

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Muething called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>
Richard Bardach	Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council
Peg Conway	Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor
Ed Hattenbach	Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Elida Kamine	Chief Rich Wallace, Police-Fire Dept.
Thomas C. Muething	
Ray Warren	
Natalie Wolf	

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

**MINUTES**

Mayor Muething asked if there were any 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 December, 2016, 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 December totaled \$225,161. The total General Fund Revenue for the month of December was \$333,738 while expenses equaled \$636,681. Mr. Lahrmer reported the revenue total for the year was \$5.4 million, up nearly \$1 million from 2015. He noted tax refunds for the year were near \$200,000, which brings the net total to \$3.3 million for earnings tax revenues. He stated that he believed in 2017 earnings tax collections will be down due to the earlier changes in the tax code. He shared the earnings tax estimate for 2017 has been set at \$3 million.

Mr. Lahrmer shared totals for various revenue accounts including property taxes which equaled \$954,000; homestead totaled \$147,000; JEDZ revenue totaled \$109,000; court fines totaled \$69,000; the Local Government Fund generated \$58,000 and has leveled off in that range; the interest for 2016 was \$45,000.

Mr. Lahrmer shared various expenses for 2016 which included total spending for the year of \$4.2 million. He noted \$4.7 million was budgeted, and built into the total were transfers to funds. He also noted that expenses for 2016 were the same as 2015.

He reported the largest expense for the Village was the police department. He stated that without the levy the Village would have spent more than it takes in. The police expenses totaled \$2.7 million for 2016. He noted \$1 million of those expenses were paid out of the General Fund and the police levy picked up the remaining balance.

At the end of December, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$5,482,186. The report was accepted as submitted.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the Village excelled in the area of grants during 2016 and did an outstanding job of pursuing grants. He thanked resident Sandy Pywen for assisting the Village with its grant submissions.

Mr. Lahrmer shared that the Village's Annual Financial Statement, as required, is available for public inspection at the administration office or on the Village website. OpenGov and OpenCheckbook are also available online for residents to review the finances.

Ms. Conway asked for the amount of JEDZ revenue to be repeated. Mr. Lahrmer stated the total revenue from the JEDZ in 2016 was \$109,000.

Mr. Warren asked about the earnings tax revenue and if any data exists on employment figures as to whether there were more withholdings in the past year. Mr. Lahrmer stated that in terms of the number of employees, that number has not increased. He stated that the Village lost Saturday Knight Ltd. and P&G, however, the overall withholdings increased. He noted that a lot of the revenue in the Village comes from residents.

### **CITIZEN TO SPEAK**

Ms. Diane Levine, 6770 Fair Acres Lane, proposed the Village consider modifying the tennis courts to include pickle ball. She commented that other communities such as Wyoming offer this to their residents and she would like to see it in Amberley.

Ms. Conway commented that as Chair of the Public Buildings and Grounds Committee, that the suggestion would be taken up for consideration.

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

Mr. Warren reported that the committee met on February 1 with three items on the agenda: mowing contract, engineering fee schedule, and the storm water program.

Mr. Warren reported that staff member Wes Brown solicited and received quotes for the same three companies as last year with no change in the rates, which included a renewal option for 2018 at the same rates. Mr. Warren summarized the areas to be mowed and the proposed cost for each:

<u>Property</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Annual Cost Estimate</u>
Amberley Green	EMES Lawn Care	\$37,000
North Site & Right of Ways	Federick's Landscaping	\$22,000
Municipal Grounds	Greatful Growers	\$10,000

Mr. Warren presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2017-1, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract for Mowing Services for 2017. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion carried with one abstention—Mr. Hattenbach. It was noted that one of the contactors is also a client of Mr. Hattenbach's.

Mr. Warren reported that the proposed rate schedule for CT Consultants included a slightly adjusted rate increase ranging from 0-3%. Mr. Warren presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2017-2, Resolution Approving and Adopting Proposal of CT Consultants to Amend its Schedule of Fees. Seconded by Ms. Wolf. Ms. Conway noted that this is the same

engineering firm the Village has engaged for the past 25 years—the name was changed from CDS Associates to CT Consultants. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Warren commented that he applauded staff for being able to secure these types of contracts with essentially zero to marginal increases.

