

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

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, October 12, 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
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 September 9, 2015 regular meeting. Mayor Muething asked if there were any other additions or corrections to the minutes as distributed. There being none, he stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the August, 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 August totaled \$217,085. The total general fund revenue for the month of August was \$783,300 while expenses equaled \$676,679. At the end of August, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$4,229,191. The report was accepted as submitted.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach conducted the second 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.

Mayor Muething commented that this update to the tax code was included in the recent print newsletter. He asked Mr. Lahrmer if there have been any questions or calls from residents. Mr. Lahrmer stated that he had not received any communications from residents.

Mr. Hattenbach presented and read Resolution 2015-23, Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Muething clarified that this is an initial formality step with the County and that the Village's budgeting process for the upcoming year will occur in November.

LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mayor Muething reported that the committee has held one of four meetings with entities that have expressed interest in the Amberley Green property in response to the Village's request for letters of interest. He stated the committee will provide a recommendation to Council in November regarding the way forward with development on the Amberley Green. The next meeting will occur on October 13 at 4 p.m. and two additional meetings are scheduled at the end of October. He noted this process led by the Village Manager has been very informative.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the Maintenance Department continued the crack filling program in September. He stated this maintenance is critical to the vitality of the streets as it prevents water from entering cracks in the pavement, which if left unfilled can expand and also develop potholes. The Maintenance Department applied 12,000 pounds of tar into 10 streets.

Residents received notification in the Village newsletter that brush pick-up will be suspended October 19-December 31. He stated that this is the last week of brush pick-up and leaf pick-up begins October 19. He commented that limited resources prevent the Village from providing both services at the same time. He also noted that Rumpke provides for a curbside brush disposal to provide residents an option during this period.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the Village's newsletter was recently mailed to residents which occurs twice per year to ensure that residents who are not subscribed to the Village e-blasts or on social media receive updates. He stated it was a great resource for Village news and staff works together to provide these updates. He noted it was a great communication tool for a minimal cost of \$800 per issue.

Mr. Lahrmer then shared his observation of a Village traffic stop, which was a felony, high-risk stop. He stated that as he left the municipal building, a Village police cruiser was in pursuit on Ridge with lights and sirens active. The stop took place near Amberley Green. The suspect was stopped for involvement with fraudulent check cashing in Reading. He stated that he was very impressed with the control that the Village officer had over the situation, the methodical commands that were given to the suspect to exit the vehicle, and the overall safety that was maintained during the traffic stop. Mr. Lahrmer commended the department for their risk management and he noted it was apparent that the amount of training the officers receive along with following of standard operating procedures resulted in a proper felony traffic stop.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Wallace reported that there are 20 departments of the Village's size that are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). He stated it is a good status and a great process to build a foundation for policy and procedures. He commented that Amberley has always been a top notch department in the County.

Chief Wallace stated that the department conducted an evaluation of maintaining its accreditation status. The expense increase for this year was an additional \$9,000, excluding personnel cost to go to training. It was confirmed that the CALEA standards that the Village was being evaluated on by CALEA were existing laws and standards the department must follow regardless of accreditation. The department's structure has changed, the cost of paying a third party to maintain the accreditation status, as well as personnel time has resulted in the department going in a different direction. CALEA was notified and a refund of \$5,000 has been returned to the Village for current fees.

Mr. Doering thanked Chief Wallace for going through such an analysis. He stated that he appreciated the review of the value of the process versus the cost. He stated the last four years the department has been very diligent on its budget.

Mayor Muething commented that it is a typical criticism of government to do things the way it has always been done and accreditation has served the department well. He commended the department on having a culture to bring forward this challenge.

Mrs. Conway commented that the Police/Fire Committee meetings that have occurred over the past year have been very productive and educational for the committee and it was no surprise to hear the department make this announcement.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Muething gave the following update for the Environmental Stewardship Committee:

- Fall program will be a creek walk in French Park on October 15 from 1-3 p.m. Residents are encouraged to attend. Merrie Stillpass and ESC has done a great job of putting together this program. Representatives from Cincinnati Parks, the Mill Creek Watershed Council, and Hamilton County will guide the walk.
- Adopt-a-Grove will be held on Thursday, October 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Amberley Green. Volunteers will conduct light tree maintenance.
- Taking Root Campaign, which is a county-wide program, has a goal to plant 2 million trees over the next 10 years. If you plant a tree, register it on the Taking Root website.
- Mowing Policy Review—last spring when the meadowlands were mowed, there were problems with mowing in the wet period. The ESC developed a list of recommendations that have been provided to the Village Manager. It recognizes that we're maintaining the site ahead of development and that mowing the site every other year is sufficient with the focus in the fall.

- One Stop Drop—this recycling event is focused on paper and electronics collection and one other item which will be determined. Dates are being considered and will be announced next month.
- The next meeting of the Environmental Stewardship Committee will be October 19 at 7 p.m. in the community room. November's meeting will be the last meeting for 2015.

Ms. Wolf commented that she would like to see the Village continue to promote household hazardous waste events as she recently utilized a drop off site and it was well organized.

Mayor Muething also reported that he did attend the recent tour of the Rumpke Recycling center and thanked Vice Mayor Wolf, Council Members Conway and Doering for the recommendation to attend. He stated it was worthwhile and very well designed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bardach reported that the Law Committee has recently instituted a modification to the Village's solicitation ordinance since it had become unenforceable. He stated the new ordinance language provides for a registration process and gives residents the opportunity to sign up to be on the 'do not solicit' list maintained by the police department. The list only contains addresses. Another deterrent for residents is to post 'do not solicit' placards.

Mr. Warren asked if it would help to put up signage in the Village that alerts solicitors to register. Mr. Lahrmer commented that the Village needs residents to call in and place themselves on the 'do not solicit' list. The Village is currently choosing not to post signs encouraging solicitation registration.

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

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Thomas C. Muething