

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in a regular session at the Amberley Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 at 7:30 P.M. Mayor Charles Kamine called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

PRESENT:

Charles Kamine
Jon Chaiken
Fran Cohen
Peg Conway
Louis Katz
Merrie Stillpass

ALSO PRESENT:

Bernie Boraten, Village Manager
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council
Stephen Cohen, Village Solicitor
Lt. Kevin Fryman, Acting Chief
Rick Kay, Village Treasurer

ABSENT:

Leslie McIntosh
Chief Monahan, Police/Fire Chief

Mayor Kamine welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amberley Village Council, and led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

Mrs. Stillpass moved acceptance of the minutes of the August 11, 2008, regular meeting as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Cohen. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Cohen moved acceptance of the minutes of the August 25, 2008, special meeting as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Conway. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Boraten presented the Finance Report for the month of August, 2008 (Finance Report attached). Mr. Katz moved to approve the August Finance Report. Seconded by Mrs. Cohen. The motion carried unanimously.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN MUETHING:

Mayor Kamine commented in memory of the late John Muething. Mayor Kamine stated that John Muething was an icon in the Cincinnati area and his legal profession. Mr. Muething was a founder of the law firm of Keating, Muething and Klekamp; a lecturer at the University of Cincinnati and St. Xavier; and a recipient of many awards. Mr. Muething served the Village for twelve years on council with the last four years as Mayor. Mr. Muething was a mentor and a statesman. He shared his knowledge and advice with those around him. Mayor Kamine stated that it was an honor to have known and worked with Mr. Muething. Mayor Kamine expressed his condolences to the Muething family on behalf of the Village.

Mr. Boraten shared memories of Mr. Muething. He stated that Mr. Muething was on the search team that brought him to the Village. He stated that Mr. Muething was always available for advice and on any given day would provide a two-hour response time. Mr. Boraten expressed that Mr. Muething's dedication went as far as to return a phone call from the Florida Keys although Mr. Muething was on vacation. Mr. Boraten stated that it was clear that Amberley Village was one of Mr. Muething's highest priorities.

PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION PLAQUE TO RICH BATTERBERRY:

Mayor Kamine announced that he would like to recognize Rich Batterberry for his service to Amberley as the Village Treasurer. Mr. Batterberry served in this capacity for eight years and

his dedication to the Village was certainly appreciated. Mr. Batterberry accepted the plaque and stated that it was his pleasure to have served and worked with such a great group of people.

RESIDENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

Mr. Roy Whitman, resident at 7137 Fair Oaks, stated that he has been a member of the community for 37 years and would like to express his idea for the Crest Hills property. He stated that he would like serious consideration given to development of energy efficient housing on the property. He has spoken to various people and he stated that they were interested in this option. He stated there is a model community in New Mexico built to such a standard. He stated that energy is a problem in the United States and Amberley could take this opportunity to create a model community that would receive national attention. He expressed his deep concern for the relocation of the elderly residents in Amberley when they can no longer stay in their larger homes. He stated that he would very much like to stay in Amberley instead of moving away.

Mr. Whitman then yielded the floor to a friend of his that would like to move to Amberley. Ms. Hera Reines of 3435 Manor Hill Drive in Cincinnati, stated that she would like to move into an energy efficient community. She presented four options for the Crest Hills property, promoting an energy efficient condo development as the preferred option (handout attached).

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Kamine stated that there is now a vacancy on the Planning Commission Board. He introduced resident Scott Wolf to fill the vacancy, and stated that Mr. Wolf, an attorney, resides at 7024 Beech Hollow Drive. He has served on the board of Adath Israel and also the Jewish Community Center, and therefore, he should be able to bring much knowledge to the Planning Commission. Mr. Katz moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Scott Wolf. Seconded by Mrs. Conway. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Conway thanked everyone that assisted with the Village's annual Ice Cream Social event on Sunday, August 17th. Mrs. Conway stated that at least 400 people attended. She thanked P.O. Fritsch for his coordination of the event along with the members of the police department for their participation. She also thanked Nancy Moran for her coordination efforts to order the ice cream and to reserve entertainment.

