

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
General Workshop of August 10, 2023

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met for a General Workshop on Tuesday, August 10, 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; and Edward Diebold, yes. Jeff Houck was absent/excused for vacation. Two Trustees were recorded as present.

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

Topics for Discussion:

1. Parks:

- a. Lockwood Park Remodel: Lael Stouffer advised that the retaining wall has been finished. Fencing will begin next week. Once the posts are up, Carpenter can set anchors for pickleball and paint. Discussion was held over how nets would be set up and how residents would have access. Concerns over leaving equipment and having keys or if they would need to sign out equipment from the administration office.
- b. E. Reservoir Dam – discuss design proposal/changes: Anna Bryant presented plans she received from Blue Grass Landscape. Concerns over depicted structures on the dam were discussed. She will ask for those to be removed from the plan due to concerns over maintenance, permission from ODNR to anchor them, and the overall aesthetic.
- c. Logan
 - i. Soil testing – Anna Bryant explained that we have received a quote on the soil testing. She reached out to the three companies recommended by our architect and this is the only one to return an estimate. There is a motion on the regular agenda.
- d. Community Center
 - i. Exterior/ landscape improvements: Anna Bryant and Lael Stouffer discussed the need for tree removal and landscape improvements around the Community Center. The current landscape is overgrown in many areas and the ground needs to be regraded away from the building to help with drainage issues.
 - ii. Interior – technology improvements: Anna Bryant explained that she will be setting up internet/Wi-Fi service at the Center due to the increased use of technology for meetings. There is also a motion on the agenda to purchase a smartboard to be utilized by zoning and the board for meeting presentations.
- e. Levy: Anna Bryant advised that ballot language was finalized and as soon as we receive the Issue number we can begin campaigning. George Beckham stated that he'd like to do more of a door-to-door campaign. Signage and special events that can help us get the word out were discussed.

2. Road Department

- a. Lower garage – structural issues: Lael Stouffer and Adam Rockich discussed structural concerns of the lower garage with the increased movement of the back wall. We need to have a structural engineer come out and take a look. The back wall supports the Fire Department parking lot, and has moved to the point that we can no longer close the door. They both feel we need to take a proactive approach to this so that we can plan for the wall to come down. If it collapses on its own we will risk the integrity of the Town Hall's foundation. We need to come up with a clear solution to fix it or tear it down.
- b. Staffing Issues: Lael Stouffer explained that we had our newest employee resign suddenly without notice. He's been having a hard time finding the fourth wheel of the

team. He will be hiring part-time for the time being and has a candidate who applied twice before. He is hoping this works out.

3. Zoning

- a. BZA – meeting attendance: Laura Cowles explained that BZA member, Josh Hostetler hasn't been to a meeting all year. She has reached out to him several times with no response. George Beckham commented that he feels non-attendance is a reason to remove and replace his position. He advised Laura to send him a letter as final notice.

4. Fire Department

- a. Staffing – open position: Adam Rockich explained that he has sent two candidates to polygraph testing to fill the open position. He is hoping to have a start date after Labor Day for one of them. He is planning on filling the open Lieutenant position at the beginning of the year.
- b. Retention Grant approval: Adam Rockich explained that there is a motion on the agenda requesting approval of this grant. This will give each firemedic \$4,000 as a retention incentive. He stated that they would have to sign a document committing them to the department for a period of two years. If they leave in that time frame, they will have to return the money. New hires will not be eligible since they were not here during COVID.
- c. Community Service: He explained that our flower lady, Sue has asked if her teenage nephew can serve his community service by helping out at the Fire Department. Edward Diebold stated he is fine with it, and advised Adam to go ahead with his own discretion.

5. Sidewalk/Trail Funding – AMATS: George Beckham explained that he and Anna Bryant met with Chuck Hauber and Joe Paradise regarding a potential sidewalk grant. He discussed the area on Portage Lakes Drive and Corman Road that would be considered. He stated that he is not sure we want to spend the time and money to look into this, but it's an option that may be able to connect to the towpath. It would be an 80/20 grant, so approximately \$200,000 would come from the Township.

6. Homecoming Parade request: We have received a request to approve a homecoming parade on Sunday, October 8h from 12:30-1:30. The parade route will go from the Middle School to the High School. Our motion will be forwarded to the County Executive's Office for final approval.

7. Community Well/Akron Water

- a. Update on well decommissioning – Donamarc status/Quote: George Beckham stated that we need to approve Donamarc to handle this. None of the other contractors he spoke to are willing to do the work. A discussion was held on having Lael get the concrete to fill the well.
- b. Water line update – City of Akron community outreach meeting: George Beckham explained that the EPA reversed their decision on the Akron water line project and will now be contributing \$2.5 million toward the project which is roughly 50%. Akron will be putting a meeting together in the near future. Lael Stouffer asked to be included in any planning meetings. He discussed concerns over infrastructure upgrades that will need to be made along with the water line construction. Those roads will need to be repaved afterward. The County Engineer's office should also be consulted.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn the general workshop. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; and Edward Diebold, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Edward D. Dwyer
Chairman



Fiscal Officer