

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

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in Regular session on Thursday, July 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

240713-01 George Beckham made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of June 13, 2024. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

New Business:

Summit County Job Creation and Retention MOU

George Beckham explained that the amended agreement as proposed must be approved by the Board to remain signatory to the agreement. Signed legislation must be submitted by September 29, 2024.

240711-02 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the amended Summit County Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding for Job Creation and Retention and Tax Revenue Sharing, effective October 1, 2024. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Alice Drive Road Closure Request – “For the Record Arts Benefit”

George Beckham explained that this is a request for the closure of the end of Alice Drive made by Patty Rhodes for a fundraiser to benefit “The Studio – Super Critical Flow” on Sunday, August 25, 2024, from Noon to 8 p.m. This event is a fundraiser for arts education awareness. Advertised activities will include music students’ recitals, headlining performances by the Delta Hand, an Irish Step Troupe, and more. The purpose is to promote music education for all levels and raise funding for the upcoming 2025 program. Super Critical Learning Foundation is a 501c3 – there will be no ticket sales, but registration will be encouraged for head-count purposes. The Sheriff’s Office has signed an F-Permit for Beer sales and is awaiting approval by the State Liquor Agency. Department heads do not have any opposition to this request, and closing the end of Alice Drive will not impact any residential neighborhoods since it is in a commercial industrial district. Ms. Patty Rhodes explained her program and how this fundraiser benefits her students and the community.

240711-02 George Beckham made a motion to approve a request for the temporary closure of the end of Alice Drive at the cul-de-sac on Sunday, August 25, 2024, from Noon to 8 p.m. for a fundraising event to benefit arts education awareness by Super Critical Learning Foundation. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Fiscal Year 2025 Cemetery Grant Application

Anna Bryant explained that Fiscal Officer, Dave Gissinger has been informed that funding for township cemeteries is now available from the State’s Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing and Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission for fiscal year 2025.

240711-03 George Beckham made motion to approve an application to the Ohio Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing and Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission for the FY 2025 Cemetery Grant Program Cycle requesting up to \$2,500 to be used toward Township cemeteries. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Reports by Department Heads:

Summit County Sheriff's Representative, Sgt. Lowe reported that there have been 6,441 calls for service so far this year. He stated that there was an incident on June 29th where the owner of the Airbnb at 440 Port Drive called about their renter having a party. He commented that it was nice to have an owner being proactive instead of waiting for the neighbors to call and complain about an issue. He also reported about a dog that was shot on Chaffin Road because it was charging a parole officer.

Summit County Engineer's Representative, Chuck Hauber gave an update on the Akron Water Line extension project, stating a preconstruction meeting will be held in late July. A traffic study was conducted per the request by the Trustees for a crosswalk on Portage Lakes Drive. The Engineer's office does not recommend that it be installed. They will not install it unless it is warranted. If a future study shows enough pedestrians crossing the road, they will install a crosswalk. The speed limits in the area relative to the study and peak hours of traffic were discussed. Chuck Hauber suggested that the Township pave the driveway apron into the new parking lot with property County permits. The County would waive the fees for those permits. Helen Jean Cardina, a resident of Dorwil Drive asked if we would know when they were doing the pedestrian counts so we could make sure the numbers were up.

Fire Chief, Adam Rockich reported on monthly statistics and congratulated B-shift for once again being the STEMI-Cardiac Team of the month. He explained that they had the fastest transport time of any medic team in the County, for the second time in 6 months. That's quite the accomplishment and he's very proud of them.

FireMedic Staffing - LifeScan Physicals

Adam Rockich explained that the Fire Department does a rotating schedule for health scans based on age and years of service. LifeScan provides comprehensive physicals and cancer screenings. This is a contractual requirement.

240711-05 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a purchase order to LifeScan, Inc. for \$4,000 to cover physicals for 5 fire department personnel. 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 reported that the road department has been working in the Cottage Grove area repairing drainage infrastructure ahead of the pavement program coming through that area at the end of the summer.

Drainage Improvements - Winwater

Lael Stouffer explained that these are materials needed to perform drainage repairs within the township road easements.

