

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

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in Regular session on Thursday, August 8, 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, absent/excused. Two Trustees were recorded as present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Old Business: Moment of Silence held in honor of Paul Neugebauer

Approval of Minutes

240808-01 George Beckham made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of July 11, 2024 and the Special Meeting of August 5, 2024. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; & Edward Diebold, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

New Business:

Reports by Department Heads:

Summit County Sheriff's Representative, Sgt. Lowe reported on the ongoing Glenmount issue that was brought up by residents at last month's meeting. It has been an active scene with several calls to that location, with EMS involved as well. He reported that there were 903 calls for service in July, compared to 874 in 2023.

Summit County Engineer's Representative, Chuck Hauber advised that they have received the Township's request for engineering services for inspection of the Akron Water Line Extension project. Costs will be paid from the Township. George Beckham explained that per the contractor, they will be starting at the bridge after Labor Day. The unnamed street legal description was submitted for reading on August 19th and will go before the committed for final legislation to be passed. Once that happens, the sign can go up. George Beckham stated that Mark Potter with the County has been really helpful through this process.

Fire Chief, Adam Rockich explained that with regard to the issues with the addiction recovery house on Glenmount, he did do a fire inspection with the consent of the manager. Year-to-date the fire department responded to 1,356 calls, which amounts to 8.5 calls per day, taking our staffing down to two or less. We responded to mutual aid 19 times last month, it's been very busy.

FD/Admin Property Bank Clearing-Tree Trimming

Adam Rockich explained that the bank to the west side of the building has become overgrown with scrub trees and brush that needs to be cleared. This was completed over 10 years ago and needs to be redone. The Oak trees will also be trimmed, and dead limbs removed. The arborvitae will be cut to a height of approximately 10' high.

240808-02 George Beckham made a motion to approve a blanket certificate in the amount of \$8,000 for bank clearing, and tree trimming at 68 Portage Lakes Dr. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; & Edward Diebold, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

FD/Admin Building - North Entrance Removal

Adam Rockich explained that this is to remove the second-floor entrance, concrete walkway, and doorway. The doorway will be removed and bricked up, interior block will also be installed and painted to match. Exterior work will include the demolition, and removal of the concrete stairs and the brick planter. The current walkway is in poor condition and has been closed for years for safety concerns. Portions of the concrete have started to fall off the underside of the elevated stairway causing a hazardous condition.

240808-03 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a blanket certificate in the amount of \$15,000 for the removal of the north elevated entranceway to the Administration/FD building.

George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; & Edward Diebold, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Fire Department Legal Fees

Adam Rockich advised that we are in the middle of a grievance proceeding that has already taken up \$4,000 and will continue to climb due to upcoming contract negotiations this fall.

240808-04 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$10,000 to Kastner, Westman & Wilkins LLC for legal fees for the Fire Department. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; & Edward Diebold, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Lael Stouffer, Road Superintendent stated that the road department has been performing business as usual, mainly preventative work for drainage improvements ahead of the contractors coming in for road resurfacing. They do work in block areas or sections which is more cost effective for tax dollars than being spread out across the Township. He reminded everyone that resurfacing is a 4-step process. Leveling was performed last week, so that is not the finished product. They will come back to finish the final steps.

Laura Cowles, Zoning Inspector reported that she issued 12 zoning certificates in July. Overall certificates issued are up by 22 from last year as of today. The Board of Zoning Appeals and Zoning Commission will not meet in September. 2199 Glenmount, as was mentioned earlier has been referred to our legal team, and occupants are supposed to be vacating the property. 189 W. Vista is a tiny home that was constructed illegally, which we are taking legal action against. Issues with the Canova neighborhood are being tag-teamed with the Summit County Health Department, and are mainly public health issues that will be handled by that department.

Report by the Fiscal Officer:

David Gissing (absent – out of town) George Beckham acknowledged that the period-to-date financial reports have been presented to the Board.

240808-05 George Beckham made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 76695 to 76806 as certified by Fiscal Officer, David Gissing, and subject to audit. (A listing of the warrants will be made a part of these minutes.) Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; & Edward Diebold, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Reports by Trustees:

Edward Diebold stated that he attended Paul Neugebauer's calling hours, he was a nice man, religious, texted often, and he'll miss him. He left him with his Coventry lapel pin, he did a lot for this community.

George Beckham stated that Paul was a great man and will certainly be missed. He announced the upcoming food truck event that will take place at the space next to the Clock Tower. There will be three food trucks and Chapparrell's Drum Corp. Parking will be at the Hohman's Landing plaza from 508 p.m. He also noted the retirement of Summit County Health Commissioner Donna Skoda who served from 2015- 2024. Her replacement will be Chris Barker. He thanked Laura Cowles for her service and announced her resignation effective next Friday. She has decided to move on to pursue a different avenue.

Public Comments:

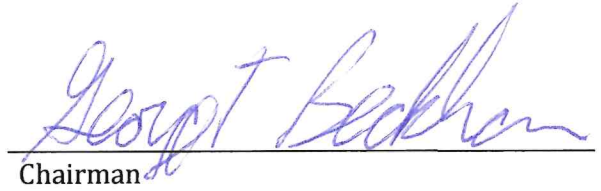
- Larry Rider – 3625.5 Ponciana Ave.: Mr. Rider discussed the 2023 valuations by the Summit County Auditor and discrepancies in their formula. He has been to the Board of Revisions and is not satisfied with only his property being adjusted. He stated that the Board represents the 393 properties affected by this miscalculation. He is asking the Board of Trustees to write a letter to the County Fiscal Officer to have his, and the other 393 property values adjusted.
- Mark Green – Glenmount Ave.: Thanked the Board for their help with the situation. Adam Rockich and Laura Cowles stated that the occupants should be out in ten days.
- Deb Wilhite – 3619 Ponciana Ave.: Stated that she supports Mr. Rider's efforts and is in the same situation. George Beckham and Edward Diebold stated they would check with township counsel to see if there was anything the Township could do legally.

- Patty Wagner - 551 Canova Dr.: Stated that she wants to know the next steps for her neighborhood. She has called for four years over the issues with these houses with no resolution. She voiced her specific complaints over dealings with the current zoning inspector. Laura Cowles explained that the health department is involved and will do what it can to assist.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

George Beckham made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; & Edward Diebold, yes. Motion carried 2-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.


Chairman


Fiscal Officer