

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, May 13, 2013**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, May 13, 2013 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

ALSO PRESENT:

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor
Chief Rich Wallace, Police/Fire
Patricia Meiers, Acting Clerk of Council

EXCUSED:

Natalie Wolf
Rick Kay, Treasurer

Mayor Byar welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amberley Village Council. He then 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 April 8, 2013 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 March, 2013, Finance Report (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). A summary of this report noted total tax collections for the month of March totaled \$58,297.00, down 19% from 2012 but overall collection is up 23% for year. The total general fund revenue for the month of March was \$687,179.00 while expenses equaled \$451,723.00. At the end of March, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$892,514.00. The report was accepted as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Doering moved to re-appoint Ms. Nimet Jeruzalmi and Mr. Wayne Signer to the Storm Water Advisory committee. Seconded by Mr. Muething and the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach presented Ordinance 2013-09, Ordinance Authorizing the Village Manager to Dispose of Excess Personal Property up to \$7,500. After brief discussion for the necessity and effect of ordinance, Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve Ordinance 2013-09, seconded by Mr. Muething and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Byar, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren (6)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach moved to pass Ordinance 2013-09 as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Muething. Roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Byar, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren (6)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve Resolution 2013-11, Resolution Establishing Travel Policy for Village Officers and Employees. Mr. Muething seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hattenbach moved to adopt Resolution 2013-12, Resolution Amending Investment and Depository Policy. Seconded by Mr. Muething and passed by unanimous vote.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Doering moved to adopt Ordinance 2013-10, Ordinance to Amend Section 38.01 of the Village Code Pertaining to the Village Investment Policy. Mr. Warren seconded and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Byar, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren (6)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Doering moved to pass Ordinance 2013-10 as an emergency. Mr. Hattenbach read the Ordinance 2013-10 in full. Mr. Warren seconded and the roll call showed following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Byar, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren (6)
NAY: (0)

STREETS, PUBLIC UTILITIES & SEWERS COMMITTEE

Mr. Doering read Resolution 2013-13, Proclaiming May 19-25, 2013, as National Public Works Week and moved to adopt. Mr. Muething seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Doering read and moved to adopt Resolution 2013-14, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Reimburse Greater Cincinnati Water Works for Paving Work in Brookwood Subdivision. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Doering read and moved to adopt Resolution 2013-15, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Bid Joint Paving Project with City of Montgomery. Seconded by Mr. Warren and passed by unanimous vote.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Mr. Warren explained that a formal process was being set up to conduct a review of Village Manager on a yearly basis. He noted Mr. Lahrmer was very helpful in providing sample forms from other jurisdictions across the state. The committee formulated its own evaluation format. The next step is to meet with the full council to conduct the review. He thanked the committee members as well as former council member and resident Peg Conway for their efforts and input.

POLICE/FIRE COMMITTEE

Mr. Muething read and moved to approve Resolution 2013-16, Proclaiming May 12-18 as National Law Enforcement Memorial Week. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Muething read and moved to approve Ordinance 2013-11, Ordinance Restating and Amending Ordinance 2004-12 Affirming the Village's Authority to Pick-Up an Employee's Contribution to the Police and Firemen's Disability and Pension Fund by Payroll Deduction. Seconded by Mr. Warren and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Byar, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren (6)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Muething moved to pass Ordinance 2013-111 as an emergency. Mr. Doering seconded and the roll call showed following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Byar, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren (6)
NAY: (0)

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Vice Mayor, Mr. Muething reported that the Village has reviewed its mowing practices over the last few years in order to achieve a balance in the appearance of the property, better habitat for wildlife, cost savings and overarching safety across the property.

In 2011, the Village established portions of Amberley Green as “meadowlands” that allowed the grass to grow higher than normally permitted. A subgroup of the Environmental Stewardship Committee looked at the mowing practices which included multiple visits by Jim Godbey from Cincinnati Parks. The subgroup has agreed to a set of principles that could expand the meadowlands by 1.5 fairways of the old golf course. The principles are being shared with the Village administration. Ultimately, safety will be the deciding factor, which includes the Chief’s concerns related to brush fires and the like. The drafted principles include the Chief’s safety perspectives as the ultimate decision making factor. The committee hopes to incorporate these principles into our thinking.

Mr. Muething also reminded residents of the upcoming recycling event on May 19. Electronics, shoes, and paper shredding are the services being offered at the event, which will take place at Amberley Green from noon-4 p.m. It is a great opportunity for everyone to recycle unwanted items. An acceptable items list is available on the Village website.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer reported on the numerous property maintenance violations being processed by the administration office. He noted the process does include certified mail which is a lengthy process; however, the Village does pursue these items through to resolution of the violation.

An update was provided on the maintenance department’s purchase of a stump grinder which cost approximately \$5,900. Over 60 stumps so far this year have been ground. Typical cost of this service is \$125 per stump. This is a good example of maximizing Village dollars as well as management of the maintenance department time. He commended the service department for those efforts.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the Bike Safety Fair was a very successful event. He thanked the Village officers for the success of the event that taught young people about bike safety utilizing a bike safety or “safety town” course, training video and free bike helmets were issued. It was a well attend event and it was received well by the children and parents. The free helmets were provided by a grant through the American Pediatric Association that staff pursued at the mention of Vice Mayor Wolf.

The Joint Economic Development Zone (JEDZ) was passed by the Sycamore Township residents with an 81% approval rating. The implementation of the JEDZ will commence and the tax will go into effect on October 1. The tax applies to the Southwest Zone (retail and commercial zones) within Sycamore Township.

CHIEF’S REPORT

Chief Wallace reported an increase in burglaries in the Village. He encouraged residents to sign-up for the Village e-blast which is utilized to send out crime alert information. He has also utilized the Next Door website to disseminate information. A majority of the burglaries are

daytime incidents. He encouraged residents to contact the department with any suspicious activity.

Chief Wallace commended the fire department and assisting agencies for their response to the recent fire on Dot Drive. It was an early morning fire with flames shooting out of the roof upon arrival to the scene. The fire was contained to the attic space where it started. He commended all responding agencies: Norwood, Reading, Golf Manor, Sycamore Township and Deer Park as well as the Village's on-duty personnel, which included police and maintenance employees.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Byar reported on the discussion held at the last Finance Committee meeting regarding the ICRC video recording made available to residents on Time Warner Cable. The cost is approximately \$22,000 per year. Council would like to receive resident input as to whether this service is something residents want to maintain. He encouraged residents to contact Council over the next few months to provide input on this item so the significance of the service can be evaluated with the cost.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Muething reported that in response to requests, former Mayor Stillpass researched the meaning of the signs at Adath Israel that display "OLLI". It is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of Cincinnati. It is an opportunity for education courses for individuals over 50. He noted he was impressed by the curriculum available at a nominal cost.

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

Patty Meiers, Acting Clerk of Council

Mayor J.K. Byar