

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

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in a regular session on Thursday, July 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**

**Old Business:**

**Approval of Minutes**

230713-01 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of June 8, 2023, and Special Meeting of June 27, 2023. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**New Business:**

**Community Center – Tree Removal**

Edward Diebold explained that we have identified the need to remove trees surrounding the community center building that are overgrown, dying, or causing structural issues to the building. There are also several trees near the fields that could cause damage to fencing and need to be removed.

230713-02 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$4,300 to Barberton Tree Service, Inc. for tree removal and stump grinding for trees around the Community Center building and backstop/field. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Lockwood Park – Tree Removal**

Jeff Houck explained that several trees will need to be removed for the tennis/pickleball renovation of Lockwood Park. With all of the work that is going into the park, we don't want these trees to end up ruining it down the road.

230713-03 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$9,400.00 to Barberton Tree Service, Inc. for tree removal at Lockwood Park. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Lockwood Park – Retaining Wall**

George Beckham explained that in order to place a multi-use court at Lockwood, the footprint of the existing court needed to be expanded. A retaining wall will need to be built on the east side of the courts to support the structure. This quote includes the estimated cost of Versa-Lok interlocking wall stone, compacted base, geo fabric, washed gravel, and drainage to complete an approximate 180-foot wall varying from 2 feet to 5 feet in height including buried depth. The top layer of stone will be #4 gravel from the top of the wall to the paved surface. He thanked Lael Stouffer for all of the work he's put into this project so far.

230713-04 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a purchase order for Bluegrass Landscape Design, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for the installation of a retaining wall to support the new tennis/pickleball court at Lockwood Park. 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 that there were 704 calls for service in June, bringing the year-to-date total to 6,027. Last year on the same date we were at 4,771 calls for service. Crashes in construction areas have eased off compared to last year with only 28 so far compared to 55 last year. There was a brief discussion over the increase in calls for service. He stated that there's not a specific reason that he can see to explain the increase.

**Adam Rockich, Fire Chief** reported that there were 1,200 alarms to date. June was down this year compared to last year. With a lot of the construction area cleared up on the highway, we have had fewer traffic incidents. In the last month, we responded to a mutual aid water rescue/dive call for a missing elderly man. He stated that they also responded to an oven fire at Gardner Pie Company earlier this week. Fire extinguisher training that the employees took part in helped save the property. He announced that the fire department continues to offer this training to township businesses.

### **Furniture Replacement**

Adam Rockich explained that this replaces furniture a portion of the 20-year-old furniture in the Fire Department Day room.

230713-05 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a Super BC in the amount of \$4000.00 for the replacement of Fire Department furniture. 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 the final portion of the 2022 road resurfacing project was recently completed. The fog seal is the final step in the process and was postponed last fall due to weather. Our 2023 resurfacing project is around the corner. He and the road crew are working on preliminary drainage improvements. He expects the contractor to be in our area at the end of July or early in August. They have been keeping up with cemetery work and the Lockwood Park renovation project is also under way. He briefly discussed the scope of work and timeline for that project.

### **2023 Road Resurfacing Program – Change Order**

Lael Stouffer explained that the roads that are in the vicinity of the potential Akron Water Line extension have been removed from this year's program. There will be drainage improvements that we will need to consider as part of the engineering for the water line extension.

230713-06 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve Change Order No. 1 From Melway Paving Company, Inc. for the 2023 SCE 422 Resurfacing Program to remove Coventry Township from the program. The Township will not be obligated for the original contracted amount of \$207,836.80. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Laura Cowles, Zoning Inspector** announced that the Zoning Commission held a workshop meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>. She sent 24 code enforcement letters over the last month, mostly regarding junk vehicles. In the next week or so, those who have not complied will be removed. The next BZA meeting will be on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and the next Zoning Commission workshop will be next Tuesday. She invited the public to register and attend a three-part workshop to learn about zoning in Coventry Township. She will hold Zoning 101 educational workshops to educate residents and business owners.

**Anna Bryant, Administrator** thanked Bluegrass Landscape for the beautiful job they did at the Clock Tower. She explained that the landscape improvements include a stone seat-wall around the clock tower along with perennial plantings that will be low maintenance. That area was overdue for an upgrade and she stated she's very pleased with how the project turned out. Funding is through the State of Ohio Capital Improvement funds. We will be getting estimates on a walking path for the north dam embankment as well.

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

**David Gissinger (absent – on Vacation)** Anna Bryant advised that Period-to-date financial reports have been presented to the Board

230713-07 Edward Diebold made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 75435 to 75547 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.

### **2024 Alternative Tax Budget**

230713-08 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the 2024 Alternative Tax Budget as recommended by Fiscal Officer, Dave Gissinger to be submitted to the Summit County Auditor. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

## **Reports by Trustees:**

**George Beckham** announced that we were notified earlier this week that the EPA did not fund the Shore Acres water line extension. We are looking into alternate funding sources to bring water to this area. He thanked Anna Bryant for her work on the clock tower landscape project. He was impressed that the contractor was able to finish it by July 4<sup>th</sup>. The zoning commission is working on some zoning changes that the Board of Trustees have tasked them with. He mentioned the August 8<sup>th</sup> special election and urged residents to educate themselves on Issue 1 which raises the voting threshold to 60% to pass an issue. Also, he discussed funds that EMA has set aside in anticipation of a total lunar eclipse that will take place on April 8, 2024. We are in the direct line of total darkness that will take place at 3:15 in the afternoon. EMA is anticipating a large influx of people to our area to view the eclipse. A brief discussion was held over issues that may arise and affect our area.

**Jeff Houck** stated that he is excited about the renovation and addition of pickleball at Lockwood Park. He thanked Anna Bryant and Lael Stouffer for their work on the Clock Tower project. A lot of people were gathered there for the boat parade. It's really a nice place to sit and enjoy the lake. He announced that the Christmas in July parade will be on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Edward Diebold** reciprocated thanks all around. He also mentioned Dano and thanked him for all of his work to put on the fireworks display. They were spectacular as always.

## **Public Comments:**

- **Paul Neugebauer – PLAC Representative:** Thanked Anna Bryant for her efforts in coordinating the Clock Tower renovation, it looks really nice.

## **Executive Session**

George Beckham made a motion to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with IAFF Local 2286 and to discuss a fire department and administrative 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 7:22 p.m.

Convened executive session at 7:23 p.m.

### **Discussion:**

### **Motion to adjourn executive session:**

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

Adjourned executive session at 7:37 p.m.

Reconvened regular session at 7:37 p.m.

## **Discussion/Motions pertaining to Executive Session**

### **Vacation Reimbursement**

**230713-09** Jeff Houck made a motion to approve an additional 40 hours of vacation time for Fire Chief, Adam Rockich and Administrator, Anna Bryant as compensation for unpaid time used during an employee incident. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:**

Jeff Houck 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 7:38 p.m.

Edward D. Diebold  
Chairman

  
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Fiscal Officer

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