

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting of February 8, 2024

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, February 8, 2024, 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 Fiscal Officer, Dave Gissinger to record the following Trustees present: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Two Trustees were recorded present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Sheriff Fatheree Presentation

Sheriff Fatheree presented the Board with her annual report for the Township. She explained that her focus is on the residents, we are a part of your community. Residents in the audience and Jeff Houck thanked her. Edward Diebold thanked her for her service. We are signing a three-year contract for around \$100 per call. He stated he is very happy with the service we receive from the Sheriff's Office.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes

240208-01 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of January 11, 2024. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

2023 Annual Highway System Mileage Certification

Lael Stouffer explained that this is just to acknowledge a slight change in mileage. The county has a more accurate measure at this point and it's important for funding purposes.

240208-02 Jeff Houck made a motion to amend motion number 240111-09 for the 2023 Annual Highway System Mileage Certification as received from the Ohio Department of Transportation for 54.438 miles of Township Roads. This is a change in mileage from 54.78 miles due to the Location-Based Response System incorporation of Summit County in April of 2023. A total of 0.342 miles was subtracted from Coventry Township. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

New Business:

Lighting Repairs

Adam Rockich explained that two of the 5 lights for the building are either out or going out, and two are staying on all day. These lights were all installed at the same time over 15 years ago. ANR gave us a quote to upgrade the lighting for the entire building and to replace the light for the flagpole.

240208-03 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$4,210.00 for ANR Electric to repair and replace exterior lighting at the Administration/Fire Department as quoted on 2/5/24. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Sheriff's Policing Contract

240208-04 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a three-year contract between the Summit County Sheriff and Coventry Township for Community Policing commencing January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026 for a total amount of \$3,661,983.47. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Reports by Department Heads

Lt. Mike Lowe, Summit County Sheriff Representative reported that there were 1,364 calls for service in

January, which is an increase over January of last year by 220 calls. There were 42 accidents, 16 arrests, and a retail theft.

Chuck Hauber, Summit County Engineer Representative reported that he is waiting on final plans from Akron Water for the water line extension. KFC – Summit Soil and Water will do another inspection on the retention pond. The County, Laura, ODOT, and the owner of KFC met on February 7th and observed 20 vehicles leaving with 9 turning left and one vehicle going behind. They will put up temporary signs at the entrance and put up ‘no outlet’ signs somewhere else. He noted that Google Maps directs a left turn down Rood and then Prior.

Adam Rockich, Fire Chief reported that there were 179 calls for service in February, and 42 of those times we were running multiple alarms. Back in August, we responded mutual aid to Springfield for an apartment fire and they just made an arrest in that arson. We were able to keep the fire contained to that apartment.

FD Rescue Truck - U.S.D.A. Community Facilities Loan

Adam Rockich explained that this is to request a Direct Loan to purchase a Fire Department Rescue Truck to replace the ladder truck. Interest rates are set by Rural Development. Once the loan is approved, the interest rate is fixed for the entire term of the loan and is determined by the median household income of the service area and the population of the community. There are no pre-payment penalties.

240208-05 Jeff Houck made a motion to apply for the USDA Communities Facilities (CF) Loan Program to finance the purchase of the new Rescue Truck with the provided low-interest loan of the grant program and execute the loan under the terms of the CF Loan Program. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

F.D. Vehicle Repairs

Adam Rockich explained that Ladder 1 needs a hydraulic lift cylinder replaced, and multiple plumbing valves. These repairs are expected to be at least \$6,500. This Purchase order will help to cover maintenance costs for apparatus repairs.

240208-06 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a blanket certificate in the amount of \$10,000 for Fire Department Vehicle and equipment repairs. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

CO Monitor System – Breathing Air Compressor

Adam Rockich explained that the CO monitor on the compressor measures ambient air to ensure that higher CO levels are not compressed into the breathing air tanks for our SCBA and SCUBA systems. Higher levels of CO being introduced into the Compressed cylinders could result in a medical emergency for firefighters using those cylinders.

240208-07 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$4,000.00 for the replacement of the CO monitor system for our breathing Air Compressor. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) Grant

Adam Rockich explained that the Fire Department is seeking this grant to replace hoses and nozzles that are over 20 years old. FEMA Pays 95%, with our Township share of 5%. The total project cost is \$63,705.00.

240208-08 Edward Diebold made a motion to apply for the 2024 Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) Grant Program and execute the grant if received for replacement hose and nozzles totaling \$63,705. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Ohio BWC Firefighters Exposure to Environmental Elements (FEEEG) Grant

Adam Rockich explained that the BWC uses FEEEG to partner with Ohio employers to minimize exposure to dangerous environmental elements. The program is available to eligible Ohio employers who wish to purchase the allowed items for optimal protection against these exposures. The grant items will replace structural firefighting hoods and gloves purchased under the previous FEEEG Grant Cycle in April 2018. This grant, if approved, provides a 5-to-1 match for up to \$15,000 for employers with payroll equal to or greater than \$500,000.

- Total Grant Application: \$9,180
- BWC Portion: \$7,650
- Coventry Share: \$1,530

240208-09 Jeff Houck made a motion to accept and execute the Ohio BWC Firefighters Exposure to Environmental Elements (FEEEG) Grant for 34 sets of structural firefighting hoods and gloves for a total amount of \$9,180. (5-to-1 match) Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Lael Stouffer, Road Superintendent reported that he has submitted the streets that are planned for the 2024 Paving Project to the County Engineer. They will be posted online once the estimate comes in. they've been performing vehicle maintenance and park clean-ups.

Tree and Brush Removal

Lael Stouffer explained that this is to cover general maintenance and emergency tree removal in Coventry Township road right-of-way.

240208-10 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a blanket certificate in the amount of \$ 10,000 for tree and brush removal. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Road Department Equipment Repairs & Maintenance

240208-11 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a blanket certificate for repairs and maintenance of road department equipment in the amount of \$ 10,000. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Road Department Spoils Removal

240208-12 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a purchase order for Butcher and Sons in the amount of \$ 7,350.00 for the periodic removal of spoils from the Township yard on Willowview. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Drainage Repair Supplies

240208-13 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$ 10,000 to Winwater for materials needed to perform drainage repairs within the Township road easements. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Laura Cowles, Zoning Inspector reported that 7 permits were issued in January, 8 code enforcement letters were sent. The next BZA meeting will be March 5th and Applications are due by February 16th. The Zoning Commission will have a workshop meeting on February 20th.

Moratorium Extension – Storage Facilities

240208-14 Jeff Houck made a motion to extend the moratorium on Storage Facilities in Coventry Township to July 15, 2024, to allow the Zoning Commission and Summit County Planning to review any changes and send for approval. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Report by the Fiscal Officer:

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

240208-15 Edward Diebold made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 76145 to 76219 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, (absent – OTA Conf.); Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Reports by Trustees:

Edward Diebold announced that this year’s Polar Bear Jump will be on February 24th at Noon with all proceeds going to the Akron Food Bank. Lockwood Food Pantry is looking for help. He stated that they serve 220 people every time. We are working on issues with the new KFC and are hopeful that new signs will help direct the traffic better. He stated to anyone who has not yet signed up for the Akron Water Extension to please contact the Office or Akron Water, he’s sure they can still squeeze additional applicants in.

Jeff Houck stated that Lockwood Park looks good so far. Lael spoke about Cottage Grove Roads being done this year and he wanted to bring up some ads he’s seen recently for contractors to cover culverts. Stormwater management needs them to be open. If anyone is hiring these contractors they will need written permission from the Township before beginning any type of construction.

George Beckham (absent due to OTA conference)

Public Comments:

- Lane and Deborah Wilhite – 3619 ½ Ponciana: stated they along with neighbor Larry Rider who could not attend are looking for assistance with property tax valuations. Edward Diebold explained that there is nothing the Township can do in this situation, you have to go and fight for yourself. Jeff Houck stated that the best advice is to go to the Office of Revision with the County Fiscal Office on your own behalf.

Motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting:

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.



Vice Chairman



Fiscal Officer