

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
FEBRUARY 12, 2011**

Vice-Mayor Black called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following Council members were present: Mr. Andrews, Mr. Black, Mr. Miller, Mr. Scheeser, Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Wolter.

Vice-Mayor Black said the purpose of the meeting is to set the budget for Capital Improvements for 2011.

Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding said this meeting is to set aside funds for Capital Improvements for fiscal year 2011. He presented a summary of the Permanent Improvement Fund over the past years. There are two levies for Permanent Improvement (1 mill and 1.5 mills) which generates approximately \$400,000 plus interest/year. The smaller levy is up for renewal this year. It will not cost the taxpayers any additional money but with this economy you cannot assume that it will pass automatically. He distributed a worksheet to help determine what to spend the money on for this year. 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. 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.

Mayor Policastro said as far as the Maintenance Department he is going to take care of the Ash Trees removal and replanting on Beech Street but he is going to wait until next year to do the trees across from the Strand. Mr. Spinnenweber has indicated that he will be willing to help financially with replanting larger trees. Mr. Scheeser said he wants to make sure there is additional money available to plant incremental trees. Since trees are such a long term asset he would like to budget more to keep the canopy that we have in the Village. Mayor Policastro said he disagrees - we have been planting a lot of trees. Mr. Scheeser said he figures we should be putting in 300 trees per year to keep up with canopy. We need to commit to putting lots of trees in the ground above and beyond just replacement trees and encouraged Council to over invest in trees because of the aging of our tree stock. Mr. Wolter said of course John Nolen planted a lot of trees when the Village was first built and nature has a way of replacing trees naturally. He does not see any voids in the Village except where the Ash Trees were removed and replaced with smaller trees. In view of some of the other things we are facing we have to be careful about chasing the wrong priority. Mr. Scheeser said he thinks there is no greater priority than trees. Mr. Wolter said there is no greater priority than safety, balancing the budget and the direct needs of the people. Superintendent Scherpenberg said they are planning on doing an evaluation of street trees this year. Mayor Policastro said we are going to interview arborists next week to help us with this project. Trees are a liability and can be very dangerous. We have had many trees fall here in the Village. The big expense with trees is the maintenance. We cannot plant trees in some areas because of underground utilities. He complimented the Service Department for doing a good job planting trees. Mr. Andrews said everyone would agree that trees are an asset and suggested a tree plan be implemented. Mayor Policastro said he and Superintendent Scherpenberg put the tree plan together every year (both maintenance and planting). After further discussion it was agreed by Council to increase the allocation from \$44,000 to \$50,000 for tree removal and replanting.

Superintendent Scherpenberg said he would like to get on a cycle for replacing trucks. Right now the trucks are 12-15 years old and rusting badly. The money was budgeted last year but was not spent. He is going to bid on a truck with a stainless steel bed. Also, they need to replace a utility truck that they use for watering. In the past couple of years they have had trouble when it snows getting big trucks with plows through the lanes and streets such as Sheldon Close and Albert Place. The utility truck could be outfitted with a plow and it could still be used for watering. It was agreed to allocate \$68,000 for a new dump truck, \$20,000 for a utility vehicle and \$9,500 for the balance of the new trash cans approved last year.

Police Chief Hines said it is looking like the new police cruiser will be a Ford Interceptor. With six cylinders it should get better gas mileage. He does not yet know the exact amount of the vehicle but it will be purchased through State bidding. It will cost more to put the equipment on the new car because they will not be able to transfer the old equipment as they have done in the past. The plan is to try to sell the old equipment. Within the next two years the Tahoe will need to be replaced. The Tahoe can be given to the Fire Department to replace their staff car. The Tahoe is not driven as much as the other beat cars so they will be able to get six or seven years out of it. This should help the department get back on track with the rotation. Our insurance company has indicated that older cars prove to be an added liability. It was agreed to allocate \$32,000 for a new police cruiser and attachments.

Police Chief Hines said the shot guns are 25 plus years old and he recommended that new ones be bought for each vehicle. Hopefully we will not need to use them but the department does qualify with them every year. It was agreed to allocate \$2,400.

Fire Marshal Feichtner said the cardiac monitor was purchased used in 2003 and is now 12 years old. With the changing technology we are really behind. The monitor does not have the capability to transmit to the hospital. With the new monitors they can electronically transmit the patient's EKG directly to the hospital which saves time and lives. The current model is also not compatible with neighboring communities. He will look into all options including leasing the equipment because the technology changes every two to three years. It is part of the paramedic protocol. Mayor Policastro said the one we have is obsolete and needs to be replaced ASAP. He will refer the matter to the Safety Committee of Council at the next meeting. It was agreed to allocate \$25,000 for the purchase.

Fire Marshal Feichtner said the House Alerting System is not something we are going to be able to get around. Hamilton County Communications Center put out a letter indicating that the conversion will take place this August. Mayor Policastro said he will refer the matter to the Safety Committee of Council. It was agreed to allocate \$15,000.

