

**COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting of June 11, 2020**

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2020 in an online, public forum via Zoom Meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Edward Diebold called the meeting to order and asked Administrator, Anna Bryant to record the following Trustees present: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. All Trustees were recorded present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Announcements:**

- **Keep Coventry Beautiful:** Anna Bryant explained that Sue Aguirre is taking over the cause of planting and maintaining our Township flower beds – anyone interested in volunteering to plant flowers, weed flower beds or water can contact the Administration office by email or phone and she will pass your name along to Sue.

**Old Business:**

**Approval of Minutes**

200611-01 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the workshop and Regular Meeting of May 14, 2020. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**New Business:**

**General Fund Levy – Request for Yield**

Edward Diebold explained that our General Fund levy is first eligible to be placed on the ballot this November – 2021 is the last collection year. This motion is a request to the County to give us an estimate on what the revenue would be if collected at current property values.

200611-02 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a Resolution requesting the yield from the Summit County Fiscal Officer for a .95 mill General Fund levy Replacement to be placed on the November 3, 2020 ballot. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Reports by Department Heads**

**John Dolensky, Fire Chief** (unable to attend due to a water rescue in New Franklin).

**2020 SAFER Grant**

Edward Diebold explained that the Chief is requesting the following motion to obtain grant funding to cover additional fire department staffing. Lori Seeman clarified that it will be for part-time fill to assist the full-time staff.

200611-03 Edward Diebold made a motion to enter into a contract with Gatchell Grant Resources, LLC to submit on the behalf of Coventry Township Fire Department a FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and EMS Response (SAFER) Grant. The grant request is for an additional shared position split between part-time firefighter/EMTs on each of the three shifts for a total of three positions. The grant is for a two year period of time and will cover 100% of the benefits and wages of these positions if awarded. Coventry Fire will agree to pay a fee of \$850 for the writing of the grant paid to Gatchell Grant Resources and a fee of 8% once awarded the grant, not to exceed \$3,000. Gatchell Grant agrees to rewrite the application the following year free of charge if this year is unsuccessful. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Lael Stouffer, Road Superintendent** reported that the Road Department has been concentrating on drainage projects over the last month and should be completing those projects in the next three weeks prior to the paving project beginning. He stated that they are making good progress in getting ready for the road resurfacing project, replacing infrastructure wherever needed. They've also completed their first round of roadside mowing in the Township.

### **Hot Mix Asphalt**

Lael Stouffer explained that this motion is business as usual, to repair other roads throughout the Township that aren't getting resurfaced this year. It is in accordance with the previously approved appropriation schedule.

200611-04 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve \$ 25,000 for the purchase and delivery of hot mix asphalt. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Mike Harrison, Zoning Inspector** started work last month and has visited 12 properties regarding nuisance complaints, mainly for lawn mows. Tomorrow he will be issuing 6 permits. He thanked George, Heidi, Anna and Lori's help in getting him up to speed.

**Anna Bryant, Administrator** advised that there are still plenty of free face masks available at the Township office if anyone is interested, they can contact her to stop by to pick them up.

### **Report by the Fiscal Officer:**

**Lori Seeman** advised the Board that their period to date financial reports for May will be in their mailboxes. She reported that we did receive a Pandemic Relief Credit from Delta Dental. She explained that she still going through an audit for 2019. It's been a slow process due to the virus and having to scan everything versus having someone in the office just looking at the files. She stated she hopes that will be wrapping up soon.

200611-05 Jeff Houck made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 71678 to 71775 as certified by Fiscal Officer, Lori Seeman, and subject to audit. (A listing of the warrants will be made a part of these minutes.) George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Reallocation of Funds - Supplemental Appropriations**

200611-06 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a reallocation of funds or supplemental appropriations for the month of May as listed in the *Appropriation Supplemental* report as submitted to the Board. Jeff Houck Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Reports by Trustees:**

**Jeff Houck** stated he has received feedback on a number of issues after quarantine. He spoke about the issue that came up regarding the article on PLAC's plans for the Dam property. He appreciates that they are trying to bring state money back to the community but more community involvement is needed. Those are all ideas, not concrete plans. We need to decide on the best use and are trying to lock down Township control first, and then we will discuss the use. He stated that ODNR has some pretty severe restrictions anyhow. We have been discussing this and will continue to do so.

