

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
EMERGENCY MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
NOVEMBER 4, 2010**

Mayor Policastro called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The following Council members answered present to roll call: Mr. Andrews, Mr. Miller, Mr. Scheeser and Mr. Wolter.

Mayor Policastro said there is a chance we can get grant money through the Safe Routes to School Project that will help with infrastructure such as sidewalks and the replacement of signage throughout the Village. We will need to comply with federal regulations by 2015 (such as color, reflective etc.). He introduced Ms. Caroline Duffy who was retained by the Mariemont School District to conduct the 'Safe Travel Plan'.

Ms. Duffy said every time you purchase gasoline 18.2 cents federal tax gets put into the Highway Trust Fund. This is one program that brings money back into communities. It is based on trying to increase biking and walking to the schools and is good for kindergarten through 8th grade. They will give money towards engineering as well as construction of the project. With the expansion of the Mariemont Elementary School they did a study which is Phase I of the project. The study is a live document that we can update as we go through the process. Once the study has been approved and it appears on ODOT's website as a Safe Routes to School study then we would be eligible for funding. For the first two years we can apply for funding. After the second year we will need to update the study to reflect things that have been done to increase walking and ridership to schools. The maximum infrastructure grant money we can receive is \$500,000 and \$100,000 for non-infrastructure (such as enforcement, education, encouragement programs etc.).

Ms. Duffy referred to the handouts and the map with recommendations of engineering and enforcement strategies. Mariemont is known for their trees and several of them overhang signage. Funding would be available for maintenance to maintain the shrubbery so the signage is able to be seen by motorists. The map indicates new trails which will eliminate conflict points between the student walkers and bikers with parent vehicles dropping off students for school. Three trails are proposed: west side of Plainville from Chestnut to Wooster; Wooster Pike in front of the Mariemont Elementary School; and on the west side of West Street from Wooster Pike to the playground fence. Also included in the request is traffic calming. The existing travel lanes are stripped more than the 12' standard width, encouraging high rates of speed. "No Passing" signs are placed on Wooster Pike to help eliminate sideswipe crashes. This project would re-stripe Wooster Pike to standard 12' lanes and construct a curb bulb at the intersections of Wooster Pike and Pleasant, Wooster and Plainville and Wooster and West. This will slow traffic by aligning geometric messages with the posted speed limit of 25 mph. We will also revise the center median at Wooster and West for pedestrian usage. Curb bulbs will discourage motorists from trying to pass somebody. A signing inventory was performed on the streets that surround Mariemont Elementary (Wooster Pike, Plainville Road, Murray Avenue, Madisonville Road and West Street). It was found that these signs were not to the standards specified in the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, as regulated in the Ohio Revised Code. This project would update all signs and pavement markings on these streets. It will also bring the curb ramps at these intersections into ADA compliance. The walking audit identified many locations that need to have the sidewalk replaced. However the critical locations are being addressed in the project. Sidewalks will be constructed along Wooster Pike near Park Avenue where currently none exist. Replace asphalt sidewalk on Murray Avenue near the school and replace the sidewalk on the streets surrounding Mariemont Elementary (Wooster Pike, Plainville Road, Murray Avenue, Madisonville Road and West Street). The walking audit also identified many locations in the Village that have signs that were not to the standards specified in the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, as regulated in the Ohio Revised Code. This includes signs that do not meet reflectivity requirements. This project would update all signs and pavement markings on these streets. This needs to be done for liability reasons. There are two paths that students from Fairfax can use to enter Mariemont. These are at Settle Avenue at the terminus of the Murray Avenue Bike trail and at Hawthorne Avenue. This project will install signage from these two entry points to Mariemont Elementary to warn motorist of students along these paths and provide guidance to the students. Under enforcement it will increase visibility of crossing guards and arrival/dismissal monitors through purchase of new uniforms. The proposed seven crossing guards would be at: (1) Madisonville Road at Wooster Pike; (2) Wooster Pike at West Street; (1) Plainville Road at Wooster Pike; (1) Chestnut Street at Plainville Road; (1) Madisonville at West Street; (1) Lane A at Beech Street.

Clerk Tontillo said we currently have four crossing guards so this would add a net extra of three guards. Ms. Duffy said the grant would pay for all of them for one year. Clerk Tontillo said the Village would have to maintain the seven guards ongoing. Mayor Policastro said you could reapply each year. Ms. Duffy said under the Safe Routes to School Project you do not have to apply for everything. They chose items they thought should be immediately fixed.

Mr. Joe Trauth, attorney for Spinnenweber Builders, distributed a copy of a letter sent to the School Board by Mr. Spinnenweber. The concern is that West Street will be over burdened. It is a narrow street. They have had meetings with the School Board about the bus drop off lanes. They want West Street to remain open to the businesses. They suggested moving some of the traffic to Plainville Road. In the initial report it showed a planned traffic light at West Street. Ms. Duffy said that proposal has been eliminated for this funding in this round. Mr. Trauth asked if there was a planned traffic light at Wooster and Plainville. Mayor Policastro said no - there have been enough problems changing the street and traffic lights around on Wooster Pike at the library.

