

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in a regular session at the Amberley Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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	Scot Lahrmer, Interim Village Manager	
Fran Cohen	Rich Wallace, Police/Fire Chief	
Peg Conway	Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor	
Ed Hattenbach	Rick Kay, Village Treasurer	
Louis Katz	Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council	
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 August 8, 2011, regular meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Mr. Hattenbach asked if the spelling of the management firm, Slavin, had been corrected. Mrs. Browder confirmed that the correction had been made. Since there were no other corrections or additions, Mayor Stillpass stated that the minutes stand approved as amended.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer presented the August, 2011, Finance Report (copy attached). The following statistics were reported:

August earnings tax collections were \$194,547 which was down 1.37% from August 2010. The earnings tax collection year-to-date total was \$1,646,389 which was 7.2% less than 2010. This difference can be attributed to a once in a lifetime event which will not recur, thus, earnings tax collection was even as compared to 2010.

The final installment of the property tax revenue for the year has been received, which brings the year-to-date total to \$1,125,811. The auditor's office has advised that there will be less property tax revenue next year due to the reappraisal by the county.

The inheritance tax collection year-to-date is \$407,294. This revenue stream expires next year. Over the last decade, inheritance tax has generated over \$8 million for the Village.

The local government fund has netted \$75,314 this year. This fund will be reduced by 25% this year and 25% next year.

Interest received year-to-date totaled \$22,809. The Village will be moving funds out of the current Star Ohio account as it is not generating enough interest which is at .04%. These funds will be reinvested in CDs which will generate .55% interest.

The general fund balance at the end of August was \$2,996,649. Expenditures for August were \$493,438 for a year-to-date of \$3,364,742.

Mayor Stillpass asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, the finance report will be filed as received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE/FIRE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Cohen presented and read RESOLUTION 2011-12, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM VILLAGE MANAGER TO PURCHASE FIRE FIGHTING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Conway noted that this expense was not a budget increase.

LAW COMMITTEE

Mr. Katz reported that the committee had recently met regarding two items. The first item was the Village's property maintenance code, which the committee will continue to work on modifications to be presented at a later date. The modifications will be related to boats, RVs, and tall grass in response to resident complaints.

He then reported that it had been three years since the Village last updated its code. Staff and the committee recommended that the code be re-codified to incorporate the most recent legislation and also make available an online version of the code. Mr. Katz presented and moved to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2011-13, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM VILLAGE MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING COMPANY TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE VILLAGE CODE OF ORDINANCES. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE COMMITTEE

Ms. McIntosh reported that she would like to request council's support for the We Thrive! Community Wellness and Action Initiative. She stated that obesity is a chronic disease that places a great burden on our health care system, economy, and quality of life for communities, including Amberley Village. Prevention of chronic disease is a winnable battle by living healthy lifestyles, including eating fruits and vegetables and getting regular exercise.

She explained that the Hamilton County Public Health Department has funding for three new programs: We Thrive, Healthy Kids-Healthy Communities, and Putting Communities to Work. A formal process will begin in 2012 with a proactive approach for public accreditation to improve and protect health in all communities. The goals of the We Thrive Community would include established farmers' markets and/or community gardens, safe places to play, safe routes to school, and health school meal choices. By

enacting this resolution, Amberley demonstrates its support of obesity prevention policies. There is no disadvantage to this stated policy intention and is already a part of the Amberley Vision Pillars and the Long-Range Planning Committee's 2010-11 Report and Recommendation.

Ms. McIntosh then read and moved to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2011-14, RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WE THRIVE! COMMUNITY WELLNESS AND ACTION INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY. Seconded by Mr. Katz. The motion carried with one opposed, Mrs. Cohen.

Mrs. Cohen commented that she was concerned with the expenses that this initiative might create during a time when the village cannot afford additional expenses. Mrs. Cohen also made points of concerns regarding who will take care of the garden plots as it would cost the village to have staff time spent performing maintenance related to this effort.

