

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in a regular session at the Amberley Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road on MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010, at 7:30 P.M. Mayor Merrie Stillpass called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

PRESENT:

Jon Chaiken
Fran Cohen
Peg Conway
Ed Hattenbach
Louis Katz
Leslie McIntosh
Merrie Stillpass

ALSO PRESENT:

Bernie Boraten, Village Manager
Jack Monahan, Police/Fire Chief
Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council
Rick Kay, Village Treasurer

ABSENT:

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

MINUTES

Mayor Stillpass presented the minutes of the November 8, 2010, regular meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. There being none, Mayor Stillpass stated that the minutes stand approved as distributed.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Boraten presented the November, 2010, Finance Report (copy attached). Mayor Stillpass asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Katz asked Mr. Boraten if the Village expects any significant revenue during the month of December to offset the half-million dollar deficit. Mr. Boraten stated that no significant revenue is to be received before the end of the year. There being no additional questions or comments, Mayor Stillpass announced that the finance report would be filed as received.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mr. Edwin Berger, was called to speak, however, was not present.

Mr. Stan Cohen, 2301 Royal Oak Court, a 47-year resident, commented that the Village has reached serious fiscal conditions. He estimates a deficient for 2011 in the amount of \$1.3 million. He stated that this is not a temporary matter and he is not adverse to a special assessment on real estate of approximately 4 mills, which will cost a homeowner of a \$250,000 home an additional \$400 a year. He stated that an earnings tax of one-half of one percent for Villagers should be imposed for those who pay at least two percent to other communities.

Mr. Cohen stated that he would only support the mentioned proposals if council immediately stops all expenditures not directly necessary to provide for police, fire, and

maintenance of the Village assets, streets, snowplowing, etc. He stated that council must cease such expenditures such as \$25,000 spent for studies of the former Crest Hills property; plus \$12,000 more for additional studies; \$7,500 for gateway design at Ronald Reagan Highway; \$15,000 for beautification of Ridge Road and Section Road; \$5,000 for study in front of Village Hall; and he stated that he can only guess what the study for the proposed sidewalks in the Village was, and estimated approximately \$10,000 or more.

Mr. Cohen stated that the stormwater assessment project has been a tremendous success. Once we develop the retention basin on Aracoma Forest to protect the Willowbrook area, this assessment can be reduced to 13% of the present charges.

Mr. Cohen urged council to give special commendations to Mr. Boraten and Chief Monahan. He stated that both are very valuable and have achieved much success this year, especially, with the award of the \$1 million project to rehabilitate Galbraith Road.

Mr. Ray Warren, 6715 W. Farm Acres Drive, thanked council for their time and stated that he appreciated their work. He stated that he is concerned about the direction of the Village and that there has been no consideration given to the reduction of government. He commented that he emailed the council various ideas such as wage reductions, pension reductions, minimization of unnecessary spending, and a bond issue for Amberley Green. He stated that he has asked council to direct the Village Manager to create a balanced budget and a blue ribbon panel. He has requested that council schedule committee meetings later than 4 p.m., however, was told that late meeting would cause overtime. He stated that he felt that employees' hours should be adjusted or staggered. He commented that council has tabled the tax reciprocity ordinance. He then concluded by urging council to proceed with fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Bruce Lazarus, 3140 N. Whitetree Circle, an 11-year resident, commented that he feels that council has no other choice but to raise taxes. He stated that costs have been reduced and from his observations employees are not wasting their time. He is willing to pay the additional costs. He stated that certain items, such as landscaping, are a part of the Village's marketing, however, the costs do add up. He stated that raising taxes is not a popular decision, but he does not see many options.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2010-21 ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE VILLAGE OF AMBERLEY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2011. Seconded by Mr. Katz and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

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

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

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2010-22 ORDINANCE ENACTING SERVICE FEE FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING. Seconded by Mr. Chaiken and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

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

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

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2010-23 ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2010. Seconded by Mrs. Cohen and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

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

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

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2010-24 ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2010. Seconded by Mr. Katz and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

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

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

POLICE/FIRE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Cohen presented, read and moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2010-25 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF GOLF MANOR AND THE DEER PARK-SILVERTON JOINT FIRE DISTRICT FOR THE PROVISION OF PARAMEDIC AND EMERGENCY SERVICES WITHIN AMBERLEY VILLAGE. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

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

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

PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Conway stated that the committee has held several meetings recently and discussed the budget changes that impact outreach activities. She stated that the quarterly newsletter has been eliminated, however, there will be an online newsletter made available on the website. She encouraged residents to send in their email addresses in order to be added to the online newsletter email distribution list.

