

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL  
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Muething called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

**PRESENT:**

Richard Bardach

Peg Conway

Elida Kamine

Thomas C. Muething

Ray Warren

Natalie Wolf

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager

Nicole Browder, Clerk

Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor

Lt. Brian Blum, Police/Fire Department

Mr. 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 stated that some changes were requested by the Vice Mayor and Mr. Warren to the minutes of the April 11, 2016, regular meeting which were circulated to Council. Mayor Muething asked if there were any additional changes to the minutes as distributed. There being none, he stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the March, 2015, Finance Report (a copy of which is attached hereto). Mr. Lahrmer reported a summary of this report and noted tax collections for the month of March totaled \$242,441. The total general fund revenue for the month of March was \$323,398 while expenses equaled \$399,647. At the end of March, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$3.8 million. The report was accepted as submitted.

**RECOGNITION OF WAYNE SIGNER**

Mayor Muething announced that Mr. Signer was to be recognized for his 13 years of service on the Storm Water Advisory Committee. Mr. Signer was not present at the meeting and Mayor Muething noted Mr. Signer would be recognized at a future meeting.

**CITIZENS TO SPEAK**

**Jaime Carle**, 3120 E. Galbraith Road, expressed her opposition to the installation of the proposed natural gas pipeline extension in Amberley Village. She shared several concerns relating to the restrictions on the easement areas, impact on the environment, and close proximity to private homes.

**Merrie Stillpass**, 7370 Willowbrook, shared Ms. Carle's concerns and announced that the Environmental Stewardship Committee has begun following the pipeline extension project including the activities related to a group named N.O.P.E. She reiterated her environmental concerns of the pipeline installation and encouraged residents to check on Nextdoor for updates and announcements of future meetings on this issue.

Mayor Muething asked Mr. Lahrmer to provide an update on the proposed natural gas pipeline project. Mr. Lahrmer reported that staff has collected information about the proposed pipeline and it is available on the Village website. The summary on the website describes the project, includes a map of the three proposed locations, a FAQ sheet as well as a project brochure. He encouraged residents to express comments and concerns to the Ohio Power Siting Board. He noted that Amberley Village does not have any authority in this proposed project and the Siting Board is the authority for the next step in the decision-making process.

Mayor Muething commented that the Village has a role to ensure residents are educated on this project and as Ms. Stillpass mentioned the Environmental Stewardship Committee will discuss this project and may develop a letter to the Ohio Power Siting Board.

Mrs. Conway stated that the project information is available on the Ohio Power Siting Board's website. She commented that should Amberley Village be chosen for the route there is a role for local government to intervene at a legal level. She stated she attended the March public meeting held by Duke Energy. She urged the Village to be proactive and respond.

There was additional discussion among council as to whether the Village council could send a letter to the Ohio Power Siting Board. Mayor Muething noted that further discussion on this item would be held under the Mayor's Report.

**Kelly Hollitz**, 8560 Kentland Court, introduced her business, First Star Safety and encouraged the Village to purchase locally, noting competitive pricing for signage and related supplies. She submitted a price quote of various supplies for consideration and noted she felt the Village could save money utilizing her company.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mayor Muething reported that due to system issues at the Hamilton County Auditor, monies expected in April were not received. The resolution presented would provide for tax advance requests to be submitted by the written request of the Village Manager and Finance Administrator. Mayor Muething presented and read Resolution 2016-15, Resolution Requesting the County Auditor to Make Advance Payments of Taxes. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Bardach reported the lowest bid on the 2016 Street Program was received from Barrett Paving Materials in the amount of \$614,288, including three alternates. The 2016 program consists of repairing and replacing curb and gutters, storm water catch basin repairs, and repaving entire streets as follows:

#### **Paving**

Spring Valley Drive

- Curbing and storm water catch basin repairs
- Milling and paving of the entire street

Kincaid Road (Section Road to North Farmcrest Drive)

- Asphalt base repairs
- Milling and paving of the entire street

#### Patrisal Court

- Curbing and catch basin repairs
- Milling and paving of the street

#### Kentland Court

- Curbing and storm water catch basin repairs
- Milling and paving the entire street

#### **Curbing**

##### Longmeadow Lane

- Curb replacement from Ridge Road to Lamarque Drive
- Curb repairs from Lamarque Drive to Springvalley Drive

##### Arborcrest Drive

- Curb repairs from Lamarque Drive north to the terminus

Mr. Bardach presented and read Resolution 2016-16, Resolution Authorizing Village Manager to Enter into a Contract for the 2016 Street Rehabilitation Program. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Muething noted that \$95,000 of the funds for this program was grant dollars. He commended the administration for being diligent in the pursuit of grants.

Mr. Bardach reported the lowest and best bid received to repair the storm water pipe located at 3305 Lamarque Drive was from Municipal and Contractor Sealing Products in the amount of \$43,750. Mr. Bardach presented and read Resolution 2016-17, Resolution Authorizing Village Manager to Enter into Contract with Municipal and Contractor Sealing Products to Perform Storm Water Work on Lamarque Drive. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bardach reported that the American Public Works Association sets aside a week in May each year to celebrate those services provided by Maintenance Departments throughout the country. The theme for this year's event is "Always There." Mr. Bardach commented that the Village Maintenance Department is on call 24-hours a day and performs fire related duties including a variety of critical tasks related to the safety and quality of life enjoyed by Amberley Village residents. Mr. Bardach presented and read Resolution 2016-18, Proclaiming May 15-21, 2016, as National Public Works Week in Amberley Village. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Mrs. Conway reported that the committee met twice since the last council meeting to discuss drones as a public safety matter. Several uses of drones were discussed and it was concluded that for Amberley on municipal property and the Amberley Green it is problematic. The proposed ordinance prohibits use of drones on public property in the Village. Mrs. Conway conducted the first reading of Resolution 2016-10, Ordinance Regulating Model Aircraft on Public Property. She noted there would be a second reading held at the June meeting with the anticipation of waiving the third reading.

