

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL  
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2010**

Vice-Mayor Dennis Wolter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The following Council members were present: Mr. Andrews, Mr. Black, Mr. Miller, Mr. Scheeser, and Mr. Wolter. Mayor Policastro, Police and Fire Chief Rick Hines, and Building Commissioner Dennis Malone were also present, as were several members of the community. Ms. Sullivan arrived at 6:33 p.m.

Mr. Wolter explained that this meeting was to discuss the proposal for a roundabout at the six-street intersection at Plainville Road and Murray Avenue. He referenced hand-outs that had been distributed to Council members and said copies were also available for those who wished to see them. They contain cost information, a construction schedule and a cost breakdown. The actual cost would depend on cost-overruns and inflation. The price range of \$78,000 to \$133,000 represents about 10% of the actual cost of the total project. The state and the federal government pay 80%. The two municipalities are on the hook for the remaining 20%, so it would be 10% from Columbia Township and 10% from the Village. There is also an overlay drawing that is a sketch imposed on an aerial view of the area. We did not get a drawing that is to scale, so he and Don Keyes went and measured some streets and scaled them as close as they could. These dimensions are approximately plus or minus two feet as to how accurate the drawing is. It gives us enough data to get our heads around the size of this thing and how it will fit in.

Mr. Andrews stated that it might be the required format to allow comments first, but since Council tried to get a lot of information and facts, he hoped the people present would also want a lot of information and facts. You don't find a lot of that very easily, so he asked Mr. Wolter if it might not be better if Council presented some of the core facts first and then ask for comments. Mr. Wolter said since we are short on hand-outs and there is pretty much information in them, that would probably be a good idea.

Mayor Policastro said a lot of people have already come in to get the hand-outs. At a meeting, you always have the citizens talk first. Then you close the comments and then we have a discussion and then we vote as to how we want the committee to make the report to Council. So let's hear from the citizens.

General Doug Short, 6998 Murray Avenue, Mariemont, Ohio, said the intersections that we are talking about are familiar to all of us. They have existed since the inception of the Village. He has been traveling them for 32 years. The intersections of Madisonville Road, Plainville Road and Murray Avenue, come to a common point at Plainville Road. Each intersection is equipped with a stop sign – one of the best traffic controllers that you can have. Each intersection allows the person stopping at the stop sign to eyeball those at the other intersections and to proceed at their own turn. The stop signs have worked very well over the 60 or 70 years they have been in existence. This is borne out by the fact the intersections have one of the lowest accidents rate intersections in the Village of Mariemont. Over the past years, we have had five or six fender-bender type accidents. It is almost unbelievable to have such a low rate. People traveling through this intersection are observing the stop signs and are doing a fine job of going through. The point of frustration, after speaking with several people in the Village while doing a traffic survey, is that they do not appear frustrated with the intersection itself, but only become frustrated during rush hours. There are numerous intersections in Mariemont that are covered with traffic during the morning and afternoon rush hours. At Plainville and Madisonville Roads, we do have a traffic build-up in the morning and we do have one in the afternoon. The afternoon traffic is over with by 5:45 or 6:00 and you can go there at 6:15 or 6:30 and there is hardly a car moving in either direction on any of the roads. On Thursday evening, he went down there at 6:45 to see what the traffic was like. There were only two cars and he was in one of them. You can encounter this over in my neighborhood where we have Rembold, Hiawatha, Indianview, Lytle Woods and Murray intersecting also. We become frustrated there at times, but finally traffic eases up and everyone goes their merry way. This is also true at Plainville, Madisonville and Murray. With this in mind, the low accident rate, the fact that we only have two periods of build-up of traffic down there, he is 100% not thinking any further about the roundabout. It is an expense that he does not think the Village of Mariemont can afford. If we are going to spend funds, he would much rather have an additional policeman. The roundabouts that he has encountered over the years in the field of safety have more accidents than normal street patterns. People entering, with traffic already in the traffic circle, have a tendency to either side-swipe or rear-end the traffic that is already in the flow. He thinks we would encounter the same with our roundabout. He thinks we can do better with our funds than building a roundabout and he thinks it is something that is unnecessary and unneeded. The land area that would be required to revamp our street pattern, he believes we can utilize that land area better. The fact that one section of Murray Avenue would be completely closed off at Plainville Road is unnecessary. He thinks we should keep all of our streets as they are and as they were designed in the past.

