

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
General Workshop of August 13, 2020

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met for a general workshop on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in an online, public forum via Zoom Meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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.

Also in attendance were Fiscal Officer, Lori Seeman; Fire Chief, John Dolensky; Road Superintendent, Lael Stouffer; Zoning Inspector, Mike Harrison.

Topics for Discussion:

1. Fire Lane(s):
 - a. Birdland/Onaway (petition received): Discussion regarding the petition and concerns that the signers are mostly waterfront homeowners. This change would not affect them and it was requested on the petition that the majority be non-waterfront. George Beckham also voiced concern over the fact that these homeowners have already built a concrete driveway and retaining wall. There has been a complaint from an anonymous resident regarding blocking access. Irv is reviewing this and advised that we hold off on making any decisions for the time being. Ultimately this is a function of the County, but they do consider our recommendation.
 - b. Birdland – petition requested 8/12 (3632 Birdland): Anna Bryant advised that Mr. Moore stopped in to request a petition for the fire lane adjacent to his property yesterday. She explained that she advised him she would have to prepare the petition and would need to get back to him
 - c. Alma Ave.: Ongoing issues with the Alma fire lane and the neighborhood were discussed. George Beckham recommended we get with Irv and have a title search done to clarify this issue once and for all. Anna Bryant advised that a motion is on the agenda to hire a title company per Irv's recommendation.
2. No Parking - Request to establish a Fire Lane – Unnamed alleyway between Mong and Birdland: Anna Bryant advised that a request for no parking was received in May. After discussing it with Chief Dolensky, it was decided that this alleyway is essential for fire vehicles and equipment to turn around due to the geography of the neighborhood, so making it a fire lane is necessary. She advised that a motion is on the regular agenda per Irv's recommendation, based on Ohio Fire Code.
3. Road Dept.
 - a. Spoils – cost estimates: Lael Stouffer explained that he is happy with the estimate that he received from Butcher & Son for the removal of spoils from our Township yard on E. Willowview. This will save our staff time on transporting the spoils multiple times. This may be something that we have taken care of a few times a year. He requested estimates from two other companies, but did not receive anything back from either of them. He feels that this will be a convenient way to move forward.
 - b. Paving Project: Lael Stouffer advised that paving ended on Monday evening, however, the project is not finished. He expects the chip & seal coating to be applied in about two weeks when the contractor comes back through. He is overall, very happy with how the roads turned out. The roads are like new at this point and the drainage infrastructure has also been replaced. All of the issues were fixed and he's very happy with the outcome. Motor-pave takes longer to cure, so there have been some residents not happy for the time-being. Bath and Copley, two of the wealthiest communities in the County use the same exact process for their roads. Motor-pave is a great product that lasts longer and will cost us less money going forward to maintain. Jeff Houck thanked Lael for giving him a tour of the paving project. He feels it turned out great and was impressed with the whole process.
4. Akron Zoo – request for levy endorsement/Community Days changes: Anna Bryant explained that a representative from the Zoo will be at the beginning of the agenda. She will advise of changes to the Community Days process and will also discuss their ballot issue.

George Beckham discussed their request for levy endorsement. He stated he feels that it's not wise to endorse anything as a Board that isn't our own Township issue. It's okay to endorse something personally, but not as the Township. The other members agreed.

5. CARES Act Grant Funding: Anna Bryant explained that she and Lori have been working with the Fire Department regarding the grant funding. Discussion was held over the two CARES Act grants and the amount of money we are getting. Lori Seeman voiced concerns over reporting requirements and stated she has some calls in to the County regarding her questions. Edward Diebold stated that he feels we can accept the money, but if we don't use it for COVID response, can send it back. Further discussion over the use of the money for payroll purposes.
6. Zoning Nuisance abatements – demolitions: Mike Harrison advised that he has 3 houses out of 7 that the Health Department is recommending be declared a nuisance and demolished. George Beckham explained that we still have land bank funds to use toward demolitions, so Mike will be getting that list together.
7. Security Issues – private contractors/working hours: Discussion over issues with volunteers and contractors working in the evening, or early morning hours on Township property. A policy setting a “working hours” time frame may be helpful.
 - a. Updates to alarm monitoring (Silco): Anna Bryant explained that the Fire Department is recommending we change our fire alarm monitoring to Silco. John Dolensky explained that Green Dispatch is getting out of the monitoring business, and Koorsen was more expensive. Silco also offers security monitoring, so we will be looking into that aspect for Township properties as well.
8. Levy Campaign – Quill deadline (Oct. 2nd): Discussion over articles for the Quill including information on the Levy, upcoming events, and future planned improvements in the parks.
9. Harbor Property – liquor permit transfer: Edward Diebold stated that this is simply a transfer from the former owner to the new owner. None of the department heads or board members had any issues.
10. Fire Department Plow Truck: John Dolensky explained that they've been using an old dump truck to plow the administration/fire department parking lot which is no longer cost effective. A new V-plow placed on the FD Pick-up truck will do a better job since that truck is 4-wheel drive. It will also allow the FD to plow during emergency response if needed. The dump truck and former chief's car will be taken to auction. Lori Seeman suggested that the plow be paid for out of the General Fund since it services admin and can be used outside of just fire department operations.
11. Boston Ave./Grupe – One Way (follow-up): Lael Stouffer advised that it's in the Engineer's hands at this point. Tim Boley will be out doing surveys.
12. Parks
 - a. Cottage Grove Ballfield/ Nature walk – Fencing – Grant opportunity: Discussion over some funding that may be available through Dominion for educational signs letting people know what the trees and native plantings are. Also some discussion over replacing the fencing.
 - b. Logan Fieldhouse – follow-up: Edward Diebold stated that he's currently having some difficulty finding who is in charge of the teams at this point. He would like to hold off on construction until next year, so that we can gather information over winter and come up with some plans. George Beckham suggested possibly going out for bids in January or February. Edward Diebold stated he would really like to do a dedication of the renovation or new building next summer, hopefully after COVID is over.
 - c. Dam Property – mowing & litter clean up estimates: George Beckham asked Lael Stouffer to get some updated estimates on mowing to include the parking area across Portage Lakes Drive. Edward Diebold asked him to also include weed treatment on the rock embankment for the whole dam. We can then submit that cost to the State for reimbursement since they are supposed to be taking care of it. Litter pick-up was also discussed and would need to be included in landscape costs.
13. Contract negotiations – IAFF & Sheriff Policing: Anna Bryant advised that there is an executive session at the end of the regular meeting as requested by Chief Dolensky to discuss updates.

14. Local Government Fund: Lori Seeman advised that the Local Government revenue is down by \$20,000 since April. She explained that she planned for the reduction due to COVID, so we are still ok.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

George Beckham made a motion to adjourn the General Workshop. Edward Diebold 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 6:50 p.m.

Edward D. Diebold

Chairman

Lori Seeman

Fiscal Officer