Ms. McIntosh explained that this action would not incur a cost to the village and would make the village eligible for a grant in the amount of \$10,000. The grant dollars would allow the village to pursue the development of garden plots. She commented that residents have expressed their interest in tending to the gardens.

Mrs. Conway commented that there are many different models of community gardens and no plans have been made as of yet.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Ms. McIntosh made the following announcements:

- Next Environmental Stewardship Committee is September 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the community room
- September 27 at 7:00 p.m. Winterize Your Yard lecture by Doug Young with Benkens Nursery; also in the community room and will be videotaped and made available on the village website for those who cannot attend.
- Amberley Green Clearing on October 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Amberley Green

Ms. McIntosh thanked the volunteers and the maintenance department for all of their efforts in helping make improvements to the Amberley Green property.

She also announced that the Tree City USA 2012 luncheon planning is underway and the next planning meeting will be held on October 13 at 6:00 p.m.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Frank reported that an agreement has been presented to council that would settle the claim regarding the advanced deterioration of the pillars on the front of Village Hall. This settlement would provide for a payment to Amberley Village to contract for repair services. A brief discussion was held as to whether or not council members needed additional discussion in executive session. It was decided that there was no information that had not already been received and discussed.

Mr. Katz presented, read and moved to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2011-15, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT PERTAINING TO THE VILLAGE'S LAWSUIT FOR FUNDS TO REPAIR THE COLUMNS AT VILLAGE HALL. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer presented a resolution that would allow for Duke Energy to utilize the North Site for a staging area for equipment as it relates to work being completed in the City of Reading, however, this work improvement would benefit the Village as the work being done affects a line that feeds Amberley Village. Additionally, Duke has assisted the Village in contacting the proper Duke personnel to discuss the electric line clearance problem with the Section and Ridge traffic signal.

Mr. Chaiken read and moved to approve RESOLUTION 2011-16, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE A RIGHT OF ENTRY FOR DUKE TO USE NORTH SITE FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lahrmer announced that 2011 Channel Improvement work will begin later this month. This will consist of repairs and restoration to the channel at the storm water in the Willowbrook area. Council awarded the 2011 Storm Water Improvements contract to Site Worx. This work involves replacement of an existing underground storm water pipe along the north side of Oakridge Drive between Willowbrook Lane and Meadowbrook Drive; this work has been completed. The remaining storm water improvements will be completed in October.

Cincinnati Water Works has replaced water mains in the Belkay and Hudson Parkway areas and is planning to advertise for bids in the near future for water main replacement work on Fair Oaks, Willowbrook Drive and Lane, Meadowbrook and part of Oakridge. Work is expected to begin this fall/winter. The roads will be repaved following the project.

Duke Energy will begin the electrical work in the Aracoma soon. Utilities have been marked. This work will result in much needed redundancy during power outages.

The brine system is progressing. Materials and supplies required have been ordered and some already received. The brine system will be up and running in time for this snow and ice season.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that there were over 1,500 calls for police service during the month of August for a total of over 12,000 calls for the year. There were 75 citations issued in August, primarily for speed, license plate violations, operative a motor vehicle under suspension and seatbelt violations. Vehicle accidents totaled 8 during the month with citations issued for assured clear distance and reasonable control. There were 6 reported thefts within the Village along with a drug offense. Most of these are being investigated.

In August, there were 18 reports taken by the Fire Department. The most significant was a house on Section Road being renovated where the electrician reported smoke in the attic. The fire was extinguished and our personnel's response merited a commendation from Chief Wallace.

After meeting with CompManagement regarding the village's workers' compensation account, the fee was revised from \$4,935 to \$4,500. The village will keep its policy in the 17% discount tier.

Various members of the staff attended an Ethics and Public Records Training session sponsored by the Center for Local Government. This was a free opportunity for staff to receive an update on these topics.

