

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2013**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, November 11, 2013 at 6:30 P.M. Mayor J.K. Byar called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

PRESENT:

Richard Bardach
J.K. Byar
Bill Doering
Ed Hattenbach
Tom Muething
Ray Warren
Natalie Wolf

ALSO PRESENT:

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Chief Rich Wallace, Police/Fire Department
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council
Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor

EXCUSED:

Rick Kay, Treasurer

Mayor Byar welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amberley Village Council. He then led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Betty Whitaker then sang the National Anthem.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Byar presented a proclamation in observance of Veterans Day.

MINUTES

Mayor Byar presented the minutes of the October 15, 2013 regular meeting. Mayor Byar asked if there were any corrections or additions. Since there were none, Mayor Byar stated that the minutes were accepted.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the September, 2013, Finance Report (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). A summary of this report noted total tax collections for the month of September totaled \$117,465 and the total year-to-date collections are up 2% over the September 2012 year-to-date. The total general fund revenue for the month of September was \$166,879 while expenses equaled \$218,440. At the end of September, unencumbered General Fund balance was \$2,608,034. The report was accepted as submitted.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mr. Bill Lazarus, 2502 Oakridge, posed his concern with three areas of the proposed panhandle lot ordinance which he detailed in a handout to council that is also attached hereto. He requested council modify the panhandle ordinance prior to passage.

Ms. Sara Lazarus, 2502 Oakridge, expressed her preference for the Village to utilize mail notification to the residents that this proposed ordinance would impact. She requested that this type of notification take place prior to passage of the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Tom Neuman, 5120 Rollman Estates Drive, commented on his concerns for staff morale, employees leaving, and salary levels. He also expressed his preference for staff to receive the same level for a holiday gift this year as was given last year. He suggested that the holiday gift be handled by the Village Manager in the future rather than council.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Byar opened the public hearing at 6:52 p.m.

Mr. Bardach presented and read the second reading of Ordinance No. 2013-17, Ordinance Amending Section 154.15 of the Village Code Pertaining to Panhandle Lots.

Mr. Lahrmer gave a brief history of the evolution of the ordinance explaining that the board that hears applications for panhandle lots was interested in developing criteria as a tool to assist with the decision-making process due to the existing code section being subjective.

Mayor Byar asked if anyone present would like to speak on this topic.

Mr. Tom Neuman, 5120 Rollman Estates Drive, presented hypothetical scenarios for lot splits versus panhandle creation and how the ordinance impacts the options to split lots.

Mayor Byar invited other members of the public to speak, including Mr. and Mrs. Lazarus who declined. There were no further comments from the public. Discussion was held among council in regards to various questions about certain areas of the ordinance and its impact on residents. There was some concern that certain language may be too restrictive or burdensome on the applicant/property owners. Mayor Byar closed the public hearing at 7:33 p.m. There was a consensus to further review the ordinance. Mr. Muething moved to table Ordinance 2013-17 and refer it to the Land Development Committee for review and report back to council by the January council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

STREETS, PUBLIC BUILDINGS & PARKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Doering presented, read and moved to approve Resolution No. 2013-30, Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract for Alternative Supply of Electric Energy. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Doering noted this was a two-year contract. Ms. Wolf clarified that this applied to the Village's municipal facilities and would not change the existing arrangement for the residents.

POLICE/FIRE COMMITTEE

Mr. Muething presented, read and moved to approve Resolution No. 2013-31, Authorizing the Village Manager to Execute a Mutual Aid Agreement with Hamilton County and Participating Agencies for Law Enforcement. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Muething presented, read and moved to approve Resolution No. 2013-32, Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract to Purchase New Police Cruisers. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Muething commented that the Village has been doing an excellent job of deferring purchases as much as possible and at this point there are vehicles that need to be replaced due to high repair costs. The 3 new vehicles will cost \$81,450.

Discussion was held in regards to a regular replacement strategy for police cruisers and the need for additional equipment to outfit the cruisers.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance No. 2013-20, Ordinance Amending Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2013. Mr. Doering seconded the motion and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Byar, Bardach, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach then moved that Ordinance No. 2013-20 be adopted as an emergency measure. Mr. Muething seconded the motion and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Byar, Bardach, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance No. 2013-21, Ordinance Transferring Funds for the Fiscal Year 2013. Mr. Doering seconded the motion and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Byar, Bardach, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach then moved that Ordinance No. 2013-21 be adopted as an emergency measure. Mr. Doering seconded the motion and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Byar, Bardach, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Mr. Warren reported that the committee met and discussed a holiday gift for employees. The committee recommended \$150 be approved. Mr. Warren moved to approve \$150 for the employee holiday gift this year. Seconded by Mr. Doering.

Discussion was held as to whether the amount should be the same as last year, whether this item should be handled by the Village Manager in the future, and whether or not it is something only done in private sector versus public sector.

Mr. Bardach moved to amend the motion to include an additional amount to equal the holiday gift given last year of \$250 with the option of a gift card or cash. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Byar, Bardach, Hattenbach, Wolf (4)
NAY: Doering, Muething, Warren (3)

A vote was held on the amended motion to give a holiday gift to employees of \$250 with the option of a gift card or cash, and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Byar, Bardach, Hattenbach, Wolf (4)
NAY: Doering, Muething, Warren (3)

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer reported that there will not be a Board of Zoning Appeals meeting in December.

A new door hanger has been developed to remind residents to bring their trash cans back from the curb on trash collection day.

Leaf collection is in full operation and will continue through December. The volume of leaves has been increasing which slows down the crews along with equipment and weather which affects the schedule for collection.

The maintenance department also has aging equipment and vehicles. Over \$10,000 in repairs has been spent on a 2002, 2008 and 2010 dump truck. A new truck has been purchased which will be delivered in 2014.

Maintenance personnel participated for the first time in a "Snowplow Rodeo" which is an intense obstacle course competitive and timed event. Out of 56 agencies, one employee placed 12th and the other placed 18th. This was a great opportunity for Village employees to show off their skills.

The November E-News was published on November 1. While the newsletter is a group effort with department submitting various articles, Nicole Browder does an astounding job of editing and

publishing the Village news. A new section was added this month that informs residents of council actions.

Rumpke will hold an open house for its new recycling center in St. Bernard on November 15 for those interested in attending.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Byar thanked Council, the Chief and Manager, and staff for their work during his term. He stated it has been an honor to represent the community. He commented that the Village is in the best financial shape it has been in for years, without debt and with assets.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Wolf provided an update on the First Suburbs meeting she recently attended and gave an explanation of the group's function. She invited other council members to attend and will communicate the next meeting date.

Mr. Doering asked if parking can be reserved for senior voters on election days in the future. Mr. Lahrmer stated the issue would be communicated to the Hamilton County Board of Elections.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING MAYOR

A presentation was made by Vice Mayor Wolf for recognition of outgoing Mayor J.K. Byar. He received a service award for having served one term on Village Council as Mayor.

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

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor J.K. Byar