

**COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting of June 13, 2024**

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in Regular session on Thursday, June 13, 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 Fiscal Officer, Dave Gissinger 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**

240613-01 George Beckham made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of May 9, 2024 and the Special Meeting of May 16, 2024. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**New Business:**

**Street Name Request**

George Beckham explained that several months ago it was brought to the Board's attention that there is an unnamed street between Hummel Drive and Dorwil Drive, about 150 feet long. He stated he was surprised to find that this street was unnamed because back in the 1990's they went through and did a study of all the roads and added north, south, etc., so this was missed then. While it's nice that Mrs. Detwyler who brought the issue to the Board's attention would like to name the street after her mother-in-law, he stated that he feels that there should be a required contribution to the community when it comes to naming roadways, parks or buildings in the Township. It just so happens that in this neighborhood two people fit that description that he wants to mention as follows:

- Marilyn and Bill Straub - 331 Dorwil Drive, adjacent to the unnamed street. Bill was a Township Trustee, a Board of Zoning Appeals member, and a long-time Portage Lakes Advisory Council Fiscal Officer who passed away in 2021. His wife, Marilyn teamed up with neighbor Carol Eubank to create the July 4th Boat Parade in the 70's, and is well known in the community. They also raised 4 children who all graduated from Coventry High School and the Ohio State University.
- Carol Eubank, who passed away two years ago, was very well known in Coventry, she lived at 347 Dorwil Drive, about 200 feet from the unnamed street. Carol was the longtime President of the Portage Lakes Historical Society and was well-regarded in the Portage Lakes Community Council among other activities.

240613-02 George Beckham made a motion to name the unnamed roadway between Hummel Drive and Dorwil Drive Straub-Eubank Lane and to record this change with Summit County. Jeff Houck seconded the motion.

Jeff Houck echoed what George said and appreciates it being brought to our attention that the street didn't have a name. Our roadways need to have identifiers for our safety forces. He went on to say that he did not know the Straubs but he did know Carol, and he felt it was a good suggestion. Carol was very involved in the community, attending our meetings, and all of the PLAC meetings, and she was the President of the Portage Lakes Historical Society. He agrees that this is a great name for the street.

Edward Diebold stated that he appreciates Mrs. Detwyler, once we realized it had no name we it was a no-brainer that we needed to name it. Ms Eubank was Ms. Portage Lakes. She was a dear friend to the community and these people contributed a lot to Coventry so we don't want to upset you but it only makes sense that we name the street after them. He stated that she can be mad at him if she wants to be mad at someone.

Mrs. Detwyler stated no, she's not mad, but she came to the Board with this request and they take care of part of this Township yard and we don't have to.

Mr. Detwyler stated that he has lived there since 2008, maintaining that strip of land, and he would imagine that the Straubs and Eubanks should have more than a 150-foot strip of roadway considering what you say they've done for the community. That would be his rebuttal to their motion.

Edward Diebold stated we don't have a lot of things to name after people, and considering this was their neighborhood, we feel it is appropriate.

George Beckham stated that this sets a precedent. We can't just start changing names without a thought process.

Helen Jean Cardina asked if the Board could ask Mrs. Eubank's son and Marilyn Straub which name and if they would choose Dee Lane, or Straub-Eubank Lane as a compromise.

George Beckham called for the vote to approve the motion on the floor.

George Beckham, yes, Edward Diebold, yes, Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Summit County EMA - 2024 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Edward Diebold explained that every five years the County re-does their plan which covers our Township.

240613-03 George Beckham made a motion to approve the Resolution adopting the 2024 Summit County Emergency Management Agency Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. 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 monthly stats and that there has been a lot of theft in the plaza with Harbor Freight. There was an overdose at 832 E. Waterloo Road, a child abduction on the 16<sup>th</sup> which ended up with a positive outcome, the perpetrator was caught. There haven't been any after-hours party issues this month.

**Summit County Engineer's Representative, Chuck Hauber** reported that HM Miller is the contractor for the Akron Water Line project and will begin construction tentatively at the end of July. They will attend the pre-construction meeting. The traffic study was completed on Portage Lakes Drive, he'll be sending those results once he receives them. He discussed roadside mowing – the County will no longer perform mowing of County private property along County roadways. That will be the responsibility of the property owner.

**Fire Chief, Adam Rockich** (no report – had to leave for an emergency call)

### **Summit County 800MHz Radio System Fees**

Jeff Houck explained that for the County 800mhz radio system, we are charged \$20 per radio per month for operations and maintenance. We currently have a balance due for the first six months of 2024 of \$4,680. This will cover all of the user fees for 2024. The second bill will come in December.

240613-04 George Beckham motion to approve a Purchase Order in the amount of \$10,000.00 to the Summit County Department of Public Safety for twelve months of the 800 radio system maintenance fees. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Repairs**

Jeff Houck explained that the Fire Department's normal maintenance person is out with back surgery which has caused us to go to other companies for service at two, to three times higher. We have also had some unforeseen repairs this year.

240613-05 George Beckham 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, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

**Lael Stouffer, Road Superintendent** reported that they have completed roadside mowing of Township roadways. The County has stopped mowing and he is unable to do any roadside mowing along County highways. With the County not doing it, he will have to direct residents to call the County. If it is a sight-line issue they will come out and take care of it. Rough grading is finished at Lockwood Park, and the perimeter fencing will go in next week. Edward Diebold commented that the trail along Portage Lakes Drive looks awesome so far, and we are working on parking.

