

Amberley Village Council  
Police-Fire Committee – Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2017

In attendance: Peg Conway (chair), Ed Hattenbach, Tom Muething, Bill Doering, Natalie Wolf (committee), Scot Lahrmer, Rich Bardach (committee), Lt. Brian Blum, Chief Wallace, Steve Rosenzweig

Prior minutes

The minutes from the meeting on October 2 were accepted as submitted.

Assignment for Golf Manor EMS contract

A resolution was prepared for the committee's consideration by the village law director to assign the EMS contract with Golf Manor Fire Department to the Little Miami Joint Fire District, which Golf Manor will join effective January 1. Scot stated that the same terms continue, and from AV residents' point of view, nothing will change except the logo on the trucks. Golf Manor's agreement with Little Miami stipulates that a fire station will be maintained within one mile of the present one should changes be made in the future. Natalie moved to recommend that Council approve the contract's assignment to Little Miami, and it passed unanimously.

Alarm monitoring contract and update

The Chief presented a draft services agreement between the village and Honeywell AlarmNet reviewed multiple times by the village law director, Kevin Franke, to enable the village to offer the new alarm monitoring service for residents that would accommodate equipment from the company of a resident's choice. After a laborious process of back and forth, to ensure the village is not assuming liability, Kevin is satisfied with the language. Additionally, he and the Chief have consulted the village's insurance broker and confirmed that all is in order. The monthly cost to residents will remain \$15, though an additional \$5 is incurred for cell phone based service which will be passed on to the resident for a total of \$20. The Chief is planning the implementation process to roll out the program to residents; the signup materials will include a disclaimer and waiver. The committee expressed appreciation to the Chief for persevering in working out the details to enhance this service to residents. No legislative action was required, because a resolution had already been approved.

Cost recovery contract

The village engages the services of Cost Recovery Corp. to recover certain costs for police or fire services to non-residents. The company has provided an updated contract which has been reviewed by Kevin, and the Chief presented legislation to authorize it. Rich moved to recommend that Council approve the new contract, and the motion passed unanimously.

Fire apparatus update

Though a new fire engine was anticipated to be budgeted in 2018, the Chief reported that a recent assessment of the village's front line vehicle conducted by an outside consultant showed that it remains in good condition and the purchase can be postponed for a few years.

Drug forfeiture money

The Chief reported that \$8,000 was recently received under the forfeiture arrangement with the county, based on arrests made by Amberley this year.

Dispatch staffing/911

The department is requesting an additional full-time dispatch position in the 2018 budget at an approximate cost of \$75,000. The budget is still being finalized and will proceed through the Finance Committee, so this proposal was presented on an informational basis. Dispatch is a 24-hour/7 day operation. Lt. Blum stated that currently the

department has three FT dispatchers, leaving 48 hours per week to be covered through PT dispatchers and overtime. This arrangement has worked pretty well, but the nature of the work has changed considerably over the years, with higher call volumes and more officer activity out on the road requiring dispatch support, creating the need for an additional FT staff member.

Lt. Blum and the Chief also alerted the committee to possible future changes regarding the 911 service. Cincinnati Bell will not be upgrading their communication system, which could require the village to invest in a whole new platform to stay current, in addition to possible changes at the state level that could require two dispatchers on duty at all times which would not be sustainable for the village. The Chief will keep the committee informed.

#### 2018 Budget

The Chief stated that he is looking carefully at all expenses for the coming year, aware that the police levy reduces to 8 mills starting in 2018. He reported that one project under consideration is to convert the police conference room to work stations for the officers, with computers, which would be a more beneficial use of space. The committee expressed that cost saving measures that could impact officer safety should not be made without discussion with Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.