

COVENTRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting of January 9, 2025

The Coventry Township Board of Trustees will meet in regular session on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Coventry Township Community Center, 335 E. Willowview Drive, Coventry Township, Ohio 44319.

Call to Order:

Chairman George Beckham will call the meeting to order and ask Administrator Anna Davis 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

250109-01 George Beckham made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Workshop of December 12, 2024. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

New Business:

Appointment of Board of Trustees Chair and Vice Chair - 2025

250109-02 George Beckham made a motion to nominate Edward Diebold as Chairman of the Coventry Township Board of Trustees for 2025. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, abstained and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 2-0, with one abstention.

250109-03 George Beckham made a motion to nominate Jeff Houck as Vice-Chairman of the Coventry Township Board of Trustees for 2025. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, abstained. Motion carried 2-0, with one abstention.

2025 Organizational Resolution

250109-04 Edward Diebold made a motion to adopt the Organizational Resolution and Fee Schedule for 2025. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Board appointment: Two representatives from the Board of Trustees and one Township Resident to the Volunteer Fire and Dependent Fund for the 2025 calendar year.

250109-05 Edward Diebold made a motion that Edward Diebold, Jeff Houck, and Dave Gissinger be appointed as representatives to the Volunteer Firefighters Dependent Fund for 2025. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

2024 Annual Highway System Mileage Certification

250109-06 George Beckham made a motion to approve the 2024 Annual Highway System Mileage Certification as received from the Ohio Department of Transportation for 54.438 miles of Township Roads. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Disposition of Equipment and Vehicles

Jeff Houck explained that the departments within the Township have various old pieces of equipment that are broken, outdated, or obsolete and need to be either sent to auction, thrown out, or recycled.

250109-07 Jeff Houck made a motion to approve the disposal, recycling, or sale of outdated, obsolete equipment and vehicles for the fiscal year 2025. Inventories will be updated accordingly. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Reports by Department Heads

Captain Dave McCutcheon, Summit County Sheriff Representative, reported that there were 751 calls for service in December, bringing the year-to-date total for 2024 to 11,258. He introduced the new 40-Hour Township Deputy Kemp, along with K-9 Marlo, to the Board. He went on to advise of a motorcycle crash that occurred on 12/25 on Warner Road, and the victim is still in the hospital with serious injuries. There was also a shoplifting incident at ACME on Manchester Road, where the shoplifter attempted to stab the loss prevention officer. The perpetrator was later located in Akron and arrested. The Officer was treated for minor injuries.

Adam Rockich, Fire Chief (absent due to illness)

Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Repairs

250109-08 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, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Reimbursement of State of Ohio Retention Bonus

Jeff Houck explained that Coventry Township Fire received a Grant for the retention of firefighting staff employed during COVID. The employees who agreed to accept the bonus were committed to staying employed with Coventry Fire Department through December 31st, 2024. We had one employee who received this bonus but did not complete their commitment. This money must be paid back to the State of Ohio by January 31st, 2025.

250109-09 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$4,000.00 payable to the Treasurer of the State of Ohio to repay the Retention Bonus for one employee who left before their commitment was completed. 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 the road department has been busy with continued storm clean-up. Multiple trees were down after high winds, which they will continue cleaning up now that snow removal has slowed down. He has also been working on putting the 2025 Pavement Program together with the County Engineer's Office. They will concentrate on completing the Cottage Grove area this year.

C.U.E.-C.O.G. - Road Salt

Lael Stouffer explained that this will cover the purchase of 640 tons of rock salt with clear lane additive, which is our 80% commitment under our contract. We belong to the Community University Education—Regional Council of Governments (C.U.E.-C.O.G.), which helps give us volume collective pricing on our salt purchase.

250109-10 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$40,000 to Cargill Inc. for rock salt with clear lane additive. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

George Beckham asked Lael Stouffer how much salt our existing storage bin holds. Lael Stouffer explained that it holds 5-600 tons. We have plenty of salt for this year, and we are paying \$10 less per ton due to contract re-negotiations, so we are in a good position. He explained that, ultimately, he would like to build an additional storage bin so that when prices are good like this, we can store our own salt and not rely on delivery or other entities for storage.

