuing and upgrading the Flock cameras. He said the Fire and EMS operations transfers to the capital funds were removed for now and will be revisited towards the end of the year.

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A resident asked how the revenue is generated. Mr. Jewell said there are multiple fire levies that generate about \$6 million dollars; and one levy for the roads. Other revenue comes from local government from the state, cigarette tax, bed tax from the hotels, the JEDZ and the JEDD.

Fiscal Officer McKay asked Mr. Jewell to recap the revenue and appropriation projections for 2024.

- Revenues - \$15,054,323.92
- Appropriations - \$17,531,417.27

Based on the budget to be approved tonight, Ms. McKay stated the net impact of the proposed 2024 budget to the Township's overall financial position, is a net deficit of \$2.5 million dollars. Mr. Jewell concurred.

Ms. McKay recapped the Township's financial position, based on June actuals and forecast and budget projections through 2024 as follows:

	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
6/30/2023 balance	\$17.2M	
Revenue thru 12/31/2023		\$8.6M
Expenditures thru 12/31/2023		\$13.6M
12/31/2023 balance		\$12.2M
2024 Budget (Revenues less Expenditures)		(\$2.5)M
12/31/2024 balance		\$9.7M

Mr. Jewell stressed again that the budget is a placeholder and though it looks like expenditures may exceed revenues, he reiterated that there are controls in place to monitor the financials closely and frequently. He said they'll put the brakes on if they think there is going to be a deficit they don't want to have.

Ms. Huber summarized a conversation saying it sounds to her like the Township is following a tried-and-true process, using the tools available to them, to come up with a living, breathing number that is difficult to call an absolute. Ms. McKay agreed, and reiterated that it is called a forecast—she said you put something out there and then you watch your actuals and you revise your forecast.

Mr. Jewell said that after the 2024 budget is approved, it will be sent to the County Auditor for review. They will look at the projected revenues, and will kick it back to the Township if they believe they've been overestimated. He said the County Auditor has never kicked it back.

Ms. Schmelzer shared we just got our audit back. Mr. Jewell clarified the recent audit was for 2021 and 2022, was okay and included a few recommendations. Mr. Pritchard added that there is always room for improvement, and improving is a good thing.

Mr. Pritchard said that the whole reason for tonight's discussion is for the constituency to hear what is going on and understand the process a little bit better.

Ms. Huber touched again on the significant levels of checks and balances happening here with the government money / taxpayer funds—across several levels of different agencies and staff and expert review—happening multiple times a week if not multiple times a year.

Mr. Jewell confirmed the following activities occurred as part of the budget process:

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- At least two copies of the budget were filed in the office of the Fiscal Officer for public inspection not less than ten days before its adoption by the Board
- At least one public hearing on the budget took place
- Public notice was given by at least one publication in the Township, or in a newspaper having general circulation in the Township, not less than ten days prior to tonight's hearing

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the proposed annual budget for the year commencing January 1, 2024 and adopt Resolution 26-23, "a resolution approving a tax budget for fiscal year 2024 for Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.28 and authorizing the submittal to the county Budget Commission". Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The Roll Call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.**

Mr. Stormont moved to close the budget hearing at 7:36pm. Ms. Schmelzer seconded. Voting followed and the motion passed.

### Approval of Minutes – June 28, 2023 regular meeting minutes

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont made a motion to approve the June 28, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. 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 as follows:

06/28/2023 – 07/12/2023	Total	Change since last report
Total Calls for Service/Self-Initiated Runs	519	-98
Total Reports Taken	61	-19
Arrests/Citations	27	+22
Thefts	11	-2
Suspicious Activity Stops / Calls	68	-20
Traffic Stops	30	-20
Stolen Vehicles (recovered)	3	
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	0	
Drug Related Arrests	3	
Overdose	3	-2
Burglaries / B&E (Hilton Ave, and Kuntz Rd)	2	-2
Homicide		
Robberies		