Mrs. Conway announced that October 3rd is the deadline for the fall newsletter. She stated that the rain garden article that appeared in the last newsletter was featured in the Millcreek Watershed Council's newsletter, which was written by Village resident Tracy McMullen.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Stillpass stated that the winners of the garden awards were announced at the Ice Cream Social. The garden award winners were Dennis and Jenny Meador for Best Backyard Haven, Brian and Diana Thiel for Best Curb Appeal by Owner, Ed and Marianne Brill for Best Green Garden by Owner, Joyce Seltzer for Best Overall Landscape by Owner, and Stan Elliott and Jay Shatz for Best Professional Overall Landscape. Mrs. Stillpass stated that a poster of the winning gardens is available for viewing in the lobby at Village Hall.

Mrs. Stillpass announced that Village residents are invited to participate in the ReLeaf Program sponsored by Duke Energy and the Cincinnati Parks Board. She stated that the order form and tree types are available on the Village website. Orders are due by September 23rd.

Mrs. Stillpass stated that the next Beautification Committee meeting will be on September 22nd at 7:30 p.m. She stated that Mr. Gary Meisner will be there to present and discuss Village gateway design.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Chaiken reported that the Finance Committee reviewed proposals for and selected bond counsel, as it relates to the issuance of bonds regarding the Crest Hills property. Mr. Chaiken read and moved to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2008-13, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO ENGAGE PECK, SHAFFER & WILLIAMS AS BOND COUNSEL. Seconded by Mrs. Conway. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Kamine reported that it was necessary to move the October council meeting due to the Columbus holiday on October 13th. Mrs. Cohen moved to approve that the next council meeting be held on Tuesday, October 14th at 7:30 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Conway. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Kamine announced that there will be a dedication ceremony for the Pleasant Ridge Montessori School on Friday, September 26th from 9-10 a.m. He stated there will be a reception and tours of the building for those interested.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Boraten provided an update on the 2008 Road Program. He stated that various streets, including Lynnehaven, Arborcrest and Larkfield, have been prepared for paving. He anticipated that on Tuesday adjustments to manholes would be made and on Wednesday the layer of Sammy would be applied prior to the asphalt. The paving patches on Galbraith Road were improved and the final surface course would be applied very soon, which will smooth out those areas.

Mr. Boraten then reported that the acquisition of salt through the Hamilton County cooperative program has a second round of bids awaiting proposals. He stated that the governments throughout Ohio are experiencing an unusual situation with the salt this year. He stated prices have sharply increased and supplies are restricted. The second round of bidding proposals are due in mid-October. He stated that he is also working with the State of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Transportation for alternative resources.

Mr. Boraten reported that there are currently 400 tons of salt in the Village salt bin, which is the maximum storage capacity. He stated that the average salt use in the Village has been 760 tons. Alternatives are being explored, should salt be restricted this year. He stated that in a worst case scenario, the salt would be concentrated at intersections and hills.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Kamine provided an update regarding the Crest Hills litigation. He stated that the agreements have been prepared and final revisions should be ready today. He stated that the signed agreements would be presented to the Court on Wednesday. A closing should follow on October 10th that will give ownership of the property to the Village.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Katz expressed his concern for walkers and bikers on the main roads in Amberley. He stated that with the opening of the Jewish Community Center he has observed an increase in bikers and walkers. He stated that this is a safety issue that the Village should be concerned about. He reported that City Beat Magazine published an article on September 3rd that listed Cincinnati as a bike unfriendly city. Mr. Katz felt that this was a serious issue regarding the safety of the residents.

Mr. Boraten reported that he agreed that it was a good article and the Village can certainly take this issue under review. Mr. Katz stated that there were efforts by Mrs. Stillpass to create walk/bike paths in the Village. Mrs. Stillpass reported that walking and biking paths are still on the table. She stated that the grant that was being worked on, which was called Safe Routes to Schools, requires community support. Mr. Neuman, a resident in the audience, commented that he would like to participate and assist on this issue.

There being no further business, Mr. Chaiken moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Conway. The motion carried unanimously.

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Charles Kamine