

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting of June 10, 2021

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Coventry Town Hall, 68 Portage Lakes Drive, Coventry Township, Ohio 44319.

Call to Order:

Chairman Jeff Houck 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:

As a point of order, Jeff Houck reminded everyone of the Public Comment Policy. He stated he is very excited to be back to “in person” meetings.

Approval of Minutes

210610-01 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of May 13, 2021 and the Special Meeting of May 24, 2021. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

New Business:

Policing Levy – Request for Yield from the Summit County Fiscal Officer

210610-02 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a Resolution requesting the County Fiscal Officer to certify the yield for the Renewal of an existing 4 mills Policing Levy with an increase of 1.5 mills to be placed on the November 2, 2021 General Election. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Road Levy – Request for Yield from the Summit County Fiscal Officer

210610-03 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a Resolution requesting the County Fiscal Officer to certify the yield for the Renewal of an existing 2.5 mills Road Levy with an increase of .05 mills to be placed on the November 2, 2021 General Election. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Summit County Broadband Expansion – NTIA Grant

Jeff Houck explained that he has been attending meetings with the County and there has been a lot of discussion about broadband expansion throughout the County. He feels it is important to give everyone the opportunity to have high-speed internet. Summit County will be applying for \$30 Million dollars from the NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) Grant to fund Broadband expansion throughout the County. They are requesting letters of support from any community that is interested in participating by June 30th.

210610-04 Edward Diebold made a motion to send a letter support to affirm Coventry Township’s interest in participating in the Summit County Broadband Expansion NTIA Grant Application. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Parks Maintenance & Improvements

Edward Diebold explained that the fencing needs repaired at Ingleside and he will be working with the Portage Lakes Ducks to rebuild the pavilion.

210610-05 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a Blanket Certificate in the amount of \$5,000 to be used for Parks Maintenance and Improvements. 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

Dave Koontz, Summit County Engineer Representative explained that they've completed site plan reviews for a car wash on Manchester Road and also for Gardner Pie. The paving program bids were awarded, so work will begin in June for hot mix, crack sealing and rejuvenation. Portage Lakes Drive will be closed for 45 days for culvert replacement. ODNR has allowed emergency access to go over the dam. Portage Lakes Drive will be closed in conjunction with the N. Reservoir dam project in August.

John Dolensky, Fire Chief reported 905 alarms to date. He requested the following motions:

Fire Department - SAFER Staffing

John Dolensky explained that this request follows the proper execution of the FEMA SAFER Grant. This grant increases safety for firefighters and the public by bringing our on duty staffing into compliance with national standards by adding a forth FireMedic to each shift.

210610-06 Edward Diebold made a motion to hire Scott M. Reynolds as Full-Time SAFER FireMedic effective 02June2021. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

2021 OTARMA Police and Fire Grant

Jeff Houck explained that as a member of OTARMA, the Township may apply for up to \$1,000 in grant funds per calendar year for qualified Personal Protective Equipment and safety lights.

210610-07 Jeff Houck made a motion to apply for the 2021 OTARMA Police and Fire Grant. 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 been working on culvert and drainage repairs ahead of the paving project. He has run into a materials shortage, but is working around that as best as he can. It will take them a few more weeks to complete those projects before paving begins. He went on to explain that he receives frequent questions about drainage repairs on private property. He is unable to maintain any drainage line that extend into private property. The Township only has the ability to work in the easement or on township owned land.

Mike Harrison, Zoning Inspector reported that 7 zoning permits have been issued since last month. There was 1 BZA hearing on June 2nd. The number 1 issue he is dealing with at this point is tall grass and weeds. He asked anyone who has an issue to please give him a call.

Anna Bryant, Administrator announced that the Administration Office is currently accepting applications for part-time Fiscal Officer's Assistant – job description and printable application is available on our website or indeed.com. She explained that the Township experienced a phone system outage over the past few weeks and thanked Kelly Corbin for handling issues after hours and on the weekend to get us back up, and switched over from Windstream to AT&T. She went on to thank volunteers throughout the community for their efforts to beautify the Township. She personally thanked Pick's for donating the flowers for the S. Turkeyfoot Bridge Baskets, Sue Aguirre and PLCC Honor Society for Admin/FD flower beds and planters, Paul Perry for the S. Main/Portage Lakes Drive flower bed and Junior Girl Scouts Coventry Troop 90810 for the flowers at Lockwood Park.

Report by the Fiscal Officer:

Lori Seeman (out of town) Anna Bryant advised the Board that their period to date financial reports will be in their mailboxes.

210608-08 Jeff Houck made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 72948 to 73045 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.)

Reports by Trustees:

George Beckham stated that the last 16 months we have done government by Zoom with constant online meetings. He stated he didn't feel that it took away from public access. He felt everyone was notified. The Board of Trustees requires public input to make decisions and a lot of other Townships are doing hybrid type meetings. The State of Ohio is currently looking at revising the Sunshine Laws.

Edward Diebold stated that it's great to be back live. He thanked all of the employees for getting the Township through COVID. With regard to road work, we are halfway through 8 years of catching up on our roads. This fall we will have three levies on the ballot – Fire/EMS, Police and Road. Roads are our biggest priority as a Township. With our last contract, we added a 40-hour car and block of time for extra coverage that is paid out of the General Fund. We hope to keep that going, but will need an increase. These levies will cover 2023-2027 so we will need help selling them based on our projected costs for the next 5-7 years. He thanked the volunteers for doing flowers. Our community is fantastic. He asked everyone to look out for another on the water food drive in late July or early August. Fireworks will either be in August or September.

Jeff Houck reported that he has been involved in the County's bi-weekly update calls. As far as the pandemic, numbers are down but he encouraged everyone to continue to be as safe as they want to be. Immunization is at 90%. He is happy to be back to in-person meetings. He stated that the other topic of conversation at the County is Broadband and he is learning more. The idea is for everyone in the community to have information availability. He thanked everyone for getting through all of this and keeping things going.


Public Comments:


- Andrew Miner – 625 Fruit Dr.: Advised the Board that he would be against the street light requested by Mr. Sebe at last month's meeting.
- Pam Wayland – Edgepark Dr.: Questions about broadband expansion and how that will work. Jeff Houck gave a brief explanation clarifying that it is not "community wi-fi."

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

Jeff Houck 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 7:39 p.m.


Chairman


Fiscal Officer