

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL  
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2014**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, June 9, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. Mayor Muething called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

**PRESENT:**

Richard Bardach  
Peg Conway  
Bill Doering  
Ed Hattenbach  
Thomas C. Muething  
Ray Warren  
Natalie Wolf

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager  
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council  
Rick Kay, Treasurer  
Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor

Mayor Muething welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Amberley Village Council. He then led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Muething presented the minutes of the May 12, 2014 regular meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Since there were none, Mayor Muething stated that the minutes were accepted.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the April, 2014, 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 \$726,316. The total general fund revenue for the month of April was \$1,284,221 while expenses equaled \$552,975. At the end of April, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$3,033,744. The report was accepted as submitted.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hattenbach presented the 2015 Tax Budget, noting that it is required by the State that the Village adopt a budget for the upcoming fiscal year by July 15. He commented that a final, detailed budget will be prepared in the fall.

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved Resolution 2014-17, Resolution Approving Budget of Estimated Available Funds and Estimated Required Expenditures for the General and Non-General Funds for the Calendar Year 2015 and Authorizing the Village Manager to Submit the Tentative Budget to the County Auditor with Recommendations for Continuation of the Present Tax Levy. Seconded by Mr. Doering.

Mayor Muething opened the public hearing for resident comment on the 2015 Tax Budget at 6:38 p.m. There were no persons present to comment. The public hearing was closed at 6:39 p.m.

Mayor Muething asked if Council had any questions or comments regarding the budget. There being none, Mayor Muething stated that Resolution 2014-17 was moved and seconded. He asked for all those in favor. The resolution passed unanimously.

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance 2014-09, Ordinance Transferring Funds for the Fiscal Year 2014. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried

unanimously and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

The Village received \$4,233 from inheritance taxes, which is no longer a funding source. The funds will be transferred into the capital projects fund.

#### **LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Mayor Muething reported that the committee met twice since the last council meeting. The recent meeting reviewed the Amberley Green tennis court agreement with Mt. Notre Dame. The agreement was entered into in August of 2009 with the intention of being a 10 year agreement. There are 2 five year terms. The committee agreed that the school has been a good neighbor and lessee. The committee acknowledged the lease was renewed under the terms of the agreement.

Mayor Muething reported that the committee is holding a series of meeting set up by Village Manager Scot Lahrmer to provide information and insight about the real estate market as it pertains to development in regards to the North Site and Amberley Green. The meetings will be held over the next month to provide the committee an opportunity to gain clarity going forward.

Ms. Wolf commented that the meetings so far have been very informative and that it is great to be educated on the current market as well as what is realistic for the property. She noted thus far that attendance has been mostly committee members and she encourage residents to attend.

#### **STREETS, PUBLIC UTILITIES & SEWERS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Doering reported that the phase of the Amberley Green dam project will be to engage services for oversight and materials testing. Services from CDS Associates for oversight and construction administration will not exceed \$10,200. Services from Thelen & Associates for materials testing will not exceed \$18,095. Mr. Doering moved to approve Resolution 2014-18, Resolution Authorizing Village Manager to Enter into Contract with CDS Associates, Inc., and Thelen Associates for Professional Engineering Services Including for Amberley Green Dam Modifications. Seconded by Ms. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Muething asked when the construction on the Amberley Green dam would begin. Mr. Lahrmer commented that the projected start date would be the last week of July; however, the contractor has until October to finish and weather could impact the start date as well. Ms. Wolf asked that residents be notified of the construction on the dam so that it is not misinterpreted as development construction on the property. Ms. Conway noted that there is a plan to run an article in the Village E-News and the Environmental Stewardship Committee has planned for educational tours of the dam throughout the project.

#### **COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Warren reported that the committee met to review employee healthcare. He stated that the Village entered into the benefits pool 4-5 years ago. The Village offers two plans; Platinum A and B. Most employees utilize Platinum B. Employees contribute 15% of the premium cost for Platinum B and contribute 25-30% for Platinum A. In addition, both plans are high deductible plans and the Village provides \$1,300 for a single plan and \$2,600 for a family plan while employees pay the remaining deductible and co-pays.

