

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL  
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in a regular session at the Amberley Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road on MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. Mayor J.K. Byar called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

**PRESENT:**

Richard Bardach  
J.K. Byar  
Bill Doering  
Ed Hattenbach  
Tom Muething  
Ray Warren  
Natalie Wolf

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

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

**MINUTES**

Mayor Byar presented the minutes of the December 12, 2011, regular meeting. He asked if there were any corrections or additions. The following amendments (shown in underline and strikethrough) were proposed by Council Members Muething and Warren:

Page 2, Paragraph 7:

Mrs. Maria McDonough, Principal of the Pleasant Ridge Montessori School, provided an update regarding the school's standardized test score progress and commitment to the community. A work plan was provided to the council as a reference. Mrs. McDonough emphasized that the school has continued to excel with a focus on reading and math. With help from the full-time staff from Xavier, she believes the school has demonstrated considerable test score improvement over the last year and ~~will continue to improve~~ toward excellence and as well as provide a sense of community.

Page 3, Paragraph 3:

He stated that his understanding was that the current ad hoc committee's revenue subcommittee has suggested that donations generate the needed revenue. The expense subcommittee has requested a scenario review of 30% budget cuts which is equal to the deficit, if there is no additional revenue.

Mayor Byar asked if there were any additional corrections or additions. Since there were none, Mayor Byar requested a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Moved by Mr. Muething, seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

### **RECOGNITION OF RESIDENT JERRY TELLER**

Chief Wallace invited Mr. Jerry Teller to the podium, who was accompanied by his good friend, Dr. Leo Wayne. On September 17, 2011, the police department received a 911 call from the Teller residence that a person was choking in the home. Officers were dispatched along with a squad. While officers and medical assistance were in route, Mr. Teller performed the Heimlich maneuver on Mr. Leo Wayne. Mr. Teller successfully dislodged the obstruction from Mr. Wayne's airway. Chief Wallace recognized Mr. Teller for his actions. Mr. Teller and Mr. Wayne both commented that each had saved the other's life a few different times over the years and were very close friends. Mr. Teller gave special thanks to P.O. Phillips who responded to the incident.

### **RECOGNITION OF FORMER MAYORS STILLPASS AND KAMINE**

Mayor Byar invited former Mayors Merrie Stillpass and Chuck Kamine to the podium. The former mayors were presented with a certificate from Mayor Byar in recognition of their service to the Village. Both Mrs. Stillpass and Mr. Kamine expressed their appreciation for having served on council and in the capacity of Mayor. Mayor Kamine also encouraged residents to support the upcoming police levy on the March 6 ballot. Mayor Stillpass announced that a women's forum has been formed that will provide residents the opportunity to learn about village issues. The first meeting will be held on January 16. Women interested in this forum should email [avwomensforum@gmail.com](mailto:avwomensforum@gmail.com). Mrs. Stillpass also commented on her support for the upcoming police levy.

Mayor Byar then recognized that honored guest Denise Driehaus was present at the meeting and invited her to speak. Ms. Driehaus introduced herself and explained that the districts are being re-drawn, which will place Amberley Village in the 31<sup>st</sup> District. She expressed her interest in Amberley and encouraged residents to contact her.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Wolf reported that the committee recently met and discussed a communication schedule to inform residents about the upcoming police levy. Informational meetings are scheduled for January 24 and **February** 15 at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall where residents will receive a presentation and tour by Chief Wallace. Village Manager Scot Lahrmer will make presentations to the residents on the police levy at the Jewish Community Center on February 1 and 21 at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Wolf explained that council is making an effort to reach as many residents as possible with information regarding the police levy. There will be a reminder phone call utilizing the call safe system as well as a postcard that will be mailed to each household.

The committee also discussed the re-introduction of a paper newsletter being mailed to each household, which was tabled for future discussion.

### **HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Wolf reported that the committee met and discussed the Village's deer culling program. The committee was in support of not re-counting the deer at this time

~~because the preivous year's deer count showed inconsistent and inconclusive results. and supported up to 50 deer be culled.—~~The committee would like to continue discussion ~~on the methods available for deer management at an earlier date for next year in order to have time to look for less expensive methods for deer management.~~

### **PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Wolf reported that the committee met and discussed three possible locations for a community garden on Amberley Green. As the We Thrive program continues toward implementation, she reviewed the scoring and category information on which the committee completed the community health and group evaluation worksheets. This self-assessment information will be submitted to the county by January 13 in order for the village to be eligible to receive ~~approximately \$7,500-7,000~~ in grant funding Phase I of the We Thrive! program and up to \$17,000 for Phase II, which ends on June 30. ~~for the next phase of the We Thrive program.~~

### **COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Warren reported that the committee met on December 22. The minutes are posted to the website. He stated the meetings were well attended by staff and residents. The purposes of the meetings are to review the compensation and benefits structure and to seek clarity on the village's expenses in these areas. Sick and vacation policies are being reviewed as well as the village's participation in a benefits pool for healthcare. The next meeting will be an opportunity for the committee to meet with Dave Rinderle regarding the village's healthcare pool, which is running a deficit. The village is committed to a three-year participation agreement with the healthcare pool that started in August 2009. The committee will seek options as it relates to the employee healthcare benefits.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the re-codification of the Village Code of Ordinance has been completed and he would like to request that, by motion, council adopt and enact the update in its entirety. Mrs. Wolf moved to approve ORDINANCE 2012-01, ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING A SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF AMBERLEY VILLAGE. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

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

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

Mr. Lahrmer informed the council that the new code update is available on the website. Copies of the code may be obtained either in electronic or paper copy upon request.

