

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting of September 14, 2023

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Coventry Township Community Center, 335 E. Willowview Drive, Coventry Township, Ohio 44319.

Call to Order:

Vice Chairman Jeff Houck called the meeting to order and asked Administrator, Anna Bryant to record the following Trustees present: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, absent/excused; and Jeff Houck, yes. All Trustees were recorded present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Announcements:

Anna Bryant made the following announcements:

- **Parks Levy - Replacement - Issue #5:** Summit County Board of Elections has approved our ballot language and issue number for the November 7th election. This parks levy expires at the end of this year - without passage, we will not have parks funding for the Township.
- **Township Open House - Saturday, October 28th from Noon-3:** All Township services and equipment will be on display. We will have activities for the kids, as well as candy and a costume contest at 2:00.
- **Township-Wide Trick-or-Treat: Sunday, October 29th, from 5-7**

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes

230914-01 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of July 13, 2023, the Regular Meeting and Workshop of August 10, 2023 and the Special Meeting of August 29, 2023. (Approval of the July 13th meetings was inadvertently missed last month) George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, absent/excused; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Homecoming Parade - Portage Lakes Initiative Foundation: Jeff Houck announced that Summit County approved the road closure as requested for the Homecoming Parade on Sunday, October 8, 2023 from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. for Cormany and Portage Lakes Drive from Coventry Middle School to Coventry High School.

New Business:

Community Well Decommissioning

230914-02 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the estimate from Donamarc Water Systems to oversee the decommissioning and sealing of the West Pace Community Well and to file the permit in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, absent/excused; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

George Beckham explained that residents have been off of this well for months. This is the final step in shutting down this well. He has met with several contractors, most of whom did not want to take the work due to the well location. Donamarc and EIB Construction were willing to work with us and it was agreed that filling it with concrete was the best option.

230914-03 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the estimate from EIB Construction to fill the decommissioned well in an amount not to exceed \$18,500.00. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, absent/excused; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Parking Lot Sealing - Admin/Fire/Sheriff's Office

230914-04 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the estimate from Carpenter Asphalt Sealer in the amount of \$4,500 to fill large cracks and to seal and re-stripe the parking lot area for the Administration Office, Fire Department, and Sheriff's Office. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, absent/excused; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Reports by Department Heads

Lt. Mike Lowe, Summit County Sheriff Representative reported that there were 1,045 calls for service in August. Calls for service in general are up by about 2,000 calls compared to last year. There was 1 short-term rental complaint on September 2nd on Mong Avenue from loud music and too many people. The Sheriff's Office will be working on staffing Township events over the next few months.

Chuck Hauber, Summit County Engineer Representative reported that construction on Swartz Road has started and is expected to be completed around Thanksgiving. AMATS/TASA Funding Applications are due on November 3rd. He has been in discussions with George and Anna about a potential sidewalk project.

Brian Langenek, Fire Lieutenant (*Adam Rockich, Fire Chief – absent*) reported there were 232 calls for service in August, bringing the year-to-date total to 1,501 which is slightly below last year. We are on pace for a normal call volume year. The Fire Department conducted CPR/AED training for local businesses. They responded to three structure fires in August. He announced that Firefighter/EMT Trent Harrell passed medic school last week and will be reclassified. Also new hire, Jason Donaldson started training in the last week. Jeff Houck noted the passing of Fire Chief Adam Rockich's father and expressed his deepest condolences on behalf of the Township.

New Ambulance Upfitting

Lt. Langenek explained that our new Ambulances are scheduled to be delivered in December 2023. Vendor wait times for products have been weeks and months for items, especially medical equipment. This will allow us to order items that will go into the new ambulances so that we can have them on hand to install as soon as the ambulances arrive allowing us to put them into service faster. Our old ambulances are continuing to have breakdowns and repair costs, so we are trying to limit any further expenditures into the old units.

230914-05 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a Super Blanket Certificate in the amount of \$25,000 for New Ambulance upfitting and equipment. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, absent/excused; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Leary Foundation Grant Application – Thermal Imagers

Lt. Langenek explained that this is a 100% application that will give the ability for every firefighter that has an air pack on to be able to have thermal vision at a fire or hazardous materials scene. This equipment allows everyone to see inside a structure, increasing situation awareness for the entire crew, and not just the person in charge.