Mr. Warren continued that over the last several years premiums have been high, however, this year will be the lowest increase in years at 4%. He stated that the benefit pool deficit has been

wiped out. A year ago, Horan became the Village's broker and conducted an actuarial review of the premium costs. It was found that Platinum A was priced correctly, while Platinum B was under priced. The plan costs will increase 3.95% for Platinum A and 11% for Platinum B. The total cost for healthcare, including HSA is \$378,000.

Mr. Warren commented that 3 years ago members of the committee were concerned about the benefits pool and its deficit. He noted that the last few years there has been very effective efforts to correct the deficit and there is no longer a deficit today. While the increases are between 4-11%, the typical plan is going up 15%. Horan negotiated a zero increase for the dental plan renewal.

Mr. Warren commented that while the increases have gone down, this year's increase still significantly exceeds CPI and without adjustments to revenue or expenses the increases will continue to put stress on the budget.

Mr. Warren moved to approve Resolution 2014-19, 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 Ms. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Lahrmer reported there were 20 property maintenance letters; 16 for high grass.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the residents received a recorded telephone message and a letter from the Village informing them of the electric aggregation program update. He noted that there is no action for residents to take at this time unless they want to personally shop the market. Residents will remain a Duke Energy customer until there is a rate favorable for the program. Eagle Energy, the Village's energy broker, has sent out request for proposals to eight suppliers although this is not a good time to go out on the market.

Mr. Lahrmer shared that the aggregation programs have realized savings for the residents. The electric program has saved residents \$42,184 between January and April this year. The gas program has saved residents \$10,705 this year.

Mr. Lahrmer commented that the May 29 storm cause significant flooding in the Village as the heavy rains poured down in a very short amount of time. Some roadways, like Ridge Road, were covered with water which is unheard-of. Sunnybrook was also closed twice. The staff has received calls from residents in regards to soil erosion and other issues cause by the flooding. He noted that the storm water utility is in place to address certain flooding issues and residents should call the Village to have their situation reviewed. Staff will continue to work with CDS to discuss if anything can be done to modify areas to prevent flooding where possible and assist the residents and businesses.

Mayor Muething gave kudos to the manager's response during the storm. He shared that a resident informed him that the day after the storm and prior to the office opening at 8 a.m., the manager answered the phone and assisted the resident with a prompt response to their issue.

Mrs. Conway made mention that she noticed the Village signs had been painted and was pleased with this maintenance effort.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Muething reported that the Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) met in May. He commented that the Taking Root Campaign provides a \$25 discount to residents for the

purchase of a tree at Natorp's. This campaign is an effort to plant 2 million trees over the coming years and to address the Village's tree canopy where the Emerald Ash Borer diseases trees. The Adopt-A-Grove program is an ongoing effort. Last Thursday, honeysuckle was removed near mature trees to allow for those trees to thrive. The ESC has also planned for an educational program related to the dam construction. Their next meeting will be held June 23 at 7 p.m. in the community room.

Mayor Muething commented that he recently had the privilege of presenting two proclamations for individuals making a difference in the community for residents. Amberley resident Rabbi Sigma Fae Coran from Rockdale Temple was recognized and Rabbi Karp was also recognized for his efforts at the Jewish Education for Every Person located on Section Road in Golf Manor, which is now called the "Arthur Schrieber" Jewish Education for Every Person. Mayor Muething commented that these individuals are being recognized by their organization for making a difference in residents' lives and it was a privilege to participate in their recognition.

Mrs. Conway commented that the council's recent tour of the 35,000 square foot expansion at Topicz was very informative of the business operations. She noted that the owner, Marvin Schwartz, had a very positive and noticeable rapport with Village Manager Scot Lahrmer. She commented that it was good to see relationships with the businesses being fostered by the Village.

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

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Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

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Mayor Thomas C. Muething