

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Not in attendance: Vice Mayor Natalie Wolf.

Mayor Muething called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>
Rich Bardach	Chief Wallace, Police-Fire Department
Peg Conway	Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor
Ed Hattenbach	Anna Shaw, Acting Clerk
Elida Kamine	Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Thomas C. Muething	Rick Kay, Treasurer
Ray Warren	

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 January 14, 2019 meeting minutes as distributed. There being none, he stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the December 2018 Finance Report (a copy of which is attached hereto). Mr. Lahrmer reported a summary of this report and revenues for the month of December totaled \$267,076, giving 2018 a total revenue of \$4.8 million (101% of estimated revenue).

Mr. Lahrmer stated 2018's revenue was similar to 2017's revenue in total with a difference on earnings tax. The Village had estimated earnings tax revenue to be \$2.75 million when it was actually \$2.5 million. Mr. Lahrmer attributed the difference to prepayments of tax in December 2017 in anticipation of federal tax law change and a change in the due date made by the state. Mr. Lahrmer also noted December fourth quarter earnings taxes were down. He continued by noting both net profit and withholding were up, a good sign representing the business community. Overall Village revenue was down \$175,000 in the fourth quarter.

Mr. Lahrmer then shared totals for various revenue accounts including homestead which totaled \$147,000; JEDZ revenue totaled \$126,000; the North Site cell tower rent totaled \$90,000; court fines totaled \$68,000; the Local Government Fund generated \$60,000 and has leveled off in that range; the interest for 2018 was \$96,000.

Mr. Lahrmer noted the total General Fund Revenue for the month of December was \$267,076 while expenses equaled \$928,000. Mr. Lahrmer noted December expenses are always anticipated to be high due to property and casualty insurance payments and transfers to other funds.

Mr. Lahrmer then explained the 2018 budgeted expenses were \$5.1 million and the Village spent slightly less. Spending increased \$500,000 from 2017. Mr. Lahrmer noted 2018 represented the

first year of the reduced police levy by \$300,000 which was absorbed by the General Fund. The Village paid off the Police & Fire pension debt of \$72,000 which will provide long term savings and this was not budgeted.

Mr. Lahrmer reported the largest expense for the Village was the police department. He stated that without the levy the Village would have spent more than the General Fund takes in. The police expenses totaled a little over \$3 million for 2018. He noted \$2 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 \$5.6 million. The report was accepted as submitted.

Lastly, 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.

LAW COMMITTEE

Mr. Bardach conducted the third reading of Ordinance 2018-13 Amending Zoning Code and Regulation of Accessory Structures.

Ms. Conway asked to confirm whether changes have been made to the version of the ordinance recommended by the Law Committee since the second reading and public hearing at the January council meeting. Mayor Muething confirmed no changes have been made.

Mr. Bardach moved to amend Ordinance 2018-13 in accordance with recommendations made by the Law Committee. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Hattenbach, Kamine, Muething, Warren (6)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Bardach moved to adopt revised Ordinance 2018-13, Amending Zoning Code and Regulation of Accessory Structures. Seconded by Ms. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Hattenbach, Kamine, Muething, Warren (6)
NAY: (0)

Ms. Conway asked if making the ordinance an emergency would prevent citizens from having the ability to file a referendum. Mayor Muething and Solicitor Frank affirmed an emergency clause precludes a referendum and clarified the emergency clause ends the moratorium as well as accelerates construction times for residents and that it's a tradeoff.

Mr. Bardach moved to adopt amended Ordinance 2018-13 as an emergency measure to lift the moratorium currently in place so residents wishing to construct accessory structures are no longer limited. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Hattenbach, Kamine, Muething, Warren (6)
NAY: (0)

STREETS, PUBLIC UTILITIES & SEWERS COMMITTEE

Mr. Warren reported the committee met January 28 to discuss the purchase of a replacement dump truck and front loader for the Maintenance Department.

Mr. Warren explained the new dump truck would replace the oldest in the fleet from 2008. He stated the current truck has had reliability issues and been costly to maintain. Recent engine repair and brake replacement was over \$16,000. The Village estimates dump trucks to have a 10-year service life. Village staff recommends a Freightliner truck body chassis. Mr. Warren stated Kaffenbarger Truck Equipment is being sourced for related equipment. He noted prices were obtained through the state of Ohio purchasing contract. The chassis will cost \$75,000 with Kaffenbarger's costs at \$63,000 for a total cost of \$139,003. There's an additional cost of \$500 for Village lettering making the final total \$139,503. The current truck will be sold.

Mayor Muething pointed out the lead time for a truck like this can be 10-11 months before delivery.

Mr. Warren presented and moved to approve Resolution 2019-3, Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract to Purchase Replacement Dump Truck and Sell Existing Vehicle. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Warren then discussed the replacement of the 2004 Case Wheel Loader. The Village targeted 15 years as the useful life as part of the long-term capital expenses. Village staff recommends the purchase of a Case Wheel Loader from Southeastern Equipment for \$175,000. The state of Ohio purchasing contract reduced the cost by 37% to \$110,000. The trade-in of the current Loader will yield \$37,000. Adding needed accessories brings the final price to \$81,000.

