

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting of April 11, 2024

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in Regular session on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Coventry Township Community Center, 335 E. Willowview Drive, Coventry Township, Ohio 44319.

Chairman George Beckham 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

240411-01 George Beckham made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of March 14, 2024. Jeff Houck 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 2400 S. Main Street

ARC Gas & Supply, LLC, 4560 Nicky Blvd., Cuyahoga Heights, OH 44125: George Beckham explained that the applicant is requesting a change in zoning classification for **2400 S Main St., Akron, OH 44319 Parcel #1907200**. The parcel contains 1.337 acres of land and is currently zoned B-2 Local Business District. The request is to rezone the parcel to C/I Commercial Industrial District. The proposal would extend an existing C/I Commercial Industrial District neighboring property.

Laura Cowles explained that the Summit County Planning Commission recommended approval, and the Coventry Zoning Commission had the following comments regarding exceptions to our code that they are not in favor of:

1. *Technically, to be a rezoned C-1 a 1.5-acre parcel is required and this current business use parcel is undersized at 1.35 acres.*
2. *C-1 requires 30% green space and the current site is 90+% non-green space (building and impervious surface)*
3. *The current building is located within the riparian setbacks required by Summit County Chapter 937.01.*
4. *The Coventry Zoning Commission should review areas adjacent MetroParks Confluence Park and make recommendations for Business or Commercial use.*

George Beckham swore in Arc Gas President, Sam Strazzanti and Representative, Jeffrey Steiger.

Mr. Strazzanti explained that he is the president of the company and has been in the industry for 40+ years. They are in the process of purchasing the S. Main Street property and want to renovate and remove one building. He explained that they have a large customer base in this area and the goal is to have a storefront to allow more efficiency.

George Beckham questioned plans to renovate and expand into the existing riparian area. He advised that additional variances would be required to add on to additional structures or to build new structures. There was discussion over the riparian area. He suggested that if possible, they build outside of that area to avoid issues.

Mr. Strazzanti stated he would be open to that, none of their plans are set in stone at this point so they are looking at all of their options. They have a different operation than AirGas who owned the property previously. He stated that they want to be good stewards of the community and want to improve the property. He explained that he is all about green space and would be willing to put plans together to make this work. He stated that they are looking to have a showroom which would add about a half dozen jobs to the Township.

George Beckham stated that his concerns over the riparian area are due to the fact that it's not just a small ditch or stream. It's the Tuscarawas. He stated to the applicant that he feels they seem credible although we have been burned in the past.

240411-02 George Beckham made a motion to approve a change in zoning classification for 2400 S Main St., Akron, OH 44319 Parcel #1907200. The parcel contains 1.337 acres of land and is currently zoned B-2 Local Business District. The request is to rezone the parcel to C/I Commercial Industrial District. The proposal would extend an existing C/I Commercial Industrial District neighboring property. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

****Close Public Hearing*******

Logan Field House Project

George Beckham explained that our Logan Field House project has gone out to bid – this is a request for a Blanket Certificate to cover the estimated cost of the project. This project is being funded by ARPA funds.

240411-03 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a blanket certificate in the amount of \$750,000.00 from Fund 2274 – American Rescue Plan, for the Logan Field House Project. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Phones and Security Upgrades

Anna Bryant explained that Kelly Thornton has been working on getting bid proposals for phone and security system upgrades for all of our buildings. We are ready to launch this project which will coordinate multiple vendors to upgrade all Township communications and repair/re-install new 9-1-1 call boxes for emergency connection to dispatch at our Admin/Fire Department building. It will also involve video phone boxes to increase security for our staff.

240411-04 George Beckham made a motion to approve a blanket certificate in the amount of \$20,000.00 from Fund 1000 – General Fund, for wiring upgrades, service installation, and hardware components for the Phone System and Security Project at all Township building locations. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Establishment of Fire Lane – Wymore Avenue

George Beckham explained that the Fire Chief has conducted a review of streets in the area at the request of the Trustees. It has been determined that access to the following roadway would be difficult for fire and emergency response apparatus to respond with vehicles parked on either side of Wymore Avenue from the intersection of Waterside Drive to the Dead-End. A “No Parking Fire Lane” will prohibit all parking on both sides of this road.

