

**COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting of April 13, 2023**

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, April 13, 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, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. All Trustees were recorded as present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Announcement:** Edward Diebold announced that the resident Yard Waste Drop Off – on May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup> from 9-3 at Cottage Grove Park – Organic materials must be bundled or bagged. (No rock or concrete) Also, please note that the Township will no longer accept scrap tires due to restrictions.

**Old Business:**

**Approval of Minutes**

230413-01 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Appropriations Workshop of March 7, 2023, the Regular Meeting and Workshop of March 9, 2023, and the Special Meeting of April 4, 2023. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**New Business:**

**Presentation:** Jim Zuccaro from Summit Insurance gave a brief presentation to outline our OTARMA Liability Insurance Renewal. He explained that we have a slightly higher renewal this year due to property and vehicle values increasing.

**OTARMA Renewal – Township Property & Liability Insurance**

Anna Bryant explained that we have received our renewal invoice for our Township Property & Liability Insurance for 2023-2024, effective April 28, 2023, in the amount of \$70,883.00. We will be receiving a capital distribution reimbursement of \$3,200.64 taking our actual cost down to \$67,682.36 We are working with our representative from Summit Insurance to further evaluate our coverage to see where we can continue to save.

230413-02 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve the Township Property and Liability renewal effective date of April 28, 2023, with the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) through Summit Insurance in the amount of \$70,883.00. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program Renewal**

230413-03 Jeff Houck made a motion to renew the Township's enrollment with Sedgwick for the Ohio Township Association 2023 Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program with a total due of \$4,725.00, which is a 33% discount off of the annual group premium based on our Workers' Comp claim experience (estimated savings of \$5,230.00). Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Ingleside Park – Concession**

Edward Diebold explained that this is for a commercial unit that will go inside the building.

230413-04 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a purchase order not exceeding \$2,500 for a commercial standing glass door cooler for the Ingleside Park concession stand. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Lockwood Park Renovation**

A discussion was held over planned improvements for Lockwood Park. Edward Diebold explained that we have set money aside from the park fund over the last few years to cover the cost. This one small park is going to cost close to \$200,000 so we need the park levy increase to be able to rehab the rest of our facilities. George Beckham explained that the tennis court will be replaced with a multi-use tennis/pickleball court and a new playground will be installed.

230413-05 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a Blanket Certificate in the amount of \$180,000 to cover the estimated cost of the Lockwood Park Renovation. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Parks – Fencing Repairs**

Edward Diebold explained that we have old fencing throughout the township’s parks that need to be repaired or replaced.

230413-06 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$15,000 to Sentry Fence for fencing repairs and replacement. 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**

**Lt. Mike Lowe, Summit County Sheriff Representative** reported 1,172 calls for service in March, which is up from 879 this same time last year. Over all our call volume is up, but arrests are down. He announced the grand opening of the Sheriff’s Watch Office in Coventry Township on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 1 pm.

**Chuck Hauber, Summit County Engineer Representative** reported that the issue with a retaining wall in the right of way on South Main Street has been taken care of. They will be meeting with KFC and ODOT along with the Township. Laura Cowles explained that a traffic study was completed and the site plan is still under review. We are holding off on meeting for now. The annual MS4 permit has been submitted and Melway Paving was awarded the road resurfacing contract for the County. Swartz Road will be resurfaced as part of that project. He advised that the Lenty Road culvert is failing and need to be replaced. He explained that this will be a 50/50 split between the Township and New Franklin. George Beckham discussed duck crossing signs and MR. Hauber explained that they are not in the traffic control manual. Generally speaking, the fewer signs in an area, the better. Paul Neugebauer asked about what can be done to better define the intersection of Dorwil and S. Turkeyfoot. It’s a very wide road entry onto Dorwil and people heading North on S. Turkeyfoot frequently end up in the guardrail just before the bridge because there’s no striping or anything to define where S. Turkeyfoot is versus Dorwil Drive.

**Adam Rockich, Fire Chief** reported monthly call stats and stated they provided mutual aid 19 times and received mutual aid 4 times. There is a burn ban across the state currently so no open burning is allowed at all. Recreational fires are ok with dry seasoned wood only. We are entering storm season, so he wanted to remind everyone to stay away from downed power lines, or from trees with power lines. You can’t see electricity. Edward Diebold stated that we get a lot of calls for trees that are down from storms and we can not touch them until the power company has cleared them.

### **Firehouse Subs Grant**

Adam Rockich explained that Firehouse Subs does quarterly grant applications with 100% funding. We are asking for two new dive communications systems with communications lines and accessories. This is an approximate \$10,000 request that if funded is covered 100%

230413-07 Edward Diebold made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to apply for the Firehouse subs grant to replace dive team communications equipment. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

### **BWC Safety Grant**

Adam Rockich explained that Coventry Fire has been approved for Safety equipment through the BWC for an LDH hose roller and additional accessories. A combination rescue tool that will be kept on our first out medic unit for vehicle rescue and forcible entry into homes. We also received funding to replace our stair chair patient movement device for in-home patient movement up and down stairs. Total grant award was \$38,236.16 with the breakdown as follows BWC share is \$28,677.12 with the township doing a 3 to 1 match. Our portion is \$9,559.04.