Andrew Kulesza, 7018 Hiawatha Avenue, Mariemont, Ohio, said he had gone on the internet and searched for complaints about roundabouts. The data does suggest that roundabouts are safer and accidents are reduced. However, that is in higher speed areas, not in areas where people are already only going five to ten miles an hour to begin with. Maybe a roundabout would work if it was in an area where people were flying through the intersection at 30 to 35 mph. In that same data, it says roundabouts are increased safety hazard for pedestrians and bicycles. In Mariemont, there are a lot of elderly people and there a lot of people who come down that Murray Avenue bike path through that intersection. If anyone thinks that drivers are going to yield to a pedestrian walking across a traffic circle, there is no way. Our three-day-old baby was almost clipped in a stroller in front of the Quarter because we thought a "Yield to Pedestrians" sign would stop someone from flying through there. If Council does do a roundabout, they need to come up with something to slow people down. A lot of complaints on Google about roundabouts were that people just don't understand they have to yield to in-coming traffic, which causes the fender-benders General Short was speaking of. I am against it. Please go to Google and just look at the complaints. Massachusetts has one of the highest numbers of roundabouts in the country, because it is one of the oldest areas and is modeled after England. They are starting to take them out. If we are laying people off, you shouldn't spend money on this project.

Ralph Mace, 6605 Mariemont Avenue, Mariemont, Ohio, said he traveled recently to Carmel, Indiana. It is a high-class area with lots of money. At Keystone Avenue and 21<sup>st</sup> Street, there is a roundabout. He has been on roundabouts in England and in Massachusetts. Keystone Avenue is the main street in Carmel, Indiana. Drivers just kept coming through because they have a yield sign. He sat at the intersection for several minutes before he could merge into the roundabout. He doesn't see why we would spend \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 to solve the problem. He suggested the Village merge the two sides of the old streetcar route so we have just four stop signs or put in a stop light. It would cost a lot less money. It is certainly an alternative. With so few accidents at that intersection, he said he did not know why we would even consider the roundabout proposal.

Paul Allen, 3709 Center Street, Mariemont, Ohio, said he was surprised to find this even being brought up. He wanted to echo what the others who had spoken had said. We have to have traffic stop there because of all the pedestrians and kids. With the tennis courts there, it would be insane to have traffic that never stops. It makes no sense for that intersection and it makes no sense for this community. In the rendering, it is taking it from a six-way intersection to a four-way intersection. If there is a huge backlog of traffic, the roads could be redesigned without a roundabout. What about a flashing red light? What is unnatural about that intersection now? We all use it and are used to it. It has been around for the last 50+ years. If it is some huge problem, let's do what Mr. Mace suggested and merge the lanes just like it is done on the rendering to have a four-way intersection with a flashing red light. Everybody gets that. We use those kinds of intersections everyday.

Chief Rick Hines said his job is to keep the residents as safe as possible. The Mayor asked him to do a traffic study several months ago to see how many accidents we have had at that intersection. We have had four accidents in five and a half years, all being minor fender-benders with no injuries. We do not have a safety issue in that intersection. With the situation being the way it is, we have several other areas more pressing to use our money on than to use it on that intersection where there is no safety issue.

Jerry Vianello, 6570 Wooster Pike, Mariemont, Ohio, said he would echo what others had said and thought General Short summed up the subject very well. In our Village, with money as tight as it is, if safety is the issue, he would rather see the Village get another police officer. He doesn't see any good reason to make a roundabout there. Most people do not know how to drive in a roundabout and someone will cause an accident. If we put shrubbery and flowers in, can you imagine how it would be if a truck from the Maintenance Department stopped to try to water the plants. Where would the traffic go? He thinks it is a waste of the taxpayers' money. When we are talking about raising garbage fees and laying off firemen and policemen, if safety is the issue, he would urge Council to look at bringing a policeman back. In reality, he does not think we need to spend the money. He doesn't like the idea of making it a four-way intersection, either. If we are not going to spend money, then let's not spend any money. Leave things as they are. In the last few months, the Committee has heard from several of the residents of Homewood Road about making Murray a one-way street away from Plainville Road to stop cut-through traffic.

Marianne Schmidt, 3895 Oak Street, Mariemont, Ohio, said she has traveling this intersection for 25 years and has never had a problem. She said agreed with everything that had been said and she believes it would be a waste of money. She asked what the reason for the concept is. Mayor Policastro said that Columbia Township Administrator, Mike Lemon, asked us to look into it. Mr. Scheeser said he would like to weigh in on that question, stating that it is not a safety issue. As Chief Hines said, we do not have a safety issue there. It is an issue of decline and decay on that corner of the Historic District. This is an opportunity to jump start the whole Historic District by investing serious capital, most of which does not come out of Mariemont's pocket, in a major development that can spur growth in the Village. To him, that is what this is really about. We need to create a gateway entrance like we have east and westbound and from the north to the south. Ms. Schmidt said it still doesn't make sense to her, because it would be taking away land from in front Dimetrio's and leave no parking space. We would be taking

away land from in front of the tennis courts and from in front of the apartments. Who wants to live in an apartment with a roundabout at your front door?

Randy Garland, 3811 Settle Road, Mariemont, Ohio, mentioned that there are two schools just a block away. The roundabout would increase the speed there. Another point is that a good cost analysis is based not only on construction costs, but also on maintenance costs and environmental costs. Are we saving anything environmentally by moving traffic faster through that intersection? Those are all areas of concern. Florida is getting rid of many of their roundabouts and are trying fly-overs. He doesn't see any reason to do the roundabout.

Aileen Beatty, 6757 Murray Avenue, Mariemont, Ohio, has lived in the Village most of her entire life. For the past 20 years, she has lived on Murray Avenue. She owns the property next to the one on the corner of Plainville Road. Her property values will go way down. She will no longer have access to the front of her home. She said she meant no disrespect to Mr. Scheeser, but disagreed with his statements completely. It is very important to her to do everything we can to improve the Historic District and the rental property. She thinks we have so much potential there. We are right off Wooster Pike and only 15 minutes from downtown. It is the perfect place for a young professional to live or for young families and young single people working downtown. The property values in Mt. Lookout have about doubled in the past five or ten years, because it is so convenient to downtown. She thinks we need to invest in the area, but she does not think a roundabout is the right way to do it. She thinks we need to find a way to help owners invest in the actually properties people will be living in, not the streets they will be driving on. The roundabout would be a nice second solution, but she does not feel it is the highest priority. She has done a great deal of research and has found that roundabouts are safer in high-speed areas, but in low-speed areas, they make no difference. It is worse for pedestrians and bicyclists unless some significant efforts are made for trails and paths around it. She didn't know if Council had planned for that in their cost estimates. It would also impact the larger greater Cincinnati community. We have a huge community of bikers that come through the Village now. There have been efforts with bike trails to connect Loveland and Newtown and the center of Cincinnati. What we do here has a larger impact than just our little community.

Bob Steinkamp, 3929 Plainville Road, Mariemont, Ohio, said he owns some apartments on Plainville Road and Beech Street. He is concerned when he sees the drawing for the proposed roundabout. It looks like we would be taking a chunk of property out of the Historic District. He thought that was inviolate. You can't touch it. You can't do anything in an Historic District and this would take quite a chunk out, as he sees it. He agrees with most of the comments made tonight, especially with General Short.

