

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL  
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER  
FEBRUARY 19, 2018**

Vice-Mayor Marsland called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. to discuss the outsourcing mowing contract. The following Council members were present: Mrs. Graves, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Marsland, Ms. Palazzolo and Mr. Wolter. The process that was followed earlier was a bit incomplete. We are going to try and make the best effort to reevaluate the bids. It was decided to move the matter to the Committee of the Whole so all Council members could weigh in.

Discussion ensued regarding the additional leaf cuts and how they were calculated. Mr. Hawkins wanted to make sure all the bidders were clear on the understanding of the RFP. Superintendent Scherpenberg said there could be up to three weeks of extra cuts if needed or necessary. This was to find out if we had to use the contractor after the contract ended what would be the cost. Ms. Palazzolo asked if we need to have a per cut price as to compare apples to apples. Superintendent Scherpenberg said you can take the total amount and divide it by three cuts to determine the price.

Mr. Marsland said one of the things that the Committee is grabbing with is the State of Ohio says if we do not have legislation on the books that has a clause clarifying that a municipality can go with the lowest/best bidder you are pigeon holed with the lowest bid. In speaking with the Village Solicitor our hands are somewhat tied.

Superintendent Scherpenberg said this was not a formal bid but more of a soft bid process to get quotes. We are under the \$50,000 threshold for the State of Ohio. It was stated in the contract the lowest and the best bid. We also have the choice to throw them out. Superintendent Scherpenberg passed around the RFP. Mr. Marsland said the wording for the extra cut is a bit vague.

Mr. Hawkins said if we had an Ordinance that made us except the lowest offer that is what we would do. What we have is not that so we default to State standard which is lowest and best. In this case the Village did not define 'best'.

Mayor Policastro said our Solicitor said his opinion would be that we accept the lowest bidder which would be Lawncapers. The matter of changing our Ordinance to award to lowest responsive and responsible bidder has been referred to the Rules and Law Committee.

Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mr. Hawkins to recommend awarding the contract to the lowest bidder, Lawncapers. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Dan Policastro, Mayor

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Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer