

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2014**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, October 13, 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
Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council
Chief Rich Wallace, Police/Fire

ABSENT:

Rick Kay, Treasurer

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 September 8, 2014 regular meeting and asked if there were any new corrections or additions. Since there were none, Mayor Muething stated that the minutes were approved.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the August, 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 August totaled \$152,091. The total general fund revenue for the month of August was \$219,583 while expenses equaled 204,838. At the end of August, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$3,184,473. The report was accepted as submitted.

GUEST SPEAKER

Ms. Mary Yeager introduced herself as a candidate for the Ohio State House of Representatives, District 31. She shared that she was a certified public accountant for the past ten years and directed voters to connect with her on her Facebook page.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2014-26, Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Hattenbach added that the estimated revenue from the tax is \$2.7 million for the upcoming year of which \$1,590,300 is restricted for public safety.

POLICE/FIRE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Conway reported that the committee met on September 16 and is trying to meet quarterly. The committee reviewed purchasing new video cameras for the police cruisers. She stated the current system is 8-10 years old. A demonstration was presented to the committee of the current video versus the new proposed equipment. She noted the controls on the current system do not work well and pulling the video off of the system is cumbersome. The new system would provide for an additional camera, playback enhancements, idle battery saving feature, and a mini-server to store and wirelessly transfer videos. Mr. Hattenbach noted that the current video system does not work adequately at night including the reading of license plates. Chief Wallace noted that obtaining replacement parts has become a challenge. The expense would not exceed \$24,190 from the capital fund. Mrs. Conway read and moved to approve Resolution 2014-27, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract to Purchase Camera Equipment for Police Cruisers. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Mayor Muething reported that the committee met on September 22. A winter lecture is being planned with the subject matter likely being pets and animals. It will be set for some time in January or February.

Mayor Muething announced that the One Stop Drop date has been selected—March 29, 2015. Participants will again be Cohen USA for secure paper shredding and electronics drop-off, shoe drop-off, and a new collection by Excel Development to recycle household utensils. More details will be forthcoming.

Mayor Muething announced the next meeting date for the committee will be October 27. Discussion topics include a presentation by recognized expert in practices dealing with storm water, specifically around construction and parking lots.

HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE COMMITTEE

Ms. Wolf reported the committee met and reviewed the deer management policy as required by the policy to do so once per year. The committee did not recommend any changes at this time.

Ms. Wolf presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2014-28, Resolution Declaring support for Issue 1, Renewal of the Cincinnati Public School District Operating Tax Levy. Seconded by Ms. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wolf stated that the committee continues to meet to examine and improve pedestrian safety in the Village. The committee met this afternoon to review suggestions from Chief Wallace in this regard. Initial meetings have focused on the southern end of the Village, which included signs and street markings.

Ms. Wolf commented that at a prior Streets Committee, there was a commitment made to allow the use of unused road improvement funds toward improving pedestrian safety.

Ms. Wolf moved to approve that council authorize the Village Manager and Chief to spend up to \$12,000 to improve pedestrian safety in the areas identified on Section and Elbrook Roads and Losantiville School, utilizing thermo seal pavement markings and signage with the goal of improving safety and slowing traffic. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Ms. Wolf reported that the Village currently contracts with ICRC to record and broadcast council meetings to Time Warner Cable. Non-subscribers can also access the meetings online. She noted the franchise fee is 2% of the 5% fee received from Time Warner Cable. She shared that there are also six public access channels programmed by ICRC. She stated that the committee publicly polled residents a year ago, and met with both ICRC and ESP Media to learn about the services each offered. ESP Media proposed a cost of \$600 per meeting, which would provide for a \$14,000 annual savings, however, there would be no guarantee to keep programming for the six public access channels.

Ms. Wolf read and moved to approve Resolution 2014-29, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with ESP Media for Council Meeting Recording Services and cancel ICRC. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hattenbach noted that the Village receives \$55,000 from the franchise fee now and the Village would not lose that revenue by making this change.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Mr. Warren reported that the committee met on September 23. He stated last year council voted for \$250 gift cards/cash equivalent for employees and the committee recommends and Mr. Warren moved to approve the same amount this year. The gift is in appreciation for the special staff and it enables them to do something special with their families during the holiday season. Employees will have the option of cash or a gift card. Mr. Warren moved to recommend allocation of Village funds for this expenditure. It was seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Warren reported that the committee has re-initiated a review of the Village Manager for the time period of June 2013-September 2014. This process was initiated last year and benefited the council and manager. The committee hopes to conclude the process by the end of the year.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Wallace reported that the Village has recently experienced car break-ins. Rather than looking for unlocked doors, the thieves are smashing windows. He reminded residents to remove all valuable objects from their cars or from plain view.

The Chief stated that Norwood made an arrest and one GPS unit came back to the Village. This allowed for charges to be filed. The same thief returned to the Village and was apprehended.

Chief Wallace clarified that since the department transitioned to the new Pamet software system, the fire reporting appears differently on the monthly report. He noted the state's reporting requirements make it appear as though the number of fire runs are extremely high. It is not above normal as this figure also includes fire training, EMS runs, etc. Nor does it have a budget impact.

Chief Wallace shared a flyer for an upcoming charity event called Guns and Hoses. He stated that Sheriff Neil asked him to be involved in the committee and there will be a boxing event on October 22 at the Horseshoe Casino. It will be amateur boxers that are police and firemen. He invited everyone to attend.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer announced that the Village's brush collection is temporarily suspended until January. The maintenance department began collecting leaves today which will continue for the next three months. As the leaf fall gets heavier, signs will be posted in each area projecting the pick-up day.

Mr. Lahrmer stated that the Amberley Green dam modification is nearing completion. It will be complete after the punch list has been addressed. He stated that the next phase is to submit documentation to the state to have the dam removed from their jurisdiction.

Mr. Lahrmer shared that for those unable to attend the recent public information meetings held on September 29, the presentation is on the village website. When e-news was sent out the presentation was linked along with the speaker comments.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Muething stated that the Vice Mayor had one additional comment related to pedestrian safety. Ms. Wolf shared news from the Nextdoor website that announced two women were struck from behind while walking in Colerain. She urged all walkers to walk facing traffic to prevent something like this happening in the Village.

Mayor Muething reported that the public information meeting held on September 29 highlighted for him that the Village has very talented residents that can contribute to the Village's work plan. He stated that the unique feature about a small community is the approachability of its Village Manager and Chief as well as its council members. He encouraged residents to share their ideas and suggestions for ways of doing things.

Mayor Muething announced that next year will be the 75th anniversary of the formation of Amberley Village and the planning for a celebration is going to start soon. He stated that there will be an organizational meeting on November 10 at 4:30 p.m. at the Village Municipal Building, in the community room, to set up committees in this regard. Volunteers are encouraged to participate.

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

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Thomas C. Muething