Jenny Ferguson, 2 Emery Lane, Mariemont, Ohio, said she came to the meeting just to gather information, per Mr. Andrews comments at the beginning of the night. She did not know any of the facts until she looked at the packet that was handed out at the meeting. She is neither for nor against the roundabout. She said she would like to thank Council for coming together to at least entertain a concept that might improve the gateway to our Village. Whether or not this is something we need to move forward with or take any further action on, is for Council to contemplate and decide. She said she may be reading the figures wrong, but it looks like the Village would be spending at the most \$133,500. The goal is to accomplish this with grant money. She asked if she was correct in that interpretation.

Mayor Policastro said the cost would be \$133,500 at most, plus there is no eminent domain money factored in there, so there would be additional costs.

Mrs. Ferguson continued by saying she still doesn't know if it's a good idea or a bad idea, but wanted again to say that she likes that our Council is being innovative and looking outside the box for ways to improving our community and not slamming the door in the face of a neighbor who is suggesting a partnership.

Kurt Vonder Ahe, 4406 Grove Avenue, Mariemont, Ohio, said that General Short had stated things very wisely. He has been at the intersection numerous times at both the busiest times and the least busy times and has never seen more than four or five cars ahead of him. He thinks the cost to the government and to the Village itself is just obscene.

Bob Keyes, 6904 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Mariemont, Ohio, wanted to reiterate what others had said. One of his concerns is that in the roundabout, you actually have eight places where pedestrians cross either entrance or exit points. At one of the exit points, where a child might cross, you actually have two ways to that exit point – one from the roundabout and one from the previous entrance point and he thinks that alone, without any stop sign, should be the end of this idea. Another of his concerns is that the smaller these things become, you have a higher traffic density. It appears from the drawing that you have only three or four car lengths between one entry point and the next. If you enter the roundabout at 30 mph, you are basically right at the limit of your reaction time, which would lead to more accidents. He also said he wasn't sure how school buses or trucks would navigate something of this relatively short radius. He also wondered about the eminent domain and how people who would be losing property feel

about this idea. If private property is being removed forcibly from someone supposedly for the sake of public good, he would question what the public good is here. Is it significant enough to overcome the ethical objection he would have here.

Elsie White, 6992 Grace Avenue, Mariemont, Ohio, said that she has lived here since 1961 and has traveled this route a lot. She goes down Murray all the time. She does not like that the plan would close Murray at Plainville and bring it out on Madisonville Road. It doesn't make much sense to her at all. She walks down there a lot and it is going to be very dangerous for any walkers or children to cross down there. There are roundabouts in Mt. Washington in the mall. When people are supposed to go right, they don't want to go all the way around, so they just go the other way. That is going to cause accidents. She does not think it is a good idea at all.

Calvin Long, 3879 Beech Street, Mariemont, Ohio, has traveled through that area for several years. He took a fresh look at the intersection and observed cars, trucks and school buses make that exchange without any hesitation or any problems. He saw pedestrians cross. He thinks we have to look at the \$2,000,000. Whether it is our money or federal money, or grant money, money is money and he thinks this expense is ridiculous. He is totally against it for all the reasons stated here tonight. We must think ahead and spruce up Mariemont if we have the opportunity, but not here and not for \$2,000,000.

Bob Steinkamp asked what would happen to the traffic during construction. Mayor Policastro said it would be a mess.

David Uebel, 4300 Plainville Road, Cincinnati, Ohio, said he owns the property where KOI Auto Parts is located. First of all there is no traffic problem there. It is a weird intersection, but he does not see what we would be accomplishing here by taking property and spending money to solve a problem that doesn't exist. He also does not think that the novelty of this would spur development. Columbia Township has already spent a lot of money on streetscaping and the area is going to go up. He does not think this is going to help. They would be taking three corners of his part of the intersection and the rest will be roundabout. Mayor Policastro asked if they would be using eminent domain to take the land. Mr. Uebel said no one has said anything about that yet.

