

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
FEBRUARY 1, 2012**

Vice-Mayor Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Council members were present: Mr. Andrews, Mr. Black, Mr. Miller, Mr. Scheeser, Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Wolter.

Vice-Mayor Black said the purpose of the meeting is to set the budget for Capital Improvements for 2012 and discuss the proposed participation agreement changes from the Center for Local Government (CLGBP).

Mr. Bill Kocher, from the City of Mt. Healthy, was present to explain the proposed changes to the CLGBP as a task force member. It was realized that changes were needed when a new membership came in after most members had been participating for several years. The agreement for a new membership would be that they would assume all liability from previous years. It was quickly realized that would pose a problem if they wanted to attract more new members. We also had two jurisdictions that left the pool, Fairfield Township and Symmes Township. The current agreement only looks back over the last 12 months of activity within the pool. Both communities got out at the perfect time. The cooperation agreement will now look at each year individually. Should they decided to leave communities will share in the cost for the entire time they were in the pool not just the previous 12 months. We also want to protect and make sure there is not one member left standing alone. There is a three year commitment. If a community leaves before the three year commitment there is a one month premium exit penalty.

Mr. Robert Johnson, President CLGBP, handed out two worksheets: one with the breakdown of figures per plan year and the other a snapshot as of December 31, 2011 of what each community liability is. Those figures will change on a month-to-month basis based on profit/loss.

Ms. Fran Patterson, USI Insurance, clarified that the reserve liability of the individual community is a moving target. It is determined by a calculation formula and exit date of the community in addition to the term of the plan. It is not calculated on a monthly basis. The monthly financials are released every month to all the members. Chief Hines said if the Village wanted to get out of the pool doing so now would cost less. Ms. Patterson said the Village of Mariemont joined the pool in April 2010 and the cost to leave would be based on when the pool started in August of 2009 and part of that deficit would be the Village's calculation. The proposed changes would change it so the Village would not be absorbing the liability prior to April 1, 2010.

Mr. Kocher said right now the first months of the pool have shown a slight profit. In the beginning of the plan members got really good rates but they were not high enough. OMERESA which is the third party administrator feels it should take 5-6 years to stabilize out. We do not need to worry about them calling us on this liability deficit. He reminded Council that 10 of the 15 members of the pool would have to pass legislation to adopt the changes.

Mayor Policastro asked what is being done to increase profitability. Mr. Kocher said they will be looking at renewal rates and the plan changes affecting spousal coverage etc was effective. Also, the plan limits the amounts that communities can put in at 65%. Mayor Policastro said we got into the pool because we wanted a good program for our employees and hopefully it will stay that way but he is afraid that the rates are going to continue to increase. Mr. Kocher said increased rates are not for profit but would be used to balance the deficit and stabilize the pool.

Mr. Wolter asked if there is any and data as to what the Village pays now verses what the Village would pay the direct market. Ms. Patterson said USI can provide that data provided the employees are willing to cooperate with supplying medical information. If that is something the Village wants to do she can coordinate it with Mrs. Van Pelt.

Mr. Black said he is not sure why Council would not adopt the changes. Mr. Andrews suggested having Solicitor McTigue review the proposed changes and offer an opinion. Mr. Scheeser said in Sesame Street simple terms it gives a more equitable shake as a community comes into the pool and exits the pool. Council agreed to have the Solicitor review before agreeing to the proposed changes.

Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding said this meeting is to set aside funds for Capital Improvements for fiscal year 2012. He presented a summary of the Permanent Improvement Fund over the past years. In the past we have reserved funds for the Administration Building and the fire truck which will need to be replaced in the next several years. He set aside \$50,000 for both this year in the reserve. Anything we do is not set in stone. It will need to be referred to a specific Committee of Council for further discussion and recommendation. He estimates we have \$421,000 unreserved funds available. The money for street work comes out of a different fund so those monies are not allocated here.

