

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. Mayor Muething called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

PRESENT:

Richard Bardach
Peg Conway
Bill Doering
Ed Hattenbach
Thomas C. Muething
Ray Warren
Natalie Wolf

ALSO PRESENT:

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

Mayor Muething welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Amberley Village Council. He then led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

Mayor Muething presented the minutes of the March 10, 2014 regular meeting. He noted minor changes were distributed prior to the meeting. Mayor Muething asked if there were any corrections or additions. Since there were none, Mayor Muething stated that the minutes were accepted.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the February, 2014, Finance Report (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). A summary of this report noted total tax collections for the month of February totaled \$215,341 and the collections are up 2.9% over the February 2013. The total general fund revenue for the month of February was \$282,763 while expenses equaled \$347,608. At the end of February, unencumbered General Fund balance was \$2,344,558. The report was accepted as submitted.

STREETS COMMITTEE

Mr. Doering presented, read and moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-11, Resolution Declaring Support for State Issue 1, Renewal of the State Capital Improvement Program. Seconded by Ms. Conway and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Conway clarified that this program is not a new tax for residents. Mayor Muething also noted that there has not been party opposition for the program.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Mayor Muething reported that the committee met on March 24 to discuss upcoming events. The One Stop Drop recycling event took place on April 6 and successfully collected 22 tons of material over the 17.5 tons last year. He noted that Amberley has achieved the maximum recycling rate available through the Hamilton County Residential Recycling program, which returns grant dollars back to the Village for its recycling efforts. Mayor Muething thanked Merrie Stillpass and Andy Cohen for their hard work coordinating the event and letters will be sent to all of the volunteers that assisted as well.

Mayor Muething announced that Arbor Day in the Village would be held on April 22 at 6 p.m. at the flag pole in front of the Village Municipal Building. A proclamation will be presented, along with a tree planting and activities.

Mayor Muething announced that Scott Beuerlein will hold a seminar on April 28 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room to present information on the Taking Root campaign, which is a region wide initiative to restore the tree canopy. On March 22, the committee passed a resolution endorsing the Taking Root campaign and coordinated a \$25 off voucher with Natorp's for the purchase of a tree to encourage tree plantings in the Village.

Mayor Muething shared additional statistics regarding the materials collected at One Stop Drop:

	<u>Paper</u>	<u>Shoes</u>	<u>Electronics</u>
2013 Tonnages	6.4	1.6	9.4
2014 Tonnages	6.5	2.5	13.1

Mr. Doering asked if smaller recycle totes were available for residents. A suggestion was to contact Rumpke.

Ms. Wolf commented that the tonnage of material collected should alert residents to the fact that all of this material was kept out of the landfill and to continue making efforts to recycle items rather than sending the material to the landfill.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer presented for council consideration Ordinance 2014-07, Ordinance Changing the Frequency of Compensation to Members of Council. The reporting requirements of the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS) cause for the council's pay to occur monthly rather than quarterly. Mr. Doering moved to waive the three readings and approve Ordinance 2014-07, seconded by Ms. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve Ordinance 2014-07 as an emergency measure for the immediate change to the frequency and timing of compensation paid to council members in order to comply with state regulations.

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

Mr. Lahrmer continued with the Manager's Report. He announced that the Village was successful in a property maintenance pursuit of the house at 2502 Oak Ridge which has been demolished. Construction has begun at the house at 2905 Belkay Lane and the Village made contact to have the large amount of brush removed that was placed at the curb.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the Village's contract with DP&L ends with the May meter reading. Eagle Energy has solicited proposals for the renewal, which will be a 3 year agreement as the rates are going up for everyone due to a capacity cost increase by the Regional Transmission Organization. The Streets Committee will review the proposals and Council will take action prior to May 9 to renew the electric aggregation program. Mr. Lahrmer explained that residents will receive letters from DP&L and Duke during this transition and then a letter from the Village announcing the new supplier.

Residents are urged to take no action until the Village's rate is known and publicized. Ms. Wolf asked if there would be an option for residents to choose green energy. Mr. Lahrmer

explained that the best price was the driving factor and that there was an option for green energy. Mr. Warren asked if council should take action, hold a community meeting, or send an e-blast to let residents know that this change is occurring.

There was additional discussion regarding a one-year contract versus a three-year contract and it was clarified that the three-year contract yields the best offer with the market conditions and forecasts.

Ms. Conway commented that the message to residents is not to take any action at this time while the renewal process occurs.

Ms. Wolf then commented that the dog walker that leaves bags of dog excrement along the road has returned and asked that the bags be picked up by this person.

Mr. Lahrmer continued with the Manager's Report, stating that the Village's print version of the newsletter was delivered to residents the week of March 24.

A compliment of the Village was given by an article about the Gibson sledding hill which featured in Cincinnati Magazine and it stated Amberley's roads are kept clear so folks can drive to the sledding spot. This reflects positive on the Maintenance Department's snow clearing efforts.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Muething reported that there were 4 committee meetings since the last council meeting and a training session on Sunshine and Open Meetings Laws was also attended by council members.

Mayor Muething stated that the Village's Financial Sustainability Report was presented to regional leaders at an event hosted by Agenda 360. He noted the Village was the smallest community represented and the report received positive reviews.

Mayor Muething announced that the Village residents are fortunate to have a high quality workforce. He noted that the hard work conducted during the recent hiring processes by Chief Wallace and Village Manager Scot Lahrmer. It was evident that a rigorous process was followed as he received a detailed explanation of the steps being taken when he asked for a status. He noted that a swearing-in ceremony would be conducted at the end of the meeting.

Mayor Muething then conducted the swearing-in of the new Police Officer/Fire Fighters, Brian Baker and Ryan Rump. Those in attendance were invited to the lobby for a reception afterwards.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Conway reported that she attended the presentation of the Financial Sustainability Report and would like to consider holding a town hall meeting to make this presentation to the residents this year.

Mr. Doering reported that the Hamilton County Auditor has announced that the Homestead Exemption for a reduction in property taxes would become subject to an income test and folks 65 and older are encouraged to apply. The deadline is early June.

Mayor Muething referred the presentation of the FSR to the Public Outreach Committee to present sometime in the fall.

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

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Thomas C. Muething