

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL  
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in a regular session at the Amberley Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road on MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011, at 7:30 P.M. Mayor Merrie Stillpass called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	<b><u>ALSO PRESENT:</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT:</u></b>
Jon Chaiken	Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor	Scot Lahrmer, Interim Village Manager
Fran Cohen	Chief Monahan, Police/Fire –	
Peg Conway	Arrived at 7:33 p.m.	
Ed Hattenbach	Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council	
Louis Katz	Rick Kay, Village Treasurer	
Leslie McIntosh	Margie Crowley, Finance	
Merrie Stillpass	Administrator	

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 following special council meetings: April 20, April 29, May 2, and May 9. She asked if there were any corrections or additions. There being none, Mayor Stillpass stated that the minutes stand approved as distributed.

Mayor Stillpass presented the minutes of the May 9, 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**

The Finance Administrator, Margie Crowley, presented the Finance Report for the month of May (copy attached) on behalf of Scot Lahrmer, Interim Village Manager, as he was out of town. There being no questions or comments, Mayor Stillpass announced that the finance reports would be filed as received.

**CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Mr. Barry Dingler, resident at 8580 Kentland Court, complained that drivers are not yielding to vehicles turning into Longmeadow from Ridge Road during heavy traffic periods. He would like a sign that says 'do not block intersection' to be posted. Mr. Dingler also complained that vehicles are turning on red at the light on Ridge at Ronald Reagan. He then requested that a sign be posted on the Ronald Reagan Highway that says 'no engine brake area' in order to prevent the loud noises that semi trucks emit when the engine brake is activated. Mr. Dingler commented that the loud noise is disturbing.

Lastly, Mr. Dinger shared his recent experience with the village police department. He explained that his truck alarm had been activated and the response time from the police department was outstanding. He stated that he was very impressed with the level of service provided.

Mr. Brian Thiel, resident at 7149 Meadowbrook; Larry Mock, resident at 6945 Fair Oaks; Aaron Kibel, resident at 2580 Section Road, all shared their concern and opposition for the use of a residence located at the corner of Section and Fair Oaks, which has been rumored in the community. Various reasons were cited, including an increase in noise and foot traffic and that this change would bring a negative impact on the housing value in the area. Signed petitions opposing this change were submitted (copy attached).

Mayor Stillpass thanked all of the citizens for their comments.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hattenbach reported that the committee will meet on June 15 to review the budget, which will need to be submitted to the county by the end of July. He then commented that property values issued by the county reflect a decrease, which will result in lower revenue for the village. And, the estate tax revenue which brings approximately \$500,000 to the village will expire in 2012 and reduction of the local government fund will require the village to address the effects of such reductions on the village budget.

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

Mr. Chaiken reported that the Stormwater Management Advisory Board met and recommended that the partially complete plans for the project related to the retention basin on Willowbrook be completed.

Mr. Chaiken then gave a brief overview of the gas and electric aggregation programs that the village is able to make available to the residents, which result in a savings to the residents on their gas and electric usage bills. Ordinances were presented in order to place these issues on the November ballot.

Mr. Chaiken presented, read and moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2011-08, ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL NATURAL GAS PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4929.26, OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS. Seconded by Mr. Katz and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE:	Stillpass, Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Hattenbach, Katz, McIntosh	(7)
NAY:		(0)
ABSENT:		(0)

Mr. Chaiken moved to approve the Ordinance passed as an emergency measure. Seconded by Mr. Katz and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Stillpass, Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Hattenbach, Katz, McIntosh (7)  
NAY: (0)  
ABSENT: (0)

Mr. Chaiken presented, read and moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2011-09, ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL ELECTRICITY PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4928.20, OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

AYE: Stillpass, Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Hattenbach, Katz, McIntosh (7)  
NAY: (0)  
ABSENT: (0)

Mr. Chaiken moved to approve the Ordinance passed as an emergency measure. Seconded by Mrs. Cohen and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Stillpass, Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Hattenbach, Katz, McIntosh (7)  
NAY: (0)  
ABSENT: (0)

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Ms. McIntosh reported that the Arbor Day in the Garden Party event was a great success. She commented on the various activities that took place, including the fact that 4,000 lbs. of paper was shred for residents and 100 pairs of athletic shoes were collected for recycling.

