

**Amberley Village Council  
Police/Fire Committee – Minutes  
September 16, 2014**

Attendees: Peg Conway (chair), Ed Hattenbach (member), Rich Bardach (member); Tom Muething, Scot Lahrmer, Sandi Pywen, PO Mark Roeseler, PO Chris Fritsch, Chief Rich Wallace

Prior Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of June 23, 2014, were approved as submitted.

Update on Grant Activity

Chief Wallace, PO Fritsch, and Sandi Pywen (contractor for grant writing) provided the update.

For Police, the Ohio Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) is a source of grants. In 2013, the Village received a \$3,000 grant for overtime, and an on-site visit in connection with this grant was recently conducted to review documentation on hours, pay, etc. The Department received very high marks and was encouraged to apply for additional grants, including for equipment (amounts up to \$15,000). The Chief and Sandi will attend a class in October on applying for these grants. The next cycle for applications opens October 1.

For Fire, the past two years they have focused on applying for funds from the Federal Emergency Management Assistance agency (FEMA) and the State of Ohio fire marshal. The most funds are available from FEMA. The Village was denied funding for a new fire truck by FEMA in August. Sandi and Officer Fritsch followed up via phone call and learned that Amberley's call volume (low due to being combined dept), community size small) and staffing (career vs. volunteer) were factors. However, the questions about call volume are being removed from the application starting with the next round. Sandi and Officer Fritsch attended a workshop in Dayton and gained additional insight on how to apply. They also reported that the Village's application to FEMA for equipment, specifically self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), is still in the running with two weeks remaining in this grant cycle. The present SCBA is nearly 15 years old, making it two generations out from new equipment. Full replacement cost is estimated at \$128,000.

Several people expressed their appreciation to Sandi, Officer Fritsch, and Chief Wallace for their efforts to bring in funds for the department.

General Update

The Chief reported that the personal protective equipment purchased for Officer Rump, who resigned last spring, was re-sized and modified for use by newly hired Officer Brandon Gehring. Officer Fritsch worked with the vendor to accomplish it, which saved the Village \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Officer Gehring is now out patrolling on his own and performing well, the Chief said. He is a drug recognition expert as designated by the State of Ohio. Overtime was not affected

as much as the Chief thought it might by the hiring process because the vacation season had passed. He is not working on Officer Rump's replacement yet; he plans to wait until after the first of the year.

The Village's first burglary of the year occurred on Aug. 24 on Longmeadow, during the Ice Cream Social. Det. Norton and Officer Roeseler spent significant time there gathering prints and DNA swabs. The investigation is ongoing.

The department is doing more internal training than previously, circulating written updates and bringing in speakers for in-house classes.

#### Officer Retention/Exit Interview

The Chief conducted an exit interview with Officer Rump and reported on several factors that influenced his decision to take a new position in Oakwood. 1) Very soon after arriving in Amberley, he gained a negative impression from a Compensation & Benefits Committee meeting he attended on whether to grant employees a raise. 2) His wife had to begin paying for health care at her employer. 3) The salary level and the schedule at Oakwood are more to his liking. The Chief stated that over the long term, the pay in Amberley is competitive. From input he gathered after Rump left, the schedule is an issue for many. However, Amberley does not have the personnel to adopt the two days on/several days off model used in Oakwood and elsewhere. The Chief is working on a different approach with the goal of ensuring that officers on permanent shifts consistently work that shift rather than being bumped to fill in on other shifts.

#### In-Car Cameras

The department has had the present in-car camera equipment for 10 years, and some of it was bought used. It is cumbersome to transfer footage from the camera to CD or USB stick, requiring several steps, and it's not working properly. Officer Roeseler showed video clips from day and night footage of the present system and a new system they are currently testing. The new system had a clearer image, better audio, and provides better accessibility to prior footage if the need arises to look back. It has a smaller camera that fits behind the rear view mirror, and the system also includes a computer, mini-server, and antenna that allows video footage to be auto-downloaded when the vehicle pulls into the cruiser post, creating an evidence library categorized by officer, date and time. The department would like to purchase this system to cover three vehicles, the number that is typically used on the road on a given shift, at an estimated cost of \$24,190. It will cost an additional few hundred dollars per vehicle for installation.

Ed Hattenbach moved to authorize the Village Manager and Chief to pursue purchase of a new in-car video system for three vehicles. Seconded by Rich Bardach, it carried unanimously.

#### License Plate Reader

Officer Roeseler presented information about the cost of adding four-camera license plate readers to two more vehicles. Currently one vehicle is equipped with a three-camera system. They are especially useful in apprehending people with outstanding warrants but also investigating crimes. The four-camera system can read rear plates of cars that do not

have front plates. The estimated cost for two 4-camera systems is \$34,680; to add a camera to the present 3-camera system would be an additional \$3,000. The committee was not inclined to act on this immediately but preferred to evaluate this purchase along with others in the upcoming budget process.

#### Fire Pay

Scot Lahrmer provided an update on the administration of fire pay. It had come to the Village's attention that in order to comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), fire pay needs to be paid more often than twice a year as has been the longstanding practice. The annual fire pay of \$3,200 will switch to being distributed over every pay period. As a result, this amount will be included in the calculation of overtime pay, but the Finance Director ran projections and concluded that this change would not result in major expense. Extra fire pay for runs and trainings will be paid the second payroll of the month. These changes will be effective following the next fire pay in December. The situation was presented to employees at the fire drill last week. They will have the option to direct fire pay into their savings account at the credit union.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by: Peg Conway, Chair