Cost savings are in the forefront for staff as it has been for some time. Recently, the color button on the administration copier was covered up to help reduce the number of color copies. This past month the copier bill was \$64.18, down from over \$100 in previous months. The police/fire department renegotiated its pager contract which saves the village \$170 per month. The police department also participates in a Department of Justice bulletproof vest program where body armor is provided under a two for one purchase; the program has saved the village \$2,362.

The village has received calls from residents regarding a group home operating in the village. The complaint is being investigated to determine if there may be a zoning violation in a single-family zoning district.

As offered at the August council meeting, Mr. Katz delivered an \$800 check on August 9 to the village for help funding the air bottles for the fire department. The monies were deposited into the general fund as Donations-Fire Department.

As an example of being creative with our resources, after Halie Norton returned to her full-time teaching job at summer's end the administration office had nobody to staff the front desk. Chief Wallace extended the services of Robin Kemp a few days a week to assist with answering phones and helping customers when our part-time administrative assistant, Anna Shaw, is not working.

Mr. Lahrmer stated that council, at its August meeting, directed him to begin pursuing brokers for the North Site. Information was gathered regarding demographics of the area surrounding the North Site. ESRI, a software development and Geographic Information System (GIS) services company had information that generated a market profile within a 5, 10, and 15 minute driving time. This included population, housing units, household income, per capital income, and housing values. Similar demographic information was generated within a 1, 3 and 5 mile ring of the site. This data is used by developers in assessing the profile of the area and whether there is a market for certain uses.

Mr. Lahrmer continued his report, stating that he met with and spoke to economic developers and the comments were pointing out the access and re-zoning issues, in

addition to the poor market. He spoke with the Hamilton County Development Company and the City of Reading to collect additional information.

Mr. Lahrmer stated that his recommendation at this time would be to proceed with establishing a zoning classification for the site that allows some type of commercial development on the site, likely a PUD. Verify the water and sewer capacity. Revisit the traffic study. Consider the benefit of a tax increment financing district prior to development. Prepare an RFP to see if there are developers who would include this property in their portfolio.

Mayor Stillpass thanked Mr. Lahrmer for the information and report.

Mr. Lahrmer then stated that the village has continued to work with the insurance company and contractor involved regarding the restoration complaint from Mr. Coleman on Galbraith Road. The bond has been accessed and the village is hopeful to accomplish restoration yet this fall.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stillpass stated that village manager selection process continues and council will conduct interviews by month's end.

She then thanked Skip Kahn for submitting photos taken at the former Chief's last council meeting.

Mayor Stillpass stated that she attended several meetings on behalf of the village. She and Scot Lahrmer continued their meetings with the businesses in Amberley and this month met with Saturday Knight Ltd., Procter and Gamble and Ohio Pulp. She also attended a luncheon hosted by Duke Energy regarding development of the smart grid and learned that 95% of Amberley has smart meters installed. She also attended an energy and environmental summit sponsored by the University of Cincinnati.

Mayor Stillpass reported that she recently discussed a focus group opportunity with Steve Shuckman of the Cincinnati Park department. He would like to identify residents interested in participating in a focus group to help identify improvements and uses of the playground in French Park. There will be two meetings to create a concept plan. If interested, contact Nicole Browder at nbrowder@amberlevillage.org or 531-8675 by Friday, September 16.

Mayor Stillpass reminded new residents to update their voter registration with the Hamilton County Board of Elections by visiting their website at www.hamilton-co.org/BOE or calling 632-7000.

Mayor Stillpass then announced the retirement of Dennis Owens with the maintenance department. Mr. Owens is the longest term employee with 38 years of service. Mr. Owens was not available to attend the meeting. Mayor Stillpass read the proclamation thanking him for his service and declaring September 30, 2011 'Dennis Owens Day' in Amberley Village. Those in attendance applauded Mr. Owens' accomplishment.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Conway announced that there will be an informational public meeting on October 17 to inform residents about the upcoming energy aggregation ballot issues. Forthcoming will be a letter to residents' home as well as information posted to the village website.

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

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Merrie Stillpass