

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Muething called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council
Rick Kay, Treasurer
Lt. Brian Blum, Police/Fire

ABSENT:

Chief Rich Wallace

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

Mayor Muething announced that the new recording company, ESP Media, recently approved by Council was present and recording their first meeting for council. He noted this was a cost savings for the Village and residents will have access to the recordings online.

MINUTES

Mayor Muething presented the minutes of the December 8, 2014 regular meeting. He asked if there were any corrections or additions. Since there were none, Mayor Muething stated that the minutes were approved.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the November, 2014, Finance Report (a copy of which is attached hereto). Mr. Lahrmer reported a summary of this report and noted tax collections for the month of November totaled \$142,910. The total general fund revenue for the month of November was \$250,519 while expenses equaled \$173,826. At the end of November, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$3,984,756. The report was accepted as submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2015-1, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with The Baldwin Group, Inc. to Purchase Software for Mayor's Court. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hattenbach clarified that the expense was being paid from the Mayor's Court Fund which is a restricted fund to be utilized for such purposes only. Mrs. Conway commented that the purchase was reviewed in the Police/Fire Committee and the Finance Committee where Police Clerk Robin Kemp presented a very thorough analysis of the new functions the system offers related to banking, docketing and citation

processing. Mayor Muething noted that the Mayor's Court Fund is generated by the dollars paid in fines to Mayor's Court.

There was discussion on how training will be handled. Mr. Lahrmer clarified that the software purchase includes training to get staff up to speed. The vendor will be on-site for the training and the contract also includes an annual maintenance fee.

POLICE/FIRE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Conway reported that the committee met on December 11 and the committee plans to meet 4-6 times in 2015 to become informed about the police/fire department operations and receive updates on activity. Chief Wallace shared the following information with the committee:

- Presented information from the 2013 Annual Report and noted that the 2014 Annual Report was being prepared.
- The department has planned 2,100 training hours for the year and intends to increase in-house training in specialized areas.
- Noted a change in the labeling of fire runs to align with state and national requirements.
- Review of citation breakdowns, required by accreditation, reflected 50/50 on arrests by race.
- License plate reader has increased arrests resulting in additional Mayor's Court cases.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer reported that leaf collection concluded January 2. The crew collected 243 loads of leaves. Brush service has restarted for residents.

Mr. Lahrmer shared information about the recent pedestrian struck at Section and Elbrook. He noted there has been a lot of conversation about it and he would like to share the details of what occurred. He commented that the driver of the vehicle involved was northbound on Elbrook and waiting for oncoming traffic to pass. As the pedestrian crossed, the vehicle struck the individual. The pedestrian did suffer injuries to the head and knee, was transported to the hospital for knee surgery. The pedestrian was in the crosswalk and wearing the new reflective belt.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the Village's deer culling program has concluded for 2014. The Village culled 43 deer. For 2015, the program will have activity after the new permit is processed and received from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The prior permit expired December 31. The Right of Entry for French Park has already been obtained.

Mr. Lahrmer shared a Christmas card that the police department received whereby an individual who received two tickets from the police department thanked the officers for their service, noted the difficult times across the nation for police, and wished them a Merry Christmas. Mr. Lahrmer noted that it is rare to receive a thank you after receiving a ticket.

CHIEF'S REPORT

In the absence of the Chief, Lt. Blum provided a report for the department. Lt. Blum stated that the department recently completed use of force training which is a hands-on training with ASP, taser and mace as a part of the department's accreditation standards.

Over the coming weeks, the department will engage in justifiable use of force training which is a “shoot, don’t shoot” scenario based training that the department participates in twice a year with other communities to stay up to date on use of non-lethal force.

Lt. Blum commented that the department recently made several arrests utilizing DNA and fingerprints. Training for officers in this area is paramount to sharpen techniques for evidence collection. He noted Chief Wallace is focused on professionalism and leadership training education for continued success of the department in the future.

Lt. Blum noted that one police dispatcher has retired and the hiring process will conclude in a few weeks. A hiring process will begin for a police officer position after the dispatcher is hired.

Lt. Blum responded to Mr. Warren regarding the pedestrian accident. He stated there were 81 auto accidents in the Village in 2014. He noted that when he has directed traffic over the years, his experience has been that he almost always comes close to be hit by a car even though he wears reflective gear. He stated it was an unfortunate incident and noted that alertness is paramount.

Mayor Muething noted that the Health, Education & Welfare Committee has planned to meet at least four times this year to review pedestrian safety and consider actionable items in this regard.

Mr. Doering shared that on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day he had the opportunity to ride along with Chief Wallace who volunteered to work so that younger officers could be home with their families. He commended the Chief for the gesture.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Muething reported that he attended the Hamilton County Public Health meeting in which the purpose was to consider whether a contract would be approved for Sharonville to contract for health services and the contract was approved. He noted that there are only three cities that do not contract with the county for health department services. He stated there may be a ballot vote in November for the City of Sharonville on this issue.

Mayor Muething held discussion on the need to change the council meeting date of September 14 due to Rosh Hashanah. Solicitor Frank will prepare an ordinance to effectuate the date change for council to review next month. The proposed new meeting date is September 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Muething announced the One Stop Drop recycle day will occur again this year at the Amberley Green. There will be electronics recycling, paper shredding, and kitchen utensil collections. Kitchenware will be used by a group that helps mentally challenged people moving into housing for the first time. The event will be held on March 29 from noon-4 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Warren moved to go into executive session at 7:04 p.m. to discuss the evaluation of the Village Manager’s performance and compensation. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the roll call showed the following vote:

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

NAY:

(0)

Upon returning from executive session to council chambers at 8:11 p.m., Mrs. Conway moved to restart the public council meeting, seconded by Mr. Warren and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (6)

NAY: (0)

ABSENT: Bardach

Mayor Muething moved to approve the upward feedback report on the Village Manager, seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Muething commented that this completed the Village Manger's appraisal process with only two items remaining—final objectives for 2015 and any pay action will be considered on the February council agenda.

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

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Thomas C. Muething