

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting of June 8, 2023

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in a regular session on Thursday, June 8, 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

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes

230608-01 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve and dispense with reading the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of May 16, 2023. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

New Business:

Zoning Public Hearing - Request for Rezoning at 201 Killian Road

Edward Diebold explained that Roger Storm 2762 N. Turkeyfoot Rd., Akron, OH 44319 is requesting a change in zoning classification for 201 Killian Road, (Parcel #1900776) Akron, OH 44319, located at the intersection of N. Bender and Killian Road. The parcel contains 1.264 acres of land and is currently zoned R-2 Residence District. The request is to re-zone the parcel to B-2 Limited/Local Business District. The proposal will be an extension of the existing neighboring B-2 District at the intersection for business use permitted in our B-2 District. This item was presented at the Summit County Planning Commission with a determination of approval of the rezone. It was also reviewed by the Coventry Township Zoning Commission at their May 16th meeting which unanimously recommended approval of the rezoning.

Roger Storm was sworn in to speak on his own behalf. He explained that his plan is to rezone in order to allow business use for a multi-tenant building. He will keep one unit for himself. George Beckham explained that three of the four corners of this intersection are already for business use. Killian has sewer/water, so it makes sense. He did point out the moratorium on storage facilities. Mr. Storm is a Coventry resident and has cleaned up the property quite a bit already. Jeff Houck and Lael Stouffer reiterated the need for any required County approvals from the building department as well as the Engineer's office for entry onto Killian Road to avoid any issues as we faced with the property across the street with entry onto N. Bender.

230608-02 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a change in zoning classification for 201 Killian Road, (Parcel #1900776) Akron, OH 44319, located at the intersection of N. Bender and Killian Road. The parcel contains 1.264 acres of land and is currently zoned R-2 Residence District. The request is to re-zone the parcel to B-2 Limited/Local Business District. The proposal will be an extension of the existing neighboring B-2 District at the intersection for business use permitted in our B-2 District. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

****End Public Hearing*******

Parks & Recreation Levy – Placement on the November 7th General Election Ballot

Anna Bryant advised that we have received the Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue from the County Fiscal Officer and are now ready to submit the levy to the Board of Elections for placement on the November 7, 2023 General Election Ballot.

230608-03 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a resolution for the REPLACEMENT of an existing 0.5 mill Parks and Recreation Levy for 5 years for Coventry Township, effective January 1, 2023, first Collection to be 2024 for placement on November 7, 2023 General Election Ballot. Edward Diebold 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 that there have been 1,002 calls for

services in the last month with 5,303 to date. In the last month, there were 50 accidents, 108 citations, and 18 arrests. They are focusing on speed enforcement in school zones.

Chuck Hauber, Summit County Engineer Representative reported that they are still reviewing the traffic study for KFC, but he will have a report on that soon. He has discussed a draft policy for permit review with Lael Stouffer. The County can not issue the permits for the township but can advise recommendations and do inspections for a fee. They will not be able to do any enforcement either. Lael Stouffer asked if the County allows enclosed ditches. Chuck Hauber stated no, unless there are extenuating circumstances and a road opening permit would be required before work starts. There was discussion over the removal policy if a pipe is installed in the county right of way without permission. The County sends a notice, and if it is not removed they will take it out.

Adam Rockich, Fire Chief reported 929 calls for service to date, 200 in the last month. The Township received mutual aid 16 times in the last month and provided it 16 times as well. In the last year, there were 284 times that we had to call in off-duty personnel to respond to alarms.

Fire Department - Telephone Expense

Adam Rockich explained that this covers monthly cellular services for our IPADS that link our vehicles to the CAD system, cellular telephones in our medic units and command chase vehicle, and landlines for the fire department telephones.

230608-04 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a Super Blanket Certificate in the amount of \$5,000 to cover monthly cellular and landline telephone expenses for the Fire Department. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Motorola – Portable Radio Battery Replacement

Adam Rockich explained that this is to replace a portion of our portable radio batteries. Batteries are \$183.71 apiece. These batteries will replace two-year-old batteries that are dying out.

230608-05 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a Purchase Order in the amount of \$4,592.75 to B&C Communications for the purchase of 25 portable radio batteries. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Summit County 800Mhz Radio System – Operations & Maintenance

Adam Rockich explained that our Fire Department radios operate on the Summit County 800mhz radio system and we are charged \$20 per radio/per month for operations and maintenance. This will cover the second half of 2023.

