

**Amberley Village Council  
Police Fire Committee – Meeting Minutes  
March 8, 2016**

Present: Peg Conway (chair), Natalie Wolf (committee), Bill Doering, Tom Muething, Scot Lahrmer, Rich Bardach (committee), Elida Kamine, Chief Wallace

Prior Minutes

The minutes of January 25 were approved as submitted.

Radio Purchase

The Chief presented bids on the replacement of all portable radios for police and fire. The present system is 13 years old (industry standard is that radios are repairable for up to 15 years) and Hamilton County is upgrading to a new system with different frequencies. Having all staff members on the same system is especially important for safety in fire situations so that all can be in communication with each other. The first bid was \$100,756 and this amount was used in the budget. Lt. Blum continued to work with the vendor, Mobilcomm, to arrive at a lower cost of \$77,818, which includes trade-in of existing equipment. Rich Bardach moved to recommend the purchase of the new radios, seconded by Natalie Wolf, and the motion carried unanimously.

Department Update

- Canine unit – A newsletter about the plans to add a canine unit will be included in the next newsletter. Training for Officer Alt and the AV dog will take place with the city of Cincinnati which is planning to add two dogs. They have posted their positions and the Chief hopes the six-week training will begin in April. Working with Cincinnati realizes substantial savings on the training costs, including hotel and per diem if it were out of town.
- Car break-ins – There has been an uptick of car burglaries in the southwest corner of the village. Some residents continue to leave valuables in sight. The Chief will post again on Nextdoor to continue educating residents.
- Security behind the police station – The Chief presented concerns. First, for officers as they enter and exit the station in back, especially at night. It's very open and people regularly enter that area for the dumpster and recycling, as well as friends and family who accompany suspects. The recycling dumpster has been moved to the public parking area, and the garbage dumpster is not for public use anyway. The Chief is considering several options for gate, fence and signage to restrict access to the parking area behind the police department. Monitors have already been added so that officers can view outside before exiting. A second concern is about children running down the hill from the playset toward the drive where patrol cars exit the building, which can be a blind curve. Near misses have occurred. A fence of the same type as the other side of the building is being considered. It would address child safety and contribute to reducing access to the police station. The Committee offered several suggestions and encouraged a comprehensive approach be taken to address these safety concerns thoroughly.

Hamilton Country 911 Fee

The Chief reported that Hamilton County has stopped charging municipalities for individual dispatch calls. They will pay the costs for the next year or two using county funds. The previous fee was \$19 per call dispatched. This fee did not affect Amberley because we do our own dispatching. We pay a radio user fee of \$3600 per year to the County on which the Chief is seeking a discount. The 911 situation will be ongoing as the County seeks sustainable funding over the long-term.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.