

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting of June 14, 2018

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Coventry Town Hall.

Call to Order:

Chairman Richard Kutuchief called the meeting to order and asked Administrator, Anna Bryant to record the following Trustees present: Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Two Trustees were recorded present. (Edward Diebold was absent due to a family emergency.)

Pledge of Allegiance

Richard Kutuchief took a moment to recognize the importance of Flag Day, June 14th.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes

180614-01 Tom Seese made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting and workshop of May 10, 2018. Richard Kutuchief seconded the motion. Roll call: Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

New Business:

Parks & Recreation Levy – Placement on the November 6th General Election Ballot

We have received the Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue from the County Fiscal Officer and are now ready to submit the levy to the Board of Elections for placement on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot. Tom Seese explained that this will help to alleviate the burden placed on the sports teams when our General Fund increase didn't pass several years ago. Richard Kutuchief emphasized the great value of our parks to our community and the need to maintain our current infrastructure.

180614-02 Tom Seese made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Additional 0.5 mill Parks & Recreation Levy for placement on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot. Richard Kutuchief seconded the motion. Roll call: Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

180614-03 Richard Kutuchief made a motion to request the yield for a .75 mill Parks & Recreation Levy from the Summit County Fiscal Officer for placement on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot. Tom Seese seconded the motion. Roll call: Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Reports by Department Heads

Sgt. Hadley from the Summit County Sheriff's Office reported that there were 925 calls for service in May, which is 250 calls over the month of April probably due to the nice weather. Tom Seese asked about any problems with the liquor establishments in the Township. Sgt. Hadley stated that there have been some growing pains with Pick's opening and noise complaints, but everything has been resolved. Richard Kutuchief discussed a complaint regarding the unloading method for a car dealership on S. Main Street and asked if the Sergeant knew of any remedy for that situation. Sgt. Hadley asked that residents call when the truck is unloading in the center lane so the Sheriff's office can respond. He will also stop to speak to the business owner to try to come up with a safer solution.

John Dolensky, Fire Chief reported that the Fire Department responded to 802 alarms in the Month of May. They have noticed that Narcan doses are down so there seems to be less heroin, but meth overdoses seem to be increasing.

Fire Department Full-Time Hire/Re-Classification

John Dolensky explained that Lt. Mike Bartel is retiring with a full-service retirement of 25 years and FireMedic Joseph DeWitt is going out on a disability retirement due to an injury. He requested the following motions:

180614-04 Tom Seese made a motion to hire/reclassify Part-time Firemedic Devon Maavich to Full-time Firemedic effective June 20, 2018, pending successful completion of the following: Ohio Police and Fire Physical with drug testing, review of education transcripts, review of OBMV driver records, criminal background check and polygraph examination, each as required, accepted and approved by the Fire Chief. (This fills the full-time position vacated by the retirement of Lt. Mike Bartel). Richard Kutuchief seconded the motion. Roll call: Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

180614-05 Tom Seese made a motion to hire/reclassify Part-time FireMedic Barrickman to Full-time FireMedic effective June 21, 2018, pending successful completion of the following: Ohio Police and Fire Physical with drug testing, review of education transcripts, review of OBMV driver records, criminal background check and polygraph examination, each as required, accepted and approved by the Fire Chief. (This fills the full-time position vacated by the retirement of FireMedic Joseph DeWitt.) Richard Kutuchief seconded the motion. Roll call: Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Fire Department Promotion - Lieutenant

180614-06 Tom Seese made a motion to approve the promotion of Firemedic Brian Cyphert to the rank of Lieutenant, effective June 20, 2018, at the pay rate and benefits established in the Labor Agreement between the Coventry Township Trustees and Local No. 2286 of the International Association of Firefighters. (This promotion fills the officer position vacated by the retirement of Lt. Mike Bartel). Richard Kutuchief seconded the motion. Roll call: Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Disposal of Retired Fire Engine

John Dolensky explained that this truck is not drivable and the estimated cost of making it road worthy is \$1,000.00 - \$2,500.00. When we sold the old tender (tanker) at auction, we got \$2,315 for it. It is not worth making it drivable it at this point, just to drive it to auction.

180614-07 Richard Kutuchief made a motion to sell the 1991 Pierce Dash 6V92TA to Miller's Towing, Inc. for the scrap value amount of \$1,000.00. Tom Seese seconded the motion. Roll call: Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

George Beckham, Zoning Inspector reported that a few months ago we declared six vacant homes nuisances to start the demolition process. The Summit County Land Bank has indicated they are able to raze 4 of the 6 houses at no cost or time to the Township. The Township will still be razing a house on Lenty Road and one on Forget Me Not Street. Also, he stated that he had applied for a grant of \$25,000 from the Land Bank, this would be matched by \$25,000 of Township money. We are going to receive that grant, but now that the Land Bank is razing four of the homes, he is going to reach out to several owners who have indicated they will sign waivers for demo and tell them that because of this grant their cost will be half, so the half that the Township pays will have to be assessed to the property tax. The part that is paid by the grant will be free to them. He advised that there were some noise complaints over Memorial Day weekend concerning the Harbor and the new Pick's. Everyone said it wasn't as bad as it has been with past operators, but they want to make sure it doesn't get out of hand. He had both business owners in his office and discussed this with them. He stated that he knows they are very responsive to neighbors who call them and he thinks we all have an understanding of what is expected. Mr. Trogdon's 7th grade Earth Science class made their annual visit to the Cottage Grove Daylighting Project. This was the 4th time this area has been used as a Field Trip location. Davey Tree, who did the construction four years ago, always sends a representative as well as Summit Soil and Water Conservation District. The students did water sampling for wildlife in the stream that was created, as well as bird watching, and they planted a few Buckeye Trees that Davey Tree supplied. There was an article in this past Sundays Beacon Journal concerning homeless and a proposal to build 'mini' houses for

