

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, September 9, 2013 at 6:30 P.M. Mayor J.K. Byar called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

PRESENT:

Richard Bardach
J.K. Byar
Bill Doering
Ed Hattenbach
Tom Muething
Ray Warren
Natalie Wolf

ALSO PRESENT:

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Chief Rich Wallace, Police/Fire
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council
Rick Kay, Treasurer
Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor

EXCUSED:

Mayor Byar welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amberley Village Council. He then led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Betty Whitaker then sang the National Anthem.

MINUTES

Mayor Byar presented the minutes of the August 12, 2013 regular meeting. Mr. Warren requested that the following edit be made on page 3, paragraph 2, line 5: delete the word "the" and replace with "a" and delete the phrase "and this is where employees should be" and replace with ", in his opinion." Mayor Byar asked if there were any additional corrections or additions. Since there were none, Mayor Byar stated that the minutes stand approved with Mr. Warren's edit.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the July, 2013, Finance Report (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). A summary of this report noted total tax collections for the month of July totaled \$159,190 and the total year-to-date collections are down .7% over the July 2012 year-to-date. The total general fund revenue for the month of July was \$256,004 while expenses equaled \$266,291. At the end of July, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$1,986,301. The report was accepted as submitted.

PRESENTATION:

Ms. Natalie Fields, Branch Manager, of the Deer Park Library made a presentation to council in regards to its upcoming levy renewal. Ms. Fields noted the services that the library brings to the community and its value. She shared the financial information about the levy pointing out that it is not an increase and the cost is \$2.51 a month for each \$100,000 of appraised property value. She thanked council for the opportunity to speak as well as the community's support of the library.

CITIZEN TO SPEAK:

Mr. Tom Neuman, resident at 5120 Rollman Estates Drive, expressed his opinion that council had an opportunity to make a statement to the employees that employee retention is important. He noted that the 3% raise was a good step forward, however, it does not compare well with the trend of surrounding municipalities over the last five years. He commented that Amberley in comparison with other municipalities, over the last five years, has only given a total of a 2.8% raise while the lowest comparison was at 6% and most were at 8-9%. Including the recent 3% raise still only amounts to a total of 5.8% for Village employees. He commented that he felt the police levy is to be utilized for such employee retention issues to avoid the high cost of training new employees. He

urged council to reconsider and compensate employees with an additional one percent raise this year or by inaction the result will be a negative message to employees.

Council Members Doering, Muething and Warren responded and maintained their position on their decision. It was stated that employee pay is taken seriously and there will always be a difference of opinion. It was noted that the council did commit to conducting an annual review and will continue to look at all factors related to retention, including the cost of re-training.

Ms. Diane Levine, resident at 6770 Fair Acres Lane, expressed her concerns regarding coyotes in the Village. She stated she has learned of coyotes attacking people in some parts of the country.

Chief Wallace informed Ms. Levine that the Village has not experienced any major issues related to coyotes. He noted that traps and snares have been tried in the past which result in catching and injuring pets and other animals rather than coyotes.

STREETS, PUBLIC UTILITIES & SEWERS COMMITTEE

Mr. Doering presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2013-24 to award a contract with CDS Engineers to proceed with detailed engineering, design, planning, permitting and bidding of the modification of the Amberley Green dam to lower the total height and storage capacity. He noted that Village is under a deadline with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to bring the dam into compliance by January 13, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Muething and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Doering presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2013-25 Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract to Purchase a Dump Truck. He reported that this vehicle provides essential services for the Village such as plowing and salting of snow, brush chipping, leaf collection, parks maintenance, catch basin maintenance, sign maintenance, right-of-way maintenance and other services. The maintenance costs are now upwards of \$23,000 annually. After trade-in value and state bidding discounts, the cost will be \$114,449. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Muething complimented the maintenance staff for extending the typical 10 year service life of the old truck to 16 years.

