

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

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Not in attendance: Rick Kay, Treasurer.

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 McDonough, Village Solicitor
Ed Hattenbach	Anna Shaw, Acting Clerk
Elida Kamine	Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
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 February 11, 2019 meeting minutes as distributed. There being none, he stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the January 2019 Finance Report (a copy of which is attached hereto). Mr. Lahrmer reported a summary of this report and revenues for the month of January totaled \$250,956. This is up 65.83% from January 2018's collection of \$151,332. The total General Fund revenue for the month of January was \$302,796 while expenses equaled \$415,810. At the end of January, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$4,396,337. The report was accepted as submitted.

**COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE**

Ms. Kamine reported the committee met February 27 to discuss employee compensation. Ms. Kamine stated this review is conducted annually with many factors taken into consideration and the Village budgeted an increase of 2%. Ms. Kamine stated Council wants to ensure proper acknowledgement and reward of staff's hard work while also wanting to remain in line with peer communities.

Ms. Kamine reported the Committee recommends the budgeted 2% raise with an additional one-time .5% bonus per employee. The bonus equates to a one-time cost of \$17,000.

Ms. Kamine presented and moved to waive the three readings for Ordinance 2019-1, Fixing Compensation for Village Employees and Declaring an Emergency. Seconded by Ms. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

Ms. Kamine moved to approve Ordinance 2019-1. Seconded by Ms. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

Ms. Kamine moved to adopt Ordinance 2019-1 as an emergency measure to apply such adjustments on April 1, 2019. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

**LAW COMMITTEE**

Mr. Bardach reported the committee met January 14 to discuss amending the compensation of the Village Solicitor. Mr. Bardach stated a recent change of Village Solicitor had occurred from Kevin Frank to Kevin McDonough, both attorneys with Wood and Lamping.

Mr. Bardach stated there has not been a rate increase in 9 years. The new rate would be a consistent hourly rate as opposed to a fee schedule. Mr. Bardach stated staff estimates the new rate will cost an additional \$12,000 annually based on 2017 hours utilized.

Mr. Bardach stated the rate will go into effect retroactively to March 1, 2019.

Mayor Muething clarified the rate increase was in negotiation prior to Mr. Frank's departure.

Mr. Warren asked how many hours are used in excess of 12 hours per month with the Village Solicitor. Mr. Lahrmer stated he cannot give an exact number and it fluctuates from year to year. Mr. Warren asked Mr. Lahrmer if the increase was approximately 20% to which Mr. Lahrmer agreed but there has not been an increase in nine years.

Mr. Warren then asked for clarification about language in the staff write up related to OPERS. Mr. Lahrmer stated the original intent behind the lower rate was for inclusion of the first 12 hours in OPERS which never occurred. Ms. Conway clarified this was an internal issue for Wood and Lamping to which Mr. Lahrmer concurred.

Mr. Warren asked if the former solicitor did not receive OPERS. Mr. Lahrmer confirmed as Mr. Frank was not an employee of Amberley Village but rather Wood and Lamping. Mr. Warren then asked if the new rate allows for pension contributions for the new solicitor to which Mr. Lahrmer replied it does not.

Mr. Bardach presented and moved to waive the three readings for Ordinance 2019-2, Amending and Approving a Proposal to Amend Compensation of the Solicitor. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

Mr. Bardach moved to approve Ordinance 2019-2. Seconded by Vice Mayor Wolf and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

Mr. Bardach moved to adopt Ordinance 2019-2 as an emergency measure to become effective retroactively on March 1, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hattenbach reported the committee met February 28 to discuss an adjustment to the appropriation for fiscal year 2019. Mr. Hattenbach explained due to unanticipated receipt of additional money in the PSAP 911 fund, additional money needs appropriated in addition to monies already appropriated.

Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve Ordinance 2019-3, Amending Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2019. Seconded by Ms. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

Mr. Lahrmer stated the Maintenance Department recovered an abandoned rental scooter from the intersection of Ridge and Galbraith Roads. The scooter was brought to the police department.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) is charged with convening and reviewing compliance of tax incentives. He stated two seats are currently held by Tom Muething and Bill Doering and are ready to be reappointed for a one-year term. He noted it was necessary to continue this as the incentive for TOPICZ is still active. Mr. Lahrmer stated 2020 will be the last year for the Village’s participation.

Mayor Muething stated that TOPICZ has far surpassed what they committed to do. He informed Council the commitment to the TIRC must be adhered to even though TOPICZ has met and exceeded the requirement.

Mayor Muething moved to appoint himself and Bill Doering to the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC). Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

**CHIEF’S REPORT**

Chief Wallace thanked Village Council for acknowledging staff’s hard work with a 2% raise.

Chief Wallace extended a welcome to Mr. McDonough.

Chief Wallace informed Council of an evening incident which occurred March 8 on Section Road. An arrest was made on March 11. The suspect was charged with criminal damaging.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Muething stated he attended the annual Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) District Advisory Committee meeting. Mayor Muething explained Amberley Village receives multiple services from this organization, whose mission is to educate, serve, and protect our community for a healthier future. Mayor Muething stated services are also available to residents online at [hamiltoncountypublichealth.com](http://hamiltoncountypublichealth.com).

Mayor Muething then reported on annual statistics related to the opioid crisis provided by HCPH.

Mayor Muething recognized the 100th anniversary of HCPH and reported several statistics which have changed in those 100 years. Mayor Muething also stated all minutes have been kept from 100 years' worth of meetings. He then read excerpts from a selection of minutes.

Mayor Muething stated he intends to present a resolution at the April Council meeting in recognition of 100 years of Hamilton County Public Health.

Mayor Muething concluded by stating the next Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting will be March 25 at 7pm and the annual One Stop Drop event is April 7 from 12pm to 4pm.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Mayor Wolf stated she will attend the quarterly WeThrive! learning collaborative. Vice Mayor Wolf noted March 20 is the WeThrive! working group's chronic disease meeting.

Ms. Conway announced she was elected Chair of the Local School Decision Making Committee at the Village's local public school, Pleasant Ridge Montessori. This is an interim post which will lead the search for the school's new principal.

Ms. Conway reminded everyone there are still garden plots available for rent at the Amberley Green Community Garden.

Ms. Kamine recognized the Fisher families for being recipients of the American Heart Association's "Heart in the City" award.

Ms. Kamine stated she posted on Nextdoor about the Duke energy pipeline. Ms. Kamine stated the organization Neighbors Opposed to Pipeline Extension (NOPE) are meeting March 13 at 6:30pm at Evendale's recreation center. The Ohio Power Siting Board will host a public hearing at UC Blue Ash March 21 at 3pm.

Ms. Kamine asked Mr. McDonough what work the Village has continued to do in order to stay apprised of the proposed pipeline. Mr. McDonough replied he has filed a notice of substitution as well as responses to requests for discovery. Ms. Kamine asked whether attorney calls between jurisdictions are continuing, which Mr. McDonough confirmed.

Mayor Muething announced he will attend both upcoming pipeline meetings on March 13 and March 21.

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

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Anna L. Shaw, Acting Clerk

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Mayor Thomas C. Muething