Andrew Kulesza suggested that we build the bike path from Murray all the way down by the townhouses and the green space, with a cut-through and have another one straight down Hiawatha, with some park benches just like they have in Terrace Park. In Montgomery, they have a motion detector so flashing lights automatically go off for pedestrians. That would solve the traffic problem and the gateway issue for probably \$100,000. That would be a good gateway and it could improve commerce. You can even get sponsors for the benches. Mayor Policastro said we are looking at getting the bike path and there would be a meeting about it at the end of the month.

Louise Schomburg, 3885 Oak Street, Mariemont, Ohio, commented the roundabout would be in very close proximity to the tennis courts with all the people going in and out of there. She had been by there that day and traffic was parked along there because there was a tennis match. That road is going to be filled with traffic and parked cars unless we get them a parking lot. She questioned why so much of the area that is going to be used for the roundabout is coming out of Mariemont and very little out of Madison Place. It doesn't appear that anything is being taken away from the parking area of the restaurant, nor is it coming out of Daniel's. It is all coming out of Mariemont. She told Mr. Scheeser that she appreciates his interest in making the Historic District come alive and improve, but she could give Council a lot of ideas that would cause the Historic District to improve that would be better than this.

Charles Short, 6998 Murray Avenue, Mariemont, Ohio, said he also echoed what the others had said. He thinks the people who have spoken tonight have really expressed the views of most of the people in the Village from the stand point of the dislocation of Murray Avenue that would take place if the roundabout were put in. It really hasn't been shown that there is a safety issue that needs to be addressed with taxpayer money such as what would have to be put forward for this roundabout, especially in this time of economic hardship. He would rather see the money go toward first responders, such as the Police Department and Fire Department. He hopes all the elected officials will take into consideration all the people who have expressed opposition to this plan.

Aileen Beatty asked how she would be compensated for the loss of parking and access to the front of her home if we go through with the roundabout. If we don't go through with it, she would be love to help in anyway she can to help come up with ideas to improve the Historic District, because she thinks Ms. Schomburg and Mr. Scheeser are on the right track.

Geoff Kaye, 6998 Rowan Hill Drive, Mariemont, Ohio, said he sees no benefit to anyone in Mariemont from the roundabout. He also does not think it would help Madison Place. They are in bad shape there, with 18 houses in foreclosure.

At this point, Mr. Wolter closed the public comments. He said he believes the most important thing Council has to maintain in this Village is safety. Everything else relies on that, such as the quality

of life and the economy. People are not going to come here and spend money if they are concerned for safety. He feels this project spends money to solve a problem we do not have. He can think of plenty of other safety issues that really need to be addressed. We are really down in our Police Department and we need to ramp that back up. He goes over to the Historic District at night and it is pitch dark. That is where we have some of our highest crime rates, stolen bikes, cars broken into, a little kid who got beaten up on his way home from school when it was still dark last spring. He thinks we need to spend our safety dollars elsewhere first. He does think that intersection, from an economic development standpoint, can be improved. He likes the idea of combining those four streets into two and get fewer stop signs. He is concerned that if we spend a lot of money fixing up that intersection that the entity that is going to benefit most is Columbia Township and not us. The development is well under way over there and that is their issue. We have our own issues, such as keeping our Town Square viable. He is really worried about semi-trailers which are legally allowed to be 53 feet long plus the 15 to 20 foot tractor on the front of it and mixing those semis in with the other traffic going through there. He is concerned about being able to get our fire equipment through there. Some of our trucks are pretty long and the mutual aid fire departments have bigger equipment than we have. The roundabout at Eden Park services about four streets and it is almost 200 feet in diameter. Here we would be bringing six streets into 114 feet. He said he wanted to rest his case on Isaac Newton's first law of physics that says an object put into motion wants to remain in a straight line unless acted on by an outside force. The outside force on a car in a roundabout is a set of tires trying to keep the object from going straight. He is really worried about when it is icy or rainy and someone has to come to a stop, that object is going to go straight across the sidewalk, especially in such a tight-radius turn. He has some real safety concerns, but the main issue is the other safety issues in the Village should take a much higher priority. That seems to be the opinion of everyone else in this room, considering those who have stated our need for another policemen. He said we finally do have the cost of this thing, we know how long it is going to take to construct, how big it is going to be and what it would look like. He feels that is all the information we need to decide what we are going to do.