230413-08 Jeff Houck made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to accept and execute the Bureau of Workers Compensation Safety Grant in the amount of \$38,236.16. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Laura Cowles, Zoning Inspector** reported that 5 zoning permits were issued in March, two were short-term rentals with one being a renewal. She has been busy with sending code enforcement letters, with several

situations moving toward legal action. The next BZA meeting will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with the deadline for applications tomorrow. The Zoning Commission will hold a workshop on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Moratorium – Storage Facilities**

Laura Cowles explained that the Zoning Commission is requesting a moratorium on any new public storage, mini-storage or self-storage facilities in the Township, in an effort to allow them time to revise our current zoning resolutions that relate to storage facilities.

230413-09 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a Resolution imposing a moratorium on the issuance or granting of applications or permits for public storage, mini-storage, or self-storage facilities in Coventry Township for a period of one year (365 days). Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Summer Intern – Zoning Office Assistant**

Laura Cowles explained she would like to hire a college student as a summer intern to help with code enforcement and the general organization of the zoning office. George Beckham noted that Township Counsel has approved this and that people are wanting to put storage everywhere. Edward Diebold commented that he likes the idea of making our regulations on this a bit more black and white.

230413-09 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve the hiring of a summer intern to assist in the zoning office for the summer up to 3 days per week at \$11.00 per hour. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Anna Bryant, Administrator** stated that she has been working with our insurance reps on our Township liability insurance renewal as well meeting with our BWC Managed Care organization for that renewal. She has recently met with landscapers for proposals on the clock tower area. We are looking to integrate the existing concrete pad and clock tower into the dam landscape. Money from the State Capital Improvement fund will be used toward that project. She advised that she has also been coordinating with Lael Stouffer on the Lockwood Park project which should be underway within the next month, weather permitting.

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

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

230413-11 Edward Diebold made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 75138 to 75241 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, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Reports by Trustees:**

**George Beckham** noted that there was a recent article in the Akron Beacon Journal on FirstEnergy rates increasing. The Township is included in the Summit County Aggregate for gas and electricity, so you don't have to worry about this if you didn't choose your supplier. Under the County, your electric supplier would be Energy Harbor and for gas, it is with NOPEC/NextEra. Regarding the Akron water line extension to the Shore Acres area, he noted that we are currently waiting on a response from the EPA but neighborhood interest was positive. He commented on the March 21<sup>st</sup> oral arguments for the Dollar Store case. He attended the Akron mayoral debates and noted that candidates have been focusing on racial equity and their police force. We work closely with the City regarding the JEDD and water line extensions so it will be interesting to see the outcome of this race.

**Jeff Houck** stated that moving into the summer months, the lakes get busier and busier every year. There are a lot of different types of boating and he asked everyone to be cognizant and respectful towards others. He noted that code enforcement takes time, so please if there is an issue bring it to our attention so we can get the ball rolling. Numbers for emergency services keep going up and up. It's always a challenge and a huge focus for us to fit within our resources.

**Edward Diebold** commented that we have changed up our original plan to resurface roads off of S. Turkeyfoot until we know what is happening with the water line. Road resurfacing will be focused on the area of Cottage Grove north of Killian this year. He asked that residents support Parks Issue 1 on the May 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot. Everything in our parks is shot structurally. Looking at Green and New Franklin, we are not trying to build million-dollar parks. We are not asking for a lot more money and it will be a huge benefit to the community. He appreciates everyone's support.

**Public Comments:**

- Helen Jean Cardina-389 Dorwil Drive: asked what will be done with the area where the PLAY Center tennis courts used to be. Anna Bryant and Edward Diebold stated we are looking at some playground or adult fitness options for that area. The Parks Levy passage will be key to how quickly, and what we can do there.
- Paul Neugebauer – PLAC: reported that the annual PLAC Run to the Beach fundraiser had fewer participants this year due to the weather and other running events in the area. The Litter pick up will be April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the State Park by the Tudor House. Also, volunteers can also pick up a large area of litter in the Long Lake area. He may also engage Summit Soil and Water and the City of Akron.
- Clint Kendrick – 185 E. Ingleside: Stated he is having an ongoing issue with Republic not picking up his trash. He is on the dead-end and they only take trash from the other side of the street. He as to call at least once a month to have this resolved and he’s tired of it. Also, 134 Lowe Drive has an old minivan in the back yard that has been there for 6-7 years as well as piles of old bricks sitting in the driveway – it’s an eyesore. He also asked about road resurfacing and what can be done about all of the loose gravel that has ended up being piled on the road in front of his house. Anna Bryant advised that she can contact Republic and will also let the Road Superintendent know to take a look at the gravel issue. Laura Cowles will take a look at the issues at 134 Lowe.

**Executive Session**

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing a fire department personnel matter. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned to executive session at 7:50 p.m.

Convened executive session at 7:54 p.m.

**Discussion:**

**Motion to adjourn executive session:**

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn executive session. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

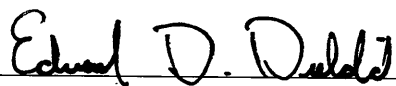
Adjourned executive session at 8:21 p.m.

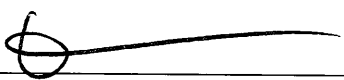
Reconvened regular session at 8:21 p.m.

**Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:**

Edward Diebold 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 8:21 p.m.

  
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Chairman

  
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Fiscal Officer