

Amberley Village Ad Hoc Committee
January 11, 2012- 7 p.m.
Meeting Agenda

1. Reviewing and approving the minutes of the December 8, 2011 meeting
2. Process and timeline for making the Committee's recommendations and issuing a written report to Council and the Village
3. Next Committee meeting: Thursday, January 19, 2012
4. Other business

Police Levy on the March Ballot

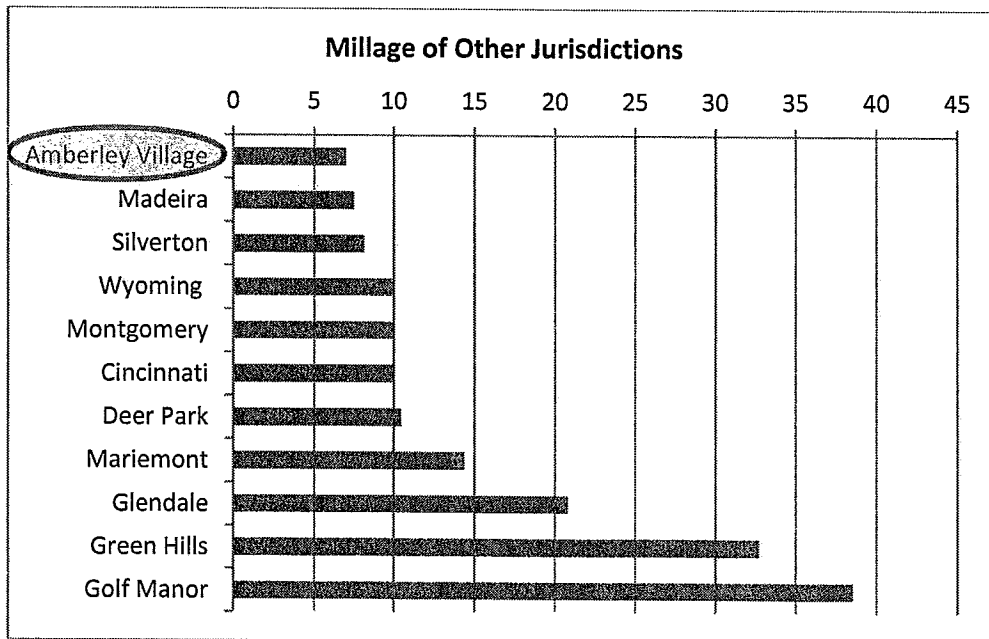
Residents will have the opportunity to vote March 6 on a 10 mill police levy that will partially fund our Police Department. The last and only time residents voted on a property tax increase was in 1955 when 7 mills were approved for general Village expenses. This hasn't increased in 56 years and there is no current police or fire levy in place for the Village.

The cost of police and fire service consumes more than 50% of the budget and there is no other funding source than the General Fund. There is significant erosion of the Village's revenue streams occurring as a result of the State budget which dealt a financial blow to Amberley Village. Eliminating the estate tax will cost the cost the Village between \$500,000 and \$800,000 of revenues per year and decreasing the revenue sharing from the State via the local government fund will reduce revenues by \$50,000 per year. This, combined with declining property values resulting in approximately \$200,000 less next year, has the effect of financially ruining Village services.

The police levy is intended to create a dedicated source of revenue that can only be used by our Police Department for the expense of police operations and services. The Village must have an additional funding source other than what we have relied upon since the 1950s to maintain our current high level of protection.

The 2012 Police Budget is \$2.5 million and 10 mills will generate \$1.6 million next year. This is a 5-year levy that will expire in 2016. One mill is equivalent to \$30.40 per \$100,000 market value so for a home valued at \$200,000 the 10 mill levy will cost \$608 per year. Currently, the owner of a \$200,000 property pays \$429 in property taxes to Amberley Village.

Amberley Village has one of the lowest property tax rates in Hamilton County as shown below:



These millage rates are prior to the State budget cuts and it is likely many of these same localities will have to raise additional millage in the future.