Superintendent Scherpenberg said like he mentioned last year the trucks are 12 years old and continue to rust and age. He estimates replacing the pick-up truck will be \$41,500 and the dump truck will be \$75,500. His suggestion would be to replace one this year and rotate in the upcoming years so the equipment is being replaced on a staggered basis rather than all at once. If there is money to set aside each year that would be great. Both pieces of equipment have had several repairs made to them. He also requested a cargo box for the Kubota for

\$5000. It is made of plastic and will hold salt for when they plow the smaller streets and lanes. We have talked about the brine system in the past years. The cost for the pre-treatment equipment would be approximately \$6,000. It can be used on smaller snow accumulations and possibly save on overtime. Council opted to wait on the expenditure. He asked for a portable under carriage cleaning system for \$1,800. It would be very helpful to clean the trucks and neutralize the effects of salt. He asked for a 10-gallon tar melter for \$1,400 to help with the pot hole repairs. In addition, he asked that \$800 be allocated to purchase a new computer for his office. He is currently using the old one from the Tax Department which has no sound feature. A new computer would be helpful when completing necessary online paperwork for ODNR. He estimates the cost to be \$800. Mr. Scheeser said he would like to see additional money set aside for additional tree plantings. Ms. McCarthy said she knows several trees are going to need to be replaced on Chestnut Street. After discussion, Council agreed to add \$17,000 for additional tree plantings throughout the Village. The maintenance cost is a General Fund cost. Superintendent Scherpenberg said last year we spent approximately \$22,000 in maintaining the trees.

Council agreed to allocate \$23,000 for Ash Tree removal and replanting, \$41,500 for a pick-up truck, \$5,000 for a cargo box, \$17,000 for additional tree planting, \$1,800 for a portable under carriage cleaning system, \$1,400 for a 10-gallon tar melter and \$800 for a new computer. It was agreed to wait till next year to further discuss the brine system. Total allocated: \$90,500.

Chief Hines said he is requesting a 2012 Dodge Charger to replace one of the old Crown Victorias. He estimates the cost of the car and installation of equipment to be approximately \$32,000. The old equipment will not fit the new car. In addition, he is requesting an in-car camera system for the new cruiser. Mr. Andrews asked the risk of pushing the purchase out one year. Chief Hines said the problem is we pushed out four years ago and then again a year or two after that. Traditionally we have replaced a cruiser every year. The car to be replaced is 6-7 years old which is old for a police car. If we replace them on a timely basis we will have less maintenance issues. He anticipates having to replace the transmissions, rear ends etc. if we hold on to the older cars. Also, once you get rid of the car there is not much value left in the vehicle. Trade in or auction value on an old police cruiser typically only yields a few hundred dollars. Right now he is looking into selling the car directly to another municipality which should fetch more money. He estimates the older cars have 75,000-80,000 miles each. He said our liability insurance carrier has indicated that older cars present more liability issues should there be an accident etc. Mr. Scheeser asked what the right number of police vehicles is. Chief Hines said two unmarked cars and four marked cars. Council agreed to allocating \$32,000 for a new cruiser plus equipment and \$4,000 for an in car camera system.

Assistant Fire Chief Feichtner presented his recommendations for 2012. Mr. Scheeser complimented him on the 10 year projection - he said it would be very helpful to Council and future members of Council. He encouraged all the departments to do the same for future years. Mr. Andrews suggested a one page visual of key equipment. AC Feichtner said the Thermal Imaging Camera is ten years old and needs to be replaced. He estimates the cost to be \$10,000. He is actively looking for a demo model which should cost less. It is going to be harder to find service and replacement parts for the current camera. He said the department needs to replace the multi gas reader. Currently they only have a CO reader with no other way to detect other gases. The estimate cost is \$2,000. He would like to budget \$15,000 per year for turn out gear which would purchase 5 sets per year. With the number of people on the roster it should maintain the ten year variable mandated by NFPA. There are still part-time personnel in expired gear. Mr. Scheeser asked if the amount on the roster is a good number. AC Feichtner said we are maintaining with what we have and feels it is a good number. He incorporated along with the turn out gear the cost for new helmets, gloves, hood and boots. Some people are wearing rubber boots from the 1980's which is a huge liability. He also recommends upgrading the emergency lighting for E-67. The current lights are getting old and the brighter lights are much safer. The life span on the truck is another 10 years. The estimated cost is \$8,500. Council agreed to budget: \$9,500 for a thermal imaging camera, \$2,000 for a multi gas meter, \$8,500 for the upgrades in emergency lighting and \$15,000 for turnout gear. Total allocation was \$35,000.