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- On July 9th Deputies McDowell, Knowles and others were dispatched to the area of Danhurst Rd. on a report of a male breaking into vehicles in the area. These deputies responded to the area quickly and were able to locate a male that matched the description given by the caller. The male was arrested and during a pat down he was found to have a concealed firearm which he was not legally allowed to carry because of previous charges.
- On 6/29 Deputy Romine responded to a theft call at Papa John's. The victim stated that her cell phone was stolen. Deputy Romine along with the victim's help were able to locate the phone through an app. Deputy Romine followed up at the Westland Library in the women's restroom. A female was found in possession of the phone, but the victim refused to press charges for the theft, but the suspect was arrested for an unrelated charge of disorderly conduct.
- Multiple deputies were involved in a pursuit of a vehicle and on foot throughout Lincoln Village South. Deputy Goerke attempted to stop the vehicle for a stop sign infraction when the driver attempted to take off and wrecked a short time later into a front yard. The driver then fled on foot but was apprehended after a five-minute foot chase. A firearm that had been modified to make it fully automatic was recovered from inside the vehicle.

### Discussion:

Cheryl Cornelius of 203 Sturbridge Rd asked if the recent fatal incident Deputy Haren just described as pulling Deputies pulled those Deputies and cars assigned to the Township. Deputy Haren said he thought the Township Deputies and cars were still in the Township handling the incident on Kuntz Road. Ms. Cornelius also asked if new deputies are being trained since some people are leaving. Deputy Haren said that training is underway and provided some specifics about the training.

David Birthelmer of 6362 Clover Meadow Court asked how many officers protect the Township. Deputy Haren said two T cars are assigned to the Township, T32 and T132; there is one Deputy in T32 all three shifts, and one Deputy in T132 for two shifts, seven days a week. He said there are two Deputies who are actually assigned to the cars.

Voytek Zaleski of 4756 Hilton Ave asked how often the Sheriff's Department has the burden of helping to recover a stolen cell phone. Deputy Haren said it depends on what the officers are involved with when a call comes in, and if they are able to track a ping. Deputy Haren said that if it pings outside of the Township, they are likely to turn the call over to another jurisdiction. Mr. Zaleski asked what happens if the ping shows the cell phone inside a private residence. Deputy Haren said the officers can do a Knock & Talk, and hope someone answers the knock on the door.

Ms. Cornelius commented that although she didn't think the numbers from the speed trailer on Redmond looked bad, she was aware of a resident who wants speedbumps and asked who would handle such a request. Deputy Haren advised her to talk with Mr. McAninch. Deputy Haren also said he has results from the Hubbard Road speed study.

A resident said he believed there was an illegally parked car on Pasadena Ave for three days recently and wanted to know why it took so long to get it moved. Deputy Haren said he'd check the location.

### **Fiscal Officer's Report**

Approval of Warrants and Payroll: Ms. McKay reported this week's warrants list detailed payments to 98 vendors totaling \$223,139.06. She requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling the same, along with 7/10/23 payroll of \$201,499.41 for a total cash disbursement of \$424,638.47.

Comments/Issues: None

**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.**

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Ms. McKay reported that the June 2023 bank reconciliation was completed earlier in the day and it was included in the folder of documents to be reviewed and signed by the Board.

### Standing Business

#### Fire Department

Chief Scott gave his monthly report for June

Incident Type Group	# of Incidents
100 - Fire Total	4
200 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat	1
300 - Rescue & EMS Total	288
400 - Hazardous Condition Total	7
500 - Service Call Total	19
600 - Good Intent Call Total	93
700 - False Alarm Total	13
<b>Total Fire</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>425</b>

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP FIRE	
Auto Aid Provided	5
BROWN FRA	2
COLUMBUS	96
FAIRFIELD MAD	1
FRANKLIN FRA	4
JEFFERSON MAD	9
WASHINGTON FRA	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>120</b>

Auto Aid Received	
COLUMBUS DIVISION OF FIRE	13
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP FIRE	10
JACKSON TOWNSHIP FIRE	1
NORWICH TOWNSHIP FIRE	1
WEST JEFFERSON FIRE	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17</b>

