

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, January 8, 2018 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	Chief Rich Wallace, Police-Fire Department
Ed Hattenbach	Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council
Elida Kamine	Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor
Thomas C. Muething	Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Ray Warren	Rick Kay, Village Treasurer
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 December 11, 2017 meeting minutes as distributed. There being none, he stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the November, 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 November totaled \$99,407. The total General Fund Revenue for the month of November was \$204,819 while expenses equaled \$321,066. At the end of November, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$5,799,827. The report was accepted as submitted.

SWEARING-IN OF SGT. BRANDON GEHRING

Mayor Muething conducted the swearing-in of Police Officer Brandon Gehring to the rank of Sergeant with the Police-Fire Department. Chief Wallace recognized Gehring's family who was present for the ceremony, his mother Jeaneana Gehring, grandfather John Gehring, grandparents Ralph and Margie Hall, and his wife Lindsey with his son Brayden, and daughter Maci. Lindsey Gehring and Ms. Gehring took part in the pinning of the badge onto Gehring's uniform. Mayor Muething conducted the oath of office and congratulated Gehring on his new role as sergeant.

STREETS, PUBLIC UTILITIES & SEWERS COMMITTEE

Mr. Warren reported that the committee met in December and discussed the rate schedule submitted by CT Consultants, formerly CDS Associates. CT Consultants has been providing engineering services for many years to the Village on storm water projects, street improvements, architecture, grants, and public works engineering in general. The upcoming consulting fees for 2018 include an increase on average of 1.8% with a range of 1.2% up to 2.2%. Mr. Warren stated that over the last several years in terms of expenses, the costs have been \$68,000 (2014/2015), \$87,000 (2016), and \$47,000 (through Oct. 2017), generally steady or declining. Mr. Warren moved to approve Resolution 2018-1, Resolution Approving and Adopting Proposal of CT Consultants to Amend its Schedule of Fees. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE

Ms. Wolf, on behalf of Ms. Conway, reported that the committee met on December 7, 2017 and recommended Ordinance 2018-1 Authorizing a Contract with Cost Recovery for Collection and Reimbursement of Certain Public Safety Expenses. She stated that Amberley is one of many in the county that seek reimbursement from negligent non-resident motorists that require a response from police and fire or rescue units. It was noted that the Village has been recouping such costs for ten years. The Village residents are not charged. Homeowners already pay through taxes for such service. It was clarified that this applied to only non-residents, at-fault for an accident. Ms. Wolf conducted the first reading of Ordinance 2018-1, Authorizing a Contract with Cost Recovery Corp for the Collection and Reimbursement of Certain Public Safety Expenses. She stated the contract and fee schedules were included in the council packet.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS & PARKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach, on behalf of Ms. Conway, reported that the committee met on December 27 to review bids for asbestos abatement of the former clubhouse at Amberley Green. Three bids were received, two were over \$80,000 and one totaled \$61,874. The bid recommendation from the committee was for services from Rainbow Environmental Services in the amount not to exceed \$61,874. Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve Resolution 2018-2, Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract for Asbestos Removal at Amberley Green Clubhouse. Seconded by Ms. Kamine and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kamine inquired about the timeline of the project. Mr. Lahrmer stated it will begin in February and likely occur over two months. Ms. Kamine asked that the Village communicate in advance with residents regarding the work-related activity. Mr. Lahrmer stated that information would be shared in the newsletter.

Mr. Warren asked if the project was indoor only. Mr. Lahrmer stated that no exterior work is expected at this time; however, a future project will require asbestos to be removed from the roof. There will be trucks and traffic on the property. Mr. Warren noted that the Village did receive two grants from Hamilton County; \$10,000 from the Community Development Block Grant Program and \$20,000 from the Urban Land Assistance Program, to assist in the cost. It was also noted that the engineer's estimate was almost double the actual cost of the project.

LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mayor Muething presented Resolution 2018-3, Authorizing an Easement to Greater Cincinnati Water Works for the water line on the North Site. He stated the water line was installed in the early 2000's and runs from Ridge for service to the maintenance garage, and at that point it was installed because of work on Ronald Reagan Highway. The easement, however, was not put in place which was discovered when doing work on the other easements related to the Mercy Health medical office building. Mayor Muething moved to approve Resolution 2018-3, Authorizing an Easement to GCWW for Water Main on North Site. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion carried unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the 2018 council meeting calendar was shared in the council packet, which has a few dates falling on Jewish holidays. He stated that council can reschedule a meeting date by motion. Mayor Muething moved to reschedule the September 10 regular Village Council meeting to September 13. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the popular drug take back day program is now available 24 hours a day in the Police-Fire Department. Residents can bring pills to the department and drop them off.