**Laura Cowles, Zoning Inspector** reported that she issued 19 permits in the month of May and sent out lots of code enforcement letters. The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The deadline for applications is June 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Zoning Commission meeting in June.

## **Nuisance Abatement – Housing Demolitions**

240613-06 George Beckham made a motion to approve a Blanket Certificate in the amount of \$20,000 for nuisance abatement housing demolitions through the end of 2024. 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.

240613-07 George Beckham made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 76522 to 76637 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.

### **Budgetary – Legal Fees**

Dave Gissinger explained that this will cover the last ¾ of the year.

240613-08 George Beckham made a motion to approve a Purchase Order in the amount of \$50,000 to Brouse McDowell for Township legal fees. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Budgetary – Payments to the Summit County Fiscal Officer**

240613-09 George Beckham made a motion to approve a Purchase Order in the amount of \$45,247.89 to the Summit County Fiscal Officer for Emergency Management fees (\$5,630.90) and Summit County Public Health District fees (\$39,616.99). Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Fire & EMS Levy – Placement on the November 5<sup>th</sup> General Election Ballot**

Jeff Houck explained that we have received the Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue from the County Fiscal Officer and are now ready to submit the levy to the Board of Elections for placement on the November 5, 2024 General Election Ballot. We have gone back and forth on this and have decided to go with the replacement and decrease.

230608-10 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve a resolution for the Replacement of an existing five-year 6.75 mill Fire & EMS Current Expense Levy with a Decrease of 0.5 mills for Coventry Township, effective January 1, 2025, first Collection to be 2026 for placement on the November 5, 2024, General Election Ballot. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Reports by Trustees:**

**Edward Diebold** reported that unfortunately, bids for the Logan Field House project came in over our estimated budget. He has been working on a few different options with our architect to get our numbers down and back out to bid so we can hopefully get this started before the end of the summer. That has been one of his main focuses. Lockwood Park is looking great and was a pretty cool project. We had to save up for several years. He thanked Lael and his crew for their hard work on the project, they did a lot of the work on the infrastructure of that park. It's neat to see it come to fruition. He announced that the Portage Lakes Boat Parade and Fireworks will be on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Jeff Houck** expanded on Ed's announcement regarding the Fireworks, stating they are funded by all of us, so he urged anyone who would like to donate to contact Dano. We are lucky to have the largest privately funded fireworks show in the State of Ohio and we all know how fantastic it is every year. On the same day, the Boat parade will be at 1:00. The electric boat parade will be on July 27<sup>th</sup> after dark. He also announced that the Board is considering changing the regular meeting time to earlier in the evening, so please pay attention to future announcements regarding that possible change. He has been keeping an eye on the new marijuana laws and how it may affect our staffing. It's not automatic and could be a liability or safety issue in our workplace. We have a lot of employees who operate machinery and heavy equipment. He stated he doesn't believe we have a problem with anyone on staff, but it's something he will want look into proactively.

**George Beckham** stated that the only thing he wanted to mention was that the Parks Advisory Committee wanted to have some Food Truck events near the Clock Tower, so they decided to do a "Food Truck Monday" on August 12<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. It will be at the same area where we do the tree-lighting event. He stated there will be 3-4 food trucks and the Fire Department will be involved, and we'll see how it goes.

Mark and Tammy Vaught, owners of Rose Villa Restaurant in the audience stated they were good with Mondays since they are closed that day. Jeff Houck commented on how he feels that owning restaurants in the area and community events, with supporting those things, brings more people in and just showcases the community.

**Public Comments:**

- Steve Wagner - 551 Canova Drive: Discussed the condition of several homes in the neighborhood on Canova Drive and Parnel Drive. He asked what could be done to improve the area concerning hoarding issues, trash, electric cords across the road, vehicles left in the roadway, dogs left out for long periods, cars in the yard, etcetera. Laura Cowles stated that she knows the area is a concern, and several addresses have been contacted. She has been out with the Health Department and Sheriff's Office to at least one of the addresses listed, she would have to check on which one specifically. The area is being addressed, and unfortunately, it does take time, it's not an immediate fix. She sees more success when she goes as a collective team with the Health Department and Sheriff's Office. They get a lot more cooperation that way. She went on to explain that it might not always be what you as a neighbor want to see, or as quickly as you want to see it, but if they show they are making an effort, then that's what we need to continue to move them forward and get them to continue to cooperate. George Beckham commented on his experience with those properties in his thirty years as the zoning inspector before his retirement, it has always been a problem. A brief discussion over the speed of traffic in the neighborhood, and junk that has crept into the vacant lot. Laura Cowles also commented that she noticed the amount of traffic as well.
- Starla Woodruff - 325 Portage Lakes Drive: commented on the motorcycle traffic and noise, and the number of people who walk on the wrong side of the road. George Beckham asked Lt. Lowe if there was anything that could be done. Lt. Lowe stated that they can patrol for them, but unfortunately catching them in the act is the trick.

**Executive Session**

George Beckham made a motion to adjourn to executive session to review negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees. 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 7:49 p.m.

Convened executive session at 8:00 p.m.

**Discussion:**

**Motion to adjourn executive session:**

George Beckham made a motion to adjourn the executive session. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned executive session at 8:05 p.m.

Reconvened regular session at 8:05 p.m.

**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; and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Fiscal Officer



Chairman