

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

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in a regular session at the Amberley Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road on MONDAY, APRIL 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

ABSENT:

Rick Kay, Village Treasurer

Mayor Byar welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amberley Village Council and led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Betty Whitaker then sang the National Anthem.

MINUTES

Mayor Byar presented the minutes of the March 12, 2012, regular meeting. He asked if there were any corrections or additions. Mr. Muething moved to table the minutes and adhere to a new condensed format for the minutes that generally summarizes each item, providing more detail where decisions are taken, and making reference to attachments for submitted documents. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS/SPEAKERS

Dr. Catherine Ramstetter and Susan Schaefer from the Hamilton County Health Department commended the Village for enhancing the community through the We Thrive! program. It was noted that Amberley Village was the first in the county to pass a resolution for this revitalization effort.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer presented the February, 2012, Finance Report (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). A summary of this report noted total revenue for the month of February of \$266,276 while expenses equaled \$398,718. At the end of February, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$1,933,635.

Mayor Byar asked if there were any questions for the manager. Since there were none, the report was accepted as submitted.

RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Ms. Connie Hinitz, resident at 2460 Larkfield Drive, expressed her support for the proposed ordinance to allow domesticated chickens in the village. She explained components of a proposal that she would like council to add to the ordinance, which would include fee permits, allow sale of chickens and eggs and increase the setback requirements. A copy of the letter submitted by Ms. Hinitz is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Tom Neuman, resident at 5120 Rollman Estates Drive, commented about his concern for the village's financial structure and need to increase revenue. He promoted the utilization of residents as resources to assist in this effort and volunteered to help.

Various council members responded and agreed that the village's financial structure is a high priority for council.

Mr. Louis Katz, resident at 6785 E. Beechlands, expressed his support for the proposed ordinance to allow domesticated chickens. He shared points to consider including the importance of informing residents about the ordinance prior to passage, the effect on setting precedent, impact upon neighbors, and the potential cost of enforcement. He also suggested the Law Committee review the ordinance.

Ms. Amy Rubenstein, resident at 2601 Section Road, expressed her support for the proposed ordinance to allow domesticated chickens. She commented that as a chicken owner she has had a very positive experience and noted that it serves as an opportunity to teach children how nature works. She noted that no injuries or predator occurrences have taken place with her chickens.

Mr. Byar thanked all of the speakers for their comments and invited all to attend the public hearing on this ordinance to be held at Village Hall on May 14 at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Ms. Wolf reported that the committee met on May 23 and discussed the progress of the We Thrive! program. Garden plots (9x15) are available on the Amberley Green. 20 residents have submitted emails of interest regarding the gardening opportunity at the Amberley Green. Those interested in garden plots should email amberleygarden@gmail.com.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Ms. Wolf made the following announcements:

April 14 – Amberley Green Clearing Event at noon

April 15 – Arbor Day and Green Up Day Celebration at Village Hall at noon

April 20 – Tree City USA Luncheon Hosted by Amberley Village at Jewish Community Center

May 3 – Amberley Green Clearing Event at 6:30 p.m. and the first Thursday monthly thereafter

On March 29, the committee hosted a gardening lecture with speaker David Dyke. More lectures will be planned throughout the year.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Bardach conducted the second reading of Ordinance No. 2012-02, Adopting Section 154.54 to Permit Domesticated Chickens in the Village. Mr. Muething moved to hold a public hearing on this ordinance on May 14 at 6:30 p.m. to allow for public input. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion carried unanimously. It was also determined that the method of notifying residents of this proposed ordinance would be via the Village E-News, the front page of the Village website and the Village posting boards.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Doering reported that the committee met on April 3 and received an update that the Village's computer server has reached its life expectancy and more storage space is required for the village's data. The committee will next meet with the vendor for additional information. The

committee also received a proposal to convert the finance software to the state's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) software. The cost is less than the current maintenance cost, better reports can be produced and additional features will be developed. The committee recommended approval of the new software. The committees also received and recommended a request to create a separate fund for accounting of the funding related to the We Thrive! grant received by the Village.

Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2012-33, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE AUDITOR OF STATE FOR A UNIFORM ACCOUNTING NETWORK AGREEMENT, subject to approval by the Village Solicitor. Seconded by Mr. Muething and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve RESOLUTION 2012-34, RESOLUTION TO CREATE SEPARATE FUND FOR WE THRIVE! GRANT. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the Board of Zoning Appeals met in April and continued the public hearing for the conditional use permit requested by Congregation Sha'arei Torah. Testimony and comments from multiple residents were heard. The board tabled the request until the May 7 meeting to allow for additional information to be gathered.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works held a preconstruction meeting regarding the Brookwood area water main replacement project.

Staff applied for a Litter Collection Program through the Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District. They received eleven applications this year but could only fund eight communities. Unfortunately, ours was not chosen for the program this year.

A Call Safe message was sent to residents on Elbrook advising them the Village had intervened on their behalf with Greater Cincinnati Water Works' plan to shut water off. A more convenient time was chosen for the water to be shut off to repair a hydrant valve.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Wallace provided statistical information regarding the calls for service for the month. There were 1,192 for the month of March not including 911 calls, which included alarm drops, house checks, Amberley Green patrols, investigations, and assisting other departments. There were 86 citations issued last month, primarily for speed, operating a motor vehicle under suspension and seatbelt and license plate violations. Vehicle accidents totaled 10 during the month resulting in 5 citations issued. Officers made 29 arrests, 20 of which were for other departments, 5 were warrants out of Amberley and 4 were physical arrest of offenses. There were 4 offenses reported for theft and criminal tools and criminal trespassing.

Chief Wallace shared a recent case of a stolen ring from a resident, which was taken by a housekeeping employee. He commended Det. Norton and Officer Koenig for their performance. The ring was returned within 2 hours.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Byar announced that on April 5 the village reached its 72nd anniversary since being founded in 1940. He noted there was a link on the Village E-News for those interested in learning more about the Village's history.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Doering requested that contact information for the new electric supplier, DP&L, be posted to the website along with any helpful information on how to enroll in the program.

Mr. Muething commented that recommendations from the Ad Hoc Advisory report received at the last council meeting has been assigned to council committees or Mr. Lahrmer and will be reviewed, considered, and a report will be prepared to bring the information together.

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

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor J.K. Byar