Bob Steinkamp asked if we don't need a master plan to direct traffic around and about. Most of the traffic that comes through the Village is primarily coming from another community to get to another community. There is a lot of traffic coming down Plainville Road that is definitely going to Madisonville or Kenwood or other places. Maybe some thought ought to be given to rerouting that traffic to keep it down. Mayor Policastro said the Safety Committee is working on that and we should get back to discussing the roundabout. Mr. Steinkamp said trucks don't belong on Plainville Road. That is part of the Historic District. There is a sign down there that says "No Through Trucks" but there are trucks there all the time. Police Chief Hines said they have written quite a few citations for that.

Mr. Wolter said the residents on Homewood Road informed the Safety Committee of the serious speeding and somewhat reckless driving problems there. When the committee first heard of the problems, Mr. Andrews made the excellent suggestion that we look at the entire traffic problem, not just one street. Our first priority is going to be to control speeding. As we get into that, we should be able to get a handle on the kind of traffic and the amount of traffic and where it is going and then we can generate a plan. We need a total plan for both sides of the Pike. The most critical problem is the north side because most of the people who are giving us problems don't live in the Village. They are cutting through on those streets. This is going to be a long process.

Mr. Black said has looked at this objectively and he thinks a lot of residents have some very valid points. He sees that there are about 18 no votes and one undecided. Clearly the people have spoken with their hearts on what they think about this. Mr. Scheeser provided an ample amount of information, including a report from the Department of Transportation. He thinks this is the wrong place to spend the money. He supports the idea of economic development and working in that district and thinks instead of trying to secure funding and seeking a grant for this, we should continue to go after grants and seek it for the Old Town Center and to perhaps clean up that area. This is like your neighbor saying he wants to build a fence and wants you to pay for half of it. If he wants to build a fence, he should build a fence. It's not really helping you. It's helping them. We need to think of something in terms of Mariemont that will help this area and will help the Old Town Center. He thinks that \$2.7 million is just too much right now. Even though we might only have to spend \$78,000 to \$133,000 which is not a tremendous amount of money, he feels that given the situation we're in and that we could use that money elsewhere, he would like to see an Economic Development Committee formed that could look at these projects and look at creative solutions. We need to look at other areas and think outside the box to figure out how we can develop that part of our community.

Ms. Sullivan said she wanted to second Mr. Black's comments and that she had some real emotions about this issue. She said she first wanted to express her intense gratitude to the people who have come here tonight to speak. As a 20-year Historic District resident and as a Council person representing that area, she immediately thought the roundabout would not work for the Historic District, because there is no place to put it and it doesn't benefit our residents. In fact, it would detract from our residences and create a huge safety hazard and a huge visual impediment to entering the district. However, she has some disappointment that no one from Columbia Township was present to talk about why they want to do this. If they are coming to us and asking us to do this, why can't we go back to them and say this doesn't work for us, but how about other ideas. Why don't we use this to spur this

conversation into a true partnership between the two communities so that we can work on some of these joint issues, like the gateway issue or the bike trail issue that may impact both communities. This obviously isn't right for the Village of Mariemont. It isn't right for the Historic District, but we desperately need this enthusiasm and this interest in the Historic District to make it a better place. Why not use this and put our hand out in friendship to Columbia Township and say we want to work with you. Here are some bigger problems. What can we do?

Mr. Andrews said he also had mixed emotions about this proposal. He said the fiscal conservative in him says this is not the right time for a project like this. However, he has driven through a roundabout every day for the past two years at his place of work. He thinks they are great, because they are efficient and save time. His bigger concern is the process by which we got here. It kind of connects to the needs we have in the Historic District and the need we have talked about for an Economic Development Committee. When a neighboring village comes to us and asks us to think about doing something, we need a better way and a more rapid way to respond and get the data and the facts on the table and decide yes or no. I think we learned through this process that is not easy. At some point there is a good idea out there for economic development or capital improvement or improved gateway or rebuilding our part of our town, like we are doing with the Griewe development on Madisonville Road. We don't have a process in place to do that. In the next few months, we have to put a formal economic development committee into place so that we can make this process more fluid and continue what we did tonight. That is the real need. He also wanted to thank everyone for coming tonight. Ms. Sullivan said she heartedly agrees with Mr. Andrews.

Mr. Scheeser thanked Mr. Wolter for standing up for the gears of democracy and got this meeting out in public. He is pleased we finally got this done. He said he is not a raving fan of this project, but he wanted to present some information in response to a few of the comments he had heard from the residents. A rotary and a roundabout are two different things. What you have in England, Boston, and Massachusetts are rotaries. Rotaries are very different animals from roundabouts. In rotaries, you have multiple lanes. The experiences in Massachusetts are not what we are talking about today. As for budget delineation, something he learned during his first two weeks as a Councilman is that we have a General Fund and a Permanent Improvement Fund. The Permanent Improvement Fund buys police cars. The General Fund buys police officers. Those two pockets of money do not mix. We have made the decision to not mix these pockets of money. We are in very tough shape in the 'police officer' fund. The General Fund has an \$80,000 deficit. The Permanent Improvement Fund, however, is pretty good. We had a good year having money to allocate for ash trees and an ambulance. Some good stewardship and some great accounting and funneling of money from taxes put us in good shape. To say we need a police officer instead of a roundabout can't mix. They are separate pots of money and one doesn't fuel the other. The OKI grants in 2009 were allocated for this project. There was money for 100% of this project. 100% of the money was sitting at OKI waiting for our submittal and it didn't happen. The \$133,500 is the high end number. The \$78,400 is a more conservative number. Column Three is actually zero. On Friday, he talked to Mr. Lemon, who said there is a decent chance this would be a zero investment project, because OKI loves it when communities work together and put up a good proposal. Is this a good proposal? He doesn't know because Columbia Township isn't here to speak to the specifics. The numbers we have been given are on the high side. They could very well have been zero. He wonders if the residents would have felt differently if the cost would have been zero. We have a "No Trucks" sign in Madison Place as we enter the Village, so trucks aren't even allowed through that intersection. An 80' traffic circle is what the federal government says is considered to be a small traffic circle and that is the outside diameter of the outside lane. This is approximately 100 feet, so it is 25% larger than the federal minimum. Trucks aren't supposed to be in there anyway, but chances are trucks would fit. We do have a master plan. It's called the Vision Plan. The roundabout is in the most recent draft of that plan. This is the Mariemont Preservation Foundation's vision plan for 2020. He agreed with Mr. Black that we need to focus money on a gateway in a different way. The problem is we don't have a grant writer.

Mayor Policastro said we have plenty of grant writers. Mr. Scheeser asked who on staff is a grant writer. Mayor Policastro said we have Jeff Travers in the Fire Department, Police Officer Tom Ostendarp and he just talked with Fairfax Mayor Ted Shannon. They use a person who he wants to bring in. Mr. Scheeser asked if the Mayor was saying he is committed to bringing a grant writer on staff and paying him part-time to find money for us. Mayor said he is, but only as an independent contractor, as needed.

Mr. Scheeser said he asked Mr. Lemon why the roundabout was way into Mariemont territory and not so much in Columbia Township. Mr. Lemon said the rendering does not accurately reflect the exact placement of the roundabout. He explained that the owner of Larry Daniel's car repair shop is asking \$2 million for his property. Mr. Lemon found the minimum spot where he could spend the least amount of money and laid the roundabout over that area. Everything is a negotiation. This isn't an engineer's drawing. This is not anything more than Columbia Township presenting us with an idea and asking if we want to take part in it.

