

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
General Workshop of June 8, 2023

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met for a General Workshop on Tuesday, June 8, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Coventry Township Community Center, 335 E. Willowview Drive, Coventry Township, Ohio 44319.

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.

Also in attendance were: Fiscal Officer, David Gissing; Fire Chief, Adam Rockich; Road Superintendent, Lael Stouffer; and Zoning Inspector, Laura Cowles.

Mindy Lawrence briefly attended the workshop to personally thank the Board for everything that the Township had done to support her and her family after the death of her husband, Lt. Rob Lawrence.

Topics for Discussion:

1. Sheriff's Contract: Anna Bryant advised the Board that the current Sheriff's contract ends on 12/31/23. The County has sent an estimated contract cost for the next three years, increasing by roughly \$500,000 to cover their current contract costs with the Deputies. A discussion was held on what we can do to negotiate and if we need to consider getting rid of the extra 40-hour car. Chief Rockich expressed concerns over the removal of the extra deputy. We need that second car during those busy times. Dave Gissing stated that he hadn't had a chance to look over the County's estimates. He will take a look at our revenue and carry-overs in the policing fund to see where we're at.
2. Road Department
 - a. Illegal ditch enclosure issues: Lael Stouffer explained that there is a motion on the regular agenda to initiate civil action against several residents who have enclosed their ditches. Matt is looking into what we need to do. The motion is just to allow us to go to court if needed. Lael Stouffer explained the individual situations for each of these locations.
 - b. Road opening permits – County assistance: Lael Stouffer explained that Chuck Hauber with the Engineer's office will be getting something to him in writing. We won't get as much assistance as we were hoping, but we will at least work on having them do inspections for a fee that the property owner will need to pay. We will be working on coming up with a procedure.
 - c. Akron Water line: Lael Stouffer expressed concern over the plans for the Akron water line extension and our under-road culvert infrastructure. He would like to see discussions over the replacement of those structures as we discuss engineering for the water line. These should be done at the same time and we'll require some engineering assistance.
3. Zoning
 - a. KFC (Rood/Manchester Road Issue): Laura Cowles explained that there is a revised traffic study and Tim Boley with the County Engineer's Office has reviewed it. He will be recommending that we deny access to Rood Drive. The Board has the ability to go with the recommendation, or not.
 - b. Killian Road – Rezoning Hearing on Regular Agenda: A brief discussion was held regarding the location for the proposed rezoning. Summit County Planning and the Coventry Zoning Commission both recommended approval. Lael Stouffer reminded the Board of issues that came up with the structure across the street and advised compliance with the County Engineer's Office as far as access to Killian Road.
 - c. Swartz Road – drainage complaint/neighbor feud: Laura Cowles and George Beckham both explained that they have responded to a complaint regarding a small retaining wall that one neighbor claims to be dumping water onto his property. George Beckham stated that it is a very small amount of water and that it is a civil matter.

- d. Weil Drive – Akron Summit Properties: Laura Cowles explained the background of this property and stated the garage needs to be converted from a living space back to a garage. There weren't any permits pulled for construction and the variance to change the use was denied months ago. They are requesting the Township give them until September 1st to convert it back. Matt did respond to the request and suggested an inspection. Laura will coordinate with him to meet with the property owner.
- e. Arrow Drive: Jeff Houck asked if there was any update on this property. Laura Cowles stated that she thought he was working on cleaning up.

4. Fire Department

- a. IAFF Contract negotiations: Adam Rockich explained that after we spoke last month regarding the 3% offer, they came back requesting a 6% and 6% increase for the next two years. We are now going into negotiations for the full contract. He passed out comparisons on base pay and incentives.

5. Parks:

- a. Levy Issue – Anna Bryant advised that the motion to send to BOE for the ballot is on the agenda.
- b. Lockwood Park: Lael Stouffer explained that trees will be coming down next week and he is shooting for the beginning of July to start demolition.
- c. Community Center – basketball hoop: A discussion was held over a portable basketball hoop that someone has placed in the lower parking lot at the community center. Lael Stouffer explained that it's a conflict because that is where he parks the loader. At this point, the loader has been hit by a basketball and he's concerned with continued issues. A discussion was held about how to handle the situation. A police report can be made if needed.
- d. Mowing – IBH/S. Main: George Beckham asked Lael about getting a quote from Ground Pro to do one to two passes along the sidewalk on the IBH property along S. Main.
- e. Clock Tower: Lael Stouffer explained he had the diseased trees removed. The area is ready to go for the new landscaping project. Anna Bryant advised that she is still waiting to hear back from the State for the CIP funds. The project should be covered since it is in line with what PLAC proposed in its initial application.

6. Lockwood Cemetery

- a. Plans for future use – only 4 plots left in G: Lael Stouffer and Anna Bryant explained that we are getting close to being sold out of cemetery plots. We will need to put some money into the cemetery for a road and to map out plots if we want to expand. Lael Stouffer discussed drainage concerns.

7. Community Well/Akron Water

- a. Update on well decommissioning: George Beckham explained that Donamark will decommission the well. The other contractor is not interested in the project. Also, the electricity was still on but is off now. Lael Stouffer has had some ideas on how to minimize intrusion on private property. Ally from the health department has approved our plan.

Motion to Adjourn the General Workshop:

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn the General Workshop. 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 6:56 p.m.

Edward D. DiIddi

Chairman



Fiscal Officer

