

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in a regular session at the Amberley Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, December 10, 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
Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council
Rich Wallace, Police/Fire Chief
Lt. Kevin Fryman, Police/Fire

EXCUSED:

Rick Kay, 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.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Byar announced that he would like to re-appoint Larry McGraw to the Board of Zoning Appeals/Planning Commission. The term duration is four years beginning January 1, 2013. Mr. Muething moved to approve the re-appointment of Larry McGraw. Seconded by Mr. Warren and the motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN TO ADDESS COUNCIL

Peg Conway, 8101 Springvalley, expressed that she had attended recent Finance Committee meetings and appreciated the efforts to reduce expenses; however, she noted concern over the need to plan for capital improvements. She also expressed concern over the recent Compensation & Benefits Committee meeting she attended regarding proposed changes to employee sick leave. She commented that the committee is not sending a good message to employees and this process has been hanging over their heads for many months. In principle, when questioned, there is a failure to show tangible savings and results. The group of employees is small, and more like a family business. Attempting to restructure as though this is a large corporation or a university and dividing employees into groups is inappropriate.

Stephen Lerner, 6715 W. Beechlands, commented that he appreciated the reduced costs implemented by the Village Manager and Chief, however, the reductions should continue. He stated that he felt the surplus should not be spent, the Village should take a long-term view and set budget goals going forward. The budget should be set fairly and refunding tax dollars to the residents should be considered. He noted that with Hamilton County no longer providing the rollback, residents will experience further tax difficulties. He requested the stormwater fee and the trash collection fee be rolled back. He stated that if council refunds these taxes it will show council cares about the residents' taxes. He requested council enact legislation before the end of the year to return funds not needed. He asked council members to state their views on the budget and not to look at the surplus as a reason not to continue cuts.

Rick Lauer, 2890 Belkay, announced that he is the Amberley resident representative on the Pleasant Ridge Montessori Local School Decision Making Committee. He noted he has twin

girls in the third grade at the school. There has been tremendous progress. The school serves Amberley, Pleasant Ridge, Golf Manor and other surrounding communities. It is a part of the Cincinnati Public School system and it is free. He noted across the board improvement in scoring at the state level. He commented that the school has gifted and accelerated programs available. He stated the school is looking for more volunteers. A handout was shared with information about the Daytime Volunteer Tutoring Program and interested individuals should contact Andrea Neuman.

Ms. Wolf noted that she participates as a reading tutor at Pleasant Ridge Montessori and thanked Mr. Lauer for sharing this information.

Tom Neuman, 5120 Rollman Estates Drive, commented that he has made many observations regarding the budget situation at recent committee meetings. He stated he would love to have a tax cut and refund, however, the financial consequences would have to be studied first. He noted the Village was very lucky to have gotten out of its debt. He urged the council to be cautious and did not want to see a tax reduction in the short-term just to re-ask for a tax increase later. He commented that the Compensation & Benefits Committee's efforts in concept are good, however, Peg Conway brought up the good point that the Village cannot apply corporate-styled methods to a small staff. The employees aren't numbers; they are family. Mr. Neuman also noted that Pleasant Ridge Montessori School was in academic emergency, but are not anymore.

Mr. Warren commented that the employees were assigned numbers to provide anonymity. Mr. Neuman noted that in such a small operation, anonymity is impossible.

MINUTES

Mayor Byar presented the minutes of the November 12, 2012, regular meeting. He asked if there were any additional corrections or additions. Since there were none, Mayor Byar stated that the minutes stand approved.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer presented the October, 2012, Finance Report (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). A summary of this report noted total revenue for the month of October of \$284,540 while expenses equaled \$306,915. At the end of October, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$2,025,976. The report was accepted as submitted.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Bardach presented and conducted the third reading of Ordinance 2012-11, an Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map of Amberley Village to Change the Zoning Classification of the North Site to the "North Site (NS)" District. Mr. Muething commented that a public hearing was held in November and received concerned input from the City of Reading residents. In November, council made a motion to refer the matter to the Land Development Committee to review the input of the Reading residents and provide a letter of review back to council. The Land Development Committee has met one time to consider the item and would like more time to come up with a written report. Mr. Muething moved to table Ordinance 2012-11 until the April Council meeting allowing for time to refer this matter to the Planning Commission and provide the Planning Commission 60 days to consider the report. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2012-57, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Argonaut for Property and Casualty Insurance. The premium for this one year policy is \$63,955. Seconded by Mr. Muething and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hattenbach commented that there was duplication in the appropriations. The Bond Retirement Fund will be reduced by \$6.2 million. He then presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance No. 2012-12, Adjusting Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2012. Seconded by Mr. Warren and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