**George Beckham** agreed with Jeff that more public input is needed and he is not in favor of recreational use of that property, but would be more in favor of things that will benefit the business district. He's been in discussion with Springfield zoning regarding their Board of Zoning appeals meeting procedure and will be looking how we can implement that here to safely socially distance while still allowing the public input. He has started getting calls on fireworks and advised residents to call the Sheriff's Office.

**Edward Diebold** reiterated that the Board is working on a lease agreement with ODNR and that he would be in favor of a walking path, a few benches and planters. Once we have an agreement

with the State we can then move forward with public input. He asked residents to please be patient.

### **Public Comments:**

- Tommy Parker – 3124 Elderberry: Thanked the Board of Trustees again for their responsiveness to the Cottage Grove Park area. He discussed the daylighted “Nature” area and asked about the possibility of when a path could be put there. He thanked Anna Bryant and the Board for taking all of his calls and working to improve the area. Edward Diebold addressed his questions and stated that during workshop they discussed having Davey Tree come out and take a look to see where a pathway could be put in. Anna Bryant stated that she will order a port-o-let to be delivered next week near the ballfield. Brief discussion over some fencing repairs needed at the park as well.
- Holly Miller – Summit County Executive’s Office: Advised that there is a COVID-19 Response Team if needed by the Township. They have people available to help with anything COVID related as far as cleaning, delivering masks, taking food, etc. The Township or any business can take advantage of this by contacting her at the County.
- David Hyland – 409 ½ Dorwil Dr.: addressed the Board regarding a letter he sent the week prior to the meeting. He stated that the Clock Tower needs some attention – the time is off, the chimes are working now, but not the music. He also wondered about the broken fence and light pole. He stated the 4 large “now leasing” banners all over the plaza are looking junky and he’s wondering what can be done there. George Beckham stated the banners are a zoning matter than can be looked into. Anna Bryant advised that the parts for both the fence and the light pole are on order. Both should be repaired within the next week. Mr. Hyland stated that he loves it here and thinks it’s the greatest placed to live. He really appreciates all that the Township does and thanked everyone for their efforts.
- Debbie Oakes – 3828 Grupe Ave.: is having issues with the area on Boston Avenue that was designated as 1-way. She explained that it’s not working; there are more issues with this than when it was two-way traffic. She stated that there have been too many close calls with people and the neighbors don’t like it.
- Matt Plesz – corner of Angola & Grupe: also having issues with the 1-way section of Boston Avenue. Heavy duty trucks and mail carriers are using Angola as a cut-through. He had his property surveyed and the stop sign is actually 4 feet into his property. That STOP sign has been knocked over four times since this change was made. His yard gets run over constantly and he has concerns over his kids playing in the yard at this point because Angola is so narrow, cars pull over into his yard to avoid oncoming traffic. He stated that there were never any issues before the 1-way went into effect. He feels that it looks better on paper than in reality.
  - Lael Stouffer gave an overview of how the 1-way section went into effect. Residents had requested it due to a dangerous intersection, so the Engineer’s Office did a safety study and came up with the 1-way section as a result. The neighborhood was notified several times in advance of this change and no one came out in opposition. Edward Diebold stated that we can have the County come back out and take a look to see if there is another solution.

### **Executive Session**

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn to executive session to consider personnel matters, including appointment, promotion, dismissal and compensation of a public employee or official. (R. C. 121.22(G)(1)). George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned to executive session at 8:04 p.m.

Convened executive session at: 8:05 p.m.

### **Discussion:**

#### **Motion to adjourn executive session:**

George Beckham made a motion to adjourn executive session. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned executive session at 8:07 p.m.  
Reconvened regular session at 8:07 p.m.

**Discussion/Motions pertaining to Executive Session**

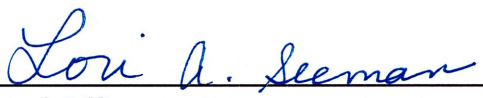
200611-07 Jeff Houck made a motion to allow 475.47 hours of sick leave to be carried over from the Summit County Health District for new Zoning Inspector, Michael Harrison. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:**

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

  
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Chairman

  
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Fiscal Officer