Stations	
241	277
243	42

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Training Hours	213	Mass Cass. Tng w/ Pleasant
Inspections	74	
Dive Team Support Members Asst. FCSO R,W,&B		
FF Assoc. Fish Fry & Cruise In	2 Days	Huge Success

Chief Scott echoed the Deputy’s comments, praised the efforts leading to the successful outcome (finding the guy). When asked about the status of the Medic that crashed recently, Chief Scott described the accident that occurred two weeks ago involving one of the Township’s Medics. The Chief said the Medic was transporting an unstable patient, and when coming to an intersection, the driver of the Medic made eye contact with the driver of a commercial truck, the only other vehicle sitting at the intersection, and the Medic proceeded to move forward. The Medic was struck by another vehicle. The Chief said the patient did not sustain any additional injuries from the crash, and fortunately, the other truck was right behind the Medic and the teams were able to do a quick vehicle swap and safely deliver the patient. New one forecasted for delivery in October.

Chief Scott said the new Medic, which the Board approved purchasing with ARPA funds, is now forecasted for delivery in October 2023—pushed out from the original estimated delivery of Mar 2023.

### **Community Center**

*Farmer’s Market Petty Cash:* Mr. Pollack asked the Board to authorize issuing \$3,000.00 in petty cash to the Community Center for the WIC and SNAP programs at the Farmer’s Market.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve issuing \$3,000.00 in petty cash to the Community Center for the Farmer Market and authorize the Fiscal Office to issue a warrant on July 13, 2023. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.**

*School Supply Drive Request:* Mr. Pollack asked the Board to approve a school supply drive at the Community Center and hosted by the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office. The drive would be held Saturday August 19, 2023 at a time to be determined. This event collects a variety of supplies for students of all ages.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a school supply drive event hosted by the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office on August 19, 2023. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.**

*Mr. Pollack gave the Community Center Monthly Report:*

Community Center Monthly Report – as of June 30, 2023		
Total Current Community Center Members	7,227	
Total Members who are Prairie Township residents	2,192	30.33%
Total Members who are Non-Residents	5,035	69.67%
Total Members who are JEDZ	146	2.02%
Total Members who are Senior Citizens	4,860	67.25%
Total Unique Senior Citizen Visits	6,229	
Number of new members/renewals since last report		177
Number of Membership that expired and were not renewed		185

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Retention rate percentage	99%
Events or significant programs	
Group Fitness Classes	1161
Basketball	743
Pickleball	46
Movie in the Park	250
Farmers Market	375
Volleyball Clinic	19
Swim Lessons	198
Karate	18
Gardening for Kids	12
Golf Clinic	7

Ms. Cornelius asked if the Farmers Market is going to continue to be held at the Community Center in the future. Mr. Pollack said yes and that it was moved for the recent WIC event which drew close to 700 attendees—more than the Community Center can accommodate.

Tony Self of 372 Fernhill Ave asked why the Farmers Market isn't held at Westland all the time, saying that parking isn't always available at the Community Center. Mr. Pollack said that he considered a few different locations for the event—Westland, the sports complex and the Community Center, and believes that for normal markets, the Community Center can accommodate the 200-250 attendees who typically turn out.

Mr. Pritchard commented that he too thought the Sports Complex would be a good location for the Farmers Market and might pick up walk-ins from the park.

### **Roads, Cemeteries, and Parks Department**

Mr. McAninch gave the Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department Monthly Report for June:

<b>Roads, Cemeteries, and Parks Monthly Report – June 2023</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 Graves sold</li> <li>• 7 funerals</li> <li>• Chipped tree limbs at 89 addresses</li> <li>• Trash, weeds W Broad Street</li> <li>• Groom OneField 1 time</li> <li>• Nuisance abatements at 16 properties</li> <li>• Mow ROW with Flail Mower 4 days</li> <li>• Trim where we flail mow guardrails and signs</li> <li>• Pull behind mower big properties 2 days</li> <li>• Mow Parks, cemeteries and GRSC</li> <li>• Speed trailer out 4 weeks</li> <li>• 1 W Broad Street Sweep</li> <li>• Trim Alton and Galloway 2 days</li> <li>• Spray weeds parks and cemeteries 2 days</li> <li>• Paint curbs 4 days</li> <li>• Topsoil, seed, fertilize and straw Tile Jobs 1 day</li> </ul>

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- Catch Basin repair 318 Pasadena
- Tile job Mix Avenue 4 days
- Spray weed PTSC baseball fields
- Trim trees Lakota Park overhanging driveway next to park

Mr. Self asked who to contact about grave sites and he was advised to talk with Mr. McAninch.

