

**COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting of October 10, 2024**

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees met in Regular session on Thursday, October 10, 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, (absent/excused). Two Trustees were recorded as present. (Administrator, Anna Davis is absent/excused for vacation)

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Announcements:** George Beckham made the following announcements

- **Fire & EMS Levy – Replacement & Decrease – Issue #23 will be on the NOVEMBER 5<sup>th</sup> Ballot:** the school will also have an issue on the ballot.
- **Township-Wide Trick-or-Treat: SATURDAY, October 26<sup>th</sup>, from 5-8:30:** The day was changed due to an overwhelming number of requests each year by residents to have it on a Saturday instead of on a school night.
- **Fall Leaf Drop Off Events:** November 2<sup>th</sup> & November 16<sup>th</sup> – 9am – 3pm at Cottage Grove Park. Leaves must be bagged – Residents only.

**Old Business:**

**Approval of Minutes**

241010-01 George Beckham made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of August 8, 2024, the Special Meeting of September 5, 2024, and the Special Meeting of October 3, 2024. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, (absent/excused). Motion carried 2-0.

**New Business:**

**Notice to Legislative Authority – Liquor License Transfer – 2262 S. Arlington Rd.**

George Beckham explained that the Board of Trustees has received notice from the Ohio Department Liquor Control for a new, D1/D2 Liquor License Permit for BOGGSY GOLF PERFORMANCE LLC – DBA OHIO GOLF CLUB at 2262 S. Arlington Rd. A response to request a hearing, or not request a hearing must be postmarked no later than October 21<sup>st</sup>. This is in the old Cheton’s furniture building owned by the K-Company who has always been good to work with. Chief Rockich explained that this would be a golf simulator business.

241010-02 George Beckham made a motion to not request a hearing for a new, D1/D2 Liquor License Permit for BOGGSY GOLF PERFORMANCE LLC – DBA OHIO GOLF CLUB at 2262 S. Arlington Rd. Coventry Township, Ohio 44319. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, (absent/excused). Motion carried 2-0.

**Advertising Expense**

George Beckham explained that this will cover advertising expenses for the levy info ads as well as the fall leaf drop-off ads.

241010-03 George Beckham made a motion to approve a blanket certificate in the amount of 3,500 for advertising purposes. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, (absent/excused). Motion carried 2-0.

**Reports by Department Heads:**

**Summit County Sheriff’s Representative, Sgt. Lowe** stated that it has been a busy month with two separate incidents where vehicles smashed into buildings, ironically on the same day. There was the one on Manchester Road and then the one on S. Main at Killian. George Beckham commented that he heard the one on S. Main Street when it happened from his house on Wymore, more than 1,500 feet away. He reported statistics for September, with 755 calls for service, compared to 932 last year and there have been 9,135 calls to date.

**Fire Chief, Adam Rockich** reported that they have been very busy with calls this last month bringing calls to date to 1,785, up slightly over last year. There were 41 times this past month that we responded to two calls simultaneously, 10 times we responded to three and two times we responded to four. We are fortunate to rely on help from our neighbors, even though our guys come back for calls, when we are running four calls at a time we need help from our neighboring communities. We are in the process of installing AEDs at the parks in accordance with House Bill 47, which requires us to have AEDs at our parks and recreational facilities. They will all be up and running in the next week. He announced that Fire & EMS Issue 23 will be on the ballot next month and is essential to the operation of the Fire Department. The current 6.75 mill levy, if passed, will be decreased to 6.25 mills and represents 57% of the overall operating budget for the department. He explained how the Fire Department has secured grant funds over the life of the last levy to offset taxpayer dollars, how they are replacing the ladder truck with a rescue vehicle to save money as well as the effect of COVID on the budget. He explained that the cost of medical gloves since the epidemic has tripled. Supplies they use every day add up and are a significant cost. He explained that another factor to consider is the term of the SAFER grant which funded three full-time fire medic positions ended during this last levy. Those full-time positions must now be covered by the Township. Passage of this levy is extremely important to the Fire Department and the community.