Mrs. Conway stated that the funds for the Ice Cream Social have been eliminated; however, Amy Rubenstein has volunteered to make an effort to obtain sponsorships. Mrs. Conway invited sponsors to contact her. The cost of the event is \$3,000-5,000.

Mrs. Conway reported that the residents will soon receive a letter from the Village regarding the opportunity to participate in an electric aggregation program. Dominion Retail will provide discounted electric rates to those who sign-up for the program.

Mr. Chaiken then added that the electric aggregation discount will offset the fee for trash collection. He stated that the residents will receive a rate of \$.058 per kilowatt hour.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stillpass reported that she recently attended the Southwest Ohio Tax Administrator Association luncheon which was held at the JCC. She stated that the Village's Tax Administrator, Kathleen Harcourt, is the secretary for this association. Mayor Stillpass stated that none of the attendees had been to Amberley before so she provided a warm welcome to the association members. She then stated that the Village's Tax Administrator has provided the following information and reminders for the upcoming tax season: (1) Beginning January 1, 2011, there will be a surcharge applied to all credit card transactions and residents will receive a mailing about this change; (2) 2011 is the second year for the late fee for those who file late tax returns and it is an escalating fee for multiple offenses; and (3) The due date for 2011 is April 18th and residents will receive a mailing about this change as well.

Mayor Stillpass then reported that the Village hosted a World Town Planning Day at Village Hall on November 10th. She stated that 90 students, professionals and members of the Long Range Planning Committee participated in this event from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. There were five groups that generated ideas for the Village's vacant properties. This information can be viewed at www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hcrpc/wtpd. The Village staff was very accommodating with the setup of the meeting. She stated that the work from these groups will be turned over to the Long Range Planning Committee for review.

Mayor Stillpass then announced that in past years, council has chosen to provide a gift card to the employees in lieu of a holiday party, which is much less expensive. She has discussed this with the council members and would like to propose that the \$150 gift card amount be reduced to \$100 and issued to each employee. Mr. Chaiken moved to authorize the Village Manager to issue each employee a restaurant gift card in the amount of \$100. Seconded by Mrs. Cohen and the following votes were cast:

AYE: Stillpass, Chaiken, Cohen, Katz, McIntosh	(5)
NAY: Conway, Hattenbach	(2)
ABSENT:	(0)

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Boraten reported that the Village recently deployed snow fighting services and utilized 100 tons of salt.

Mr. Boraten then handed out to council a copy of an article from The Business Courier. He stated that the article was a thorough review of the insurance pool of which the Village is a participant and wanted to make this information available to council.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Monahan reported on a house fire that occurred in the Village on December 10 at Arborcrest and Sorrento. He commended Officers Phillips and Shaw for their three-minute response time, which resulted in two elderly, handicapped residents being rescued from the fire. He stated that the officers then changed into their fire gear and

began efforts to extinguish the fire. The fire was contained to the front bedroom, although there was smoke damage throughout the home. The cause of the fire was from someone smoking, however, not the residents.

Chief Monahan reported that the recent snowfall allowed for the visibility conditions to be present for a deer count to be performed. The fly-over was conducted and the deer count was 106.

Next, Chief Monahan reported that there were two burglaries recently; one in Rollman and the other on Sagamore. He stated that one resident did not have their house alarm on and the other left a door unlocked. He reminded residents to lock and secure their homes.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. McIntosh announced that there would not be an Environmental Stewardship Committee for the month of December. Ms. McIntosh then took a few moments to thank council members, Village staff and residents for their service and dedication to the Village and she wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Stillpass stated that there being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Merrie Stillpass