Mr. Lahrmer next reported that the process for the village to become an energy aggregator is underway. The next step in the process will take place prior to the next council meeting, which will be for the village to review and accept an RFP for rates. Mr. Lahrmer asked for a motion to authorize the village manager to accept the rates for gas and electric from the RFP process, which was moved by Mr. Hattenbach and seconded by Mr. Warren. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the village has completed its transfer of payroll functions to Paycor. Council Member Doering was complimentary of the staff for advancing to this option.

He next announced that he will be hosting "Visit with the Village Manager" meetings to provide residents an opportunity to ask questions about the police levy on the March 6 ballot. The meetings will be held on Thursdays from 5-7 p.m. in Council Chambers. No advanced registration required.

Mr. Lahrmer stated that with the workload and timing of this council meeting, it was not possible to financially close out December and provide a report on village finances. The December report will be provided after it has been closed.

Cincinnati Park Board has scheduled Wednesday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m. to present concept plan alternatives and the results of their first meeting regarding the French Park hilltop family play and picnic area. It will be held at the French House.

The Hamilton County Engineer's Office will begin storm water mapping the week of January 9th within the Village. This will likely take up to two weeks and is the first phase of locating inlets and gathering necessary storm water information to be integrated into a county-wide map. This mapping project is part of the effort to comply with regulations of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The Village, along with other local jurisdictions, are members of the Hamilton County Storm Water District assembled for the purpose of achieving and maintaining compliance with the Phase II Permit program as a part of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Most of this mapping work will be accomplished within storm water easements and the right-of-way. Residents may see County vehicles and employees in their neighborhoods while this mapping project is underway.

The Service Department concluded curb side bulk leaf pick up in December totaling 35.25 loads/705 cubic yards. The department has resumed brush pick up.

The Village held two public hearings on December 21 along with our energy consultant, Eagle Energy, regarding our aggregation. These hearings were required by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) in order to obtain certification for aggregation. The Village has moved into the implementation phase and the next step for energy

aggregation is to become a governmental aggregator certified by PUCO. Once the Village is a certified governmental aggregator, the process of supplier selection can begin. After the Village has selected the supplier that will offer savings to our residents, each resident will be notified by the selected suppliers. Residents will be provided a twenty-one (21) day window to opt-out of the programs. The anticipated date for our aggregation to be in place is March 2012. If residents have questions, they can be referred to our energy consultant, Eagle Energy at 251-7283 or the Village office at 531-8675.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Wallace spoke about the police levy, which will be a 10 mill levy on the March 6 ballot. He commented that 1955 was the last Village property tax increase. This levy would fund over 60% of the police department and only be utilized for police operations. State budget cuts have impacted village finances which have caused the village's revenues to rapidly decline. Purchases such as cruisers have been postponed as well as other expenses cut from the budget. Employees have not received pay increases in two years and have begun to contribute more to their healthcare benefits.

The priority of the police department is to provide safety and security to its residents. The village and its surrounding communities have seen an increase in call volume. Now is not the time to decrease police protection.

On December 25, 2011, a call was received by the police department reporting a subject going door-to-door asking to use the telephone because his car was broke down. The police department responded and apprehended the individual who had felony warrants for burglaries.

The police department has held the status of being an internationally accredited agency, which provides the highest standards of professional services. This type of independent evaluation ensures that the professional standards are met and it is also a tool to reduce the village's liability.

Chief Wallace commented that he will be hosting public information meetings on January 24 and February 15 at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall to provide residents an opportunity to hear information about the police levy and to tour the police department.

Chief Wallace then thanked Council Member Ray Warren for donating a menorah to the police department over the holiday season.

Chief Wallace announced that the fire department received recognition as the third finalist in the Gold Star Chili Fire House of the Year Award. On January 4, the fire department was recognized at an awards luncheon hosted by Gold Star Chili where the department received an award plaque and a donation of \$250. The fire department received this recognition for its accomplishments and support in promoting fire safety and prevention. He thanked Officers Fritsch and Monahan for their efforts in achieving this award.

Chief Wallace reported that the police department has received a grant in the amount of \$16,000 for the purchase of an automatic license plate reader. The department has submitted for this grant several times and has been denied in the past. This equipment will identify stolen vehicles and track license plate data from other jurisdictions. He thanked Officer Roeseler for working to obtain this grant.

Chief Wallace concluded by thanking all of the residents who sent in baked goods and food during the holiday season. It was well received and enjoyed by all.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Byar requested that he be appointed as the council representative to serve on the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission with Council Member Rich Bardach as an alternate in his absence. Mr. Muething moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Byar to represent council on the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Byar requested that he be appointed as the council representative to serve on the First Suburbs Consortium with Mrs. Natalie Wolf as the alternate in his absence. Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Byar to represent council on the First Suburbs Consortium with Vice Mayor Natalie Wolf as an alternate in his absence. Seconded by Mr. Warren and the motion carried unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Mayor Wolf invited Senator Eric Kearney to address council. Mr. Kearney introduced himself and thanked council for allowing him the opportunity to speak and stated that he could be reached at (614) 466-5980.

Vice Mayor Wolf acknowledged former resident Barry Larkin was voted into the Hall of Fame today.

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

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Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

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Mayor J.K. Byar