### **Dive Rescue Equipment**

Adam Rockich explained that this is needed to purchase dry suits for dive rescue.

241010-04 George Beckham made a motion to approve a blanket certificate in the amount of \$5,000 for dive-rescue equipment. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, (absent/excused). Motion carried 2-0.

George Beckham introduced and welcomed the new Zoning Inspector, Rob Henwood.

**Rob Henwood, Zoning Inspector** stated he would have a report on zoning activities from October at the next meeting. George Beckham stated that

### **Zoning Commission – Member Appointment**

241010-05 George Beckham made a motion to appoint alternate member Ralph Waszak, Jr. to fill the vacant regular member seat, term expiring 12/31/2027. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, (absent/excused). Motion carried 2-0.

**Announcement:** we will have openings for alternate positions for both the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Zoning Commission – anyone interested in applying should send a letter of interest to Zoning Inspector, Rob Henwood (email/regular mail). Positions will be filled at the beginning of 2025.

### **Report by the Fiscal Officer:**

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

241010-06 George Beckham made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 76807 to 76978 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, (absent/excused). Motion carried 2-0.

### **Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Fiscal Officer**

241010-07 George Beckham made a motion to approve the Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Fiscal Officer for Tax Year 2024/Collection Year 2025. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, (absent/excused). Motion carried 2-0.

### **Budgetary - Cottage Grove Park**

Establish a Blanket Certificate to cover donations made by the Portage Lakes Ducks.

241003-08 George Beckham made a motion to approve a Blanket Certificate in the amount of \$4,157 for Cottage Grove Park Fencing Improvements. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes; and Jeff Houck, (absent/excused). Motion carried 2-0.

**Reports by Trustees:**

**Edward Diebold** announced that the annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be December 8<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm. We still need sponsors and volunteers, without Pick's this year it is all on the Township to put it together. The Cottage Grove baseball field has gotten a facelift and looks awesome. The older kids can now play on it thanks to our parks levy and a donation from the Portage Lakes Ducks. Also, thanks to the Ducks for their donation to the fire department to purchase an inflatable boat to assist with dive rescue operations. The Akron Water Line will be underway soon and it will be an inconvenience, but it will be over before we know it. It will be a fantastic opportunity to get people off of these community wells. He asked for everyone's support on Issue 23. The Logan Field House project had to go out for re-bid because the original was more than 25% over the original estimate. We are currently waiting for approval from the Township Attorney to move forward with the contractor. This project will be funded with COVID money and should be underway around the beginning of the year. George Beckham stated we opted to use that money on a legacy-type project instead of just plugging holes in the budget. We wanted to use it on something that would be there for years and years. Edward Diebold thanked baseball and football for their patience. The existing building is in pretty sad shape and they've done what they could to keep it going. It's going to be exciting to see the new building go up.

**George Beckham** discussed the issue with the County Engineer's office no longer performing roadside mowing. Everyone has been fairly upset with the engineer's office because they keep cutting their budget. The other day he saw three little raccoons get hit and killed on Portage Lakes Drive, several months ago he saw the same thing and got them off the road himself and almost got hit by a car. This time he called the engineer's office and a few hours later the crew had come out and removed the dead raccoons and disposed of them. You never hear when things go good so he wanted to thank the County engineer for taking care of that. There's nothing worse than seeing three little raccoons dead on the road together. He welcomed Rob again and stated he had to take over again as zoning inspector briefly and it's a tenuous job. He's glad to have him.

**Public Comments:**


- Judy Lancaster – PLAC Representative: advised that PLAC will have winter safety meetings. She stated that they would like to open up a line of communication so that when events like the Tree Lighting come up, she can be emailed as a representative and notified so PLAC can be involved and help out however possible.

**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, (absent/excused). Motion carried 2-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

  
 Chairman

  
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 Fiscal Officer