

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, September 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Muething called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

**PRESENT:**

Richard Bardach  
Peg Conway  
Ed Hattenbach  
Elida Kamine  
Thomas C. Muething  
Ray Warren  
Natalie Wolf

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

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 August 14, 2017 meeting minutes as distributed. There being none, he stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the July, 2017, 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 July totaled \$137,400. The total General Fund Revenue for the month of July was \$561,844 while expenses equaled \$206,344. At the end of July, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$5,701,186. The report was accepted as submitted.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Mr. Bob Krueger, son of the Village's first police chief, attended the meeting to present a shadow box of some of his father's belongings for the history room. Mr. Krueger retold some of his father's memories about working for the community and its residents.

**STREETS, PUBLIC UTILITIES & SEWERS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Warren reported that the committee met on August 7 and September 5. On both dates the committee discussed Resolution 2017-27 which would authorize a contract for waste collection and recycling. He stated the contract was executed as part of the Center for Local Government (CLG) consortium. He noted while the CLG requested bids from three vendors, only one vendor bid—Rumpke. There were two option years in the bid which was similar to the structure of the current contract for trash and recycling. The contract includes a 14% increase per month from the current rate of \$12.28 per month for three years, with an option for an additional two years. The last two years include an automatic increase of 4% per year if the options are exercised.

Mr. Warren summarized that the 14% increase in cost is associated with recycling. He stated that Rumpke explained the increase was related to staff collection time, and the recycling market which has collapsed over the past few years related to energy prices. He stated the Rumpke presented an option for recycling every two weeks for a savings of \$2 per month.

However, the committee felt that residents are used to weekly service. He noted that Fairfax and Sharonville converted to bi-weekly recycling pick-up. The committee recommended pursuing weekly recycling. Mr. Warren moved to waive the three readings of Ordinance 2017-27, Ordinance Authorizing Contract with Rumpke for Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Services. Seconded by Ms. Kamine and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

NAY: (0)

Mr. Warren moved to adopt Ordinance 2017-27, seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

NAY: (0)

It was noted that the overall increase for trash and recycling collection would be \$22 per year and that the net increase was \$15 per year when considering the Village's cost was \$161 per year before the current contract which brought the price down during the multi-year contract period.

Mr. Warren next reported that the committee discussed over the last year or so that previous applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) to replace North and South Farmcrest and Kincaid failed because of inadequate scoring. The current approach is to apply for funds from separately Ohio Public Works Commission and Municipal Road funds. Mr. Warren shared the best case and worst case scenarios for the funding:

- 1) The Village receives both OPWC Grants for South Farmcrest and North Farmcrest and the MRF Grant for Kincaid. With this scenario, the Village's cost for all three streets would be approximately \$444,953.
- 2) The Village receives the OPWC Grant for South Farmcrest and the MRF Grant for Kincaid. The Village's share of costs for South Farmcrest and Kincaid and the total cost of North Farmcrest would be approximately \$910,106.
- 3) The Village receives only the OPWC Grant for South Farmcrest. The Village's share of costs for South Farmcrest plus the total cost for North Farmcrest and Kincaid would be approximately \$1,056,327.

Mr. Warren moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-28 Authorizing the Village Manager to Prepare and Submit an Application to Participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and Local Transportation Improvement Programs. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Warren reported that in the past the members, a total of 26 municipalities, of the Center for Local Government have provided mutual assistance to each other in the event of disasters. He noted most recently was the tornado in Moscow. He stated that personnel and equipment available for assistance is being inventoried by the Center for Local Government and formalized in a Public Works Mutual Aid contract. Mr. Warren moved to approve Resolution 2017-29, seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Warren provided an update regarding rock salt for the winter season. He stated that over the past two years there has been exceptional warm weather which has resulted in limited salt use. The new salt facility is at its maximum holding capacity filled with rock salt. The Village has enough to cover this winter without a new contract. The last bad season the Village

experienced was 15 years ago. The current contract obligates the Village to purchase an additional 300 tons and if the Village utilizes at least 300 tons there will be room to store the additional tons. He stated that this is a considerable one-time cost savings to the Village.

Mr. Warren shared that the committee has been working on promoting pedestrian safety and for over a year has been discussing the safety of the intersection at Section and Elbrook Roads. He recalled a major accident there a year and a half ago where a pedestrian was almost killed, and the pedestrian was wearing a reflective vest. The committee has talked about improving the intersection. He stated that the committee engaged the Police Chief, the Village Engineer, and CT Consultants for options. The engineer proposed that visibility of pedestrians would be improved with a street lighting plan. The lighting would be LED and restrictive so that it would not impact surrounding homeowners.