homeless in Akron. At the end of the article it said that “Coventry has already voiced disapproval” which he explained is not exactly the way it went. During his phone conversation he told them they had every right to try, but it would be a hard sell. Everyone has the right to amend the Code. We have had a couple of other ‘rumors’ of Clinics or special housing over the years that were met with public clamor, so because of that I told him small houses for the homeless would be a hard sell. Lastly, someone who went through the process to amend the Zoning Code and was successful was the company wanting to open a Medical Marijuana Dispensary. Last week the State granted the 60 permits for Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and the company that wanted to open in Coventry did not get one. This is still in the Code and if the State should at some point in the future make more permits available at least we are ready for that request. Judy Snively asked if there was a fine for tall grass. George Beckham explained we cannot levy fees as a Township, but the cost of mowing if the Township does it is assessed to the property tax. Brief discussion was held regarding mowing at 3013 Kew, and in other areas of the Township. 3013 Kew is in the Land Bank, so George Beckham will contact them regarding having it mowed.

Anna Bryant, Administrator announced that the bridge flower planters have arrived and have been planted by Sue Johns. We are waiting for the brackets to arrive, which had to be fabricated to fit our bridge which has slowed down the process and increased our costs. Portage Lakes Young Professionals increased their donation to \$1,500 to cover the entire cost of the project. She thanked them and Sue for their hard work.

Lockwood Park Tree Removal

As discussed in Workshop, Anna Bryant requested the following motion.

180614-08 Richard Kutuchief made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$3,800.00 for Barberton Tree Service to remove trees as quoted at Lockwood Park. Tom Seese seconded the motion. Roll call: Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Tom Seese explained that the roots from the trees are really causing a problem with the tennis court, undermining the foundation and also creating issues for mowing.

Dave Koontz, Summit County Engineer Representative reported on County activity in the Township over the last month. Richard Kutuchief questioned him regarding the Engineer’s decision to deny our “do not litter” campaign. He stated that he feels the signs are in conformance because they are not a traffic control device and should be allowed. He asked that the Engineer revisit his decision and grant permission to install the signs. Dave Koontz explained that the sign he was shown was not in compliance and he doesn’t believe that there is such a sign in existence. Discussion over yard signs versus road signs. George Beckham stated that signs are a distraction, so for safety reasons the Engineer limits what can be placed in the right-of-way. A resident expressed concern over the catch basins on Portage Lakes Drive, saying they are really deep and could damage a vehicle. Dave Koontz stated he would have them looked at.

Report by the Fiscal Officer:

Robert Saffian

180614-09 Tom Seese made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 69403 to 69480 as certified by Fiscal Officer, Robert Saffian, and subject to audit. (A listing of the warrants will be made a part of these minutes.) Richard Kutuchief seconded the motion. Roll call: Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Amendment to the Certificate of Estimated Resources

This motion is to void the appropriation category “2901 Ambulance Transport” and related dollar amount of \$2.51. This is an account that is no longer used.

180614-10 Tom Seese made a motion to send an amendment to the Summit County Budget Commission for the Official Certificate of Estimated Resources voiding Fund-2901-Ambulance Transport and reallocating the funds in the amount of \$2.51 to Fund-2192-Fire/EMS.

Richard Kutuchief seconded the motion. Roll call: Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Reports by Trustees:

Tom Seese reported that he will no longer be cutting the grass as a volunteer. Richard Kutuchief thanked him for his efforts and stated that we will have to figure something out.

Richard Kutuchief commented on the beauty of the Township and thanked Sue Johns and Tom Seese for their hard work. He stated that he donated \$300.00 for lawncare at the Administration office. We have a great township and need to continue the great volunteer and community effort.

Public Comments:

Erin Croghan and Scott Moore spoke regarding their volunteer effort to clean up the Willowview Tennis Courts. Mr. Moore advised that there would be different levels of financial commitment from the Township to revitalize the courts depending on how much money can be spent. He may be able to have materials donated through his employer, Benjamin Moore. There was discussion over the tennis court condition at Lockwood Park as well. Ms. Croghan stated that she may be able to do a fundraiser to help cover costs. The Parks Levy, if passed would also be a great help. Richard Kutuchief encouraged the group to continue their effort. Tom Seese stated that currently there isn't money appropriated for a project like this, but it is something we could look at for next year.

Lisa Fauser - 3596 Peninsula Dr. discussed issues with two air bnb's in her neighborhood, specifically one that is right next door. The Board was sympathetic to her issues with noise, trash, parking and transient people around her property. George Beckham explained that he has not had any complaints regarding these types of rentals until speaking with the Fauser's, but that he already has it on the agenda for the Zoning Commission to review. Lengthy discussion was held regarding her and her husband's frustration, but willingness to work with the Townsship. The Board assured her that they would be looking into a solution.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

Tom Seese made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Richard Kutuchief seconded the motion. Roll call: Richard Kutuchief, yes; and Tom Seese, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer