

**COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting of February 10, 2022**

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Coventry Town Hall, 68 Portage Lakes Drive, Coventry Township, Ohio 44319.

**Call to Order:**

Chairman George Beckham 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**

220210-01 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of January 13, 2022, and the Special Meeting of January 25, 2022. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**New Business:**

**PEBA - Medical Mutual Group Benefit Plan Renewal**

Anna Bryant explained that the Township's Medical Mutual Group Benefit Plan is up for renewal. There will be 4.88% increase over last year's premium.

220210-02 George Beckham made a motion to approve the renewal of the PEBA - Medical Mutual SuperMed Plus PPO Group Benefit Plan effective April 1, 2022 for a total premium cost of \$35,297.86. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**National Native Plant Month**

220210-03 George Beckham made a motion to send a letter of support for "National Native Plant Month" as requested by Senator Rob Portman, and designating April, 2022 as "National Native Plant Month" to recognize the benefits of native plants to the environment and economy of the United States.

**Counsel Appointment - ARP Funds**

220210-04 George Beckham made a motion to Pursuant to R.C. 309.09, to hire Gregory A. Beck and the firm of Baker, Dublikar as additional legal counsel for the Board at the hourly rate of \$140.00 per hour for work on behalf of the Township and to authorize Administrator, Anna Bryant to sign and return the engagement letter. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

George Beckham explained that this firm specializes in ARP money, so they will consult to help us make sure we're spending these funds appropriately. Jeff Houck stated that it will help protect us and will ensure we meet the audit requirements that go along with those funds.

**2021 Annual Highway System Mileage Certification**

220210-05 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the 2021 Annual Highway System Mileage Certification as received from the Ohio Department of Transportation for 54.78 miles of Township Roads. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Reports by Department Heads**

**Carla Bloomingdale, Summit County Sheriff Representative** reported 910 calls for service in January, 55 crashes, no burglaries and no other incidents of note. She did advise that they've been doing aerial enforcement over I-77 in Coventry. Also, cruisers in the Township will be re-marked to make them specific to our community. They will have the High School mascot logo on them.

**John Dolensky, Fire Chief** reported 191 calls for service in January, and we're up to 238 as of today. There were only 166 alarms in January for 2021, so we are continuing our upward trend. There were 16 doses of Narcan in January, which is an increase over the last few months.

**Summit County Emergency Management Special Projects Grant**

John Dolensky explained that this a joint grant request – the South Summit Fire Investigation Team is comprised of members from the Fire Departments of Barberton, New Franklin, Green, Coventry, Lakemore, Springfield, and Mogadore. The Group has a signed Memorandum of Understanding Agreement by the participating communities to pool their resources of trained fire investigators. This request is for seed money to get this group up and running to have the basic tools to investigate the cause and origin in these communities. The requested grant items include basic tools such as a toolbox, hand tools, led light tower with batteries and chargers, evidence sealers, and evidence bags. Four separate tool caches are requested to space them out at fire stations around the South Summit Region for use by team callouts.

220210-06 George Beckham made a motion to apply for the 2022 Summit County Emergency Management Special Project Grant for equipment for the South Summit Fire Investigation Team. The total request amount is \$6,000. There are no matching funds required from Coventry Township. 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 on the snowstorms over the past few weeks and stated with two significant storms, he's only had a few voicemails. The men were all available through the storm, only taking breaks to eat and sleep. He had 3 trucks down at one time, got two back up and running, and were able to transition to anything needed. He had one employee that had knee surgery just prior to the storm, who came in. he wanted to recognize that level of dedication and "all-hands-on-deck" attitude of his crew. The community seemed pleased. They did have some issues with cars parked on the streets during the first storm which delayed plowing. The second storm was much better with people moving their vehicles beforehand. Only a few issues with mailboxes and snow piles, which have all been addressed at this point.

**Mike Harrison, Zoning Inspector** reported that he has issued 4 permits in the last month. The Zoning Commission will meet to hear a rezoning request and a text revision on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet the first Tuesday of March at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

**Report by the Fiscal Officer:**

**David Gissinger** advised that the period to date financial reports have been presented to the Board

220210-07 George Beckham made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 73756 to 73842 as certified by Fiscal Officer, David Gissinger, and subject to audit. (A listing of the warrants will be made a part of these minutes.) Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Reports by Trustees:**

**Edward Diebold** responded to an article in the paper regarding the Nativity Scene. He explained that it was not a Township decision – it belongs to Cornerstone Church who moved it to their new location on S. Arlington Road. He thanked the Road Department and Fire Department for their work during the storms, they are always going 100 miles an hour. He thanked Anna Bryant for running the Township, she is our right-hand. Dave Gissinger has jumped right in and hasn't missed a beat. He stated he appreciates all the work that our people do and wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

**Jeff Houck** thanked the Road Department, Fire Department and Sheriff's Office for their hard work during the storms over the last few weeks while he was in Mexico. He heard nothing but praise and saw very positive comments about the operation of the Township. ARP Funding will be an ongoing discussion and we will leverage those funds the best we can. We are making sure we put the money in the right places so it can work effectively.

**George Beckham** noted that our school superintendent is in the audience and asked if he had anything to add.

**Public Comments:**

**Superintendent Fisk** – thanked John Dolensky for being an active participant in the "Portrait of a Comet" project. He extended a huge thank you to the Road Department for doing a phenomenal job during the storms.

**Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:**

George Beckham 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 7:21 p.m.

  
Chairman

  
Fiscal Officer

