

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Meeting of November 16, 2022

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees held a special meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Coventry Community Center, 335 E. Willowview Drive, Coventry Twp., OH 44319, for the purpose of discussing the W. Pace Avenue community well and the Coventry Clock Tower Tree Lighting event.

Call to Order:

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.

Pace Avenue Well/Water Line Issue

George Beckham explained that an issue with the West Reservoir Community well system was brought to the Board's attention last winter due to a waterline break at South Turkeyfoot and Pace Avenue. Community wells have been a source of many problems over the years, mainly leaks in the distribution systems which have been documented in the Township Offices and paperwork from the previous well masters. The leak was initially fixed by people on the well system, but then failed again early summer of this year. During this time the Township contacted the Health Department who then contacted the Ohio EPA. Our goal was to find out if there were regulations on repairing the distribution system. Township roadways were being undermined and we felt repairs were being done in an unsafe manner, and the possibility of unhealthy water was great. Another issue the Township has had concerning these wells is the historical lack of information from residents on these systems. In this case we have gone door to door, sent out letters, and have talked to as many residents as possible to determine the number of homes still actively using this water system. Today we do not know if shutting this well down will affect two homes or twelve homes. From the EPA and Health Department's investigation, it was determined that this existing 'hand-dug well' is no longer permitted per State law and must be abandoned. Since it was on Township property, it was our situation to deal with. After many meetings, emails, and phone calls to explore various options the Township must take the well offline or face a lawsuit and fines from the EPA. The letter that you received outlines our plan for a target date of early April to abandon the system and have it sealed.

Jeff Houck commented that it was a major leak that occurred at S. Turkeyfoot and Pace over the summer. It is fixed now, but unknown by who. The Township should not be in the water business and the current well is not up to code. We have to cap it and people will have to dig their own wells. Summit County Public Health will allow two to three homes to be tied to a shared well on private property as long as there are permits from their office and written legal easements established. That may help with some cost sharing. We want to prepare everyone for the well to be abandoned in April.

Edward Diebold stated that we have been dealing with issues pertaining to these wells for years. He explained that he has a degree in health and safety and with the way this keeps breaking, and the unknown factors on how or by whom it's repaired, we could end up with a major issue with unsafe water. He stated that he would feel horrible if someone got sick. It's time to move to everyone having their own private wells.

Corey Garrett - 3714 S. Turkeyfoot: stated he has been taking care of the well for years. His father is certified to work on wells and helped him repair the line about a month ago. He stated that he has been dealing with this for about five years. He is experienced in working on wells and as of now it is secure and up to code. Some discussion ensued about the line being cut at the leak and East Pace now being served by someone else's well.

Robert Gibbs - 359 W. Olden: commented that the well is only serving 4 houses and only affecting 2 at this point. The homes on east Pace were being served by someone unknown to him.

Karen Natale - 369 E. Pace: thought her water was coming from the W. Pace well, but if it's shut off at S. Turkeyfoot then she stated she's not sure where it's coming from. There was some discussion over community wells on the east side.

Curt Flick - 333 E. Pace & 301 E. Pace: explained that he has his own well and is able to supply water to neighbors in an emergency. He still has access to the old well and helped Mr. Curley manage the system. Mr. Curley took care of the mechanical aspect until he passed away. There were 12 people on the well at that time. The law in Ohio keeps changing and he knows that this type of well is no

longer legal and needs to be condemned. He suggested when there was a leak everyone knew to fix it asap so not as to attract attention.

Fred Garrett – Corey Garrett’s father: Stated that he agrees with the Township’s position on this and reiterated that they shouldn’t be in the water business. He explained that he has a background in municipal service. If something would happen, the Township would be liable. He discussed procedures and stated that he understands the issues. He asked if there would be any more of a grace period. Residents don’t have the money to install new wells around here.

George Beckham explained that is why we are giving notice now, to allow residents time to figure out a way to get their wells drilled. There may be ways of sharing costs between property owners for a joint well, or possibly some type of discount by a driller who is doing multiple wells in the area. We are happy to help residents explore their options.

Corey Garrett asked about city water instead of drilling new wells.

George Beckham explained logistical concerns as well as the cost to run Akron water up the S. Turkeyfoot hill, but stated it’s something we can look into and discuss with the City.

There was further discussion over abandoning the well and options for residents going forward.

Clock Tower – Tree Lighting Event

221116-01 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a Blanket Certificate in the amount of \$5,000 to help cover operational expenses of the Clock Tower – Tree Lighting event on December 4, 2022. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: : George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn the special 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 7:00 p.m.


Chairman


Fiscal Officer