### **POLICE-FIRE COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Conway reported that in January Council approved the purchase of police cruisers and it is now necessary to equip those vehicles. She noted that the equipment from the vehicles being replaced is not compatible with the new cruisers and the new equipment to be purchased includes items like a partition, transport seats, additional rear lights and light bars for the roof. She stated Camp Safety is the vendor at a cost not to exceed \$17,864.35 and graphic applications through SignTech not to exceed \$2,334.

Mrs. Conway read and presented Resolution 2016-19, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract to Purchase Equipment for Police Cruisers. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Conway presented and read Resolution 2016-20, Resolution Proclaiming the Week of May 15-21, 2016 as National Law Enforcement Week and May 15, 2016 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Conway encouraged residents to attend the parade and ceremony on May 10 beginning at 11 a.m. The parade concludes at Cincinnati Police District 1 on Ezzard Charles Drive. She noted she has attended it several times and it is a lovely and meaningful event. Mrs. Conway also shared that an Amberley Village officer will travel to Washington D.C. to participate in the national ceremony.

### **LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Mayor Muething reported that at its April meeting, Council considered the contract related to the possible development of the Amberley Green and decided not to move forward. He stated that he met with the Village Manager and Marc Fisher of the JCC, who had expressed interest in options for expanding their presence at Amberley Green. Mr. Fisher submitted a letter to the Village Manager which was presented to the Land Development Committee.

Mayor Muething presented Resolution 2016-21 which provides for a 90-120 day period for the JCC to develop options at their cost. He commented that future options for the JCC to present services to its members as well as for the wider residents would be a great opportunity. Mayor Muething moved to approve Resolution 2016-21, Resolution Authorizing the Jewish Community Center to Consider Prospective Development on the Amberley Green. Seconded by Ms. Kamine and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kamine commented that this step forward is great news and encouraged updates from the JCC through the Land Development Committee to continue resident engagement.

### **HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

Ms. Wolf reported the committee had met twice since the last council meeting. At the April 11 meeting pedestrian safety was discussed. She noted the committee has devoted a significant amount of time to making Amberley safer for pedestrians.

The installation of temporary speed humps was reviewed and it was determined that a better assessment could occur with an installation with both humps installed on the same street at 200-300 feet intervals. Speed sign data collected through last spring and summer was reviewed.

The committee discussed side walk installation along Elbrook which would run from Section Road to 7085 Elbrook and will conduct a review of costs and feasibility. Ms. Wolf noted that a resolution is being developed for future safety measures.

Ms. Wolf reported at the May 9 meeting, the committee discussed deer management. As part of existing policy, an infrared fly-over is conducted to count deer in the Village. She noted in 2013, the total number of deer inside the Village and immediate buffer area was 239. This year the count total was 248. The committee recommended continuing the current program of culling 50 deer per year. The committee will also study what other communities are doing in regard to legislation related to feeding deer and the use of oral contraceptives.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Lahrmer reported that as the Village continues to find ways to decrease expenses, four vehicles will be sold from the police fleet.

Mr. Lahrmer announced that this year's Ice Cream Social will be set for August 7.

Mr. Lahrmer stated that there has been some press and questions regarding the former Gibson building in the Village. He reported that the Hamilton County Port Authority embarked upon its strategic plan to acquire properties for manufacturing and entered into an agreement in the fall to purchase the property, which is set to close in June. He stated that the Port's plan is to work with REDI (Regional Economic Development Initiative) and the Village to land a business on the site.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the Village was made aware of residents complaining about their postal service. He stated that the outlet to register concerns was provided by the Norwood Branch management which is an email address: [manager.45212@usps.gov](mailto:manager.45212@usps.gov). He noted he found that the postal service has been responsive to identify issues.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Lt. Blum shared that Sgt. Koenig will be in attendance at the Washington, D.C. ceremonies for police memorial week and be performing in the honor guard while there.

Lt. Blum reported that Officer Andrea Alt picked up the Village's new K-9 on April 29. Training started May 2 and graduation is anticipated for August 8.

Lt. Blum commended resident Sandy Pywen and Officer Chris Fritsch for their efforts to apply for and receive a grant for fire department training.

Ms. Kamine extended a thank you to the employees that assisted with the Chametz burning this year.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Muething shared a report from the Environmental Stewardship Committee:

- One Stop Drop held April 10. Recycled 33 tons—10 more tons than last year. There were issues with traffic. Recycle totals for event: 16 tons of electronics, 14 tons papers, 2 tons textiles, and 500 pounds creative re-use items for ScrapNati. In 2015, the Village recycled a total of 465 tons (this includes the weekly trash collection) which translates to 26% of waste being disposed of by residents. Recycling also benefits the Village financially with \$15,000 received last year.

- Arbor Day was recognized April 25. This is the Village's 12<sup>th</sup> year designated as a Tree City. The group viewed a film that focused on challenges facing trees like the Emerald Ash Borer. Trees in Trouble also identified tree planting efforts that occurred 50 years ago to develop the tree canopy and encouraged more trees be planted.
- Next meeting is May 23 at 7 p.m.

Mayor Muething announced that the Village will hold two informational meetings on June 2 at the JCC. Meeting times are 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. for the same presentation.

Mayor Muething then discussed with council their preferences regarding a response for the placement of the natural gas pipeline. It was determined that the Environmental Stewardship Committee would share their proposed letter and/or resolution generated at their May 23 meeting with the council for its consideration.

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

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Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

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Mayor Thomas C. Muething