

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL  
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2011**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in a regular session at the Amberley Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road on MONDAY, JULY 11, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. Mayor Merrie Stillpass called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>	<u>ABSENT:</u>
Jon Chaiken	Scot Lahrmer, Interim Village Manager	Louis Katz
Fran Cohen	Jack Monahan, Police/Fire Chief	Leslie McIntosh
Peg Conway	Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor	Rick Kay
Ed Hattenbach	Kathleen Harcourt, Acting Clerk of Council	
Merrie Stillpass		

Mayor Merrie Stillpass welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amberley Village Council, and led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Stillpass presented the minutes of the June 13, 2011, regular meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Mrs. Conway voiced two corrections to the second paragraph on page 2 concerning the possible non-residential use of the property located at the intersection of Section and Fair Oaks. The word “proposed” should be replaced with “rumored” and “for non-residential purposes” should be added to the sentence. There being no further corrections, Mayor Stillpass stated that the minutes stand approved as submitted with corrections.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Lahrmer presented the June, 2011, Finance Report (copy attached). Mayor Stillpass asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, Mayor Stillpass announced that the finance report would be filed as received.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Mayor Stillpass, on behalf of Ms. McIntosh, reported that the Environmental Stewardship Committee met on June 27 and discussed establishing a tree sponsorship program, such as a memorial tree. Anyone interested in getting involved in the program should contact the Committee.

The ongoing beautification effort at the Amberley Green—A Green Clearing—continues on the first Thursday of the month. In July, substantial progress was made in clearing the tree stands near the intersection of Ridge and Galbraith. The next gathering will be on August 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Thanks to all who participated at the last event.

On Wednesday, July 27, at 7:00 p.m. the Committee has invited Brian Bohl, a stream specialist with the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, to speak about stream habitat, pollution prevention, techniques to improve water quality and storm water related practices.

The next meeting for the group planning the Tree City USA luncheon 2012 will be held on Thursday, August 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the community room. The group will discuss the menu, entertainment and video presentation. All are invited to attend.

### **PUBLIC BUILDINGS & PARKS COMMITTEE**

Mayor Stillpass presented the second reading of an ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 95.40, 95.41, AND 150.79.4 OF THE VILLAGE CODE OF ORDINANCES PROVIDING FOR EXCEPTION TO GRASS AND WEED CUTTING FOR DESIGNATION OF MEADOWLANDS. It was explained that this ordinance will allow for portions of the Amberley Green to be declared meadowlands to reduce the areas which need to be mowed, thereby, saving the village costs related to cutting the property.

Mayor Stillpass reported that a number of residents have complimented the Village for this initiative and have already seen the appearance of several new species of birds in the area.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Conway reported that the annual Ice Cream Social will take place on Sunday, August 7, from 6:30 to 8:30pm. This will be the second year of our Resident Art Exhibit at the Social. A new event will be a Bike Parade in the parking lot at Village Hall.

At the last Public Outreach meeting the Committee discussed ways to educate residents about financial matters mentioned by Mr. Lahrmer in the Finance Report. Mrs. Conway encouraged residents to sign up on the Village website to receive the Amberley Village E-Newsletter. This is the best way to keep informed of what is happening in the community.

### **STREETS, PUBLIC UTILITIES AND SEWERS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chaiken reported that the Committee had been approached by the Public Works Department to purchase a brine system to be used during the winter months. The system would allow the Service Department to pretreat the roadways and salt to make application more efficient. It is anticipated that this system will save money by reducing the amount of salt needed to treat the streets as well as reduce overtime when snow and ice events occur.

Mr. Chaiken read and moved to approve RESOLUTION 2011-08, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM VILLAGE MANAGER TO PURCHASE AN AUTOMATED BRINE MAKING SYSTEM AND 5,000 GALLON STORAGE TANK FOR THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE STATE BIDDING PROGRAM.

Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hattenbach reported that Council had appropriated \$100,000 to the Employee Severance Fund but due to several retirements this year it was necessary to increase this appropriation.

