

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2015**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Muething called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council
Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor
Rick Kay, Treasurer
Chief Rich Wallace, Police/Fire Department

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

MINUTES

Mayor Muething presented the minutes of the August 10, 2015 regular meeting. Mayor Muething asked if there were any other additions or correction to the minutes as distributed. There being none, Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the July, 2015, 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 July totaled \$156,606. The total general fund revenue for the month of July was \$195,240 while expenses equaled \$280,213. At the end of July, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$4,125,289. The report was accepted as submitted.

SWEARING-IN OF SERGEANT SHAW

Chief Wallace and Mayor Muething conducted the ceremonial swearing-in of Sgt. Ryan Shaw of the Police/Fire Department. Chief Wallace commented that Sgt. Shaw is a Cincinnati native, attended Princeton High School, joined the United States Marine Corps Reserve and Ohio National Guard, attended Hocking College, and graduated from the Great Oaks Police Academy in 2000. Sgt. Shaw's family and friends were present in the audience and assisted with the pinning of his badge and chevrons. A lobby reception followed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach conducted the first reading of Ordinance 2015-12, Ordinance to Add Chapter 101, and Amend Section 93.04 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances Regarding Municipal Income Tax. He commented that this update to the tax code is mandated by the Ohio Legislature through House Bill 5 and brings local collection processes consistent with the state. The changes are mandated to be adopted by January 1, 2016. A second reading will be conducted at next month's council meeting.

Mayor Muething commented that the changes have limited impact on Amberley Village residents and the print newsletter will include this update.

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance 2015-13, Ordinance Appropriating Funds for Fiscal Year 2015. He stated that the purpose was for the appropriation of funds in the Mayor's Court Agency Fund. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

STREETS, PUBLIC UTILITIES & SEWERS COMMITTEE

Mr. Doering presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2015-21, Resolution Rejecting Bids for the 2015 Storm Water Project. He noted the Storm Water Advisory Board, Village Engineer, and Committee recommended the two bids be rejected due to the large discrepancy in the average bid, low number of bidders, and lack of similar project experience with the low bidder. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE COMMITTEE

Ms. Wolf presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2015-22, Resolution Proclaiming the Month of September 2015 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wolf presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2015-23, Resolution Proclaiming the Month of September 2015 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wolf reported that the committee has been working on pedestrian safety. She noted she felt residents were very concerned about pedestrian safety. She stated that Chief Wallace presented proposals to the committee for additional measures and also shared a summary of the work that has been completed to-date.

Ms. Wolf commented that the committee, under the leadership of Chief Wallace and Lt. Blum, has learned about the 3 E's of traffic safety—Education, Enforcement, Engineering. She noted that the Village newsletter is an educational tool which routinely includes pedestrian related information and updates. She reported

enforcement is handled with police presence in complaint areas and increased use of speed monitoring devices which produce data for the committee to review. She commented that engineering is addressed with added speed limit signs, painted crosswalks, added street markings for higher visibility, added traffic signs and radar enforced signs.

Ms. Wolf reported that upon monitoring speed in the neighborhoods of Laurel Oak/Royal Oak and Fairhaven and Rolling Ridge, temporary speed humps will be installed. The speed humps can be moved to other streets and the effectiveness will be evaluated.

Ms. Wolf also reported that the committee is researching the cost of a sidewalk installation on Elbrook to Section Road. She noted it was requested by Mr. Fishman who attended the council meeting. Ms. Wolf encouraged residents to attend the committee meetings to provide input.

Ms. Wolf reported that new signage has been installed at the WeThrive! community garden at Amberley Green. She stated that it was put there by Civic Garden Center of Cincinnati and this new initiative provides sponsors for community gardens. Western Nursing is the sponsor for the Village's community garden (a parent lives in Amberley).

RECOGNITION OF ALEEYAH NURRIDIN

Mayor Muething recognized Aleeyah Nurridin for her senior project at Mt. Notre Dame which consisted of obtaining rain barrels and educating the community on water quality. He congratulated her and thanked her for community efforts.

POLICE/FIRE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Conway reported the committee met on August 25 and meets to receive department updates. She was pleased to share that Ryan Shaw has been promoted to the rank of sergeant. She stated that the department has increased its cross training efforts in the area of crime scene management so as not to be dependent upon one individual. She stated the department has been working to develop a K-9 position and Officer Alt has taken a strong initiative in its development.

Mrs. Conway reported that Chief Wallace also stated the department has increased bike and foot patrols in response to recent car break-ins. She then shared that Chief Wallace participated on the Sheriff's radio program discussing how to prevent break-ins.