Mr. Warren presented and moved to approve Resolution 2019-4, Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract to Purchase Replacement Case Front Loader and Sell Existing Vehicle. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE

Ms. Conway reported the committee met January 28 to consider a number of items. Replacement of current weapons was included in the 2019 Budget. Individual handguns, holsters, and red dot sites will cost \$18,636 after the trade in of the current weapons valued at \$6,095. Any additional costs will come from the Drug Fund.

Ms. Conway presented and moved to approve Resolution 2019-5, Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract to Purchase Various Weapons. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Conway reported on minor changes to the mutual aid agreement with Hamilton County law enforcement agencies. The changes specifically reference the creation of a mobile field force team, which is less aggressive and lethal than a SWAT team.

Ms. Conway presented and moved to approve Resolution 2019-6, Authorizing a Mutual Aid Agreement with Hamilton County. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Conway reported on the need to replace two vehicles in the police department. The 2019 budget provides \$40,000 for normal vehicle replacement in the police department. Chief Wallace presented a plan at the January 28 meeting to replace an older unmarked Crown Victoria and an unmarked 2010 Ford Explorer. Two vehicles will be purchased in their place including a used 2018 Dodge Ram to replace the Chief's current vehicle. Price is \$33,619 delivered and funding breaks down as \$8,000 from the drug fund and \$ 25,619 from the general fund.

Ms. Conway presented and moved to approve Resolution 2019-7, the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract to Purchase One Used 2018 Dodge Ram 1500 Truck. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Conway then reported on the second vehicle purchase: a used 2017 Nissan Rogue from Hertz Car Sales of Loveland at a price of \$14,985 which is the balance of the budgeted \$40,000.

Ms. Conway presented and moved to approve Resolution 2019-8, the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract to Purchase One Used 2017 Nissan Rogue. Seconded by Mr. Bardach and the motion carried unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer stated the 2018 Annual Financial Statement is required of all local government jurisdictions to be submitted to the state auditor and was included in the council packet. The document is prepared by Financial Administrator Kathy Harcourt, is available online, in the Administration Office, and advertised in a circulated newspaper.

Mr. Lahrmer recognized Nicole Browder, who announced her departure for another position. Her last council meeting was in January after 12.5 years with Amberley during which she had done an excellent job. The Village is currently in the process of recruiting for the position. Mr. Lahrmer wished her the best in future endeavors.

Mr. Lahrmer reported Kevin Frank is departing from his role as Village Solicitor as well as his law firm of Wood & Lamping. Mr. Frank served the Village since 2010 and will be extremely missed by staff and council. Mr. Lahrmer pointed out an advantage of Wood & Lamping as the Village's law firm is the municipal side of the business. Through Kevin Frank we have moved Kevin McDonough into the role of Village Solicitor. Mr. Lahrmer stated the Law Committee will convene later this month to meet and interact with Mr. McDonough.

Mayor Muething thanked Mr. Frank on behalf of council for his years of service and stated the City of Cincinnati is lucky to have him.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Wallace thanked Mr. Frank for his guidance and friendship. He looks forward to working with Mr. McDonough.

Chief Wallace spoke about rotating the fleet and noted one car was sold today with payment received. The overall budget was minimal, roughly under 5% from 2018.

Chief Wallace recognized Sergeant Shaw, Officer Robbins, and Officer Burton for their two years of work to obtain the best weapons' rate for Village. He commended these employees for their diligence and thoughtfulness. Ability to use drug funds is a great opportunity to take some of the burden off the general fund.

Chief Wallace then commented on the difficult beginning of the year with officer fatalities like Officer Dale Woods and Detective Bill Brewer. He stated in his position on The Shield Board he meets with the families, one of the hardest positions he's had since becoming a policeman. He then recognized our great department and stated each day he's thankful because his biggest fear is this tragedy every night when you go to bed. He appreciates our community for their support even more because of this. Chief Wallace then discussed the high rate of officer suicide due to various reasons. Chief Wallace concluded by saying he's proud to work here.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Muething spoke about The Shield's recent phonathon on Channel 9. He explained The Shield has no administrative expenses and residents wishing to help and show support by donating to The Shield can contribute through Chief Wallace. He hopes the funds are never needed but in this time of fatalities The Shield is stressed. Ms. Conway pointed out you can give online at The Shield of Ohio.

Mayor Muething reported the Environmental Stewardship Committee will meet February 25 at 5pm. The meeting will be held to discuss an assessment of the We Thrive! action plan which is done every 2 years.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kamine announced on behalf of Vice Mayor Wolf the next meeting of the We Thrive! subcommittee is February 13 at 6:00pm to continue discussing the chronic disease pathway, which is the next foray for We Thrive! led by resident Carole Donnellon.

Mayor Muething recognized and thanked a boy scout in attendance to earn a merit badge. He reminded everyone all are welcome to attend council meetings.

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

Anna L. Shaw, Acting Clerk

Mayor Thomas C. Muething