### **Commercial Building and Zoning Department**

Request for Special Meeting: Ms. Scott asked the Board to set a public hearing for a “Special Meeting” on August 23, 2023 at 5:00 pm located at the Township Hall. She said pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 519.12, the Prairie Township Zoning Commission would like to forward their recommendations to the Prairie Township Trustees, and to set a date for a public hearing on two (2) Zoning Applications:

1. Application Number 187-RZ-23; to amend numerous sections of the Prairie Township Zoning Resolution
  - a. Recommendation: approval with modifications
2. Application Number 188-RZ-23; request to rezone +/- 12.1 acres of the 41.35 acre parcel (240-000112) Galloway Road, Galloway, Ohio, 43119 (Villages at Galloway) from the high density residential district (R-8) to a Planned Unit Development (PUD) to allow for single-family residential uses with its own textual requirements.
  - a. Recommendation: approval as submitted

Ms. Scott said her office will take care of all notifications for this special meeting. Mr. Pritchard asked for meeting materials to be shared with him in advance of the meeting.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a special meeting on August 23, 2023 at 5:00p.m. at the Township Hall for a public hearing on Zoning Applications 187-RZ-23 and 188-RZ-23. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.**

Zoning Assistant Resignation: Ms. Scott requested the Board approve the resignation of full-time Zoning Assistant Brandon McKay effective July 7, 2023. She said Brandon turned in his resignation on July 6, 2023.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board accept the resignation of Brandon McKay as Zoning Assistant effective July 7, 2023. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.**

Request to Advertise Zoning Assistant Position: Ms. Scott asked the Board to advertise the recently vacated position of full-time Zoning Assistant. This would be at a rate of \$21.68 per hour.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve advertising the vacant full-time Zoning Assistant position. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.**

Ms. Scott gave the Commercial Building and Zoning Department Monthly Report for June:



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Zoning Monthly Report – June 2023	
Franklin County Courthouse	
Development / Information Meetings	147
Nuisance Inspections	235
Declared Nuisances	39
Junk Motor Vehicle Inspections	
Trash Resolution Inspections	61
Trash Citations	3
EPMC Com+MFR12 Inspections	7
EPMC Com+MFR Citations	4
Zoning Inspections	202
Zoning Violations	59
Property Maintenance Inspections	
EPMC Citations	
Permit Inspections	
Do Not Knock Registries	16
Contractor Registrations	3
Zoning Compliances (Permits)	55
MS4 Land Disturbance Permits	3
Open Space Permits (Hunting)	
Commercial Permits	4
Transient Vendor Permits	
Variance Applications	2
Zoning Revenue	\$848.84
Commercial Building Revenue	\$6,397.71
Contractor Registration	\$200.00
Citation Revenue	
Zoning Revenue	
Commercial building Revenue	
Contractor Registration	

Bob Voss of 249 Emmit Ave asked if anything is going to be done with the run down house at 250 Emmit Ave. Ms. Scott said the owner was coming in to see her this Friday. She said the owner wants to sell the property as is and clarified that it is currently zoned for single family residential. Ms. Scott said she also intends to tell the owner he has to board up the windows and doors. Mr. Pritchard asked if there is any way to declare the property a nuisance and Ms. Huber advised it could be declared an unsafe structure.

Mr. Self asked for an update on the 400 Fernhill Avenue case. Ms. Scott said it went to court on Monday, the court issued a judgement and contempt order, and now the Township can take action for each infraction without having to go thru the court process again.

There was some discussion about a declining property at Sullivant and Fernhill and Ms. Schmelzer asked Ms. Scott to get in touch with the property owner.