Mr. Warren explained that the committee was concerned with how homeowners may be impacted by the lighting. He noted the Village Engineer confirmed the light would not reach the structure part of their property. The committee met and voted to endorse installation of the lights at \$2,500 for installation and \$300 per year for the electricity. Mr. Warren also stated that he spoke to the homeowners about how they felt about the light and all three endorsed it.

### **POLICE-FIRE COMMITTEE**

Ms. Conway reported the committee met on September 6. She stated there is a proposed ordinance to establish a police auxiliary unit to handle event details for the Village. The idea was presented to the committee by Chief Wallace in August. The reason is the number of detail requests has increased for the department such that outside resources are needed to fill them. Ms. Conway commented that people in the Village like to see Amberley officers at events and the Chief would like consistency among practice and culture. She stated that the part-timers would have state certifications, and the Village would issue its uniform and badge. The auxiliary officers would provide their own weapons and gear. The auxiliary officers would not be permitted to work road duty or any other role typically filled by full time staff.

Ms. Conway conducted the first reading of Ordinance 2017-09, Ordinance Authorizing the Hiring of Auxiliary Peace Officers and Establishing the Auxiliary Police Unit.

Ms. Conway also shared an update from Chief Wallace regarding alarm monitoring. She stated that the Chief is working to establish arrangements with multiple alarm companies. A risk liability issue is being worked on with the law director as it pertains to the alarm company agreements and it is likely going to be ready closer to the beginning of the year.

Ms. Conway shared the update from Chief Wallace regarding the 911 system. The Chief provided information to the committee regarding potential legislation at the state level that could impact the Village's ability to have a 911 system, for example by requiring two dispatchers at all times. Such changes have been under discussion for some time. She stated that the Chief will continue to monitor it and communicate with other jurisdictions and state officials, and keep the committee informed.

Additionally, regarding the 911 system, Ms. Conway reported that the Chief addressed a question that had been raised after the Enquirer reported on dropped 911 calls and missed calls in the City of Cincinnati and the Chief assured the committee that Amberley has not experienced missed calls. The number of calls in the Village is very low compared to the capacity of the system. Cincinnati Bell has to sometimes make updates that can cause interruptions but that does not affect the Village.

Ms. Conway stated that she attended the Beyond the Call awards ceremony held by Cincinnati Christian University for the Honorable Mention that the Chief received in the category of Community Service and Problem Solving. There was an inspiring reflection on the role of first responders given this was the anniversary of 9/11. She stated the Chief was nominated by two of his colleagues, Lt. Brian Blum and Administrative Assistant Anna Shaw. Ms. Conway commented that she feels the Chief is following in Chief Krueger's footsteps. At one time, Chief Krueger used to visit all residents annually. Ms. Conway read the following excerpt from the nomination letter:

*"Chief Wallace is a hard man to put into words. To have met the Chief is to have engaged with a man passionate about his career and passionate about the safety of his community and its residents. A native Cincinnati, Chief Wallace cares deeply about the communities in which he lives and serves. The Chief notoriously will drop what he is doing to come to the mutual aid of another department or the assistance of a resident in need.*

*Chief Wallace interacts with the community not only on a personal level but, in an ever evolving world, has committed himself to keeping residents up to date via social media during all hours of the day and night. The Chief maintains an active presence on Facebook as well as Nextdoor and routinely makes residents aware of both emergency and non-emergency situations. Residents freely correspond with the Chief on both platforms and have repeatedly remarked on how much they appreciate all he and his department do for the community.*

*It's delightful to watch the Chief work and a privilege to work alongside a commander who ensures no group or individual in Amberley is left behind."*

#### **COMPENSATION & BENEFITS COMMITTEE**

Ms. Kamine reported that the committee met and received an update from the Center for Local Government Benefits Pool which is presented each year. She noted that 17 communities pool together for benefits to achieve the best rates on healthcare. The report shared that pool ended July with over \$1.9 million in reserves. The reserve target is \$1.4 million. The update shared that the pool is in very good shape. It was noted that large claims were down, which also translated to a smaller increase in premiums for this policy year.

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

Ms. Wolf reported that the committee met just prior to the council meeting regarding an update on the non-discrimination ordinance. She stated work is being done by the Village Solicitor and Alana Jochum, Executive Director of Equality Ohio, to prepare a draft ordinance. She stated that the meeting was active, informative, and well attended. She noted it was good to point out that in 2017 there are no fully inclusive protections at the state or federal level for lesbians, gays, bisexual, or transgender in commerce, housing and public facilities. And, she highlighted, that despite the fact that there is federal and state law for marriage equality. She continued that it is permissible to discriminate in housing, commerce and public facilities against this class of individuals. She commented that Amberley Village is very diverse and is an obvious community to pass an ordinance like this. She shared that currently 19 cities in Ohio have passed non-discrimination laws. She stated that the committee had a lot of questions and invited others to submit questions to her or the Mayor or Manager. Ms. Wolf stated that she is proud to be working on this and would like everyone to be engaged.

