

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting of June 9, 2022

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Coventry Township Community Center, 335 E. Willowview 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

220609-01 George Beckham made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of May 12, 2022, and special meetings of May 18, 2022 and May 26, 2022. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

New Business:

Fire Chief Position

George Beckham explained that they have interviewed four candidates for the Fire Chief's position since the retirement of John Dolensky. He was impressed by all four, but Adam Rockich was the standout. He has been the Deputy Chief for the last eight years and knows the job well. We are very fortunate to have so much talent in our department. The three others could easily walk into a Chief's position anywhere.

220609-02 George Beckham made a motion to promote Adam Rockich to the rank of Fire Chief effective immediately. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

220609-03 George Beckham made a motion to increase the rate of pay for the position of Fire Chief from 42% to 45% of a Sr. FireMedic salary, effective immediately. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Huntington Bank Credit Line

We are establishing a new line of credit with Huntington Bank to replace the existing line of credit that was converted from FirstMerit bank several years ago. The new account has increased security and account management controls.

220609-04 George Beckham made a motion adopting a Resolution to establish a line of credit with Huntington Bank and authorizing Fiscal Officer, David Gissinger and Administrator, Anna Bryant to execute the agreement. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Township Fuel System

Adam Rockich explained that the underground fuel tank sensor wires need to be replaced. When the sensor monitor was moved last year the company that was contracted was given a scope of work that did not replace the entire wire. Our required monitoring sensors have continued to go into error and fault modes, which after multiple trips to diagnose the problem have been narrowed down to the incorrect wire being used, multiple splices of the wires, and incorrect installation. The new wire alone is approximately \$1,000 for just the material. George Beckham thanked Adam and Lael for all of their work on this.

220609-05 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve the encumbrance of funds in the amount of \$3,000.00 to Fuel Equipment Maintenance, for the replacement of underground fuel tank sensor wires. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Township Fuel Purchase

George Beckham stated that rising costs of fuel have maxed out road and fire department budgets – assistance will be needed from the General Fund to cover costs.

220609-06 George Beckham made a motion to approve a BC in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the purchase of Diesel and Unleaded Fuel. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Dam Property - Signs

We've received complaints from residents regarding fishing on the Dam property, mainly after dark. There is a concern for safety due to the uneven rocks that are there.

220609-07 George Beckham made a motion to approve the installation of park signs to indicate hours of use from dawn to dusk for the Portage Lakes Drive East Reservoir Dam area and Clock Tower. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Dam Property – Bollards/Rope

George Beckham explained that we are trying to deter driving out onto the dam property near the clock tower and also to prohibit overnight parking. We looked at purchasing gates like the yellow ones on the other part of the dam but they are too expensive. We will be installing wooden bollards on the corner of Oak Grove and Portage Lakes Drive that will match what was done on the rest of the dam.

220609-08 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a PO for Sentry Fence in the amount of \$10,000 for the installation of wooden bollards and rope along Oak Grove and Portage Lakes Drive. 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 reported on Engineering activity in the Township. He advised that he has been corresponding with Ali from the Health Department regarding the Pace Ave. water line issue. The paving project will be starting soon and rejuvenating is planned for after the 4th of July. Crews will be striping roads in the township this week. Ed Diebold asked if we will see an increase with asphalt prices. Dave Koontz stated that the prices are locked with the bid amount.

Adam Rockich, Fire Chief thanked the Board for the promotion to Fire Chief. He reported 948 calls as of May 31st which is 90 calls over the same date last year. We provided 20 mutual aid assists, including several fires. We received mutual aid 6 times over the last month. He explained that he is tracking how many times we have multiple units responding to different calls.

2022 Dispatch Fees

Coventry Fire for 2022 pays a flat quarterly fee of \$19,735 per quarter. This will cover the payment for Quarter 3 due in June, quarter four due in Sept., and First quarter of 2023 due in Dec.

220609-09 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the encumbrance of funds in the amount of \$59,205 to South Summit Council of Governments for dispatching fees that will be due in 2022. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Fire Department Office Carpet

The carpeting in the fire department offices is approaching 20 years old, is in disrepair, and needs replacement. Due to current costs and budget concerns, this will be the first area to be taken care of. If the budget allows later in 2022 or early 2023 we will finish re-carpeting the rest of the Fire department carpeted areas.

220609-10 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve the purchase and installation of new carpet in 5 offices by Carpet Centre - Carpet One for an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

State of Ohio Fire Marshal – Fire Department Equipment Grant

The awarded grant funds will be used for a replacement hose washer in the amount of \$13,250. The current hose washer is over 25 years old and beyond repair.