240411-05 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a Resolution establishing a No Parking – Fire Lane on both sides of Wymore Avenue from the intersection of Waterside Drive to the Dead-End. in the East Reservoir Allotment and to direct the Fire Chief to erect “No Parking Fire Lane” signs under Ohio Fire Code 503.3. 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 1,222 calls for service in March. Accidents were down last month compared to last year’s numbers as were arrests. We’ve only had 59 so far this year compared to 82 last year. George Beckham thanked the Sheriff for placing the speed trailer on Portage Lakes Drive after his request. He did not expect such an immediate response. Sgt. Lowe stated it was just how the rotation worked out. The speed trailer is moved throughout the County.

Adam Rockich, Fire Chief reported that his most recent hire is in the process of training and will be on day shift until his pinning ceremony next Tuesday evening. The fire department has responded to 573 alarms to date. They had a swift water rescue training last week and four techs went for training today for flood training. We are fortunate with all of the rain that we have had recently that it hasn’t caused any major issues. He reminded everyone to please go around any standing water. They responded to 15 mutual aid calls over the last month and did not request any mutual aid due to off-duty staff responding to calls.

BWC Safety Intervention Grant

Adam Rockich explained that the Bureau of Workers Comp - Safety Intervention Grant program provides 3-to-1 matching funds up to \$40,000 to Ohio private and public employers covered by the State Insurance Fund who wish to purchase equipment to substantially reduce or eliminate injuries and illnesses associated with

a particular task or operation. This motion will allow us to use the remaining funds in the Ohio BWC Safety Intervention Grant to purchase a second battery-powered extrication combi-tool to be placed on the second med unit. Earlier this year, Coventry Fire purchased (2) Stair Chairs, Hose Roller, and a Combi-Tool (for the first out med unit) with the assistance of the \$40,000 BWC Safety Intervention Grant.

240411-06 George Beckham made a motion to accept and execute the Ohio BWC (Bureau of Workers Compensation) Safety Intervention Grant for a Battery Powered Extrication Combi-Tool costing \$15,095. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

FEMA – 2023 Fire Prevention & Safety Grant

Adam Rockich explained that this is a 95% to 5% shared grant. For 100 Knox boxes at \$210.00 each for a total of \$21,000. The Township's share is \$1,004.76 and the Federal share is \$20,095.24. This will allow the fire department access to a house with a Knox box more quickly.

240411-07 George Beckham made a motion to apply for the 2023 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program administered by FEMA and execute the grant if received for 100 residential lock boxes for elderly and disabled residents. The total grant application amount is \$21,100. There is a 5% cost share on this grant. The goal of the grant is to allow quick and secure fire and medical access to a home in an emergency for elderly and disabled residents. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Fire Department - Disposition of Equipment and Vehicles

Adam Rockich explained that the fire department has various old pieces of equipment that are either broken, outdated, or obsolete that need to be either sent to auction, thrown out, or recycled.

240411-08 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the disposal, recycling, or sale of outdated, obsolete equipment and vehicles for the fiscal year 2024. The Fire Department inventory will be updated accordingly. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Fire Department – Equipment Donation

Adam Rockich explained that the Summit County Sheriff's Department has requested that the Coventry Fire Department help provide stand-by medical services for the bomb technicians. Coventry is donating our old 2011 Crestline ambulance to the Sheriff's Department where they will take ownership of the vehicle and its continued maintenance. Coventry will provide stand-by Medics for major bomb call-out responses using this ambulance. We believe this unit will respond approximately 50 times over the year.

240411-09 George Beckham made a motion to approve the request to donate one 2011 Crestline Ambulance to Summit County Sheriff's office for use with their bomb squad. 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 (absent)

Chuck Hauber, Summit County Engineer's Representative reported that the Engineer's Office is reviewing comments on the Akron Water line extension project and he expects them to go back to the City tomorrow or Monday. He suggested that the Township walk the project with the City. The plan still does not show full resurfacing on some of the streets we discussed. He advised that there will be two projects on S. Main coming up in 2027 AMATS will fund from the Green limits to Portage Lakes Drive and then in 2030, Portage Lakes Drive to North Turkeyfoot will be done, including sidewalks with crosswalks. They are also seeking funding for the Vaughn Rd. bridge. Sgt. Lowe asked about possibly installing a guardrail at Axline Road due to the number of fatal accidents. Chuck Hauber said he would look into it to see if it met the criteria. He also said that he looked into the mid-block crosswalk that George Beckham had asked him about for the dam property at the parking lot property and that they will need to do a safety corridor study.

