

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2013**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, June 10, 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
Natalie Wolf

ALSO PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED:

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 May 13, 2013 regular meeting and May 28, 2013 special 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 April, 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 April totaled \$745,116, up 37% from 2012. The total general fund revenue for the month of April was \$1,728,441 while expenses equaled \$441,158. At the end of April, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$2,187,124. The report was accepted as submitted.

CITIZEN TO SPEAK:

Mr. Don Hordes, resident at 7202 Fair Oaks, presented his concerns relating to storm drainage issues on his property that he requested be remedied by the Village. He referred to a letter he submitted to council that detailed the specifications of the drainage issues and his request. He felt that there have been changes made upstream (Oakridge) a few years ago that may be the reason for the increase in water flow to his property. He noted that staff and council have been helpful and cooperative; and he was appreciative of the assistance. He requested that council consider and review his storm water issues.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach introduced Tom Peterson, Finance Director of the City of Silverton. Mr. Peterson then presented and reviewed the highlights of the process and contents of the Financial Sustainability Report and submitted it to Council. The report contents include long-term financial options and evaluations related to fiscal sustainability issues through the year 2020.

Mr. Doering commented that the report was fantastic and he appreciated the work. It is a document that can be constantly updated.

Mr. Muething commented that the Village is in great condition today. He stated it was important to know the future potential needs so that the Village does not, like other governments have, rob from the future to solve today. He noted that he preferred clarification of the terminology: "potential

needs” does not mean that it is required. The term “improvements” is actually a reference to maintenance. The report will allow for better decisions and force prioritization.

Mr. Hattenbach mentioned that the report does not include infrastructure for the Amberley Green development. He then thanked staff for the efforts to help make the plan.

Mayor Byar agreed with Mr. Muething’s comments. He then asked Mr. Peterson how Amberley’s financial rating compares against communities within Hamilton County. Mr. Peterson opined that what we face is not insurmountable.

After general discussion, Mr. Hattenbach moved to accept the Financial Sustainability Report as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Muething and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Byar opened the public hearing at 7:17 p.m. Mr. Hattenbach introduced the tax budget and read Resolution 2013-17, Resolution Approving Budget of Estimated Available Funds and Estimated Required Expenditures for the General and Non-General Funds for the Calendar Year 2014 and Authorizing the Village Manager to Submit the Tentative Budget to the County Auditor with Recommendations for Continuation of the Present Tax Levy.

Mr. Muething commented that the tax budget is due in July, which is part of a process that the Village completes in detail in the fall when the budget focused upon.

Mayor Byar asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak about the tax budget. No audience members spoke. The public hearing was closed at 7:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Hattenbach to approve Resolution No. 2013-17. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance No 2013-12, Ordinance Transferring Funds for the Fiscal Year 2013. Seconded by Mr. Muething. Mr. Hattenbach noted that the Village Council previously passed a motion to transfer any and all inheritance funds to the Capital Fund. The roll call showed the following vote:

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

Mr. Hattenbach moved to adopt Ordinance 2013-12 as an emergency measure for the orderly handling of municipal business. 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 presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2013-18, Resolution Designating PNC Bank as the Public Depository for the Village’s Active Funds, and Fifth Third Bank, Huntington Bank and PNC Bank as the Public Depositories for the Village’s Interim and Inactive Funds. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Ms. Wolf introduced Co-Chair of the Environmental Stewardship Committee, Merrie Stillpass, to provide a re-cap of the recent recycling event, One Stop Drop.

Ms. Stillpass reported that the recycling event was held on May 19 and was a success. The Village collected 18 tons of materials which boosted its recycle rate by one percent from the current rate of 21.04% towards its goal of 26%. She thanked everyone who helped with the event.

Mr. Warren thanked Merrie and everyone who helped for their efforts as it was a fantastic event.

Ms. Wolf thanked Merrie Stillpass, Leslie McIntosh, the Cohen's, and everyone who helped. She stated that stewardship is the focus of the committee and Amberley has reached its goal of becoming a model for proactive environmental stewardship.

HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE

Ms. Wolf encouraged residents to go to the Village website to complete the deer survey if they have not already. It will be available until June 30.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Ms. Wolf reported that the Village has made great progress in reaching its residents. The printed, mailed version of the newsletter was reinstituted and is sent twice a year. There has been an increase in website subscribers and on the Next Door website promoted by Peg Conway. The statistics for Village website subscribers were shared:

<u>Website Subscription Group</u>	<u>March 2011</u>	<u>2013</u>
Environmental Stewardship	51	139
Meeting Notices	78	203
Walking Paths	75	201
E-News	432	510

STREETS, PUBLIC UTILITIES & SEWERS COMMITTEE

Mr. Doering presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2013-19, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Award American Pavement Inc. the Contract for the Amberley Village Portion of the Jointly Bid 2013 Bituminous Black Mat Surfacing Program. He noted that \$24,390 was for the surface work and \$9,051 was for reflective markings. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion carried with one nay vote (Byar). There was discussion as to the reason for the follow-up work being done in addition to the work that was done in the previous year. It was shared that weather impacted the available options and road conditions impeded the effectiveness of the grinding application. Utilizing staff rather than a contractor was also discussed. It was clarified that allocating staff to this project would impact daily staffing levels for regular Village functions and require overtime. It was re-stated that the committee's goal is to create traction in the area of this roadway.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Mr. Warren reported that Steve Ashe from Horan presented the employee healthcare renewal information to the committee. The committee has been reviewing the benefits pool and has learned that to go outside of the pool would mean 50-200% higher costs; therefore, participating in the pool has been of benefit. Horan presented plan costs at a rate 6.9% higher. The rate increase is due to the deficit of the benefits pool, not an increase in premium costs. Other changes were that only two healthcare plan options were being made available to employees since no employees purchased the gold plan made available last year.

Mr. Warren presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2013-20, Resolution to Provide for Village Employees a Health Insurance Plan, A Contribution of Funds to Employees' Health Savings Accounts, Contribution of Funds for Health Reimbursement, and Renewing the Dental Plan for Employees. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Doering commented that employees do pay 15% of the premium cost. Mr. Hattenbach noted that there was no increase by the Village to the HSA contributions; it is the same as last year.

Mr. Warren next reported that the council has been working on the process of evaluating the Village Manager and will make a report to council.

Mr. Warren also reported that the committee voted to start a review of employee compensation to be completed by September 1.

HOUSE BILL 5

Mr. Doering provided an update regarding HB 5 related to the uniformity of local income taxes by the state. He noted that the concept is supported; however, the bill contains unappealing items that should be opposed. Mr. Doering presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2013-21, Opposing the Passage of HB 5 by the Ohio General Assembly Which Proposes Uniformity Measures for Municipal Income Tax in the Form of Unfunded Mandates and a Substantial Loss of Revenue. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Byar announced that the Board for the Joint Economic Development District Zone must be established. The proposed board members are Village Manager Scot Lahrmer, Council Member Bill Doering, and Council Member Tom Muething. Motion to approve the appointments was made by Mr. Hattenbach, seconded by Ms. Wolf and carried unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer reported that 39 property maintenance letters were mailed for the month of May relating to high grass and structural defects. Five of the high grass violations resulted in the Village mowing the property and billing the property owner.

Mt. Pleasant Blacktopping has begun work on Appleridge and as well as the Ridge & Section handicap ramps. Work has also started on the Ridge & Section intersection improvements as the pedestrian crosswalk will be installed. This work is anticipated to be done by August 30. Storm water has not begun. The contractor for that work is Ohio Heavy Equipment Lifting.

Mr. Lahrmer thanked Mr. Tom Peterson of Silverton for his assistance with the Financial Sustainability Report. He noted that staff worked very well with Tom and did a great job with information sharing for the analysis. He complimented the Chief, Wes Brown, Steve Rasfeld and Kathy Harcourt for their efforts during the process of developing the report. He stated that the next step is to begin the prioritization process.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Byar read and presented a proclamation recognizing Father's Day on June 16.

Mr. Warren moved to go into executive session for the purpose of executing the performance evaluation of the Village Manager. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Council members exited council chambers to a conference room for their executive session at 8:06 p.m. Council adjourned the executive session and returned to Council chambers and the public session at 8:38 p.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor J.K. Byar