Mr. Hattenbach read and moved to approve ORDINANCE 2011-10, ORDINANCE

AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2011, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Seconded by Mr. Chaiken and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Stillpass, Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Hattenbach (5)  
NAY: (0)  
ABSENT: Katz, McIntosh (2)

Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve the Ordinance passed as an emergency measure. Seconded by Mrs. Cohen and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Stillpass, Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Hattenbach (5)  
NAY: (0)  
ABSENT: Katz, McIntosh (2)

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

As a follow up to the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee the Village has initiated a series of meetings with various interested groups.

Mayor Stillpass reported that in early June a group of twenty one people met to discuss the growing and selling of fresh produce on Amberley Green. A diverse group of residents, organic farmers, members of the Hamilton County Health Department, Regional Planning, the Mayerson JCC, Amberley Village Council and several members of staff took part.

Scot Lahrmer, Peg Conway and a group of residents met with members of the Ohio State University Hamilton County extension office to discuss their programs and initiatives

There was also a meeting with a member of the State Board of Education.

In February, Council approved a motion to partner with Jewish Family Service to develop a program for residents to live and thrive in Amberley Village throughout their lifetime. A focus group has been formed to draft a model for Amberley Village residents—Community for a Lifetime. Final recommendations will be presented to Council in the near future.

Last week Tonya Key, a representative from the Hamilton County Health Department and a participant in several planning meetings in Amberley, contacted the Village about an initiative the Health Department is developing—"Communities Putting Prevention to Work." The program is funded by the Center for Disease Control. Hamilton County is one of only forty communities in the country participating and they are the only participant from Ohio. As part of a grant they are seeking, they asked for Amberley Village to provide a letter of support. After consulting the Council members present, the Mayor requested that Mr. Lahrmer draft the letter.

### **SALT CONTRACT**

Mr. Lahrmer reported that a contract had been put before Council for the purchase of salt. He recommended that the Village entertain a resolution to enter into a contract

with the City of Cincinnati cooperative purchasing group to purchase rock salt. The Village participated in this program last year with great success. The cooperative group put the purchase out to bid and the contract was awarded to Morton Salt at a cost to participants of \$61.56 a ton—a reduction in cost from last year.

Mr. Chaiken moved that Council accept the Manager's recommendation for RESOLUTION 2011-10, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF CINCINNATI FOR FURNISHING SALT FOR SNOW AND ICE CONTROL PURPOSES. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motioned carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: 2012 BUDGET**

Mayor Stillpass called the public hearing to order for the review of the 2012 Budget. The same members were present who were in attendance at the start of the council meeting.

Mayor Stillpass stated that the public hearing regarding the budget is an annual item of business.

Mr. Lahrmer explained that the 2012 Tax Budget had been reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting held on June 15 and June 29. It was prepared strictly as a Tax Budget required by the state in order to ensure receipt of state monies, since, with his recent arrival and the many changes in funding on the state level, it would be more productive to take time to construct a solid operating budget. He requested that Council accept the budget as prepared with the stipulation that the staff will work to prepare an operating budget which will be more realistic in light of the state funding changes.

The Mayor requested a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Mr. Hattenbach so moved. Seconded by Mrs. Cohen and the motion carried unanimously. The council meeting resumed.

Mr. Hattenbach introduced RESOLUTION NO. 2011-09, RESOLUTION APPROVING BUDGET OF ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUNDS AND ESTIMATED REQUIRED EXPENDITURES FOR THE GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUNDS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2012 AND AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO SUBMIT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT TAX LEVY, and moved that the resolution be approved. Seconded by Mr. Chaiken. The resolution being moved and seconded, Mayor Stillpass asked if there was any further discussion. There being none Mayor Stillpass asked if there were any other questions or comments from the public related to the budget. There were no requests to comment from the audience.

Mr. Chaiken called for the vote and the resolution carried unanimously.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Lahrmer reported that, in an effort to move forward as directed by Council, he has been actively pursuing the idea of government collaboration, endeavoring to follow

avenues that ensure that the Village is sustainable. Many other communities are in the same situation as Amberley and it would be advantageous for Amberley Village to work with them to find solutions to mutual problems.

