

**COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting of July 9, 2020**

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 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**

**Old Business:**

**Approval of Minutes**

200709-01 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the workshop and Regular Meeting of June 11, 2020 and special meeting of June 15, 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**

Edward Diebold explained we received our Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue from the County Fiscal Officer – this motion is to request that the Summit County Board of Elections place it on the November ballot. The replacement levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$33.26 per year (\$2.77 per month) This levy currently costs the owner of a \$100,00 home \$29.10 per year – so it is a very slight increase of \$4.16 per year (or .35¢/month) to bring it up to current property values.

200709-02 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a Resolution to the Board of Elections for the Replacement of an existing .95 mills General Fund – Current Expense Levy to be placed on the November 3, 2020 General Election ballot. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Lisa Fouser asked a question about police funding and the use of General Fund revenue to increase patrol. Edward Diebold explained that we can transfer funding if needed from the General Fund, but we prefer for the specific levies to cover their departments. We will be discussing the Policing contract over the next few months.

**Zoning Fee Revision**

Edward Diebold explained that during the 2019 audit it was discovered that the previous Zoning Inspector did not follow the fee schedule that he implemented in January of 2019 which currently requires a \$100 minimum on Residential and Commercial zoning permits. A \$100 minimum for most permits would be too expensive, so it is recommended that the wording “\$100 minimum” be removed from the current fee schedule. The cost per square foot for both residential and commercial permits will stand and any prior permits that did not meet the \$100 minimum will have that requirement waived.

200709-03 Edward Diebold made a motion to remove the "\$100.00 minimum" from the Residential and Commercial Zoning Fee schedule as approved in the 2019 and 2020 Organizational Resolution. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

200709-04 Edward Diebold made a motion to waive the \$100 minimum for any zoning permit approved and issued in 2019 and 2020. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

## **Summit County Land Bank – Matching Fund Grant Amendment**

George Beckham explained that the Summit County Land Reutilization Corporation is extending our opportunity to utilize grant funding for removal of vacant dilapidated structures in the Township. The original agreement was approved by the Board on August 2, 2018. It is a matching fund grant with final disbursement requests due no later than August 2, 2021.

200709-05 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve the second amendment to the Community Development Matching Fund Grant Program and to authorize Trustee, George Beckham to execute the agreement. 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** reported that there were 202 alarms in the month of June. There have been 976 calls to date. He announced that Summit County has passed a mandatory face mask order as of 6 p.m. as Summit County has moved into Code Red status for the Coronavirus Pandemic.

## **2020-2021 Ohio Department of Public Safety Training and Equipment Grant**

Coventry Fire was awarded the Ohio EMS Grant in the amount of \$2,846.43. Grant money must be spent before the end of 2020. The items must be purchased by township and then we can submit for reimbursement.

200709-06 Jeff Houck made a motion to accept the 2020-2021 Training and Equipment Grant administered by the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The grant award is \$2,846.43. There are no matching funds required from Coventry Fire Department. These funds are made available to eligible EMS agencies in Ohio to purchase approved training and EMS equipment items. The funding from the State of Ohio is provided entirely from seat belt fines collected in Ohio. Edward Diebold 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 continued to work on drainage improvements ahead of the paving program which will begin in a few weeks. Jeff Houck explained that Lael has come up with a good solution for road spoils, so more information will be coming on that in the next month or so.

## **Clock Tower and Sidewalk Weed Control - Envirosapes**

200709-07 Jeff Houck made a motion to accept the proposal from Envirosapes in the amount of \$2,151 for weed removal along the rock embankment between the Clock Tower and Ned Mohrman Bridge as well as along the sidewalks at Portage Lakes Drive and South Turkeyfoot Rd. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Mike Harrison, Zoning Inspector** reported that he held the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting this past Tuesday. Two cases were approved and one was tabled. He anticipates more cases for August. He has sent out letters to the Short Term Rental owners that have not yet gotten permits. He listed nuisance abatements that were handled in the last month and reported that 6 zoning permits have been issued since last month's meeting. Jeff Houck stated that there has been a flare up of Airbnb issues that have come to his attention. He stated he will get them over to Mike to look into.