230914-06 Jeff Houck made a motion to apply for a grant from The Leary Foundation in the amount of \$8682.00. If awarded, this money will go towards the purchase of 15 Seek personal Thermal Imagers and 3 docking stations to be placed into vehicles for charging. There is no matching amount for the grant. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, absent/excused; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Lael Stouffer, Road Superintendent (absent)

Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance

230914-07 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a Blanket Certificate in the amount of 15,000 for vehicle and equipment maintenance and repairs. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, absent/excused; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Laura Cowles, Zoning Inspector reported that she mailed out enforcement letters in the last month. The last zoning commission workshop was held on August 10th, with the next one next Tuesday. There will be no Board of Zoning Appeals meeting in September and the next will be October 3rd. The deadline for applications is tomorrow. The first Zoning 101 workshop went well. There is an opening on the zoning commission due to a resignation. The board meets on the third Tuesday of each month to review text and zoning changes. Jeff Houck commented that he attended the first Zoning 101 class and it was very well done, he learned a lot. The next will be held on October 10th.

Anna Bryant, Administrator reported that she has been working with a landscaper on design concepts for the dam walkway. She has also attended preliminary meetings with George Beckham and the County Engineer's Office regarding some possible grant funding for sidewalks. Planning is underway for the Clock Tower tree lighting event on December 3rd. Any area businesses or individuals interested in sponsoring or donating may contact myself or McKayla at Pick's. We have recently received some information from the County on shared services so there is a potential for some cost savings on things we all utilize.

Report by the Fiscal Officer:

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

230914-08 Jeff Houck made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 75629 to 75745 as certified by Fiscal Officer, David Gissinger, and subject to audit. (A listing of the warrants will be made a part of these minutes.) George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, absent/excused; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Fiscal Officer

230914-09 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Fiscal Officer for Tax Year 2023/Collection Year 2024. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, absent/excused; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Resolution for Advancement of Funds from the County Fiscal Office

Jeff Houck explained that this motion allows the Township to operate during the first quarter of 2024.

230914-10 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the Resolution for Advancement of Funds for Tax Year 2023 from the County Fiscal Officer. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, absent/excused; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Budgetary

230914-11 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the transfer of \$15,000 from fund 2021-330-360 to fund 2021-330-323 for Road Department Vehicle and Equipment Repairs. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, absent/excused; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Reports by Trustees:

George Beckham stated that Anna Bryant mentioned the sidewalk grant, so we are looking at a potential project that could take place in 2027-2028 depending on whether it is funded, or not. He explained that it would be in the area of the schools on Portage Lakes Drive and Cormany Road and would be an 80/20 grant. The community well project will be wrapped up in the next few weeks. He mentioned that the zoning commission will be addressing the distance between short-term rentals as requested by the Trustees. We can't limit the number of short-term rentals in the Township, but we can do a separation distance so you don't have too many right next to each other.

Jeff Houck advised that he and Anna Bryant have held meetings with County officials over the county fiber ring development. He described the benefits of being able to isolate our internet connection and how it can eventually expand to help residents. As part of the development of the fiber ring has been a digital equity project that's goal is to provide internet access to all residents and also provide educational opportunities as well. He reminded everyone that the Parks Levy is on the November ballot as a replacement. We tried a replacement with a modest increase in the spring that didn't pass. We have infrastructure that needs replacement but it can't be done without this funding. Our parks are so important to our community and we appreciate everyone's support.

Public Comments:


- Caleb Fransch – 3032 N. Bender Ave.: wanted to bring traffic concerns to the Board. Stated cars speed through the area to the point that kids can't ride their bikes and he is sick of the hot-rod traffic. He asked if we could put speed tables out as Akron has on some of their streets. George Beckham stated that some of the laws have recently changed so there may be an option for us to look at something there. Lt. Lowe stated that speed is probably one of the biggest complaints in the Township. He will have deputies in that area for enforcement.
- Pete Matulavich – 140 Lakota: advised that the flag at the S. Main Street and Portage Lakes Drive intersection is not illuminated properly. Anna Bryant and George Beckham advised that a volunteer placed that there and they believe there are solar lights. He also asked why the trees were removed at the Clock Tower. Anna Bryant and Jeff Houck explained that they were diseased and beginning to undermine the sidewalk. There was some further discussion over the use of the dam property. He expressed that he would like to see a kayak launch somewhere on the property.
- Paul Neugebauer – PLAC: advised that PLAC supported the Dragon Boat Races and the Portage Lakes water drawdown will begin on Oct. 16th and begin refilling on November 27th. PLAC has also been in

discussions over the restoration of the "Mason Barn" that sits on State Park Property. They also recently heard a presentation by a resident on the preservation of the E. Reservoir Island which is seeing some considerable erosion. He also advised the Board that he would like to end his term with PLAC but does have a replacement in mind for consideration. He sits on the Zoning Commission and wants to give another community member an opportunity. He is also spread a bit thin with other commitments at this time.


Motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting:

Jeff Houck made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, absent/excused; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.



Chairman



Fiscal Officer