Mr. Warren thanked Vice Mayor Wolf for spearheading the modification to Village Ordinances regarding discrimination. He then shared the attached statement regarding the White Supremacist Rally held in Charlottesville, Virginia.

### **LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Mayor Muething reported that at its last meeting council approved the manager to enter into an easement for electric services for the Mercy Medical office building. The proposed Resolution 2017-30, authorizes the manager to enter into easements with Duke for gas and MSD or the property's lessee for sewer lines. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion carried unanimously.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the Village is switching over its services to leaf collection while brush pick-up will be suspended from mid-October through December. The last week for brush collection will be October 2 – 6. The maintenance department will take one week to ready for leaf collection which begins October 16.

Mr. Lahrmer shared that staff held a meeting with Duke regarding concerns expressed by residents and council related to Duke's response to outages. Five key points came out of the meeting and will be shared with residents via the village newsletter and other outlets:

1. Duke would like residents to call when their power goes out. Some residents might think they don't need to call because their neighbor already did, but Duke would like residents to make that call each time. Duke also offers phone and email alerts for residents.
2. Circuits in the Village are not simple. If a particular street goes out first, then the street doesn't go out, it is because not everyone is on the same grid or substation.
3. Vegetation is typically the cause for outages. When a tree touches an electric line the power goes out—any contact with the line causes an outage. There are a number of Ash trees in the Village that are part of the issue.
4. The Village has many rear line electrical services to residences, like on Elbrook where the power lines are located in the backyard. It is an aesthetically pleasing location for power lines, however, is a problem with it comes to vegetation and Duke physically responding during an outage since there are access issues.
5. Duke does have a smart grid system throughout Greater Cincinnati. It is continuously being upgraded. A part of the Village has been upgraded, part has not. It is in the plans for 2018. The smart grid is designed to create smaller sections of service areas and redundancies so everyone does not go out.

Mr. Lahrmer shared that Duke is aware their system is not perfect and they are trying to make it better. He stated it was refreshing to hear that there is an investment being made to help the issues.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Wallace provided information regarding an auto accident on Fair Oaks. He reported that a child on a scooter went into the roadway without looking and the child was struck with minor injuries. He stated the driver was not at fault. He stated that also that same day, an explosion occurred at French Park. There was a large grill with additional propane tanks set up, and when the grill was lit a gas valve blew off. The propane tank exploded 60-100 feet away from the grill. Large pieces were thrown, however, nobody was injured. He stated a great response was received from Deer Park-Silverton, Golf Manor, City of Cincinnati, and Amberley Village.

Chief Wallace announced the new solar speed signs on Section Road. He noted the older speed signs will continue to be utilized. The new speed signs will stay in place for longer periods of time and data will be retrieved.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Muething announced the following upcoming events and meeting dates:

- Tomorrow (9/12) is the Hands Around the School event at Pleasant Ridge Montessori. Community members are encouraged to attend and the school hopes enough show to actually hold hands around the building. The event is from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- The Environmental Stewardship Committee will be on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the community room.
- The Environmental Stewardship Committee will also host a Clean the Green on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The Village does not have the resources to perform minor maintenance on the Amberley Green, so volunteers and the committee meet in the parking lot and conduct light tree maintenance.
- The Environmental Stewardship Committee will be hosting a tree walk on the municipal grounds. The date is to be announced and likely will be October 22.

Mayor Muething thanked Amy Rubenstein for her years of working putting together the Ice Cream Social. She along with the Chief and police do a great job putting on the event, and Amy did another great job this year.

Mayor Muething stated that last month the Pleasant Ridge Montessori School asked the Village for a nomination for their Local School Decision Making Committee (LSDMC). It is being worked on and will be revisited in October. He stated that candidates may still be submitted.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Kamine shared that election season is coming up and residents should save the date of October 19. It will be an open forum for everyone to gain information about school board candidates. There are a dozen running for the four open seats, and the forum will be held in the community room.

Ms. Kamine shared that Village residents are extraordinary and mentioned that Sandy Kaltman and Karen Banksman were nominated for leadership awards this year.

Ms. Kamine wished everyone happy high holy days.

Ms. Wolf added that the Village has had several candidates in the 40 under 40 nominations, and congratulated Elida Kamine on receiving a nomination this year.

Ms. Wolf also thanked Clerk Nicole Browder for adding additional videos to the Village's E-News, and stated the leaf removal video has received about 3,000 views.

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