Ms. McIntosh made the following announcements:

Next meeting for the group planning the Tree City USA luncheon 2012 will be held on Thursday, June 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the community room. The group will work on the budget, décor and also needs more volunteers.

The start-up of the clearing efforts at Amberley Green which is called ‘A Green Clearing’ event will be on July 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Amberley Green. Efforts will continue to clear invasive species and trim trees along Ridge Road.

The next lecture series will be on July 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the community room. The speaker will be Brian Bohl, a stream specialist with Hamilton County.

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS & PARKS COMMITTEE**

Ms. McIntosh presented the first reading of an ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 95.40, 95.41, AND 150.79.4 OF THE VILLAGE CODE OF ORDINANCES PROVIDING FOR EXCEPTION TO GRASS AND WEED CUTTING FOR DESIGNATION OF

MEADOWLANDS. It was explained that this ordinance will allow for portions of the Amberley Green to be declared meadowlands to reduce the areas which need to be mowed, thereby, saving the village costs related to cutting the property.

Ms. McIntosh then reported that the committee met recently and discussed fresh food production and distribution at the Amberley Green. Past and present council members were present, along with the interim village manger and police/fire chief, representatives from the health department, planning commission, farmers and residents participated in the discussion. This group will meet again soon to continue its work.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Conway reported that Amy Rubenstein has made progress with the planning and coordination of the ice cream social. At least \$1,300 has been raised for this event. The date for the event has been set for August 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### **COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Conway presented and read RESOLUTION NO. 2011-06, RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR VILLAGE EMPLOYEES A RENEWED AND UPDATED 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. Katz and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Conway noted that the healthcare plan offered has been changed to Platinum B from Platinum A to reduce costs to the Village. Employees will be required to contribute ten percent to the cost of their plan. Employees may buy back up to the Platinum A for an additional premium amount which will be at their own cost.

Mr. Katz commented that he was pleased with the professional presentation made by the interim village manager, Scot Lahrmer. Mr. Katz also thanked the employees for their collaborative efforts.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Monahan reported that over the last few months, there have been property damage and burglaries in Rollman Estates. Three individuals have been apprehended and the court ordered restitution for the value of items stolen. One hundred percent of the value of stolen items was recovered and returned to the residents.

Chief Monahan reported on various activities of the department, including numerous fire runs, trees down across wires, and two kitchen fires.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Frank announced to council that he would like to discuss pending litigation regarding the Warm Brothers. Mrs. Conway moved to go into executive session. Seconded by Ms. McIntosh and the motion carried unanimously. The council members, along with the solicitor exited council chambers to meet in the administration conference room.

Council returned to council chambers with the same members being presented which we noted in the roll call at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Frank informed those in the audience that the lawsuit was regarding the deterioration of the pillars on the front of village hall.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Stillpass thanked Ms. McIntosh for coordinating Arbor Day.

She then announced that Scot Lahrmer has been hired to perform the duties of the interim village manager during the search process for a permanent village manager. She stated that Mr. Lahrmer, during his first week, has met with council members and staff. He was unable to attend this meeting due to a pre-planned vacation, however, he will return to the office on June 20.

Mayor Stillpass then presented and moved to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2011-07, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH SCOT LAHRMER AS INTERIM VILLAGE MANAGER. Seconded by Mr. Chaiken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stillpass noted that Mr. Lahrmer has most recently served with Clermont County and the City of Mason.

### **RECOGNITION OF FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR'S RETIREMENT**

Mayor Stillpass invited Margie Crowley, the Finance Administrator, to the podium along with Christa Criddle from the State Auditor's office, who presented and read to Ms. Crowley a letter from State Auditor Dave Yost, recognizing her 30 years in public service.

Chief Monahan then praised Ms. Crowley for her dedication and loyalty to the Village and commended her for her service and congratulated her on her retirement.

Mayor Stillpass then presented Ms. Crowley with a proclamation from the Board of County Commissioners, a proclamation from Amberley Village declaring June 17<sup>th</sup> Margie Crowley Day in Amberley, and an engraved award from council commending her 19 years of service to the Village as Finance Administrator and Tax Administrator.

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

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Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

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Mayor Merrie Stillpass