No liquids, creams, or empty containers. He encouraged residents to utilize the program as part of the effort to rid homes of unused and unwanted medicines, also an initiative of the Heroin Task Force.

Mr. Lahrmer shared that new holiday package program put on by the Police-Fire Department in an effort to combat “porch pirates” received 116 packages from residents during the holidays. He stated this program helped prevent that kind of activity. He also thanked residents for participating and noted the program would return again next in 2018.

Mr. Warren stated the package program was a great initiative. He asked if this posed a burden on staff, especially if it becomes further publicized. Chief Wallace stated the program worked well and dispatchers can have a wait time. Chief Wallace shared that only one porch theft occurred prior to the program, and none were reported otherwise.

CHIEF’S REPORT

Chief Wallace reported that the Police-Fire Department received a grant for light systems on the command vehicles. The light system will mount on top of the vehicles, and can be elevated and rotated to light up a scene. He stated the grant received was in the amount of \$23,675 from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. The grant also included a thermal imaging camera. He stated that the light systems will allow access to better light a scene where the fire truck might not be able to get into because of its size. Chief Wallace stated these items were looked into at a conference three years ago but could not be budgeted due to other items needed. He thanked resident Sandy Pywen and Officer Fritsch for their assistance in obtaining the grant.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Muething reported that in 2017, Village Council met 12 times and held 62 committee meetings, similar to 2016 which had 65 meetings. The storm water board met two times and the Environmental Stewardship Committee met 10 times.

Mayor Muething shared a review of accomplishments from the past year and goals for the upcoming year with focus on the following priorities:

- 1) Cost discipline. In 2017, this was evidenced very well in the monthly finance committee meetings and residents are invited to attend those meetings to observe this process. Staff will continue the cost discipline in 2018.
- 2) Police levy. The passage of the police levy with overwhelming support at a reduced rate.
- 3) Economic Development. Completion of the Mercy Medical Office Building. Next, opportunities for the North Site will continue to be sought. The objective for 2018 will be 2100 Section Road and moving that property forward. He noted it was important to respond proactively to surprises, which are inevitable.
- 4) High quality services. The Village will focus on providing high quality valued services for our residents. The high valued services are police-fire, maintenance and trash. For 2018, which was also reviewed in 2017, is the need to review and ensure the police-fire department is adequately staffed and equipped. One additional officer was approved in 2016, and dispatch was reviewed in late 2017. Next, the street program is critical in maintaining high quality streets. The left turn signal on Ridge at Ronald Reagan was something very valued by residents and is a big safety addition. The new process for alarm monitoring was approved and will be put in place in 2018. Lastly, the contract with Rumpke for trash and recycling was renewed in 2017.
- 5) Making Amberley Village attractive to current and future residents. In 2017, improvements were approved for the upper ballfield. Trees were planted in places where others had died

out. The tax increment financing district was put in place for the North Site and will be explored for 2100 Section Road. 2018 objectives including moving forward with plans for the Amberley Green. Also, addressing what we do for maintenance for the Village walking track, since the upper part is deteriorating.

- 6) Communications. 2017 accomplishments include multiple town meetings, new website, new mechanisms for communications such as social media and videos. 2018 will include town halls and a continued focus on communication.

Mayor Muething also reported that the Environmental Stewardship Committee will hold its first meeting of 2018 on January 27.

Mayor Muething presented Ordinance 2018-2, Authorizing an Addendum to the Village Manager's Employment contract. He stated this would amend the agreement to increase the manager's compensation by three percent retroactive to January 1, 2018, and includes a one-time merit bonus of \$1,500.

Mayor Muething moved to waive the three readings of Ordinance 2018-2, Authorizing an Addendum to the Village Manager's Employment. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

Mayor Muething moved to approve Ordinance 2018-2. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

Mayor Muething moved to adopt Ordinance 2018-2 as an emergency measure to timely effect a retroactive change in the Manager's compensation and to ensure the continued efficient operations of the Village. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hattenbach reported regarding the suit against House Bill 49 and commented there have been hearings in Franklin County Common Pleas. He stated that a stay was issued for adoption of the tax changes for those municipalities, like Amberley, that were participants of the suit. Non-participating municipalities will have to follow the requirements to adopt the changes by the end of January.

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

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Thomas C. Muething