220609-11 George Beckham made a motion to accept the Fire Department Equipment Grant Award offered through the Division of Ohio State Fire Marshal in the amount of \$10,000.00 to be used toward the purchase of a new hose washer. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

State of Ohio - Retention & Resiliency Grant

The State of Ohio has announced a Retention and Resiliency Grant that focuses on keeping public safety employees on the job through retention bonuses and mental and physical health. The state will allow departments to apply for a retention bonus less than 10%, as well as mental and physical health exams and initiatives. We are going to apply for a 9% retention bonus based on base wages at the time of application. Employees would be required to sign an 18-month commitment to the department. We will also apply to include all firefighters in a comprehensive physical that focuses on physical health, and cancer prevention for 2 years. In just the last year, we have lost 4 positions to higher-paying departments, so this will help our efforts to retain our employees.

220609-12 Jeff Houck made a motion authorizing the Fire Department to apply for The State of Ohio Retention and Resiliency Grant for a 9% retention bonus, and comprehensive physicals for all employees for two years. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Fire Department - Vehicle Purchase Change

The order for a red 2022 Chevy Silverado was canceled by Chevrolet and they will not be fulfilling the order for the last four that were ordered by Tim Lally. CFD initially tried to order a red Tahoe but none were available when this vehicle was ordered. One ended up coming available due to a department backing out of their order. The options we were given for an available vehicle for 2022 were either a white Silverado that they have on hand or a red Tahoe that is currently in transit.

220609-13 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve the encumbrance of funds in the amount of \$6,005 to Tim Lally Chevrolet, for the change in vehicles from a 2022 Chevy Silverado to a 2022 Chevy Tahoe. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Lael Stouffer, Road Superintendent advised the Board that he will be doing a CCTV study on Flynn Avenue. The camera probe will give us a better idea of the scope of work. Hopefully there will be some good areas so we don't have to replace the whole thing. Storm culvert repairs are also underway and will be wrapped up before resurfacing starts. The roads that are being resurfaced this year are listed on the township website.

Drainage Repairs - Materials

Materials needed to perform drainage repairs within the township road easements.

220609-14 George Beckham made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$20,000 to Winwater. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Road Department – Truck Purchase

Lael Stouffer explained that a truck has become available for purchase to replace unit 47 which is a 20-year-old vehicle. There is a truck shortage and we are lucky that this has become available. He stated he is still working out the details, but needs permission from the Board to jump on this opportunity if possible.

220609-15 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a blanket certificate for a vehicle purchase and related components in an amount not to exceed \$55,000.00. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Mike Harrison, Zoning Inspector reported that he has issued 10 permits in the last month. Zoning commission will meet June 21st at 7 pm and the next BZA hearing will be July 5th at 6 pm. He has our nuisance grass contractor working on complaints.

Anna Bryant, Administrator announced that the August meeting will be rescheduled for August 18th due to vacations.

Vacation Carry-Over - Zoning Inspector

Mike Harrison just passed his 2-year anniversary with the Township and was unable to use all of his vacation time in the last year.

220609-16 Jeff Houck made a motion to authorize the carry-over of 43.63 hours of unused vacation time by Zoning Inspector, Mike Harrison effective his June 1, 2022 Anniversary date. Edward Diebold 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.

220609-17 Jeff Houck made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 74143 to 74251 as certified by Fiscal Officer, David Gissinger, and subject to audit. (A listing of the warrants will be made a part of these minutes.) Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Reports by Trustees:

Edward Diebold congratulated Adam Rockich and stated that we had four very eligible candidates working for us to choose from. He stated that he feels very confident in Adam’s ability to lead and with the other three behind him we will be the best around. He congratulated Mike on two years with the Township. We have been finalizing the design for the new Logan fieldhouse and will be getting bid specs together. Ingleside has new fencing and backstop and we are continuing to look at improving the dam property as well.

Jeff Houck congratulated Mike on completing two years and stated he is doing a great job. He also congratulated Adam and stated he is the right guy for the job. The application and interview process blew him away. We have fantastic talent in our fire department.

George Beckham reported that Summit County Common Pleas Court ruled in the Township’s favor regarding the lawsuit filed for denial of a permit/variance for conditional use for the proposed Dollar General Store on Portage Lakes Drive. He stated we are lucky we have a good zoning inspector and attorney.

Public Comments:

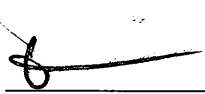
- Jack Newman & Rebecca Michael - 738 Chenoweth: complaint regarding 730 Chenoweth - stating that the mowing contractor needs to revisit the property and do a better job. They stated that the property owner will be in prison for the next 15 years so they are wondering who will be responsible for maintaining the property. Mike Harrison stated he will look into it and send the contractor back out.

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 7:41 p.m.


Chairman


Fiscal Officer