

**COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting of February 9, 2023**

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Coventry Township Community Center, 335 E. Willowview Drive, Coventry Township, Ohio 44319.

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Edward Diebold called the meeting to order and asked Administrator, Anna Bryant to record the following Trustees present: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Two Trustees were recorded present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Old Business:**

**Approval of Minutes**

230209-01 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of January 12, 2023 and the special meeting of January 24, 2023. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

**New Business:**

**Onaway Open Way - Property Transfer**

As advised by legal counsel in regard to the Hinton matter.

230209-02 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing the transfer of real property known as an open way in the Benjamin Davis Heirs Allotment at Birdland Avenue and Onaway Street. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

**Connect Church 5k Fundraiser**

Jim Chaney with *Run to You Racing* is organizing a 5k race fundraiser for Connect Church on Killian Road. The race will temporarily close portions of Conlin Drive and Jarvis Road from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The City of Green and Summit County Sheriff have already approved their portion of this request. It will go to the Summit County Executives Office for final approval.

230209-03 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a request for the temporary closure of portions of Conlin Drive and Jarvis Road within the Coventry Township limits for a 5k race beginning at Connect Church, 578 Killian Road, Coventry Township, Ohio on April 22, 2023 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

**Reports by Department Heads**

**Lt. Mike Lowe, Summit County Sheriff Representative:** reported that there were 1,148 calls for service in January. 32 traffic accidents, 71 cites, and 18 total arrests. He noted that 3 of the arrests were for thefts. He stated that it seems like the lane shifts have helped issues on I-77 in the construction area. Adam Rockich agreed that it has been an improvement.

**Chuck Hauber, Summit County Engineer Representative:** reported that the engineer's office has completed the Canova Drive easement request, so the Township may now move forward with filing. He noted that Anna Bryant had sent him two complaints regarding a drainage issue at Sheraton and Warner Road as well as a sign issue that was technically in the City of Akron. Both have been taken care of, and the resident was happy with the response.

**Adam Rockich, Fire Chief:** reported that FireMedic J.D. Detsch attended a seminar in Cincinnati to help support our QRT - Quick Response Team efforts. These responses will be expanding from just focusing on addition issues to including mental health checks. He noted that he began tracking the times that the fire department was responding to multiple emergency alarms at the same time - in December, it was 35% of

the time, which is fairly significant. He thanked everyone who attended and all individuals and local businesses who donated to the fundraiser for Kelly Corbin-Thornton and her family. It was very well attended and the family is extremely grateful for the help.

### **Ohio First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Grant – Peer Support Class**

Adam Rockich explained that CFD was awarded a portion of our original request for the Ohio Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Grant in the amount of \$9,000. Funding will cover payment of Peer Support Class to be hosted at Coventry Fire Department as well as overtime training expenses for those attending off duty. This will be a two-day class that teaches skills for our staff to help observe risk factors for behavioral and mental health problems in other staff members and to deal with personal stress signs.

230209-04 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a BC in the amount of \$9,000 that will be reimbursed from the Ohio Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Grant to host a peer support class and cover additional overtime training costs for employees at Coventry Fire Dept. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

### **Fire Department - Disposition of Equipment and Vehicles**

Adam Rockich explained that the fire department has a 15-year-old chase vehicle that will be going to auction as well as various old pieces of equipment that are either broken, outdated or obsolete. Those items will be sent to auction, thrown out or recycled.

230209-05 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the disposal, recycling, or sale of outdated, obsolete equipment and vehicles for the fiscal year 2023. Fire Department inventory will be updated accordingly. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

### **Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance**

Adam Rockich explained that this is to cover repairs and maintenance of all fire department vehicles.

230209-06 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a blanket certificate for repairs and maintenance of fire department vehicles in the amount of \$10,000.00. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

### **Annual SCBA Bench Testing**

Adam Rockich explained that this is required annual testing for our breathing apparatus used in hazardous atmospheres. Hydro testing is completed every 5 years for our SCBA cylinders.

230209-07 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a blanket certificate in the amount of \$3,396.50 for annual SCBA bench testing and hydro testing of our SCBA cylinders. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

### **Radio Service Contract**

Adam Rockich explained that this is basically like cell phone insurance, but for their mobile radios. Each radio costs around \$5,000. This annual contract covers any repairs and/or replacement of the fire department's portable radios due to accidental damage. We are waiting for final quotes to come in so the vendor will be determined at a later date.