Fire Marshal Feichtner said he is asking to purchase 5 sets of fire gear but essentially we need 15. If we can get on a rotation and purchase so many sets a year it will make sure that we have adequate equipment for our personnel and keep them in compliance. Chief Hines said we have a current roster of 35 people but he wants to expand it by 10 more people. Each person has to have their own set of turn out gear that meets standards. We bought 13 sets recently which brings the total we have that meet standard to 16-17. We need another 15 sets for \$30,000 to bring the department to where it needs to be. Mr. Andrews asked if each individual needs their own set of gear. Chief Hines said yes. Mr. Andrews said he worries that mandating or not thinking through something fully is possibly costing us more money. We spent a lot of time last year restructuring the Fire Department and now the part time structure is going to cost us more money. Mayor Policastro said the structure is still the same. Mr. Andrews said by adding 10 more part time people we are adding \$20,000 in expenses we did not have before. Mr. Scheeser interjected it would add to the cycle of replacement. Mr. Andrews asked if Council really mapped out and thought through the process when contemplating the full-time/part-time structure. Chief Hines said in talking with the Mayor and Council it was his belief that they wanted to expand the part-time personnel. Mr. Scheeser said no one is disagreeing with a deep bench but there is quite a bit of expense that goes with it. Forty pieces of equipment for any four on at a time it not what he thought. Mr. Wolter asked if it is mandated that each have their own. Fire Marshall Feichtner said it is something that has always been done - you would not want to come to work and put on clothes that someone else sweated in the day before. They are worn almost everyday during training and runs. Mr. Andrews said we do not need to solve this here but this is an example of where Council needs to be careful that we do a lot more thorough thinking and planning, especially around the financial picture. We need to make sure we understand what we are getting into. Mr. Black said he would like from the Fire Department an understanding as to how many people we really need on our roster and how many sets of gear do we need. It was agreed to allocate \$10,000 for 5 sets of new gear.

Fire Marshal Feichtner said we have 30 face pieces so if one fails or is broken we do not have any to replace. In addition several nozzles and hoses will need to be replaced at some point in the near future. It passes now, but it is old and eventually there are going to fail. He believes the ladder truck will need to be replaced in 2015. It is a pumper truck but the pump does not always want to engage so it has been designated a ladder truck with Hamilton County. He will work hard to find the best price including researching demos. They no longer build a 100' ariel on a single axle truck. It may be necessary to expand the fire bay which he estimates will cost \$200,000. He has asked Sycamore Township to try to back their truck in our bay to see how it will fit. We may be able to move some things around to make it fit but it simply may not. It was agreed to allocate \$5,000 for miscellaneous equipment.

Mr. Andrews said in line with the IT plan he estimated \$18,000 for new server, software upgrades and consulting for all departments. We should spend some money but in the long run save a lot more over the next 4-5 years. It was noted that \$10,000 was still in the budget from last year. It was agreed to allocate \$18,000.

Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding said there was some money left over from last year that was not spent in the Recreation area for swim pool maintenance/repairs and resurfacing/repairs at the tennis courts. Mr. Andrews said Pre-School Parents Group has agreed to put up 50% of the money for a fencing area at the Tot Lot. The total cost is \$8200. Mayor Policastro said we have been talking about this for years and it is good to finally see it come to fruition. Mr. Andrews said in the past years Council has allocated \$10,000 for play equipment at the swim pool. He has mixed feelings about it and does not feel it is the right time. Mayor Policastro said he would rather use the money at Ann Buntin Becker Park. He wants to continue to improve the park. He would like that to become a line item for consideration. Mr. Andrews said the play equipment at Ann Buntin Becker Park can be used all year long while equipment at the pool would only be used during swim season. Ms. Sullivan suggested contacting the Mariemont Schools because they are going to be getting rid of some of their play equipment. Mayor Policastro said he would contact Superintendent Imhoff. It was agreed to allocate \$29,000.

Mr. Wolter suggested painting the Municipal Building. Mayor Policastro said Assistant Fire Chief Travers is looking into a grant for replacement windows in the building.

Mayor Policastro said he is going to meet with Superintendent Imhoff to discuss the West Street parking. We need 18.5'. A lot of the young parents are happy to see that they will have a parking space. Mr. Miller said it will also help sales for the condominiums. Mayor Policastro said as soon as he gets agreements from both entities he will refer the matter to the Planning & Zoning/Economic Development Committee of Council. Phase One would start this year. The local retailers are excited about the perpendicular parking. It will also help with renting empty spaces. Mr. Miller said it is very important that any perspective tenant knows that there is adequate parking available. It is Engineer Ertel's estimate that Phase I and Phase II will each cost \$80,000. Mr. Scheeser said he believes that is a huge number and encouraged Council to really think hard about it. Mayor Policastro said the number is not necessarily large. Over the years we have kicked out space to allow for outdoor dining which all helps our infrastructure. Mr. Miller said it is a small number in the grand scheme of things. It was agreed to allocate \$80,000.

Mr. Scheeser said the bollards throughout the Village are in need of repair or replacement. Superintendent Scherpenberg said there is a plan in place to replace them this year as needed. Mr. Scheeser said

there are a lot especially along Murray Avenue. Mayor Policastro said we have already ordered some but we cannot replace them in the winter.

Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding said we still need to encumber \$31,600 from last year. We still owe Queen City Blacktopping retainage money. The figure includes some smaller items as well. It was agreed to allocate \$2100 for other miscellaneous expenses.

Mr. Andrews asked if this outline represents Council's priority and does it lend itself enough to economic development. Mr. Scheeser said once the Planning & Zoning/Economic Development Committee goes through the MPF Vision Plan we may have to come back as a Committee of the Whole for review. Mayor Policastro said one of the key elements will be when the West Street parking is done. Hopefully we will be able to build two or three more movie screens which will be important. Once we get parking we may be able to get someone to come and invest in the pub on the square. Within a year things should really start to fall into place.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Clerk