

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting of January 12, 2017

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Coventry Town Hall.

Call to Order:

Chairperson, Edward Diebold called the meeting to order and asked Administrator, Anna Sawhill to record the following Trustees present: Edward Diebold, yes; Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. All Trustees were recorded present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes

170112-01 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting and workshop of December 8, 2016 and the Special Meeting of January 4, 2017. Tom Seese seconded the motion. Roll call: Edward Diebold, yes; Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

New Business:

K Company – PACE Presentation

Mr. Tony Day addressed the Board on Property Assessed Clean Energy or PACE and the Township's role in this program. This is for a building at 2282 S. Arlington Road formerly Kings Carpet, now owned by the same people who own the K Company. (George Beckham emailed information to the Trustees and Irv on 12/23/16). There was brief discussion over this financing program and the formation of an "Energy District" in the Township which could provide economic development. This is a financing program that is paid back through tax assessment. Edward Diebold asked Mr. Day what the Township would need to provide. Mr. Day explained that there is no monetary commitment from the Township. He would ask that two board members join a non-profit board along with three residents. Tom Seese and Edward Diebold stated that they would volunteer. Richard Kutuchief asked what the proposed use of the building would be? Mr. Day explained that it would depend on the tenant that rents the building. The idea is that the tenant's utility spend would be greatly reduced by improvements to the building, thus saving them money that they can put back into their business and the community. Tom Seese asked about the ORC Section and if this program is allowed in a Township. Mr. Day stated that it is allowed and he will get the section number. Edward Diebold asked if other buildings in the Township can be included in this program. Mr. Day stated that any commercial building can become a part of it. There was some brief discussion over the payment process. The Board stated they would make a decision next month.

Policing Levy – Request for Yield from the Summit County Fiscal Officer

Edward Diebold explained that this is a motion for the Renewal of our existing 2.5 mill Policing levy with an increase of 1.5 mills, equaling a 4 mill levy which will cover our current contract. A Renewal will allow the residents to continue to receive the Homestead Rollback on the 2.5 mill portion whereas, a new levy will not receive this benefit.

170112-02 Tom Seese made a motion to approve a Resolution requesting the County Fiscal Officer to certify the yield for the Renewal of an existing 2.5 mills Policing Levy with an increase of 1.5 mills to be placed on the May 2, 2017 Special Election. Richard Kutuchief seconded the motion. Roll call: Edward Diebold, yes; Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Tom Seese discussed the Township's funding needs. He stated that one deputy - 24/7 is not enough, but the levy will not allow for increased coverage. This renewal and increase will only cover our current contract.

Paul Neugebauer from the audience asked why we are not trying to increase coverage to two deputies.

Tom Seese stated that the Board has discussed it, and we feel that it's going to be tough enough to pass a 4 mill levy. We would need to basically pass an 8 mill levy to increase that coverage and unfortunately we don't think the public will support that at this time.

Fire & EMS Levy – Request for Yield from the Summit County Fiscal Officer

170112-03 Tom Seese made a motion to approve a Resolution requesting the County Fiscal Officer to certify the yield for the Renewal of an existing 2.5 mills Fire & EMS Levy to be placed on the May 2, 2017 Special Election. Richard Kutuchief seconded the motion. Roll call: Edward Diebold, yes; Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

John Dolensky explained that by doing a renewal we will still be 1 mill short of what is needed, but he's hoping to offset that with grant funding.

Tom Seese explained that we are only requesting a renewal and gave Chief Dolensky credit for making it work with his budget.

Reports by Department Heads

John Dolensky, Fire Chief reported that there were 138 calls in December. There were 1,606 calls in 2016 which is 70 more than the previous year, mostly due to opiate calls. He discussed the house explosion that occurred earlier in the month due to an old pipe valve being turned on. The family was very lucky to have gotten out of the house with only minor injuries.

George Beckham, Zoning Inspector announced that there will be a zoning hearing at the February 9th Board of Trustees meeting for zoning code text changes. There were four Board of Zoning Appeals and Zoning Commission openings which were filled at the January 4th special meeting. He discussed issues with semi-trucks parking in unauthorized areas, particularly behind ACME. ACME has been very responsive in helping deal with this issue. Due to all of the rain we've been receiving he has also been getting a lot of flooding calls.

Sgt. Hadley from the Summit County Sheriff's Office reported that there were 743 calls for service in December with a total of 10,416 for 2016. December was the second highest month for overdose calls this last year. Edward Diebold commented, that's 28.5 calls a day with 1 car. Richard Kutuchief asked Sgt. Hadley about getting the speed trailer on S. Bender and on Portage Lakes Drive. He said he has put a request in, but has not heard back.

Dave Koontz from the Summit County Engineer's Office introduced himself and stated that he's been with the Engineer's office since September and will be our new representative. He briefly discussed the ODNR Dam projects and the lowering of the Cat Swamp. Richard Kutuchief asked about the design build for East Reservoir and if sidewalks will be included. Mr. Koontz stated that the Engineer's Office will be in contact with ODNR and the Board to see what can be done.

Report by the Fiscal Officer:

Robert Saffian

170112-04 Edward Diebold made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 67691 to 67714 as certified by Fiscal Officer, Robert Saffian, and subject to audit. Tom Seese seconded the motion. Roll call: Edward Diebold, yes; Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 3-0. (A listing of the warrants will be made a part of these minutes.)

Reports by Trustees:

Richard Kutuchief reported that he is looking for feedback on the "Coventry Township, Ohio" postal code study. So far he's only had one negative response. He will be scheduling a public meeting to discuss it with residents. He is also working on implementing his CTHP – Coventry Township Hydrant Project to improve the appearance of our Township.

Tom Seese stated that we've begun a new year and you will occasionally hear him speak out against certain expenditures that he doesn't agree with. He thanked residents for their support this last year. He has been dealing with flooding issues due to the rain we've been receiving. Just today he saw 7 or 8 residents out digging leaves out of their ditches. The road department can't keep up with our current staffing situation. He announced that he attended a 100th Birthday party for Miriam Grace Miller to deliver a proclamation. Unfortunately Ms. Miller was ill and unable to attend her party, but he wished her well. He also acknowledged that Mr. Chick Bittner will be 101 on January 20th and wished him a happy birthday.

Edward Diebold thanked the Portage Lakes Kiwanis and volunteers who help with the Santa Delivery. He thanked Sam Ross for attending this evening's meeting along with Mr. Koontz. He appreciates the Engineer's office coming to our meetings. We have a lot to do this year. He thanked the residents for their continued support and he thanked the local papers and reporters for their coverage.


Public Comments:

Eric Sine from 4353 Hilltop gave the Board an update on the Cell Node agreement that he has reached with Crown Castle. The cell node will stay in his yard and he's given them a 20 year, 9 foot easement. He asked the Board if there was any paperwork he needed to file with the Township. George Beckham stated that we're not ready to comment, we need to review this. Mr. Sine stated he will have his attorney contact the Township, he's just trying to square things up. Edward Diebold explained that we are setting precedence here, so we have to review carefully and will keep Mr. Sine posted.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

Tom Seese made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Richard Kutuchief seconded the motion. Roll call: Edward Diebold, yes; Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Chairman



Fiscal Officer