Road Department - Fuel

First quarter fuel costs for the Road Department.

250109-11 George Beckham made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$8,630.82 to Landmark Cuyahoga for Road Dept Fuel. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Rob Henwood, Zoning Inspector reported that 6 zoning permits were issued in the last month. The Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a hearing on January 14th for a side yard and garage variance request. The Zoning Commission will hold a hearing on January 21st for a map amendment request on Robinson Avenue. He has also received an application requesting a zoning text amendment for Adult Use Marijuana. There have been 6 code enforcement letters mailed out and he has received 8 nuisance complaints in the last month which he is looking into.

Zoning Board Appointments

250109-12 Jeff Houck made a motion to appoint Diana Quezada to the alternate seat on the Coventry Township Board of Zoning Appeals. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

250109-13 George Beckham made a motion to appoint Pete Wearstler to the alternate seat on the Coventry Township Zoning Commission. Edward Diebold seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Anna Davis, Administrator advised that her office has been busy with the year-end/beginning of the year transition. She requested the following motion:

2025 NOPEC Community Sponsorship Grant – Clock Tower Lighting Event

Anna Davis explained that this grant is provided by NOPEC to sponsor a community event that is free and open to all residents. We are applying for \$750.00 in available funds to be used toward our Annual Light-Up the Clock Tower Holiday Kick-Off Event. These funds are determined by the average number of enrolled electric and/or gas accounts within the Township.

250109-14 Edward Diebold made a motion to authorize the filing of an application for the 2025 NOPEC Community Event Sponsorship Program for \$750.00 to be used toward the Township’s Annual Light-Up the Clock Tower Holiday Kick-Off event. 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 Period-to-date financial reports have been presented to the Board.

250109-15 George Beckham made a motion to receive all bills and salaries, warrant numbers 76145 to 77252 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.

Resolution for Advancement of Funds from the County Fiscal Office

This motion allows the Township to operate during the first quarter of 2025.

250109-16 Edward Diebold Motion to approve the Resolution for Advancement of Funds for Tax Year 2024 from the County Fiscal Officer. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Budgetary – Bureau of Workers’ Compensation

250109-17 Edward Diebold made a motion to approve a blanket certificate in the amount of \$13,500 for Workers’ Compensation. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Budgetary – Logan Field House Project

Dave Gissinger explained that the original BC was closed out at the end of the year, so we are just re-establishing it.

250109-18 Jeff Houck Motion to approve a blanket certificate in the amount of \$1,137,588.13 for the Logan Field House Project. George Beckham seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Budgetary – Akron Water Line Extension Project

Dave Gissinger explained that like the Logan Field House BC, this original BC was closed out at the end of the year, so we are just re-establishing it.

250109-19 George Beckham made a motion to approve a blanket certificate in the amount of \$100,000 for road paving and infrastructure repairs related to the Akron Water Line Extension Project. Jeff Houck seconded the motion. Roll call: George Beckham, yes; Edward Diebold, yes and Jeff Houck, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Reports by Trustees:

Jeff Houck reported that he will be taking advantage of an email he received from Congresswoman Sykes to attend the Inauguration of the President. He is excited to take it all in.

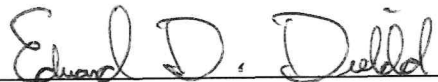
George Beckham reported that we received five applications for zoning board alternates and the two that we have chosen have some incredible credentials. One is a planning director and the other an attorney. Of the five applicants, three of them spotted the openings on our Facebook post and also, three of them have lived here for 10 years or less. It's nice to see some new involvement in the community. He commented on the Clock Tower Tree Lighting, and stated he wasn't able to attend but Ed put it all together and thanked him for all of his work on that. It's important for the community and he's heard nothing but good things.

Edward Diebold stated he has been busy trying to get his parents well, and thanked everyone for all of their support.

Motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting:

Jeff Houck 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 6:25 p.m.



Chairman



Fiscal Officer