Laura Cowles, Zoning Inspector reported that she issued 23 permits in March alone which is a big increase and just the start of the construction season for this year. May 7th will be the next Board of Zoning Appeals meeting so April 19th is the application deadline. The next Zoning Commission meeting will be on Tuesday to review amendments to the code. We are getting into the mowing season. Please mow your grass.

Anna Bryant, Administrator requested approval of the following motions:

OTARMA Renewal – Township Property & Liability Insurance

Anna Bryant explained that we have received our renewal invoice for our Township Property & Liability Insurance for 2024-2025, effective April 28, 2024, in the amount of \$83,380.00. We will receive an OTARMA loyalty credit of \$6,594.81 taking our actual cost down to \$76,785.19. We are working with our representative from Summit Insurance to further evaluate our coverages to see where we can continue to save. OTARMA will also continue to offer grant opportunities with the MORE Grant and the Police and Fire/EMS Grant for up to \$1,000 each.

240411-10 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the Township Property and Liability renewal effective date of April 28, 2024, with the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) through Summit Insurance in the amount of \$76,785.19. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program Renewal

240411-11 George Beckham made a motion to renew the Township's enrollment with Sedgwick for the Ohio Township Association 2024 Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program contract period beginning 7/1/2024 (Policy year: 1/1/25-12/31/25) with a total due of \$4,965.00. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Report by the Fiscal Officer:

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

240411-12 Jeff Houck made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 76311 to 76409 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, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Bureau of Workers' Compensation

240411-13 George Beckham made a motion to approve a purchase order for \$16,730.00 for our Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation Premium payment. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Reports by Trustees:

Edward Diebold stated that he attended the State of the City of Akron with George Beckham. The Logan Field House Project is ready for bid and he is excited to see it get started. There has been a lot of time and work put into it. He didn't hear of any issues with the eclipse – it was a neat thing to witness.

Jeff Houck stated that we have a lot going on in the Township, mainly in our parks, and it's exciting to see these major improvements going on at Lockwood Park, our upcoming Logan Field project, and the dam improvements. He announced the Clock Tower 5K that will take place on May 11th and stated that he is going to try to run it.

Township Employee Event Sponsorship

240411-14 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a blanket certificate for \$275 to cover the entry cost for any employee wanting to participate in the To the Clock Tower and Back 5K Walk/Run event on May 11th, 2024. 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 he thought the 5k would be a fun way to get our employees out in the community, and even involve their families. It's a great event that supports the school's cross-country team. He went on to announce an opening for a Township representative on Portage Lakes Advisory Council due to Paul Neugebauer's resignation. We do have one applicant currently, he asked that anyone else interested please send a resume and letter of interest to the administration office before May 6th. He stated that Mr. Hauber mentioned the water line project earlier and it's funny how we got bad press for "shutting off water" but our efforts to bring city water to an area of over 300 homes has not gotten any Press at all. This project will be funded mostly by the EPA. 196 homes have signed up, bringing safer water and allowing us to do away with well systems. He thanked Akron for forcing the issue to get this EPA grant.

Public Comments:

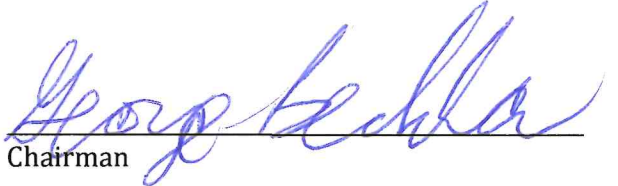
- Mr. Ross – S. Prior: Discussed ongoing issues with traffic caused by the new KFC. Would like the Board of Trustees to have a special meeting with the neighborhood. Feels that the need for a side entrance needs to be revisited. Chuck Hauber and George Beckham discussed car count and ODOT jurisdiction as well as issues with sight distance.

- Robert McCann: Commented regarding SSWCD presentation last month and watershed district taxing that the County Engineer is imposing. He stated that we are not in the Lake Erie Flood plain. He asked that the Trustees watch carefully so that we are not taxed by both the Lake Erie and Muskingham Watershed Districts. He also advised of a sight issue at Portage Lakes Drive and Turkefoot by the Clock Tower, when a box truck sits there, you can't see.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn the meeting 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 8:08 p.m.


Chairman



Fiscal Officer