230608-06 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$4,720.00 to the Summit County Department of Public Safety to cover six months of the 800 radio system maintenance fees. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Lael Stouffer, Road Superintendent reported that they are currently working on roadside mowing, sign inventory, and sight-distance issues throughout the township. They will then move on to culvert maintenance and replacement to prepare for the pavement program. They continue to log work orders and prioritize them according to need. He noted that a lot of residents have recently enclosed their ditches, which is not allowed in the township. He directed residents to the township website and explained the reasons why we don't allow enclosed ditches. There is an engineering process to enclose a ditch and most times it is not done properly by residents. The following motion is to start legal action if needed on several properties in the Township. We are hoping to not have to get to that point, but this will allow us to move forward if needed.

Illegal Ditch Enclosures

230608-07 Edward Diebold made a motion to authorize a civil action against the property owners of 3076 N. Bender Avenue, 881 Chaffin Road, and 906 Chaffin Road for illegal ditch enclosures in the road right-of-way pursuant to Revised Code section 5571.09 and authorizing township legal counsel to take all appropriate action to remedy the violation. George Beckham 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 19 zoning certificates were issued in May. She sent 35 code enforcement letters out in the last month, with over half of them being for tall grass. At the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting last week, three variances were granted. The next Board of Zoning Appeals meeting has been moved to Tuesday, July 11th due to the July 4th holiday. The deadline to submit is June 23rd. The next zoning commission workshop will be on July 18th.

Zoning Violation – 37 Weil Drive

Laura Cowles explained that there is an issue of construction without permits and a denied variance request by the board of zoning appeals. The owner has been slow to respond, so this motion gives us the ability to take legal action if needed. George Beckham stated that this gives the attorney the right to file, but we are hoping to remedy this without court action.

230608-08 Jeff Houck made a motion to authorize a civil action against Akron Summit Properties for an illegal second housing unit at 37 Weil Avenue per Board of Zoning Appeals case 2023-02 and authorizing township legal counsel to take all appropriate action to remedy the violation. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Zoning Text Change – Articles 10.00, 11.00 and 12.00

This request involves initiating a process per Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 519.12 to request that the Coventry Township Zoning Commission review the permitted and conditionally permitted uses in the B-1 Business Office District (Article 10.00), the B-2 Limited/Local Business District (Article 11.00) and the B-3 Limited Local Business District (Article 12.00) (and any other sections related thereto), set forth on the Coventry Township Zoning Resolution, and to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for further consideration.

230608-09 Edward Diebold made a motion to refer this request to the Coventry Township Zoning Commission to review the permitted and conditionally permitted uses in each applicable zoning district identified above, and to make appropriate recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

George Beckham explained that per the ORC, a zoning change has to be initiated by the Township. The Board is asking the zoning commission to take a look at this to clean up some grey areas in the code.

Anna Bryant, Administrator thanked the volunteers around the Township who have planted and helped to maintain flower beds around the Fire/Admin building as well as the intersection at Portage Lakes Drive and S. Main. She also noted a donation of the flags that have been mounted on the light poles on Portage Lakes Drive near the Clock Tower.

Report by the Fiscal Officer:

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

230608-10 Edward Diebold made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 75359 to 75434 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.

Perry & Associates – Auditing Services

The audit of 2021 and 2022 has been completed.

230608-11 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$5,900 to Perry and Associates, Certified Public Accountants for auditing services of 2021 and 2022. Edward Diebold 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 we have information on our website regarding all of the parks in the area. He also stated that he attended the PLAC meeting regarding Boating Safety and Rules. It was very worthwhile for the public, and he's happy to see PLAC do these instructional meetings.

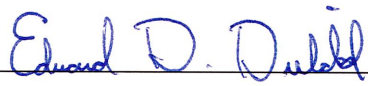
Jeff Houck stated that he has been working with the County on a Broadband steering committee in order to make sure everyone has access to the internet. The committee will be asking Congress for continued funding.

Edward Diebold commented that it has been a tough 3-4 months and noted the loss of Lt. Rob Lawrence last month. He thanked Adam Rockich and Anna Bryant for all they did to help. We gave it all we had and, in the end, it didn't help. Lt. Lawrence's wife came to the Board earlier to express her thanks. It's been a hard time for his wife and kids. He went on to also thank the surrounding communities for their support during the services so our staff could attend. He hopes to never experience this again. He mentioned Lt. Lowe's comments regarding speed enforcement and reminded everyone to pay attention to their speed and keep their eyes on the road. He wished zoning inspector, Laura Cowles a very happy 50th birthday today.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn the regular 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 7:37 p.m.



Chairman



Fiscal Officer