The Manager informed Council of a project occurring in August in the Aracoma area. For several years residents in this area have had concerns with extended power outages. Duke Energy has been working to identify means of providing redundant services and minimizing power outages in the area. Duke has presented a preliminary plan to the Village. It has been reviewed by staff and appeared to meet the needs of the residents and accommodated the Village appropriately. The Village has indicated to Duke that they should move forward with the plan. This project does not require any formal action by Council.

Mr. Lahrmer commended Council on action taken at the June Council meeting to approve changes to the health care plan provided to Village employees. Through their efforts, and with the cooperation of the employees, they have saved the Village in the range of \$200,000. This was accomplished by changing the plan offered, reducing the Village funding of employee HSAs and having employees contribute to the premium cost.

Mr. Lahrmer then reiterated the financial concerns mentioned when he presented the Finance Report. With the passage of the State budget, local governments took two huge hits. Inheritance tax will be eliminated effective January 1, 2013. Over the last decade this has been the source of \$7.8 million in revenue to Amberley Village. The Local Government Fund will be reduced by 25% this year and 25% next year. In 2010, Amberley received just shy of \$96,000 from this fund, so this reduction will be felt as well. The Village has its work cut out for it. Replacement revenue needs to be sought or services will be decreased.

The final topic presented by Mr. Lahrmer was the Street Sign Replacement Program. This is a topic that has been discussed over the last several years. The Federal government has adopted new standards for increased reflectivity and the use of upper and lower case letters in an effort to make signs more easily read. While Ohio has not yet adopted the new Federal standards, Mr. Lahrmer recommended that we follow them, knowing that the state will eventually need to comply in order to receive Federal road funding. The entire project will cost approximately \$15,000 and staff recommends that it be phased in over a three year period. The main streets—Ridge, Section and Galbraith Roads—would be done first. There are also some signs that have faded severely and do not represent Amberley Village well. He asked that Council, if they were in support of the project, make a motion to go forward with the sign replacement. The motion was made by Mrs. Conway. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and approved unanimously.

### **Recognition of Chief Monahan on his Retirement**

Mayor Stillpass then invited Chief John Monahan to the podium where she began by reading a proclamation from Amberley Village citing the many accomplishments of Chief John “Jack” H. Monahan, Jr. over his 37 year career with Amberley Village. Vice Mayor

Jon Chaiken read a letter from George Bush. There followed the reading of several other letters of recognition from the Ohio Attorney General, The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, past mayors Bob Stewart and Dr. Richard Kerstine. Mayor Stillpass presented the Chief with a notebook containing additional letters from George W. Bush, Senators Niehaus and Jones, and many others. Vice Mayor Chaiken presented him with a plaque of commendation from the Secret Service. Kaitlin Graham from the office of Congressman Steve Chabot read a letter and presented the Chief with a flag flown over the Capital in honor of his retirement. And finally, Mr. Chaiken presented Chief Monahan with his firearm and badge on behalf of the residents of Amberley Village.

The Mayor then invited anyone who wished to speak to come forward. Among those who came forward to speak on Chief Monahan's behalf were the head of the Hamilton County Association of Chiefs of Police, the special agent in charge of the Cincinnati Division of the FBI, a member of the Board of Directors of the Shield, Bill Cunningham, a boyhood friend, Lieutenant Rich Wallace who spoke on behalf of the Amberley Village officers and former Amberley Village Manager, Bernie Boraten.

Chief Monahan thanked everyone who came and spoke on his behalf. He thanked those who helped and molded him early in his career as well as all of the people who worked for him in Amberley and those with whom he worked.

### **Chief's Report**

The Chief reported that the Fire Department had participated in 17 fire runs in June.

Mayor Stillpass thanked everyone who attended and invited those present to a reception for Chief Monahan in the foyer.

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Kathleen Harcourt, Acting Clerk of Council

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Mayor Merrie Stillpass