Cuts have been made Village wide that include the Police Department such as not replacing vacant positions, pay freezes for 2 years and restricting overtime. New cruisers were not purchased in 2010, 2011, or planned for 2012. Employees have absorbed a greater cost of their health insurance and the benefit plan has been reduced. Our Police Department continues to look for ways to cut costs to keep the tax burden as low as possible for our residents.

Despite budget cuts and continued savings realized within the Police Department, the State of Ohio has eliminated significant revenue that helped fund our services.

Keeping Amberley Village a secure place to live and raise a family has always been a steadfast priority for Village Council, our Police Department and residents alike. Recognizing this importance, the Village Police Department has undergone extensive measures to ensure we have a police force of the highest caliber that provides effective and efficient safety services for the community. Their efforts and dedication have earned the department the status of being Nationally Accredited. Less than 10% of Police Departments nationally have been successful in earning and maintaining the distinction of accreditation.

The Nationally Accredited Police Department also serves as the Village Fire Department. While nearly all local governments in Ohio have separate police and fire services, Amberley's police and fire are combined, one of only 30 consolidated departments known in the United States. This unusual and very efficient emergency service saves significant tax dollars each year compared to many other separate suburban full-time fire departments in our area. For example, Evendale's police and fire services cost \$5.2 million while Indian Hill's cost is \$4.5 million compared to our cost of \$2.9 million. Efficiency and effectiveness in Amberley has been a cornerstone of our service delivery, but a permanent reduction in expenditures, new revenue sources and changes in the organization structure are the only viable ways to ensure our long-term sustainability.

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer is hosting "Visit with the Village Manager" from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. every Thursday evening, in council chambers at Village Hall, from January 12 through March 1 to answer resident questions about the police levy. If you would like to attend, just show up.

If you would like more information about Village finances or the upcoming levy, please feel free to contact the Village. Also, subscribe to our E-News at www.AmberleyVillage.org.

SAVE THE DATE

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

Plan to attend one of these informational meetings about the upcoming Police Levy on the March 6 Ballot

JANUARY 24 at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Amberley Village Hall Community Room

– *Presentation and Tour by Chief Wallace*

FEBRUARY 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Amberley Room at the Jewish Community Center

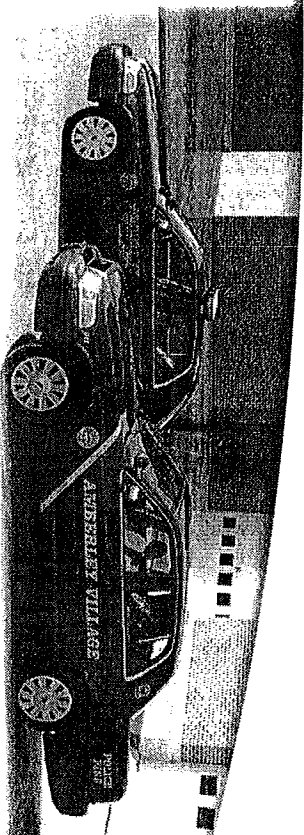
– *Presentation by Village Manager Scot Lahmer*

FEBRUARY 15 at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Amberley Village Hall Community Room

– *Presentation and Tour by Chief Wallace*

FEBRUARY 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Amberley Room at the Jewish Community Center

– *Presentation by Village Manager Scot Lahmer*



Amberley
Village

SAVE THE DATE

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

Amberley Village

WHAT: Upcoming Police Levy on the March 6 Ballot

WHEN: January 24, February 1, 15, 21 (see reverse for details)

LOCATIONS: Jewish Community Center, 8485 Ridge Road
Amberley Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road

Residents will have the opportunity to vote March 6 on a 10 mill police levy that will partially fund our Police Department.

The last and only time residents voted on a property tax increase was in 1955 when 7 mills were approved for general Village expenses. This hasn't increased in 56 years and there is no current police or fire levy in place for the Village. For further information, go to www.amberleyvillage.org and click on Newsletter.

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