230209-08 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a blanket certificate in an amount not to exceed \$3,500 for yearly accidental damage coverage of the fire department portable radios. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

**Lael Stouffer, Road Superintendent:** reported that he's had 400 tons of our 800-ton allotment for salt from CUE delivered. Due to the mild winter weather this year, we will not need to use our full order. He and the road crew are working on various small projects during this warmer weather we're having.

### **Equipment Purchase - 30EX-HD Brush Mower**

Lael Stouffer explained that this is a brush mower attachment for the Kubota excavator. It is available from the Sourcewell Kubota Contract through Akron Tractor. He went on to explain that this equipment can be

used in all areas of encroachment. It will allow us to be proactive and we'll have it for years. Our 1970's tractor will now not need to be replaced because of this purchase.

230209-09 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve the purchase of a 30EX-HD Brush Mower from Akron Tractor & Equipment in the amount of \$ 12,652.00. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

**Laura Cowles, Zoning Inspector:** advised that she issued 2 fence permits and 2 short-term rental permits in January. 16 code enforcement letters were sent out and 6 responses were received regarding those notices. The BZA met last Tuesday and approved four requests, denying one. As of today, there is nothing on the March agenda, with the deadline for any submittals being February 17<sup>th</sup>. The Zoning Commission will meet on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Zoning Commission - Alternate Member**

230209-10 Edward Diebold made a to appoint Josh Randles as Zoning Commission alternate effective immediately. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

#### **Anna Bryant, Administrator**

#### **2023 NOPEC Community Sponsorship Grant - Tree Lighting Event**

Anna Bryant explained that this grant is provided by NOPEC to sponsor a community event that is free and open to all residents. We are applying for \$750.00 in available funds to be used toward our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting event. These funds are determined by the average number of enrolled electric and/or gas accounts within the Township.

230209-11 Jeff Houck made a motion to authorize the filing of an application for the 2023 NOPEC Community Event Sponsorship Program for \$750.00 to be used toward the Township's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting event. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

#### **Report by the Fiscal Officer:**

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

230209-12 Edward Diebold made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 74968 to 75048 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, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

#### **Budgetary - SAFER Advance**

David Gissinger explained that this is for an advance out of the General Fund to SAFER to cover salaries and benefits which will be reimbursed by the FEMA SAFER Grant.

230209-13 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve an advance in the amount of \$50,000 from the General Fund (1000) to the SAFER Grant Fund (2931) to cover SAFER employee salaries and benefits. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

#### **Reports by Trustees:**

**Jeff Houck** wished George Beckham a speedy recovery - he had a serious back surgery, but is doing well. We continue to work on nuisance properties in the Township. We are limited by some things, and they can take time. Regarding the community well situation, he wanted to stated that the Township well has not been turned off, but will be decommissioned on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Edward Diebold** reiterated that the Township well has not been turned off, and the well issue is not due to anything that the Township did. He thanked everyone for attending the pancake breakfast in support of Kelly Corbin-Thornton. It feels good to be a part of a community of such generous people. He also wished George Beckham well and announced that the Polar Bear jump will take place on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the State Park.

**Public Comments:**

- Kathy Finefrock – 297 Oak Grove Drive: wanted to know why the Board was putting the levy back on the ballot as a replacement and increase. She felt that the voters spoke in November and that it's the Board's fiscal responsibility to listen. A fieldhouse and parks are frivolous. She discussed various issues with the parks and Clock Tower area. Edward Diebold discussed the plans for the parks and stated he felt the Township needed to better communicate our needs to the residents, which is why it's on the May ballot as a replacement and increase. There was some further discussion over the schools and levies in general.
- Paul Neugebauer – PLAC: announced that there will be a litter pick up on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and there will be a dredge plan update at the April PLAC meeting and May 4<sup>th</sup> will be information on summer boating enforcement. He has been busy picking up litter in the N. Turkeyfoot area, so he advised Lael Stouffer he may see orange bags to be picked up. He also advised of sediment he noticed at Peninsula and Pace Avenue due to well drilling in the area. Lael Stouffer explained that he would take a look, but that the contractor would be cleaning that up.

**Motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting:**

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent/excused) Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



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Chairman



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Fiscal Officer