Mr. Warren reported that the committee reviewed the 2017 Storm Water program after the Storm Water Advisory Committee reviewed it. He noted the advisory committee met January 31. He stated that Wes Brown presented the work plan to the committee. The anticipated budget presented was \$260,000. He stated funds were primarily derived from storm water fee collection. A summary of the planned projects was provided:

1. 2470 Section Road: replacement of pipe and liner
2. 3260 Fair Haven Lane: install in-place liner; re-grade swale
3. 3300 Fair Haven Lane – install in-place liner

Mr. Warren summarized the additional charges from the storm water fund including charges from the Hamilton County Storm Water, final phase of the televising program, and maintenance repair projects. No approvals are needed at this time and approvals will be sought after projects are bid.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hattenbach reported that as a member of the Hamilton County Police Association, the Village partners and shares resources with other communities throughout the county. He stated that this endeavor funds such items as SWAT, honor guard, and the dive team. He reported that Officer Fritsch has secured a \$75,000 donation toward the purchase of a Hamilton County dive boat.

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance 2017-4, Ordinance Amending Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2017. Seconded by Ms. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Hattenbach, Kamine, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)  
NAY: (0)

Mr. Warren asked if the donor will be recognized. Mayor Muething clarified that the donor wanted to stay anonymous. Mayor Muething explained that this arrangement is similar to how the SWAT truck is handled, communities end up owning the asset then allowing the association to use it. He noted since the association is not a non-profit organization it is handled by the community for the purpose of donation eligibility.

#### **VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Lahrmer shared that the Village is updating its website and seeking input from residents about what they like and don't like. A survey was circulated and extended to February 20 to receive input. He encouraged residents to give feedback. He noted the reason for the update was to accommodate mobile technology devices.

Mr. Lahrmer commended Officer Nick Mercer for responding to an auto accident off-duty. Mercer was driving with his family on Ronald Reagan Highway and happened upon a vehicle on its side with the driver trapped. Mercer stopped and assisted. He was able to unhook the seat

belt and move the seat back to free the driver. Another passerby stopped to assist as well. Officer Mercer stayed on-scene until the responding jurisdiction arrived.

Mr. Lahrmer acknowledged Chief Wallace for his service as Secretary and Vice President of the Hamilton County Police Association and his most recent appointment as President of the association.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Muething reported the following Environmental Stewardship Committee items:

- Sunday, February 19 at 2 p.m.: showing of Trees in Trouble film about the Emerald Ash Borer and its impact in this region.
- Sunday, April 2 from noon-4 p.m.: One Stop Drop recycling event. Details will be available on the website.
- Annual Arbor Day is set for April 24. Details will be posted to the website.

Mayor Muething noted the opening on the Storm Water Advisory Committee with the passing of Mr. Stan Cohen last month. The open term runs through December 2019. Mayor Muething nominated former council member Bill Doering for the vacancy. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Muething shared a review of council's work over the past year and goals for 2017:

#### **2016**

- Council met 14 times.
- Council committees held a total of 66 meetings.
- Three priorities for 2016 were:
  - Develop a plan for the policy levy, which was developed and approved. The issue for a reduced levy will be on the May ballot.
  - Become clear on North Site and Amberley Green developments. A lease was approved by council for the North Site with Schuermann Properties which will provide for a medical office building providing \$50-60,000 to the Village annually. The development is right for the property as it will not add to peak traffic. Amberley Green—continue to work with the JCC as a good step forward was accomplished. An engineering study has reported back that the clubhouse does have good structural integrity. This will continue to be a priority for 2017.
  - Communication. Two town hall meetings were held in June 2016, and the print newsletter and e-news continued to share information, financial and regarding the Amberley Green.

#### **2017**

Priorities for the year include the former Gibson property, the Amberley Green, ascertain a long-term outlook on recreation assets, and continue to communicate. Mayor Muething noted that the Village should continue to communicate as often as possible when it comes to finances and developments in the Village.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Wolf stated that a few years ago she was approached by a resident about the status of non-discrimination in the Village code that may or may not exist. She stated she spoke to the solicitor and discovered that the existing ordinances are outdated and not specific. Ms. Wolf

proposed that the Health, Education & Welfare Committee meet and consider what other communities are doing in regards to nondiscrimination ordinances and update the Village code.

Mayor Muething stated that while the Village is not facing any particular issues, it is good business to review and update the code.

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

---

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

---

Mayor Thomas C. Muething