

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2014**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, September 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Muething called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

PRESENT:

Richard Bardach
Peg Conway
Bill Doering
Ed Hattenbach
Thomas C. Muething
Ray Warren
Natalie Wolf

ALSO PRESENT:

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Rick Kay, Treasurer
Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council
Lt. Brian Blum, Police/Fire Dept.

Mayor Muething welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Amberley Village Council. He then led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

Mayor Muething presented the minutes of the August 11, 2014 regular meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Since there were none, Mayor Muething stated that the minutes were approved.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the July, 2014, Finance Report (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). Mr. Lahrmer reported a summary of this report noted tax collections for the month of July totaled \$175,558. The total general fund revenue for the month of July was \$223,985 while expenses equaled 208,240. At the end of July, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$3,159,691. The report was accepted as submitted.

Mr. Doering commented that the Cincinnati Enquirer published an article regarding the cuts in state funding to municipalities and reflected a higher expenditure level for the Village which represents the inheritance dollars used to pay off the Village debt in 2012.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance 2014-12, Ordinance Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Year 2014. He stated that the Village received \$113,000 from the insurance company for the flooding event that occurred in January and the funds needed appropriated since they were not in the original budget. He noted \$7,200 was the only cost paid by the Village. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously.

LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mayor Muething reported that the committee met on August 27. The purpose was to get market perspective on the North Site. He noted that over the summer the committee met with other market experts on North Site and Amberley Green. The committee met with Mark Volkman of Jones Lang LaSalle who was more optimistic for some development on the front section of the North Site property (the old swim club site). Mayor Muething stated that Mr. Volkman saw the possibility for small office development, warehousing, or a service operation (air conditioning, heating).

Mayor Muething reported that the committee's next step is to consider title survey work on the property, early environmental work, soil testing, and list the property with an agent. He mentioned that the committee would consider the cost of these steps first.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Mayor Muething reported that the committee met on August 25 and one item was the recap of Ice Cream Social which occurred the Sunday prior. This year the police department had useful demos. There will be focus next year on promoting the event.

Mayor Muething announced the dam tour will occur Thursday at 6 p.m. It is an informational event and a chance for residents to see the work that has been going on and learn the reason for it.

Mayor Muething commented that the Adopt a Grove program which was started in spring is being reinvigorated. The program asks for groups or individuals to come down to the Amberley Green and do limited maintenance work. He stated earlier this year the committee did work around some of the trees groves which made a big difference. He reported that the Environmental Stewardship Committee will do maintenance work again on September 18 at 6 p.m.

He reported that the committee is planning a winter program concerning wildlife in our area. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Mayor Muething shared that the ESC expressed concerns for the number of signs erected for the crosswalk on Section and the ESC recommended to the administration to be conscious and careful not to erect too many signs around too many things.

Vice Mayor Wolf thanked Amy Rubenstein and her group of volunteers for their efforts to coordinate the Ice Cream Social this year. She shared that she would like the Public Outreach Committee to meet in advance of next year's Ice Cream Social in regards to promoting the event.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Mr. Warren reported that the committee met on August 13 to receive an update on the Center for Local Government Benefits Pool. He noted the committee learned that the pool is in good condition and the deficit has been reduced to \$50,000. He stated there is a planned cost increase of 4% for employee healthcare premiums, which is less than marketplace.

MANAGERS REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer provided an update regarding the Village's electric aggregation program. He stated the residents will begin receiving a rate of \$0.0576 per kWh effective with the October meter read. Residents will be automatically enrolled, if currently Duke customer.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that a similar process for the gas program is underway which expires in October. Residents have saved approximately \$34,000 since the program's inception. The next step is to enroll residents with IGS, which will effectuate a rate drop from \$0.05785 to \$0.0528 in October. No action is necessary for residents. Residents will receive an opt-out letter from IGS and no action is required. There will also be a Duke letter that will confirm the move to IGS. The Village will send a letter to make residents aware of the transition. Both programs go into effect in October. IGS will be the vendor for electric and gas.

The Maintenance Department has been performing crack filling and sealing over the past month. It is an essential function to maintain the integrity of Village streets. The department has

already put down over 1,200 pounds of tar along Hudson Parkway, Ridge, Lakeview, Verger, Winding Way, and several patches throughout the Village. Mr. Lahrmer noted that this was a critical function the department provides to ensure the maintenance of the Village's infrastructure.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that residents received a print copy of Village newsletter the week of September 2. He stated that staff puts this together and does an excellent job of including relevant information for residents.

Mr. Lahrmer gave a reminder for the public information meeting coming up September 29. The presentation will be held at the JCC at 1:30 or 7:00 p.m. He stated the intent is to communicate with residents regarding financial information and the status of village properties. Residents are encouraged to attend either session. Afterwards residents can speak with council and/or staff about the village and its services.

Vice Mayor Wolf commented that for those residents who would like "green" energy, there is a green energy option, by request to IGS, with the aggregation program. The rate is \$0.0591 per kWh.

Mr. Warren commented that he is pleased that the Village Manager recently became the City Area Manager's Association president.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mr. Rabbi Weinrib, resident at 6605 West Farm Acres, expressed his concern for pedestrian safety at the crosswalk on Section. He stated his preference would be to move the crosswalk further down to an area that he feels has less of a blind spot and better line of sight.

Mr. Lahrmer and council members discussed with Rabbi Weinrib that the crosswalk was requested by Sha'arei Torah when it came before the Village for a conditional use permit and the Village conducted a series of meetings to determine where the crosswalk should be which included the Village Engineer, the Public Works Supervisor and Police/Fire Chief to identify the best location. It was noted that once the crosswalk was installed, the Village can consider bringing attention to the crosswalk.

Mr. Warren thanked Rabbi Weinrib for sharing his thoughts on the new crosswalk at the intersection of Section Road and Farm Acres Drive. Mr. Warren concurred with Rabbi Weinrib that the current placement of the crosswalk is not ideal and does not enable pedestrians to adequately see oncoming traffic and make a safe decision when crossing the street. Mr. Warren noted that while we teach children to look both ways before crossing a street, we should enable them to cross safely without blind spots. He continued that having blind spots coming from both directions on Section Road puts pedestrians and especially children and elderly at risk. Mr. Warren pointed out other crosswalks, notably at Elbrook and Meadowridge, where the pedestrian does not see oncoming traffic and traffic does not stop for pedestrians (at least for him).

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Muething announced the Public Information Meeting to be held September 29 and encouraged residents to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Conway shared that the Jewish Community Center will hold a one-time farmers' market themed around the Jewish holiday Rosh Hashanah, including cooking demonstrations. The event is September 14 from 9:30-1 p.m.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting.

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Thomas C. Muething