240711-06 George Beckham made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$10,000 to Winwater. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Tree and Brush Removal

Lael Stouffer explained this covers general maintenance and emergency tree removal in Coventry Township road rights-of-way. Sometimes trees that come down are too large for us to handle

240711-07 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. George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Lockwood Park

Lael Stouffer explained that this will wrap up our Lockwood Park renovation project. A purchase order for the placement of topsoil, hydroseed, parking lot striping, and parking lot bumpers at Lockwood Park is needed.

240711-08 George Beckham made a motion to approve a Blanket Certificate in the amount of \$15,000.00 for Lockwood Park.

Community Center - Waterproofing

Lael Stouffer explained that this motion is to hire a basement waterproofing contractor for the community center. He explained the project and how the downspouts will run. There are some unknowns with the footer

drains. This money will also be used by the road department for materials or anything else pertaining to this project.

240711-09 George Beckham made a motion to approve a blanket certificate for the amount of \$40,000, for basement waterproofing and related expenses for the Community Center. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Laura Cowles, Zoning Inspector (absent due to illness)

Anna Bryant, Administrator thanked Coreina Spencer and Tracy Spears for covering the office during her medical leave. They did a great job of relaying messages and getting information to her while she was working from home and recovering from surgery. She appreciates them stepping up, it did not go unnoticed.

Report by the Fiscal Officer:

David Gissinger (out of town) Period-to-date financial reports were presented to the Board.

240711-10 George Beckham made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 76638 to 76694 as certified by Fiscal Officer, David Gissinger, 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; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

2025 Alternative Tax Budget

240711-11 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the 2025 Alternative Tax Budget as recommended by Fiscal Officer, Dave Gissinger to be submitted to the Summit County Auditor. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll Adjustment – Sick Leave Carry-Over

240711-12 George Beckham made a motion to approve the carryover of 7 days of vacation leave for Fire Chief Adam Rockich to be used by August 31st from his July 2nd anniversary date. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Reports by Trustees:

Edward Diebold gave a shout-out to Dano and the Fireworks committee for another awesome show. It is privately funded, so he urged everyone to continue to donate.

Jeff Houck dovetailed off of Ed's statement and commented on what an amazing community we live in, from the donations to the volunteers who make the fireworks happen, the boat parade, and all of our safety forces who help to keep us safe, the commitment is incredible.

George Beckham reported that the County Engineer has stopped mowing roadside berms on County roadways. They have since softened on that stance, to mowing 1 time per season. There is an argument about residents, road taxes, and ORC requirements, so it's something we're looking into. Lael Stouffer stated that he feels the County Engineer will recognize the sporadic response of their men to these sight-distance issues is costing them more time and money than if they just continued with their original roadside mowing program. Proactive planning is better than reactive. George Beckham also reported that the County Board of Elections will be moving to a new location on Tallmadge Avenue, supposedly by the November election, so be aware if you are voting at the Board of Elections this fall.

Public Comments:

- Ray Davis 2169 Glenmount Ave & Mark Green, Sr. 2162 Glenmount Ave.: brought a complaint regarding a new drug addiction facility that has moved to the property next door. They are using his driveway to buy and sell drugs. Deputy Gorham responded the other day to his call and was wonderful. His neighbor, Mark Green is here as a witness to these issues. Adam Rockich explained that this is the condo complex and he is aware they've had multiple responses there. Lt. Lowe stated that it's a huge suck on resources from the sheriff's office and the fire department. Mr. Green stated that it's called Reverie Recovery Home and they they didn't even notify anyone they were moving in. Usually, these types of facilities have to give notice to surrounding residents. George Beckham stated he would have Laura Cowles look into it. Adam Rockich stated he would look at what he could do as far as the fire code. Edward Diebold thanked them for bringing it to our attention, we will do all we can to remedy the situation.

Executive Session

George Beckham made a motion to adjourn to executive session to review negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees and to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned to executive session at: 7:56 p.m.

Convened executive session at: 8:00 p.m.

Discussion:

Motion to adjourn executive session:

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn the executive session.

Adjourned executive session at: 8:33 p.m.

Reconvened regular session at 8:33 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

Edward Diebold made a motion to adjourn the regular 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 8:34 p.m.



Chairman



Fiscal Officer