

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

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in a regular session at the Amberley Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road on MONDAY, DECEMBER 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  
Leslie McIntosh  
Merrie Stillpass

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Bernie Boraten, Village Manager  
Stephen Cohen, Village Solicitor  
Chief Monahan, Police/Fire Chief  
Rick Kay, Village Treasurer  
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

**ABSENT:**

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. Cohen moved acceptance of the minutes of the November 10, 2008, regular meeting as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Conway. The motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCE REPORT**

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

**RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:**

Ms. Elizabeth Farians, resident at 8540 Lynnehaven Drive, informed council that she did not know that the Village was going to proceed with a deer culling until she read it in the newspaper. She stated that she felt that the deer have just as much of a right to live as beings on this earth as we do. She stated that she believed it was not our right to dispose of the deer as we wish.

She continued to express her extreme disagreement with deer culling by making a reference that the act of deer culling can be equated, in her opinion, to being supportive of a "thrill of the kill" message to the community. She stated that she felt it was our duty to slow down drivers to promote safe roads in areas with heavily populated deer. She stated that she believed deer culling would not work because nature would produce more deer the following season.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**BEAUTIFICATION:**

Mrs. Stillpass announced that the next Beautification Committee would be held on January 26, 2009, and a meeting notice would be circulated prior to the meeting as a reminder. She reported that the Village has submitted the Tree City USA application along with the Growth Award application. Mrs. Stillpass also announced that Arbor Day will be held on April 26, 2009.

## **FINANCE:**

Mr. Chaiken reported that the Finance Committee met regarding the 2009 budget and appropriations. Mr. Chaiken read and moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2008-25 AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE VILLAGE OF AMBERLEY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009. Seconded by Mrs. Cohen and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Kamine, Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Katz, McIntosh, Stillpass (7)  
NAY: (0)  
ABSENT: (0)

Mr. Chaiken moved to approve the Ordinance passed as an emergency measure. Seconded by Mrs. Cohen and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Kamine, Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Katz, McIntosh, Stillpass (7)  
NAY: (0)  
ABSENT: (0)

Mr. Chaiken read and moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2008-26, ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008. Seconded by Mrs. Stillpass and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Kamine, Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Katz, McIntosh, Stillpass (7)  
NAY: (0)  
ABSENT: (0)

Mr. Chaiken moved to approve the Ordinance passed as an emergency measure. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Kamine, Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Katz, McIntosh, Stillpass (7)  
NAY: (0)  
ABSENT: (0)

Mr. Chaiken also reported that the Village recently completed an audit with an outside auditing firm for the years 2006 and 2007. No findings were made against the Village and the audit team was generally pleased and the audit went well as expected.

Mr. Chaiken stated that the Finance Committee allocated funds for the first phase of the Amberley Village Gateway and Greenway Plan submitted by Merrie Stillpass. He asked Mrs. Stillpass to share some of the details of that plan.

Mrs. Stillpass reported that Gary Meisner and Associates have worked with the Village's Long Range Planning and Beautification Committees to create a design and landscape plan for the Village's gateways. The gateway located at Ridge Road and Ronald Reagan Highway has been approved as the first phase of implementation. Mrs. Stillpass pointed to a rendering displayed that depicted the features of the gateway. She explained that there will be a low wall that will curve and feature a signature tree. There will be back lit lettering on the wall that will display the name Amberley Village. She reported that this gateway was chosen first because of its high visibility location and passersby will see the signage from all directions.

Mrs. Stillpass explained that there were partial funds appropriated for this project, however, the remaining funds needed must be raised through grants and donations. She stated that anyone interested in this project should contact her.

Mayor Kamine expressed that there is a sense of things happening in the Village with the new Pleasant Ridge Montessori School, the new Jewish Community Center and the purchase of the golf course. He stated that he felt that the identity of the Village is important and a new gateway near the Jewish Community Center will be a nice enhancement toward promoting the Village. He also stated that there are five gateways total leading into the Village and so the economical approach of pursuing only one gateway at this time was prudent, although there are aspirations to complete enhancements at all Village gateways. He stated that grants and private donations will be needed to complete this project in the short-term; otherwise it will be phased in each year.

#### **LAND DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Chaiken reported that the Land Development Committee met and discussed the Village-owned property at 8597 Ridge Road. He stated that the original owner from which the Village purchased the property had entered into a rental agreement, however, recently informed the Village that she would be vacating the home. Mr. Chaiken stated the committee reviewed the possibility of continuing the property as a rental, however, the Village staff reported that the work needed to repair the home along with maintenance would be prohibitive of a revenue stream from the rental fees. Mr. Chaiken stated that this home is located adjacent to the North Site property which the Village would like to develop in the future and clearing this home from the site would enhance the site. He stated that the public safety department will utilize the home for fire training exercises and then it will be demolished.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Boraten reported that the Village has continued to work with FEMA for reimbursement of expenses related to the wind storm. He stated that the representatives of FEMA have been very thorough in their review of our documentation and have done a great job. He stated that the FEMA representatives were at Village offices last week discussing details for reimbursement and have concluded that the Village will receive \$100,000 in reimbursement funds from FEMA. This would represent 75% of the Village's total cost for which we were eligible. Mr. Boraten then stated that FEMA has informed the Village of an additional opportunity for reimbursement somewhat above the \$100,000 amount. He clarified that the allowable costs included reimbursement expenses such as all regular time, outside contractors and use of our own equipment.

Mr. Katz then asked if the Village still had wood chips from the wind storm in storage. Mr. Boraten reported that the Village has two mounds of chips from the storm at the North Site. He stated that Hamilton County has coordinated with all municipalities to provide, at no cost, tub grinders that will visit each municipality's site to grind chips and haul the chips away.

Mr. Katz also inquired about the integrity of the new water line that was installed along Ridge Road. Mr. Boraten reported that the contractor has made excavations along Ridge Road which have been repaired and patched. Mr. Boraten stated that he is awaiting a report from Cincinnati Water Works that would inform us as to whether or not there are problems with the water line. He stated that if that is the case, he would expect that Cincinnati Water Works would begin trenching under Ridge Road in the spring.

Mayor Kamine commented that it is expected that an economic stimulus package to provide funding for major infrastructure projects could be granted soon. The effort would intend to put as many contractors back to work as possible. He stated that he is working with the Village Manager to create a list of shovel-ready projects within the Village such as road improvements.

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

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Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

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Mayor Charles Kamine