

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AUGUST 23, 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 August 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall with Trustee Cathy Schmelzer, Trustee Rod Pritchard, Township Administrator James Jewell, Road Superintendent Dave McAninch, Zoning Director Dana Scott, and Fire Chief Allen Scott 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 was not in attendance, Mr. McAninch gave the Sheriff's report for the last two weeks as follows:

8/9/2023 - 8/23/2023	Total
Total Calls for Service/Self-Initiated Runs	584
Total Reports Taken	84
Arrests/Citations	41
Thefts	9
Suspicious Activity Stops / Calls	87
Traffic Stops	49
Stolen Vehicles	1
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	3
Drug Related Arrests	4
Overdose	0
Burglaries / B&E	2
OVI	2

- The FCSO Accident Investigation unit is investigating two fatal crashes involving motorcycles within a quarter mile from each other on W. Broad St. I have been assisting with the crash that occurred at the intersection of W. Broad and Norton Rd. We are using video footage from cameras in the Dr. West parking lots.
- Deputies are investigating a string of criminal damaging offenses that occurred on Old Village last week. Deputies took four reports of broken out windows on vehicles parked in the lot of 80 Old Village Rd.
- Deputy Haren, along with other members of the Liaison Unit conducted traffic enforcement in the school zones on Amesbury Way, S. Grener and Norton Rd. We conducted traffic enforcement for approximately 90 minutes and executed 4 traffic stops for speed and issued 4 citations in an attempt to slow drivers down in the school zones.

Mr. Zalinski asked where the two B&Es occurred. Mr. McAninch will ask Deputy Haren.

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Approval of Minutes - August 9, 2023 regular meeting minutes

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont made a motion to approve the August 9, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Ms. Schmelzer seconded. The votes were as follows: 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 67 vendors totaling \$401,712.80. Mr. McAninch requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling \$401,712.80 along with 8/25/23 payroll of \$200,137.66 for a total cash disbursement of \$601,850.46.

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.

Standing Business

Fire Department

Resignation of Part-Time Firefighter: Chief Scott asked the Board to accept the resignation of part-time firefighter Lane Applin. Lane has accepted a position with Columbus Fire. We wish him luck.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board accept the resignation of part-time firefighter Lane Applin effective August 23, 2023. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Hiring of Part-Time Firefighters: Chief Scott asked the Board to consider Christopher Frey and Patrick Sullivan for part-time firefighter positions, effective August 24th, 2023. Both members will serve a 1-year probationary period.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve hiring Christopher Frey and Patrick Sullivan as part-time firefighters effective August 24, 2023 with a one-year probationary period. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

BWC Grants: Chief Scott asked the Board to approve the application of a BWC grant for \$15,000.00 with a 5-1 match. This grant has very specific uses and we will use it to purchase firefighting hoods and gloves. The Township's obligation will be \$3,000.00.

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Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve applying for a BWC grant application in the amount of \$15,000.00 with a \$3,000.00 contribution from the Township if awarded for the purchase of firefighting hoods and gloves 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.

Mr. Pritchard asked if Chief Scott was writing this grant himself. Chief responded no. Ms. Schmelzer asked how much these items would be without the grant.

Chief Scott asked the Board to approve an additional BWC grant totaling \$42,000.00 with a 5-1 matching fund requirement, making the Twp. contribution \$13,000.00. This grant will be used to purchase rescue equipment for E243. Because of our previous staffing model, that truck did not respond to auto accidents. Now that it is available for accident responses, having rescue equipment onboard will greatly enhance our rescue capabilities. Due to deadline limitations, the paperwork for this grant has been submitted.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve applying for a BWC grant application in the amount of \$42,000.00 with a \$13,000.00 contribution from the Township if awarded for the purchase of rescue equipment for Engine 243 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.

Ohio Ambulance Transport Program Grant: There is an additional grant available to us through the Ohio Ambulance Transportation Program. This grant is specifically earmarked as premium pay for medical workers who provided care during the National Health Emergency (COVID 19). There is \$20,281.43 already allocated to Prairie Township. There is no matching fund amount. Also, due to deadline restrictions, the application for this grant has been submitted. If the Board chooses to accept the funding, Chief Scott will work with Mr. Jewell and Ms. Good to develop a plan for distribution and present that plan later.

Comments/Issues: Mr. Pritchard asked about distribution of this grant.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve a grant through Ohio Ambulance Transportation Program 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.

Fire Prevention and Food Truck Festival: Chief Scott will ask the Board's permission to hold the annual Fire Prevention Open House and Food Truck Festival at Station 241 on Sunday, October 8th, 2023, from noon to 4pm.

Comments/Issues: None

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Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve holding the annual Fire Prevention Open House and Food Truck Festival at Station 241 on Sunday, October 8, 2023 from 12 to 4pm. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Announcement - Local 2985 Pickleball Tournament: IAFF Local 2985 Pickle Ball Tournament is Sept. 30th. Contact any full-time Prairie firefighter for details or go to PTFD or Local 2985 Facebook pages.