Mr. Paul Imhoff, Superintendent Mariemont School District, said the latest draft of the site plan will take all parent traffic off of West Street. Parent traffic will be on Plainville and Madisonville. The only traffic on West Street on the current draft is a bus drop off at the far end of West at Madisonville. It will comprise of 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes in the afternoon. It will be on school property and not on the actual street. Mr. Trauth said his client had been promised a copy of the traffic study and tonight is the first time they have seen it. The concern was that this was the current traffic study that Council was going to approve in conjunction with the project. If that is not the case and this is still a fluid document and it only applies to the items mentioned he thinks they are happy with it but they want to continue to talk to the School Board about concerns.

Mr. Miller asked if this Resolution was passed would we have a better chance of collecting money in the future for crossing guards and reducing costs going forward. Ms. Duffy said every first Friday in November you can apply for funding. Clerk Tontillo asked if the intent of the program is to provide ongoing maintenance of operating expense. We are currently

paying \$40,000/yr for crossing guards. This would require us to pay \$70,000/yr. The first year would be free but we would have to maintain the \$70,000 level indefinitely. We have to bet that we will get the additional \$30,000 every year. Otherwise we have just undone some of our deficit work with a choice we have not really discussed. Requiring us to remain at \$70,000 appears to be a risk to him. He would rather ask for \$ 40,000. Mr. Andrews asked if we received the full \$100,000 for the enforcement side is there a requirement that we maintain at that level. Clerk Tontillo said Section III states "shall provide ample financial provisions, as necessary for the maintenance of the described project". He does not believe they will provide us with money and then let us back off. Mayor Policastro said once the money is exhausted they cannot tell us what to do.

Mr. Wolter asked if after the first year we decided to go back to four guards will that have a negative effect on future grant applications for other projects. Mr. Scheeser asked if Ms. Duffy would be available each year to help re-submit the necessary paperwork. Mayor Policastro said he was going to suggest that the Village help pay for her services if needed in the future. Mr. Imhoff said the School Board will help with the cost.

Clerk Tontillo said there have been several discussions regarding the practical difficulty of getting individuals to want to work as crossing guards. He asked if we will be able to hire three more. Chief Hines said we could go to six right now.

Clerk Tontillo said the last time we had a street improvement project we were surprised by a cost overrun. It is very clear that the Village would have to pay 100% for any overages of \$500,000. He asked Engineer Ertel how he felt about the way the estimates were built and is there sufficient contingency such that we have a low probability of overruns or do we need to be concerned with the fact that we might have some amount over \$500,000 that we will be on the hook for. Engineer Ertel said all funding money would need to go out for bid for the projects so they would be competitively bid. Clerk Tontillo said that is a way we can mitigate our risk. Ms. Duffy said her experience is that the costs are coming in below the Engineer's estimate.

Mr. Andrews read Section II which states the total cost of the project is estimated to be \$500,000 for infrastructure and \$71,000 for enforcement of which the Local Public Agency (LPA), if awarded the funds, will receive 100%. The LPA further agrees to pay one hundred percent (100%) of the cost over and above the maximum amount provided by the State of Ohio Department of Transportation. He wanted to make sure that means if the State funds half of these projects and grants \$250,000 the Village is simply agreeing to fund those particular funded line items in the project plan not the whole project. Ms. Duffy said the way she understood it there is a large application that needs to be put together. One of the questions is prioritizing the project. They will give the money for what specific projects the Village wants to do. The other projects could then go into the next year's application. They will award the total amount for any specific project. Mayor Policastro said the Village would have the option to turn down any proposal. She said any changes to the study would need to be updated. Mayor Policastro said next year we can try to get funding for lighting in the Historic District pathways.

Mr. Wolter asked if we go with these projects in the future can the Village be made to change all the signs to meet required standards. Ms. Duffy said it will be done in 2015 anyway. Chief Hines said we will have to replace 758 signs. 775 signs are budgeted for with the grant money. Mr. Andrews asked if someone could be hired to see if we really need that many signs. Ms. Duffy said some of the signs can be removed due to the traffic calming.

Mr. Jerry Vianello asked if the standardization of the signs for 2015 gives us assurance that the standards are not going to change again. Ms. Duffy said the standards they are using are for 2010 and she believes that they will stay for seven/eight years. Mr. Vianello asked if we need to plan on changing every 7/8 years. Ms. Duffy said no but we might have to do updates.

Mr. Dan Spinnenweber asked how big the curb bulb would be at West Street. Ms. Duffy said they would have to take a look at it but it would reduce the road to 12' at that point. Mr. Spinnenweber said Council should think about the curb bulbs and how they would affect aesthetics. He believes they will be disappointed in what the Village will look like. From a practical point he is concerned that snow plows and emergency vehicles will have difficulty. He thinks it is a bad idea.

"To enter into a contract with the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation to complete the Safe Route to School Project; and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third reading. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Andrews to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-26-10 was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Paul Tontillo, Clerk