Debra Kurtz of 217 Evergreen Terrace asked if there are any regulations for landscaping when the developers build new houses. She said the yards on Evergreen Terrace are a mess and they look like construction sites. Ms. Scott said there are none, and

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that she would look into options for addressing during their next round of revisions.

Ms. Kurtz asked if there is a minimum width requirement for driveways? Ms. Scott said there is no minimum width requirement, but there is a maximum width requirement. She said the code allows up to 20 feet and anything over 20 feet requires a variance. Ms. Kurtz asked if there is still a regulation that you can only cover 30% of your property, including a shed? Ms. Scott said yes, and coverage above 30% would require a variance.

There was some discussion about business operating behind the Marathon station on West Broad Street. Ms. Scott said that Ms. Critchfield is investigating huge issues with the property. She said it is currently zoned as Exceptional Use, and there was a specific development plan for Jana Auto Sales, which is now gone and Marathon is using it for something else. Ms. Scott said she would be getting legal counsel involved tomorrow.

### **Administration**

Nuisance Assessments: None

Nuisance Resolutions: Three Nuisance Resolutions were presented tonight:

#### 1. Uncontrolled vegetation:

Declared	Address	Parcel Number
X	300 Lennox Avenue	240-000438
X	362 Old Village Road	240-003153
X	400 Fernhill Avenue	240-002416
X	240-002418 Fernhill Avenue	240-002418
X	40 Gladys Road	240-002105
X	165 Gladys Road	240-002465
X	211 Oxley Road	240-002703
X	399 Postle Boulevard	240-002847
X	244 S Murray Hill Road	240-004441
X	334 S Murray Hill Road	240-004487
	376 Woodlawn Avenue	240-001900
X	240-001826 Woodlawn Avenue	240-001826
X	6539 Birch Park Way	240-005594
X	6551 Birch Park Way	240-005596

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution **NU-36-23**, "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with uncontrolled vegetation." Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Roll Call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

#### 2. Refuse and Debris:

Declared	Address	Parcel Number
X	5456 West Broad Street	240-000385
X	347 N Murray Hill Road	240-003785

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X	4707 Hilton Avenue	240-004315
X	6561 Hall Road	240-005120

Comments/Issues: None

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-37-23, “A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with refuse and debris.” Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Roll Call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.**

### 3. Uncontrolled Vegetation and Refuse and Debris:

Declared	Address	Parcel Number
X	454 Hiler Road	240-004533

Comments/Issues: Mr. Pritchard said he thought this was a set out and asked if there is a time requirement for landlords to hold the property set out, before it can be disposed of. Ms. Huber said an inhabitant would need to receive notice a certain number of days before lock-out. Mr. Zaleski offered that he believed property, when set out, belongs to the evicted person for 24 hours. If it is not collected within the 24 hours, the landlord can discard the property (or it can be taken by anyone else)

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-38-23, “A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with uncontrolled vegetation and refuse and debris.” Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Roll Call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.**

Ms. Scott said they were going to court Monday for the Hiler Road and Galloway Village Apartments properties.

Property Bid Acceptance (Res. 27-23): Mr. Jewell provided information on the bids received for parcels 240-001467 and 240-001468 on Emmitt Avenue. The highest bid was received from Catherine Martinez in the amount of \$5,000.00, and one other bid for \$1,000. Mr. Jewell asked the Board to accept the bid from Catherine Martinez, and authorize the Township Administrator to move forward with processing the bid, the sales contract and transferring the property.

Mr. Pritchard asked how much it costs the Township to do this (property bids) versus how much we sell the property for? Mr. Jewell said it costs the Township basically nothing. Ms. Huber said the transaction is exempt from the conveyance fee, and has a \$.50 per parcel filing fee.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 27-23, “A Resolution authorizing the sale and conveyance of real property pursuant to R.C. 505.10 (A)(6)” and authorize the Township Administrator to execute the sales contract and transferring of the property to Catherine Martinez. Roll Call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.**

Aramark Agreement Addendum: Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve an addendum to our current agreement with Aramark who supplies the floor mats at the Township Hall. We noticed a large increase to our current agreement and were able to work with them to lock in more reasonable pricing. Our previous monthly total was \$432.66 and the new monthly total is \$97.90 with a locked in maximum cost increase of 5% per year. The addendum is extending our agreement for 40 months.

**Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a Service Agreement Addendum to our current agreement with Aramark**

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and authorize the Township Administrator to sign the addendum. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Alley Vacation Update: At the last trustee meeting, the Board asked Mr. Jewell to move forward with the process of vacating the alley way east of Gladys Road and south of West Broad Street pending communication with Aarons Furniture Store. This alley is located south of the property line of Aaron's Furniture Store. If Aarons is okay with moving forward with this, Mr. Jewell will work with the Franklin County Engineers Office on getting the request submitted. No action required by the Board tonight.

A resident asked what land was bought by Ms. Martinez. Mr. Jewell described the two parcels and said the Township was selling them so they didn't have to maintain the property any longer, to increase the tax base, and because the parcels are very borderline buildable.

### Old Business

Ms. Kurtz asked for an update on the rebranding initiative. Mr. Jewell said there will be an article in the next Westside Messenger, and that generally feedback has been good.

Ms. Kurtz asked for an update on the Norton Road rodeo. Mr. Jewell said that he and Mr. McAninch went out to visit the property owner since the last meeting and Debra – rodeo update; James and Dave went out to visit the property owner; the rodeo stops at 10pm; they have a social hour afterwards but shut everything down by 11:30pm when the Deputies leave; they have some rodeos outside and some inside—the ones on the inside are not as loud; they prefer to have them on Saturdays, but

### New Business

#### Public Comment

Mr. Zaleski directed a question to Ms. Huber, asking what is the rulebook on overhead utilities passing over a public right of way. Ms. Huber said she doesn't have a lot of experience with that but thinks it's between the utility company and the road and asked if anyone else wanted to speak up. Mr. Jewell said if a line is too low and gets snagged, the utility company is liable for repairs. He cited an incident on Interstate 670 over Stelzer Road as an example where the utility company was liable.

Mr. Birthelmer said he lives just on the edge of Alton. He said he was walking around Alton the other day and said it looks like Appalachia. Mr. Birthelmer said that he hopes that the Board can pass the residential property maintenance code. Mr. Birthelmer also asked for the sidewalks along West Broad Street in Alton to be repaired.

Mr. Birthelmer said he believes there are roughly 18,000 people in Prairie Township. He said his wife did some research and found that Columbus has 21.9 officers per 10,000 people. He said crime is coming our way and one of these days something is going to happen. Mr. Birthelmer commented on the earlier conversation about an illegal car sitting for three days and suggested it's because they don't have time to do anything about it. Mr. Pritchard said that a lot of people think the Township spends too much money on the Sheriff's protection we have and commented that Mr. Birthelmer thinks we should spend more. There was some discussion about Franklin County spending \$2.4 million a year on police and if the Township were to create its own police force, the start-up costs would be significant, for example, we would need between 8-10 cars @ an estimated cost of \$70,000 per car. Mr. Birthelmer asked about a police levy and suggested putting one out there and letting the people decide on it with their vote.

#### Announcements

Mr. Pollack reminded everyone about the Free Concerts in the Park and said the next one will be Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00-9:00pm at the sports complex, with 70s, 80s and country music. Mr. Pritchard thanked Michael for his work promoting it.

Mr. Pritchard asked Mr. Birthelmer how the noise was in his area neighborhood and Mr. Birthelmer said it's so quiet, it's beautiful.

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



## PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 12, 2023 – REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

### **Executive Session**

At 8:47 p.m., Mr. Stormont 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]. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Stormont appointed Mr. McAninch Fiscal Officer Pro Tem.

At 9:28 p.m., Mr. Stormont moved that the Board come out of executive session. Ms. Schmelzer seconded. Roll Call Votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

There were no motions or resolutions presented to the Trustees during Executive Session.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Stormont moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. Voting followed and the motion passed.

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Chairman Doug Stormont

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Fiscal Officer Natalie McKay