Mr. Doering presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2013-26 Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract to Purchase a Brush Chipper. The Village maintains two chippers to provide one of the most valuable services for the residents. This will replace the 1992 chipper. The cost is \$42,621. Seconded by Mr. Muething and the motion carried unanimously.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Ms. Wolf reported that last month the committee toured the rain garden with Jennifer Eismeier of the Mill Creek Watershed. Ms. Wolf explained that on the Nextdoor website there were statements that the rain garden has no benefit. Ms. Eismeier confirmed that native plants slow water flow and the only maintenance should be mowing it annually. Ms. Wolf encouraged residents to install rain gardens on their properties to slow water flow.

Ms. Wolf announced a Tree Walk on Amberley Green scheduled for September 29. A local arborist will conduct the walk. Also, the Cincinnati Re-Leaf program will be available to residents this year where trees can be purchased a reduced rate.

PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Ms. Wolf reported that residents should have received their Village newsletter in the mail. The print version is mailed bi-annually. She encouraged residents to sign-up for e-news to receive the monthly news updates.

Ms. Wolf reported that the Ice Cream Social was a great success and thanked Amy Rubenstein for her dedication and efforts.

Ms. Wolf noted that the WeThrive! annual report is now available online for those interested in reviewing it. The Village received a \$24,000 mini-grant through this program for the promotion of healthy lifestyles. The community garden, trail improvements and exercise equipment on the walking track were installed as a result of the grant.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the Planning Commission has prepared a draft ordinance for council consideration that would implement criteria for the creation of panhandle lots. The board will next hold a public hearing to seek public input. Council will be asked to set a public hearing in October to be held in November.

Leaf collection for residents will begin on Tuesday, October 15. The Village has communicated to the residents the start-up date along with guidelines for this curbside service via the website and the print newsletter mailed to residents the first week of September. The maintenance department is in the process of readying the leaf collection equipment to prepare for this upcoming season.

The last brush pick-up for residents will be their regularly scheduled pick-up day during the week of September 30 through October 4, 2013. Residents can view a street listing on the Village website to find out their last brush pick up day for the year. A call safe message will also be utilized to communicate with the residents.

The 2013 street repair program has been substantially completed:

- Micro-surfacing of a segment of Ridge Road near the Village Municipal Building
- Pavement repair (patching) program included various locations on Section Road, Elbrook Avenue north of Section Road, Rolling Ridge Court and Appleridge Lane
- Limited repairs to curbing and other miscellaneous fixtures have been completed on Appleridge Lane, Laurel Oak Lane, Longmeadow Lane, Kentland Court, Patrisal Court, Hudson Parkway and Twigwood Lane.
- Storm Water infrastructure improvements were accomplished on Elbrook Avenue, Laurel Oak Lane, Arborcrest Drive, Fair Oaks Drive at Fair Oaks Lane and segments of roadside ditches were rehabilitated along Ridge Road between Section Road and Longmeadow Lane.
- Traffic signal upgrade and improvements to the intersection at Ridge and Section Roads. The mandated handicap ramps, guy wires and underground conduits were installed along with the crosswalk hardware.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that maintenance department has continued a comprehensive crack-sealing program this year. The department has utilized 45 30-lb boxes of tar which equates to 1,350 pounds. He noted that it is a vital to fill open cracks in the roadways to prevent water damage from deteriorating the streets. This effort will prolong and extend the life of the Village's infrastructure.

Mr. Lahrmer commented that next month's meeting falls on October 14 which is Columbus Day. He stated council passed a motion in January that moved the meeting to Tuesday, October 15.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Wolf stated that she has observed silver bags of dog excrement being left all over the Village by someone walking their dog.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Hattenbach moved to go into executive session to receive an update from the Village Solicitor on pending litigation. Seconded by Mr. Muething and the roll call show the following vote:

AYE: Byar, Bardach, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Council exited council chambers to the administration conference room at 7:28 p.m.

Council adjourned the executive session and returned to Council chambers and the public session at 7:49 p.m.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor J.K. Byar