Mr. Wolter thanked Mr. Scheeser for his comments. He said he also wanted say something about the process, because he is a little conflicted about the way this happened. Normally when someone comes to the Village with a proposal, they come in and give us a presentation and provide us with enough data at

that point, like an engineer's drawing with some pretty close numbers on it. We didn't get that here. There was no presentation made by Columbia Township. He said he wasn't looking to be derogatory. He is just asking the question, on something of this magnitude that has gotten us to this point, why did we sort of have to draw the data out of the entity that is pushing it. When someone wanted to develop the Steam Plant, he came in with drawings so we could look at it and see how things would be done. On this project, we couldn't do that. He said he and Mr. Keyes had to go over, take measurements and scale it out. That opens us for criticism because that drawing could be incorrect.

Mayor Policastro said he wanted to correct Mr. Scheeser's comment about the Permanent Improvement Fund. Money can be moved back and forth. He said that a few years ago, he and the previous Clerk, Stan Bahler started injecting money into that fund as inheritance taxes came in just for these reasons. We don't bring in that much money. We bring in a good sum, but the Permanent Improvement Fund balance is so high because of what he and Stan Bahler did. A few years ago we received a million dollars and we put it in that fund for special reasons, like to get an ambulance and to take care of this building because we knew this building was going to need maintenance. We want to keep that Permanent Improvement Fund as high as possible. He does not want to take that money and put it into a roundabout.

Mr. Black said what Clerk Tontillo said is that if we get in a position where we are in a deficit, the auditor does not allow us to take money from the Permanent Improvement Fund to buy our operating fund out of a deficit. We cannot shift money to show us as being in the black. You can move money over.

Mayor Policastro said one more point he wanted to make is the drawing shows the Madisonville Road cut-through would run cars right up to the spot where we hope to be able to build a new building for MariElders. This cut through would kill this possibility.

Ed Berkich, 5 Sheldon Close, Mariemont, Ohio, said that Mr. Scheeser brought up the point of how a rotary and roundabout differ. He asked if Mr. Scheeser would explain what he meant about that difference. Mr. Scheeser read an excerpt from an article he found, which stated: A traffic circle or rotary is a type of circular intersection in which traffic must travel in one direction around a central island. Traffic circles should not be confused with roundabouts, in which entering traffic must always yield to traffic already in the circle, and generally operate at much lower speeds. Mr. Scheeser said there are two big differences. For one, rotaries are multi-lane circles. The second is that on a roundabout, you yield on the entry and in a rotary, you yield on the exit. The roundabout is a modern interpretation of the rotary. What is being removed in Massachusetts are rotaries and some of those are being replaced with roundabouts instead.

Mr. Wolter said he wanted to speak to the Permanent Improvement versus General Fund issue. Tonight we had a perfect example of what we need the Permanent Improvement Fund for. We had people standing in the hallway. We are not handicapped-compliant up here. We have our Tax Department in another building that we are renting. Not only is that an expense, but it is also an efficiency issue for our government. We are facing some substantial investments for this building. That is what that money needs to be saved for. Just as we can find other uses in the safety area for the roundabout money, we could certainly find a good way to direct this capital fund. He said he would start with this building. We are facing an issue with a fire engine that is going to be \$800,000 that we need to replace. So that money can disappear very quickly.

Mayor Policastro said he wanted to inject the fact that he spoke at the Mariemont Garden Club last week. They brought up the roundabout and after they discussed it, the 22 ladies who were there voted and it was unanimous, 22 to nothing, that they were against it. He also spoke to the Park Board and it was the same, with six or seven members all against it. He also received some letters which expressed their opposition to the plan.

Mr. Wolter then called for a vote, saying Council was voting on whether we should proceed and pursue the roundabout or end it now and say no. On roll call, there were one aye and five nays, with Mr. Scheeser voting no. Mr. Black noted he wanted to continue conversations with Columbia Township, but not about the roundabout, as did Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Wolter. Mr. Scheeser said he also wanted to continue conversation with Columbia Township.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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Mayor Dan Policastro

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Vice-Mayor Dennis Wolter