

**Amberley Village Council -- Police/Fire Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2015**

Present: Peg Conway (chair), Bill Doering, Tom Muething, Stacy Lefton, Richard Bardach (committee member), Scot Lahrmer, PO Mark Roeseler, PO Andrea Alt, Chief Rich Wallace, Ed Hattenbach (committee member)

Prior Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of May 4 were approved as submitted.

Heroin Coalition Task Force

The Chief presented a resolution to authorize the department's participation in the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition Task Force, an initiative of the Hamilton County Chief's Association to address the heroin epidemic. All participating agencies are seeking such endorsement, which will lend support to efforts to obtain state funding for task force activities, and there is no cost to the village. Presently the task force is focused on making educational presentations out in the community. Rich Bardach moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Peg Conway, and it passed unanimously.

License Plate Readers

The Chief reported that PO Roeseler's persistent outreach to the City of Cincinnati to obtain license plate readers has been even more successful than previously hoped. The Village received two complete 4-camera systems and an additional camera for the department's existing 3-camera system at no cost for the equipment. As a result the \$34,000 budgeted for the two new systems will not be needed for these items. Installation costs were approximately \$1100 and annual fees are \$2250. The committee expressed appreciation for these cost-saving actions.

Evidence Tracking Software

PO Roeseler gave a PowerPoint presentation on the PMI evidence tracking software system which outlined the need to upgrade from the department's current manual, hand-written system that is time-consuming to maintain and inefficient to access evidence. The software uses a hand scanner and bar code system to create a data base, print labels with all pertinent information, which also streamlines the required quarterly audit of the evidence in storage. The total cost for the system, including the hand scanner and two printers (one for upstairs when processing evidence and one down in the property room) is \$7253 with an annual fee of \$695. This item was included in this year's budget. The Chief had researched several systems and obtained multiple estimates. The one selected was in the mid-range of prices and the developer is local. A question was raised about a guarantee on the annual fee, and the department will follow up. Rich moved to approve the purchase. Seconded by Ed, and the motion passed unanimously.

Proposal for Canine Unit

PO Alt gave a PowerPoint presentation on adding a canine unit to the AV department. Dogs' sense of smell is at least 300,000 times stronger than humans, making them useful in police work for locating missing persons, detecting drugs (ie at traffic stops) and tracking criminals. They are trained to be friendly with children and therefore compatible with community policing. Officer

Alt first proposed this idea to the Chief a year and a half ago, and they have accomplished considerable groundwork.

- Grant funding has been obtained for \$17,400 of the \$19,800 start-up costs. Lifetime vet care and food have also been pledged, so the annual cost is projected at \$200 or so for ongoing training.
- Given the nature of the AV department and the need to have our officers nearby for fire coverage, the dog would only be available for mutual aid in the adjoining communities of Reading, Golf Manor, Silverton and Deer Park.
- The dog would reside with Officer Alt and would mainly be available during second shift. She and the dog would only be called in under certain conditions.

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager, expressed his strong support for the proposal. Ed moved to support the continued moving forward of this project; seconded by Rich, the motion passed unanimously. Officer Alt was complimented on the thoroughness of the presentation and on her work thus far on the project.

Department Updates

The Chief shared several items.

- He plans to move forward on re-painting the firehouse floor, which has not been done since the building was completed 15 years ago. The grit is worn out so it's slippery when wet. This item was budgeted.
- Delivery of the two new Tahoes is anticipated in late July. The changeover cost for equipment and lights will total just under \$10,000 (a lower figure negotiated by the Chief). Rich moved to approve this item; seconded by Ed, and it passed unanimously.
- The new fire pay system is working well. Of the total budgeted of \$193,000, \$68,000 has been spent.
- Two new officers have started and will be sworn in at the July meeting bringing staffing up to 17 until an officer currently on leave goes on disability retirement. Anticipating another retirement this year, the Chief would like to begin the hiring process now to create a smooth transition and minimize overtime. The committee and other Council members present were supportive of this plan.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.