

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 1, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING 7 :00 PM 23 MAPLE DRIVE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43228

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Doug Stormont called the Prairie Township Board of Trustees regular meeting to order on October 18, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Township Hall. In attendance were Trustee Rod Pritchard, Trustee Cathy Schmelzer, Trustee Doug Stormont, Fiscal Officer Alec Milam, Township Administrator James Jewell, Assistant Township Administrator and Road Superintendent Dave McAninch, Zoning Director Dana Scott, Recreation Director Michael Pollack, and Prairie Township Lawyer Jen Huber.

Mr. Stormont led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes - October 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont made a motion to approve the October 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Ms. Schmelzer seconded. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Updates from the Franklin County Sheriff 's Office

FCSO Deputy Dan Adkins was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a ongoing call but did provide the report for the period 10/18/23-11/1/23.

Total Calls for Service/Self-Initiated Runs: 531

Total Reports Taken: 52

Total Arrest/Citations: 48

Thefts: 6

Suspicious activity stops/calls: 73

Traffic Stops: 105

Stolen Vehicles: 4 (100 BLOCK OF LAWRENCE TRAILER/ 200 BLOCK OF PASADENA FORD SUV/MURNAN RD/W BROAD KIA, 200 BLOCK OF MIX AVE KIA)

Drug-Related Arrests: 3

Overdose: 0

Burglaries/B&E: 2 (60 BLOCK OF STURBRIDGE/ 100 BLOCK OF MIX AVE)

OVI: 0

Vandalism: 2 (300 BLOCK OF HILER AND 8500 BLOCK OF BLUE LAKE)

- Deputies responded to a stabling in the 4500 block of Grants Lane. One victim was transported stable. A suspect was arrested, and the investigation is ongoing.
- Deputies responded to a suspicious vehicle in the area of Murnan Road and West Broad St. The vehicle was located and was reported stolen out of the City of Columbus. The investigation is still ongoing.

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- Deputies responded to the area of Emmit Ave on the report of a suspicious vehicle in a field. A vehicle pursuit ensued, but Patrol Deputies eventually stopped the vehicle. Several suspects were apprehended. The vehicle was an unreported stolen from the City of Columbus; the investigation is ongoing.
- There have been several calls for suspicious activity in the area of Maple Drive and surrounding streets, especially during the overnight hours during the last few days. This is a reminder to keep your vehicles locked and any valuable items out of sight. Please report any suspicious activity you might observe.

Fiscal Office

Approval of Warrants/Payroll: This week's warrants list detailed payments to 65 vendors totaling \$695,475.52 (\$462,000.00 to Huntington Bank for bond payments).

Mr. Milam requested the Board's approval to pay all items on this week's warrant list totaling \$695,475.52 along with 10/25/23 payroll of \$192,212.96 for a total cash disbursement of \$887,688.48.

Comments/Issues: None

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

Approval to Process Payroll Related Payments: Mr. Milam asked the Board for approval to process a 11/9/23 payroll related warrant for Deferred Compensation.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the Fiscal Office to process payroll related warrants as presented. Ms. Schmelzer seconded. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Liquor Permit: Mr. Milam asked the Board if they would like to request a hearing on a liquor permit located at 4860 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43228 (Mi Casita Venezolana Latin Market located in Westland Square).

Comments/Issues: None

Ms. Schmelzer moved that the Board not request a hearing on the advisability of issuing a liquor permit to an establishment located at 4860 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43228. Mr. Stormont seconded. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

STANDING BUSINESS

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Fire Department

Mr. Jewell provided a summary of the 6:00 special meeting at Station 241.

Community Center

No items.

Ms. Schmelzer asked about the turnout for the Trunk or Treat and Fishing event. Mr. Pollack stated that there were over 1200 kids in attendance for Trunk or Treat and approximately 10 children at the fishing event.

Roads, Cemeteries, and Parks

City of Columbus Snow & Ice Agreement: Mr. McAninch recommended the Board approve a snow and ice control removal contract with the City of Columbus for the 2023/2024 winter season. In exchange for the township maintaining these roads during snow and ice events (26.884 miles of roads total), the city will compensate the township \$1,140.00 per lane mile for a total of \$30,647.76. The mileage increase from last year is 15.084 miles and the cost per lane mile increase from last year is \$187.00 per lane mile, which was a negotiated 20% increase. As in the past township roads will take priority over these roads, but the proximity of these roads makes this both convenient and a good deal for the township. This also helps improve our relationship with Columbus, which I feel is very important. Dave would also like the Board to authorize the Township Administrator to sign the agreement.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the 2023-2024 Snow and Ice Agreement with the City of Columbus and authorize the Township Administrator to execute the agreement. Ms. Schmelzer seconded. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Part-Time Position: Mr. McAninch recommended the Board authorize the Road Department to have up to 6 part-time employees. The Board has authorized this department to have up to 5 part time employees currently. Dave would like to increase this for several reasons but first and foremost is the value we get from our part-time employees. Dave's current appropriations for this year can absorb this cost and Dave will increase his permanent appropriations to reflect this change for 2024 if the Board approves this.

Comments/Issues: Mr. McAninch stated how valuable part-time employees are.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board authorize the Road Department to employ up to 6 part-time employees. Ms. Schmelzer seconded. Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

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Commercial Building and Zoning

Unsafe Structure (Res. 38-23): Ms. Scott requested the Trustees sign a Resolution to initiate the process for the removal of the insecure, unsafe, and structurally defective structure (per ORC 505.86) owned by Jason E. Humphrey, located at 23 and 27 East Street, Columbus, Ohio 43228, Parcel No's. 240-006729 and 240-006771. Fire Marshal Powers submitted a letter of recommendation for the defective structure.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution 38-23, "A resolution providing notice of the intent to remove insecure, unsafe, and structurally defective structure owned by Jason E. Humphrey, located on Franklin County Parcel Nos. 240-006729 and 240-006771, in Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio. Ms. Schmelzer seconded. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Administration

Nuisance Resolutions: State for the record any addresses that will not be declared (if any).

