

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in a regular session at the Amberley Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011, at 7:30 P.M. Mayor Merrie Stillpass called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>	<u>ABSENT:</u>
Jon Chaiken	Bernie Boraten, Village Manager	Chief Monahan, Police/Fire
Fran Cohen	Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor	
Peg Conway	Lt. Rick Caudill, Police/Fire	
Ed Hattenbach	Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council	
Louis Katz	Rick Kay, Village Treasurer	
Leslie McIntosh		
Merrie Stillpass		

Mayor Merrie Stillpass welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amberley Village Council, and led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

Mayor Stillpass presented the minutes of the January 10, 2011, regular meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. There being none, Mayor Stillpass stated that the minutes stand approved as distributed.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Boraten presented the January, 2011, Finance Report (copy attached). Mayor Stillpass asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Hattenbach commented that he would prefer that the bank balance on the report include all outstanding checks. Mr. Boraten pointed out that the outstanding checks are on the report, however, he read the balance historically reported, which is the bank statement balance. After a brief discussion, it was determined that Mr. Boraten would report, in the future, the checking account balance that includes all outstanding debits. There being no additional questions or comments, Mayor Stillpass announced that the finance report would be filed as received.

PRESENTATIONS

Beth Schwartz with the Jewish Family Service, located at the Mayerson JCC facility, presented a request to form a partnership with Amberley Village in an effort to provide support measures and services to all Village residents, particularly adults over the age of 50. Ms. Schwartz explained that Amberley is what is considered to be a ‘Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC)’ also known as a “Community of a Lifetime”. She believes this proposed framework of prevention measures and services would be of great benefit and value to the residents.

Ms. Schwartz shared various statistics related to the aging “baby boomer” population and explained the various types of support services that could be structured around the needs of the residents. Informational handouts regarding this program were provided to council members. Ms. Schwartz stated that the first step of this process would be to form a focus group/committee to identify the needs of the Village residents.

Mayor Stillpass expressed her support for such a partnership. Mr. Katz and Mrs. Conway also expressed their interest and support. Ms. Schwartz stated that she would work with the Mayor to form the focus group.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mr. Chaiken reported that the committee will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, March 2nd at 7 p.m. at Adath Israel Synagogue to provide an update to the community regarding the committee’s recommendations for the North Site and Amberley Green property.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Ms. McIntosh reported that the committee meets every fourth Monday of every month. Volunteers are needed to participate on the committee as well as at upcoming events such as Arbor Day and the Tree City USA luncheon, which the Village will host in 2012.

She announced that Al Tomasi and Tom Karr graduated from the Tree City USA tree academy. There will be a graduation luncheon held May 25th.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach stated that he has received a letter from the First Suburbs regarding the repeal of the estate tax. He proposed that a letter be prepared, on behalf of the Village, that opposes this repeal. He stated that 80% of the estate tax goes back to the local community. He stated he felt this was important revenue needed by all communities.

Mr. Katz commented that as an elected representative of the Village he does agree with Mr. Hattenbach’s opposition to this repeal, however, as an attorney representing residents on this issue, he felt that he has a conflict of interest and abstained from voting. Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve a letter of opposition be prepared on behalf of the Village. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried; Mr. Katz abstained.

PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Conway stated that the committee released its first e-newsletter and encouraged residents to sign up to receive the e-news by visiting the website.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Stillpass introduced Caitlyn Graham and Stephen Hill, Director of Community Development from Steve Chobot’s office. They are interested in reaching out to the local communities in order to understand local level issues.

Mayor Stillpass then announced that two modern homes in the village were featured in January issue of Best Magazine. Homeowners are Susan Rissover and Jose Garcia were featured along with four other modern homes in the area.

Mayor Stillpass announced that she received a confirmation letter that the Village has once again achieved status as a Tree City USA community. She congratulated Leslie McIntosh and her committee for all of their efforts.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Boraten reported statistics related to snow and ice control. Expenses are in-line with the last four years and slightly under. To date, 754 tons of salt and 785 gallons of brine have been used. The average over the last four years of salt used is 822 tons and this season we have used 754 tons. The average cost over the last four years has been \$70,322 and this season has cost \$64,672, thus far.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Chaiken provided an updated regarding the recently passed opt-out ordinances related to the gas and electric energy aggregation. He stated that the Village has been advised by the Secretary of State's office that the issues cannot be put before the voters unless a primary is being held. Thus, the issues will not go on the May ballot. The issues will appear on the November ballot.

Mr. Katz commented that he has received a number of questions from the residents regarding the aggregation and has worked through their issues with them. He learned that the level of participation by the Village residents has far exceeded the anticipated enrollment expectations.

Mr. Katz pointed out that he looked into a resident's concern regarding a report aired by a local news station regarding possible hidden costs in these types of aggregation programs. After thorough review of this report, it turned out that there were hidden costs with Direct Energy, not Dominion Retail with which the Village has contracted.

Mr. Katz commented that the aggregation program was brought to his attention by J.K. Byar. This program has been very successful in providing a savings opportunity to the residents. Mr. Katz encouraged residents to share their cost-savings ideas with council.

Mr. Katz then stated that he felt that the residents should know that there will be increased signage at the JCC. He stated that the zoning board has approved a large sign with LED lights on it. He stated that the Village has been sued by a resident objecting to the LED sign.

He also commented that a JCC board member stated that there was some type of agreement made to work toward a gateway whereby the JCC would provide an easement to the Village. There was some discussion regarding the details of meetings held with JCC representatives regarding the gateway plan.

Mr. Boraten confirmed that nothing has been received by the Village from the JCC related to the gateway plan. Mayor Stillpass confirmed that there was no “quid pro quo” agreement of any kind. Mr. Chaiken expressed his disappointment with Mr. Katz commenting about litigation in a public forum. Mr. Chaiken clarified that it was an appeal, not a lawsuit that was filed, which was simply the right of the resident. Mr. Katz stated that he felt the public should know. Ms. McIntosh explained that she thought the JCC was going to provide leftover dirt to begin a berm that would be needed for one of the gateway plans. Mrs. Stillpass confirmed that there was no dirt left from the JCC project, so the Village did not receive any dirt from the JCC.

Mr. Chaiken then clarified that he has not received any communications from residents to support Mr. Katz’ perspective that a large number of residents are upset about the JCC sign. Mr. Katz stated that he would provide Mr. Chaiken with the names of those individuals concerned about the sign.

Mayor Stillpass stated that there being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Merrie Stillpass