

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting of September 10, 2020

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 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

200910-01 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the workshop and Regular Meeting of August 13, 2020. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

New Business:

Petition Requesting to Vacate – Portion of Onaway St.

We received a request to vacate a portion of Onaway Street located between Lots 20 and 21 also known as 3590 and 3598 Birdland Avenue on the west side of Birdland Avenue which extends into West Reservoir. The owners on either side have submitted the signatures of 19 residents of the neighborhood approving the vacation. This location will be posted for the next 30 days, legal ads will be placed in the local paper and non-waterfront owners in the vicinity will be notified of the request. At the September meeting the Board will make a recommendation considering any feedback received to Summit County. This request was tabled last month pending investigation from a title search.

200910-02 Edward Diebold made a motion to table the Petition Requesting Vacating a Portion of Onaway Street located between Lots 20 and 21 also known as 3590 and 3598 Birdland Avenue on the west side of Birdland Avenue which extends into West Reservoir as submitted; and to post the location for 30 days, place a legal ad in the local newspaper and to notify non-waterfront property owners in the vicinity to allow for public input by the October 8, 2020 regular Board of Trustees meeting. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

George Beckham explained that the applicant will need to revise their petition to include more non-waterfront homeowners.

Reports by Department Heads

John Dolensky, Fire Chief reported that there were 178 alarms in August, 1 dose of Narcan and we provided mutual aid for 4 structure fires to surrounding communities.

2019 SAFER Grant Award

200910-03 Jeff Houck made a motion to accept the 2019 SAFER Grant Award in the amount of \$903,151.71 in Federal funding for the hiring of three full-time firefighter/paramedics for the three year period of performance of February 07, 2021 through February 06, 2024; and authorizing the fire chief to execute the terms of this grant. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

George Beckham asked Chief Dolensky if he already has candidates for these positions. Chief Dolensky state that they are looking at 6 applicants at this point, and he knows of one, but not the other two.

Lael Stouffer, Road Superintendent advised that road resurfacing has been completed and the contractor will be back to sweep up the excess gravel in a few weeks. The Road department is currently going around berming and doing driveway blends. They are also out working on trimming for sight-line issues. He reported that there were no issues or calls from Monday's heavy rain storm, which means our culvert systems are working well. They will continue to work in various areas of the Township on drainage projects. He is also expecting a road salt delivery which will complete last year's allocation giving us a full shed going into winter. Aside from some storm clean up from Monday, it has been business as usual. Jeff Houck stated he wanted to brag a bit on Lael and the road resurfacing program. He explained that he spent some time with Lael and watched the crew work on the resurfacing project and was very impressed by what he learned. He shared a slide presentation that showed before and after photos of the roads that were done this year. He stated that he feels it was a fantastic job. Lael Stouffer explained that we are not the only community that does motor pave/chip & seal. In fact, it's specked out by the Engineer's office and is used on various County roads and by wealthier communities like Copley and Bath as well. Edward Diebold stated that the program was well done. He feels that the contractor really paid attention to detail.

Mike Harrison, Zoning Inspector reported that he has this year's special assessments ready for the County. He thanked Heidi Wolf for helping him get all of that together. He announced the next BZA meeting will be on October 6th with 8-10 cases scheduled. He also advised that ANR Electric has submitted a rezoning application for property on Manchester Road to be rezoned to Commercial-Industrial from Business-3. He has issued 10 permits in the last month and is continuing to work on nuisance abatements. Portage Lakes Auto is under review by legal counsel. This property is an eyesore that he gets frequent calls on, so he is looking into what can be done there.

Report by the Fiscal Officer:

Lori Seeman advised the Board that their period to date financial reports are in their mailboxes.

200910-04 Jeff Houck made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 71983 to 72098 as certified by Fiscal Officer, Lori Seeman, and subject to audit. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0. (A listing of the warrants will be made a part of these minutes.)

CARES Act Funding

200910-05 Edward Diebold made a motion to affirm that any CARES Act funding received by the Township should be used toward payroll purposes for emergency responders from the Coventry Township Fire Department and Summit County Sheriff's Office as outlined by the CARES Act guidelines. Documentation of timesheets and payroll records as well as contracted payments to the County may be used for reporting purposes. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Resolution Accepting The Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Fiscal Officer

200910-06 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve the Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Fiscal Officer for Tax Year 2020/Collection Year 2021. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Reports by Trustees:

Jeff Houck advised residents that a mailing sent out by the “Coventry Township Ohio – Area Drive for Police & Sheriff’s Emergency Equipment Shortage” is not affiliated with the Township. It is not a mailing that we sent out and while it might be a legitimate charity, it confuses people into thinking they are giving money to the Township. He reminded residents to please look into these organizations online to check them out. He showed everyone a worksheet he put together on “COVID-19 reality” and stated he feels we will be “Zooming” for a while yet. He asked that any resident that needs assistance with zoom in order to attend the meetings to please contact the Township and let us know. We will be happy to help anyone who needs access to our meetings.

George Beckham reported that the rock was moved over to the Dam area near the pump house. The historical plaque will be placed there as soon as it is retrofitted for the rock – it was originally designed for a wooden kiosk. He thanked Turkeyfoot Hill Sand & Gravel and Miller’s Towing for their donations. The rock is located at the same vantage point from which the photo on the plaque depicting the 1913 flood was taken. Shawn Welch, a resident from Dorwil Drive knew of the rock and brought it to the attention of Carol Eubanks from the Portage Lake Historical Society. He thanked both of them for their efforts in this project as well.

Edward Diebold stated that he has received a lot of calls from residents on N. Reservoir about the lake weeds – they are worse than they’ve ever been. ODNR has removed 4 tons of weeds over there in the last week. They are having an issue with finding a place to dump them at this point, but he was advised that they will be back.

Public Comments:

Executive Session

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment. 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 7:36 p.m.

Convened executive session at 7:36 p.m.

Discussion:

Motion to adjourn executive session:

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

Adjourned executive session at 8:37 p.m.

Reconvened regular session at 8:37 p.m.

Discussion/Motions pertaining to Executive Session

Chief Dolensky will keep the Board apprised of communications from the Union.

Lori Seeman reminded the Board about sunshine laws training that is needed.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. George Beckham 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 8:39 p.m.

Edward D. Dill

Chairman

Lori Seeman

Fiscal Officer