Mrs. Conway also announced the Police Department has been selected by the JCC as their Partner of the Year which will be presented at the JCC's annual meeting on September 17 (open to the public).

Ms. Wolf interjected that this is the highest recognition that the JCC awards and it is not given annually.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS COMMITTEE:

Mr. Warren reported the committee met on September 2 and received an annual update of the health benefits pool. He noted the reserve was reported at \$1.37 million and the pool hoped to build an additional \$500,000 in reserves over the next plan year. He stated employees and the Village would not experience a premium increase this policy year.

Mr. Warren reported the committee had led a review of the Village Manager for the past two years which has been productive and enables the manager and council to review and plan for the upcoming year. He stated forms would be distributed to council to begin the process which will be the same as last year.

LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mayor Muething reported that the committee last met regarding the North Site agreement which was entered into on September 1. This agreement provides for a 60 day due diligence period. He stated the initial 30 days will be reviewing the economics and the second 30-day period will be due diligence efforts. He stated the developer will provide feedback to Amberley during this process.

Mayor Muething reported that the Village received four submissions in response to its request for letters of interest regarding Amberley Green. The submissions are being reviewed and the Land Development Committee will meet to discuss the proposals.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the authorization to proceed with the grant application to reconstruct the streets in the Farmcrest area has been provided and the grant application was finalized and submitted. The project estimate increased slightly for a total of \$1.5 million. He stated two grants were identified—Ohio Public Works for \$986,000 and Municipal Road Fund for \$95,000. The Village would be responsible for \$463,000 to accomplish a \$1.5 million project. The status of the grant applications should be known by year-end.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that Maintenance Worker/Fire Fighter Tom Karr has notified the Village of his retirement this year after 25 years with the Village. A hiring process has been initiated to replace his position.

Mr. Lahrmer noted that Hamilton County will hold its household hazardous waste drop-off event for residents on September 26 from 9-2 p.m. in Norwood.

He shared that council can participate in the upcoming tour of the Rumpke recycling facility in St. Bernard on September 24.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Wallace reported that the department has been working aggressively to pursue a grant for SCBA's (self-contained breathing apparatus). He stated that the Village originally budgeted \$180,000 to purchase the equipment but has waited to make the purchase until the grant status was known. He reported the Village was awarded a FEMA grant in the amount of \$171,000 for the SCBA's and cascade system. He stated this is something the department has been working on for years and recognized Officer Chris Fritsch and resident Sandy Pywen for their outstanding work in pursuit of the grant. The Village match will be \$10,000.

Mrs. Conway commended the department for their efforts and noted the large grant amount for such expensive equipment.

Chief Wallace took a moment to thank council and everyone who has reached out and supported his family while his wife is going through her illness. He stated the support has meant a lot to him and his family and he cannot thank everyone enough.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Muething reported that he has signed a letter in support of Mayors United Against Anti-Semitism which promotes co-existence among people of all races, ethnicity, faith and backgrounds to move a community forward. He stated that Cincinnati, Blue Ash, Loveland and Reading have signed on as well. He noted Council Member Warren brought this forward.

Mayor Muething reported the Environmental Stewardship Committee's fall program will be held on October 25 from 1-3 p.m. at French Park for a creek walk. Representatives from Cincinnati Parks, Hamilton County and the Millcreek Watershed will be leading the walk and discussing the history of the area, importance of the watershed, effects of fertilizers, pet waste and grass clippings. The event will also be announced in the print newsletter.

Mayor Muething reported that he attended a meeting of the Hamilton County Solid Waste program. He stated the Village receives money for higher recycling rates and received approximately \$14,000 last year. The Village ranked 8th among 34 communities in 2014 for recycling efforts. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss any changes to make to the program. There was some discussion to provide incentives to low achievers which will be done but this successful program will be kept largely the same.. He noted that it was interesting to see the Village's rankings if yard waste was added into its figures which would put Amberley first in the rankings.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Warren thanked staff for setting up the survey he requested to review the anniversary event. Ms. Wolf commented that as Chair of the Public Outreach Committee she would have preferred the survey be vetted through the committee prior

to being sent out. Mayor Muething stated that he would take responsibility for the survey as the 75th Anniversary Committee operated independently. Mrs. Conway noted she was on the 75th Anniversary Committee and the survey was not shared prior to going out. Mayor Muething stated that any data received from the survey can be forwarded to the Public Outreach Committee for review and any potential follow-up.

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

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Thomas C. Muething