Mr. Hattenbach then presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance 2012-13, An Ordinance Making Appropriations for the Expenses of the Village of Amberley for the Fiscal Year 2013. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

Mr. Muething reflected on the budget the improved financial situation. He commented that this was accomplished through the voter-approved levy, staff initiated expense reductions, and looking at doing business differently, such as the collaboration for dispatch services with Silverton. He noted that careful consideration will be given to expense planning moving forward.

Mr. Doering commented that some capital purchase planning has been achieved, such as the purchase of used police cruisers and a new dump truck and chipper has been budgeted. Personnel costs are a major budget item. Changes to employee sick time should be immediately implemented.

Mr. Hattenbach next presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance No. 2012-14, Ordinance to Create Separate Funds for Police Levy and Employee Contributions to Health Insurance Premiums. Seconded by Mr. Warren and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve Ordinance 2012-14 as an emergency measure for the necessity of establishing and maintaining proper and accurate financial records of the Village. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

Mr. Hattenbach next presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2012-58, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Execute a Contract with Municipal Income Tax Solutions, LLC. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Doering noted that this new tax software will reduce the amount of data entry required by staff and will allow for online submission of data.

Mr. Muething moved that all future inheritance tax funds received in 2013 or 2014 by the Village as well as any funds from the sale of a capital asset be placed into the capital improvement fund. Seconded by Doering. The motion carried unanimously.

LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Muething reported that the committee met to discuss the City of Reading resident concerns regarding the North Site District Regulations. The committee will meet again in a few weeks and plans to issue a letter in January or late December.

POLICE/FIRE COMMITTEE

Mr. Muething presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2012-59, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Execute a Contract with the Village of Silverton to Provide Dispatch Services. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously. This 3-year agreement will result in approximately \$70,000 per year in revenue.

Mr. Doering commended Chief Wallace and Mr. Lahrmer for demonstrating how the Village can generate revenue.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the update to the Village Code previously approved by Council has been completed and the update is ready for adoption by council. Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance 2012-15, Ordinance Adopting and Enacting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances of Amberley Village. Seconded by Mr. Muething and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve Ordinance 2012-15 as an emergency measure for the necessity of bringing current at the earliest possible time the Village Code of Ordinances. Seconded by Mr. Muething and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

Mr. Lahrmer complimented staff for the budget work completed and saving money. The deficit projection is \$1.3 million. 2013 does not reflect a deficit, which is a result of a multi-faceted approach to controlling costs and becoming more strategic in doing business differently.

The milling of Ridge Road has been completed. The Village will, in the spring, conduct a micro-paving of that area to balance the unevenly grinded areas.

The maintenance department has collected 300 cubic yards more leaves than this time last year. The bulk of the leaves have been picked up so the leaf collection is back into a weekly pick-up cycle. He noted he participated on the leaf crew for a day and had the opportunity to see firsthand how the service works and observe the dedicated crews.

Last month, Losantiville School was purchased by the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati.

The Police Department had an attempted burglary on Arborcrest and the suspects have already been apprehended. He noted residents should be mindful to keep their home safe by locking doors, etc.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Lt. Fryman presented a Shield plaque to Council Member Ray Warren for making a donation to the fund. The Shield helps officers during crises. Mr. Warren encouraged others to contribute to the fund and thanked the police officers.

Mayor Byar commented that it was nearly a year ago since council took office and he congratulated the members and staff for all of their hard work and dedication toward restructuring the Village finances.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Wolf announced that the Amberley Village Women's Forum has been in place for about a year now and it is a social and educational group for Amberley women. She invited interested women to attend the next meeting at Peg Conway's house on January 24. Roxanne Qualls will be the guest speaker and will talk about form-based codes. For more information, email wolfoncouncil@gmail.com.

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

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor J.K. Byar