Community Center

No items for tonight's meeting.

Terry Allen was present and stated the second band that played at the Outdoor Concert at the Sports Complex has not received payment yet.

Roads, Cemeteries, and Parks Department

No items for tonight's meeting.

Mr. Voss wanted to say good job on Emmitt Avenue.

Commercial Building and Zoning Department

No items for tonight's meeting.

A Shred event will be held at the Food Truck and Fire Prevention Festival from 1pm - 4pm at Station 241 on October 8, 2023.

Ms. Scott gave a summary of the special meeting that was at 5:00 prior to this meeting.

Administration

Nuisance Resolutions: Three Nuisance Resolutions were presented tonight:

1. Galloway Village - Refuse & Debris:

Declared	Address	Parcel Number
X	4984-5006 Medfield Way	240-004838

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-47-23, "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with refuse and debris." Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

2. Remaining Nuisances:

Declared	Address	Parcel Number
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X	132 Buena Vista Avenue	240-000770
X	201 Buena Vista Avenue	240-000718
X	209 Buena Vista Avenue	240-000719
	435 Deerfield Road	240-003236
	439 Deerfield Road	240-003235
X	8399 Blue Lake Avenue	240-005406
X	117 Darien Avenue	240-004330
X	132 Evergreen Terrace	240-000705
X	165 Gladys Road	240-002465
	325 Lombard Road	240-004468
X	538 Lombard Road	240-004735
X	4981 Palmetto Street	240-002580
X	294 Postle Boulevard	240-002762

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-48-23, "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with uncontrolled vegetation. " Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Declared	Address	Parcel Number
X	8484 Blue Lake Circle	240-005437
X	4773 Hilton Avenue	240-004309
X	4678-4688 Hilton Avenue	240-004278
X	132 Oxley Road	240-002669

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-49-23, "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with refuse and debris. " Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Declared	Address	Parcel Number
X	396 Celina Road	240-004631
X	4669 Hilton Avenue	240-004320
X	272 Oxley Road	240-002651

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-50-23, "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with uncontrolled vegetation and refuse and debris. " Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Letter to Budget Commission: Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve sending a letter to the budget commission increasing appropriations in the EMS Fund (2281) by \$60,000.00. This would be to the Repairs and Maintenance line for Medic 241's repairs from the accident. We received the check from insurance.

Comments/Issues: None

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Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve sending a letter to the budget commission increasing appropriations in the EMS Fund (2281) by \$60,000.00. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

AEDs at Sports Complex: Mr. Jewell asked the Board to authorize myself to purchase up to 4 AEDs and associated cabinets and hardware for the Prairie Township Sports Complex. Our current quote for one AED is \$2,326.28 and I am finalizing which cabinets will be appropriate for outside weather protection. I am planning to buy all the equipment through Stryker. I am asking the Board to authorize me to move forward with this purchase at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve purchasing 4 AEDs and associated cabinets and equipment from Stryker for the Prairie Township Sports Complex at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00 and authorize the Township Administrator 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.

Alley Vacation: Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve vacating an undeveloped alley way between Fernhill Avenue and Evergreen Terrace, north of Sullivant Avenue and south of Owen Street. There is currently 15 feet between the parcels that we would like to vacate to each parcel along the alley way. 7.5 feet of alley way would go to the parcels along Evergreen Terrace and 7.5 feet would go to the parcels along Fernhill. I will also ask the Board to approve a check for the Franklin County Engineer's Office in the amount of \$200.00 for public notices.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve moving forward with the vacation process for the alley located between Fernhill Avenue and Evergreen Terrace, north of Sullivant Avenue and south of Owen Street, as presented, authorize the Township Administrator to complete the necessary documents, and authorize the Fiscal Office to issue a check to the Franklin County Engineer's Office on August 24, 2023 in the amount of \$200.00 for public notices. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

2023/2024 Hunting Property Guidance: Mr. Jewell asked for the Board's guidance on whether we should allow hunting on the Township properties located off of Cole Road and Alton Road at West Broad Street for the 2023/2024 season.

Comments/Issues: A discussion was had on how often we have to regulate hunting, call the individuals and if these areas still have working going on. Currently no work, Ms. Scott explained we had to call hunters several times last year.

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Mr. Stormont moved that the Board allow hunting on the two township properties located off of Cole Road and Alton Road at West Broad Street for the 2023/2024 season. Ms. Schmelzer seconded the motion. The votes were as follows: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

Mr. Buck, 509 Maple Drive, thanked everyone for the work that the Township has done. Mr. McAninch stated we try to look out for the residents.

Announcements

Mr. Jewell shared the letter that many residents received regarding Volunteer Energy LLC and their current bankruptcy case. We have shared on our Facebook that residents can disregard these notices. We are not affiliated with Volunteer Energy anymore and these were just courtesy notices for former customers.

Adjournment

Mr. Stormont declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Chairman Doug Stormont

Fiscal Officer Pro Tem Dave McAninch