Galloway Village:

Declared	Address	Parcel Number
√	4951-4973 Eastham Way	240-004822
√	4820 Medfield Way	240-004847
√	4960-4982 Medfield Way	240-004837
√	4984-5006 Medfield Way	240-004838
√	99 Schoolhouse Lane	240-004824
√	111 Schoolhouse Lane	240-004825
√	44 Sturbridge Road	240-004839

Comments/Issues: Mr. Pritchard asked Ms. Huber about the legal process at Galloway Village Apartments and its impact on new zoning violations.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-66-23, "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with refuse and debris. " Ms. Schmelzer seconded. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Remaining Nuisances:

Declared	Address	Parcel Number
√	240-002877 N Grener Avenue	240-002877
	365 Danhurst Road	240-003753
√	465 Amity Road	240-004310
√	163 Fernhill Avenue	240-002581

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Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-67-23, "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with uncontrolled vegetation." Ms. Schmelzer seconded. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Declared	Address	Parcel Number
√	446 Pasadena Avenue	240-000608
√	225 Old Village Road	240-003623
√	80-160 Old Village Road	240-006829
√	801 Lakefield Drive	241-000306
√	423 Wynbrook Court	240-006369
√	312 S Murray Hill Road	240-004490
	6338 Alkire Road	240-002535

Comments/Issues: The residents of 6338 Alkire Road were in attendance and requested an extension from the Board until Spring. The Board gave a 30-day extension.

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-68-23, "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with refuse and debris." Ms. Schmelzer seconded. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Declared	Address	Parcel Number
	4606 Annhurst Road	240-003177
√	763 Hubbard Road	241-000452

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board adopt Resolution NU-69-23, "A Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement at properties with uncontrolled vegetation and refuse and debris." Ms. Schmelzer seconded. Roll Call Votes: Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye. Motion passed.

Tabled Item - Junk Motor Vehicles (Res. 37-23): Mr. Jewell asked the Board to approve Resolution 37-23. This resolution authorizes the Board to determine that motor vehicles, which may be generally described as a red Chevrolet Silverado extensively damaged, badly wrecked, no engine, no windshield, no wheels, a black Chevrolet Monte Carlo extensively damaged, door not able to be closed, broken windshield, and a ford excursion extensively damaged with no headlights, no grill and burnt front end ("Junk Motor Vehicles"), are three model years or older, apparently inoperable and located at 36 Center Street, Parcel # 240-000122, as junk motor vehicles and order the property owner to remove such junk motor vehicles from the property within 14 days of written notice. If the property owner fails to remove or to cause the removal of the junk motor vehicles from the property within said 14 days, the Board may proceed to remove, or cause the removal of, the junk motor vehicles from the property and, if necessary, enter the cost upon the tax duplicate for the property.

Comments/Issues: None

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Mr. Stormont movd that the Board approve Resolution 37-23, "A Resolution declaring certain motor vehicles located at 36 Center Street, Parcel #240-000122, Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio, to constitute junk motor vehicles and providing for their removal pursuant to O.R.C. 505.871. " **Ms. Schmelzer** seconded. Roll Call Votes: **Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye.** Motion passed.

Nuisance Assessments: **Mr. Jewell** asked the Board to execute a "Return and Statement to County Commissioners" requesting the assessments totaling \$5,350.88 for high grass and weed abatement at (9) properties in September - October 2023 as well as execute a "Return and Statement to County Commissioners" requesting assessments totaling \$21,254.02 for removal of trash and debris at (15) properties in September - October 2023.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board execute a "Return and Statement to County Commissioners " requesting the assessments totaling \$5,350.88 for high grass and weed abatement at (9) properties in September - October 2023 as well as execute a "Return and Statement to County Commissioners " requesting assessments totaling \$21,254.02 for removal of trash and debris at (15) properties in September - October 2023. **Ms. Schmelzer** seconded. Votes: **Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye.** Motion passed.

Request for Open House - Hubbard/Dellinger Park: **Mr. Jewell** asked the Board to host a public involvement meeting/open house on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:00p.m. at the Community Center to share the updated conceptual drawing of the Hubbard/Dellinger park and get community feedback. We will be sending postcards out to everyone in Westpoint and Lake Darby and will share on social media.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve holding an open house on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:00p.m. at the Community Center for updates on the Hubbard and Dellinger park . **Ms. Schmelzer** seconded. Votes: **Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye.** Motion passed.

Employee Manual Updates: **Mr. Jewell** asked the Board to approve the updates to the Employee Manual that were provided at the last meeting.

Comments/Issues: None

Mr. Stormont moved that the Board approve the updates to the Employee Manual as submitted. **Ms. Schmelzer** seconded. Votes: **Mr. Pritchard, Aye; Ms. Schmelzer, Aye; Mr. Stormont, Aye.** Motion passed.

Old Business

None.

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New Business

Mr. John S. Griffith addressed the Board.

Public Comment

Residents of 406 Revere Court, Columbus, Ohio 43228, addressed the Board regarding several interactions with the Noise Ordinance.

Announcements

The next regular meeting of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees will be on November 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Mr. Stormont declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Chairman Doug Stormont

Fiscal Officer Alec Milam