**Anna Bryant, Administrator**

## **HRA – Employee Wellness Annual Physical Requirement**

Due to Coronavirus shut-downs and to help reduce the risk of any unnecessary COVID-19 exposures, it has been requested that the Township either waive the required annual physical, or postpone the current September 1 deadline to October 1, 2020. Employees receive points toward

their annual Health Reimbursement Account based on their wellness/physical results. This is a Township funded program, so the Board may decide on this action.

200709-08 Edward Diebold made a motion to postpone the HRA/Wellness Physical deadline of September 1, 2020 to October 1, 2020 allowing more time for employees to complete their annual physicals. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Report by the Fiscal Officer:**

**Lori Seeman** advised the Board that their period to date financial reports for May will be in the Board of Trustee mailboxes.

200709-09 Jeff Houck made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 71776 to 71867 as certified by Fiscal Officer, Lori Seeman, and subject to audit. (A listing of the warrants will be made a part of these minutes.) Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Reallocation of Funds – Supplemental Appropriations**

200709-10 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a reallocation of funds or supplemental appropriations for the month of June as listed in the *Appropriation Supplemental* report as submitted to the Board. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**2021 Alternative Tax Budget**

200709-11 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the 2021 Alternative Tax Budget as recommended by Fiscal Officer, Lori Seeman to be submitted to the Summit County Auditor. Edward Diebold 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 that he was out of commission for a few weeks and apologized if he didn't get back to anyone. He urged them to re-contact him if he's missed them. He reminded everyone of the Level 3 response in Summit County. Everyone has an opinion on wearing masks but he urged everyone to please do all we can to help slow it down. He compared it to wearing a seatbelt.

**George Beckham** explained that he has been in discussions over the dam property and how it should be used. He has come up with a chart of about 20 different parks within 4 miles of the clock tower that is available if anyone wants it. Over the last few weeks he has met with Davey Tree regarding the Cottage Grove Daylighting project. He had Envirosapes cut in the proposed pathway location. The project was originally for flood control and to improve water quality, but it's providing an interesting opportunity for more use from a classroom/educational aspect. He thanked Davey Tree for taking the time to come out and meet with him. He has been in contact with Summit County Reworks and discussed an issue with condo complexes not having recycling. Large multi-family units are exempt from having to have Republic. He briefly discussed the "booms" everyone has been talking about throughout the lakes. He made residents aware of the Summit County Land Bank Side Lot program where residents can acquire land next to them if the owner is delinquent on their taxes going back for at least five years. He advised that he had a good meeting with Mr. Boyer, the owner of Pick's and felt that he was doing a good job to operate within his conditional use.

**Edward Diebold** thanked Lori Seeman and her team for their efforts through the audit. He thanked George for all of the extra time he's put into the Zoning Office to transition Mike, and he also thanked Mike for the work he's done already. He's been getting good reports.

**Public Comments:**

- Ellen Fryer – Bay Path Dr.: Submitted a petition from residents in the Bay Path/Grupe/Boston Avenue neighborhood to return the current one-way portion of Boston to its previous 2-way traffic. She explained that the petition is signed by 32 residents out of

the 55 who want it returned to 2-way traffic. There were 6 that did not want to sign. There was some discussion over making it a 3-way STOP to slow everyone down. Edward Diebold thanked her for the petition and explained that we are in the process of gathering information. We will be meeting with the County engineer to go over our options. Jeff Houck explained that Lael has already been in discussions with the County Engineer's Office so hopefully we will have an answer in the next month or so.

**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 7:38 p.m.

Edward D. Diebold  
Chairman

Lori Seeman  
Fiscal Officer