The Tax Department submitted quotes from both Insource Solutions and CMI for software and services concerning the acceptance of ACH payments online for the department. Clerk Borgerding said it could increase collections and allow for faster deposits. Mr. Andrews said it certainly is the right way to think but we have to ask ourselves what is the return. Will this afford us to continue with one and a half people in the department? Will it help bring the staffing needs down. Treasurer Kulesza asked about charging a fee for online payments. Mr. Andrews said it is illegal to charge a fee unless a third party collects the money. Council agreed to allocate \$9,000 but asked to have more details and information discussed at the Committee meeting when assigned.

Ms. McCarthy said the Swim Pool Commission has not yet met with the Health and Recreation Committee. Mayor Policastro said he does know they want a new hot dog machine. Mr. Andrews suggested talking with the Tennis Association about moving the backboard from the practice court and turn that court into something else such as a basketball court. Council agreed to allocate \$4,000 for swim pool maintenance, \$7,800 for the tennis court resurface and repair and \$25,000 for new play equipment at the Tot Lot in conjunction with the PreSchool Parents request. The total allocation was \$36,800.

Council recommended allocating \$14,000 for the cost of replacing the front windows on the Municipal Building. Mr. Andrews asked what the savings and payback would be and should we really spend the money. Mr. Scheeser said we need to invest in permanent improvements to save the General Fund with such things as LED lighting and efficient windows. He also noted employee satisfaction because this is a miserably cold building. He is excited about investing and making it a better administration building. Mayor Policastro said we really do not have any choice - this building is like swiss cheese. Clerk Borgerding said Mrs. Van Pelt indicated

that her department did not need anything unless some office equipment quits unexpectedly. Mayor Policastro said they ask for very little.

Council agreed to allocate \$80,000 for the West Street Parking Phase I. Mayor Policastro said we should have more information on the project within the next month. Ms. McCarthy said Council keeps hearing that they will be getting the information. Mayor Policastro said we are still working with the school.

Clerk Borgerding went over the open purchase orders that were carried over from 2011. Those encumbrances totaled \$69, 800 which we need to carry forward. We are currently \$54,000 over budget. Mr. Scheeser suggested tapping into the reserve for the Administration Building. There is a lot of under utilized space in this building. He would like to see the building renovated and improved but he does not want to invest funds in additions to the building. He does not believe there is a short term need for an addition for the building. Essentially we are hoarding cash for the building when we could be investing in recommendations that have been discussed. Mr. Wolter did not agree that there is a lot of under utilized space in this building. We have personnel sleeping in the basement, we do not have a secure property room nor do we have any room to hold or interrogate people. In addition we are paying \$500/month for the Tax Department to be offsite. We do not have a handicap compliant Council Chamber or Mayor's Court. Mr. Scheeser did agree that the building will need an elevator but his thought is virtual storage of all the paper and installation of egress windows in the basement would create a lot of space. We do not utilize the space as efficiently as we can. Mr. Andrews said in view of the financials for the next few years he cannot see how we could possibly add onto this building. He agrees that taking money from being put aside for the building is the right way to go. Mayor Policastro said in a few years we have to have a plan when it comes to the Administration Building and putting in an elevator. Clerk Borgerding said he will not allocate \$50,000 this year to the Administration Building and that will balance the Permanent Improvement Funds.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Clerk