

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting of January 13, 2022

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, January 13, 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

Oaths of Office

Judge McKenney was present to swear in new Fiscal Officer, David Gissinger, and re-elected Trustees, Jeff Houck and Edward Diebold. He administered the Oath of Office to each elected official.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes

220113-01 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of December 9, 2021, and the Special Meeting of December 20, 2021. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING – Proposed Re-Zoning

George Beckham announced the start of the Public Hearing for proposed Re-Zoning and swore in the applicant, T.J. Hollin to speak on his behalf. No one else from the audience requested to speak either for or against the rezoning.

George Beckham explained that Applicant, Thomas Hollin, of 4978 Will Dr., Akron, OH 44319 is requesting a change in zoning classification for 3522 Manchester Rd., Akron, OH 44319 (Summit County Parcel #1906573) and a portion of 3540 Manchester Rd., Akron, OH 44319 (Summit County Parcel #1904545). Located on the west side of Manchester Rd., parcel #1906573 contains 2.88 acres of land, and parcel #1904545 contains 1.71 acres of land.

George Beckham advised that the request involves rezoning of property currently zoned B-3 General Business to C/I Commercial Industrial. The proposal is for the construction of additional buildings for the use of flex space and storage units. The zoning commission held an initial hearing for this proposal on August 17th before Summit County Planning Commission (SCPC) heard the request on October 21st. SCPC recommended disapproval at the October 21st monthly meeting. The Coventry Zoning Commission also recommended disapproval at their December 21st public hearing.

Mr. Hollin explained his plans to build storage units with outdoor boats and RV storage on the remaining property. Jeff Houck asked Mr. Hollin if he understood why SCPC and Coventry Zoning Commission denied his request. He stated yes, and explained his understanding of "spot zoning." He discussed his potential purchase of extra adjacent property, which was contingent on the rezoning. George Beckham mentioned that the property is valuable since it currently has sewer and water. A discussion was held over outdoor storage which is not permitted. George Beckham discussed Commercial/Industrial vs Business-3 zoning in that area and explained his feeling on not wanting Commercial/Industrial uses in that location.

220113-02 George Beckham made a motion to deny a change in zoning classification for 3522 Manchester Rd., Akron, OH 44319 (Summit County Parcel #1906573) and a portion of 3540 Manchester Rd., Akron, OH 44319 (Summit County Parcel #1904545), from B-3 General Business to C/I Commercial/Industrial. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

****End of Public Hearing*******

New Business:

2022 Organizational Resolution

George Beckham explained that this is an administrative action that re-establishes policies and rates for the year.

220113-03 George Beckham made a motion to adopt the Organizational Resolution and Fee Schedule for 2022. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Board appointment: Two representatives from the Board of Trustees to the Volunteer Fire and Dependent Fund for the 2022 calendar year.

220113-04 Edward Diebold made a motion that Edward Diebold and Jeff Houck be appointed as representatives to the Volunteer Firefighters Dependent Fund for 2022. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Summit Soil & Water Conservation District – Agreement for Watershed Services

220113-05 George Beckham made a motion to approve the Agreement for Watershed Services between Coventry Township and Summit Soil and Water Conservation District for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, with an annual conservation appropriation of \$5,000 to be paid before April 1, 2022. 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 Summit Soil and Water Conservation District handle erosion and watershed issues. They are focusing more attention on the Portage Lakes and our MS4 EPA Stormwater permit.

Republic Services – Township Wide Trash and Recycling Contract Extension

220113-06 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the extension of the current Trash and Recycling Contract with Republic Services at the costs currently being paid by residential customers from January 1, 2022, through and including March 31, 2022, unless terminated, modified, or extended by mutual agreement of Coventry and Republic Services. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Jeff Houck explained that the current contract is under negotiation, so the rates will be extended until March unless an agreement is reached beforehand.

Portage Lakes Drive Parcel Survey

George Beckham explained that the land deeded to the Township by ODNR needs to be surveyed before we can make plans to build any type of storage facility for the Road Department.

220113-07 George Beckham made a motion to authorize a survey of Parcel Number 1908902 to be completed by Licensed Surveyor, Jeff Cordi for a not-to-exceed amount of \$500.00. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

To the Clock Tower and Back 5k

220113-08 Edward Diebold made a motion to request approval from Summit County per Summit County Ordinance Chapter 311.02 for a 5k race on May 14th on behalf of the PLX Running Company for their “To the Clock Tower and Back 5K Race” which will require the temporary closure of Portage Lakes Drive from 1135 Portage Lakes Drive (Coventry High School) to Ponciana Avenue for approximately 1 hour from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The closure will also affect Township roadways Portage Point Boulevard and Ponciana Avenue. 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 250 alarms in December bringing the total for 2021 to 2,342 alarms. That is an increase of 430 alarms for the year. We’ve been really busy and we are dealing with problems at the hospitals. There’s no place to take patients. The Summit County Fire Chief’s Association is trying to work on a solution. He gave kudos to his guys for their hard work.

Lael Stouffer, Road Superintendent reported that they had an issue with a hanging tree on Township property that Brush Bandit helped out with. He thanked them for their efforts and requested the following motion.

Tree Removal – Township Property

220113-09 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a purchase order to Brush Bandit for \$ 4,000.00 for the removal of a hanging oak tree on Township property. 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 – out sick

Board of Zoning Appeals – Alternate Position

George Beckham explained that Mike Pilo retired and we moved alternate member, Dennis Ott up to the position of regular member. We received several applications from qualified residents. Jeff Houck commented that it's great to have good people wanting to be involved.

220113-10 George Beckham made a motion to appoint Joe Pittinger to the alternate position on the Board of Zoning Appeals. 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:

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

220113-11 George Beckham made a motion to receive all bills and salaries warrant numbers 73622 to 73755 as certified by Fiscal Officer, David Gissinger, 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.)

Reports by Trustees:

Edward Diebold thanked everyone involved in the Santa Delivery, it was an awesome event. On a sad note, he mentioned that Pam Wayland passed away. She always took the time to come out and will be missed. He stated as a reminder about winter roads, we have a 4-man road crew and the guys can only work safely for so long. We don't have a second shift and ask for your patience when needed. He thanked Judge McKenney and wished Dave Gissinger good luck as our Fiscal Officer, it's a key position.

Jeff Houck thanked Ed Diebold for asking him to participate in the Kiwanis Delivery and stated it was a great experience, just beautiful. He thanked the community again for electing him as Trustee for the next four years. He also wanted to honor Pam Wayland who he had developed a relationship with. She always had her list of concerns and will be missed.

George Beckham stated that Pam Wayland was a longtime resident, she was very unique and will be remembered. Regarding zoning, the zoning commission has been looking into commercial development and lights. A lot of businesses have converted to LED which are way brighter, so we may need to adopt some standards regarding lighting. He also introduced the new school superintendent, Mr. Fisk, who stated he is looking forward to working with the Township.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

George Beckham made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. 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 7:37 p.m.


Chairman


Fiscal Officer

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