

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, May 10, 2007 8:00 PM
Village of Martin's Additions
Council Meeting
7013 B Brookville Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Meeting Agenda
8:00 Call to Order

Council Members and Village Representatives Present: Tim Price, Chair; Noell Sottile, Vice-Chair; Diane Everts, Council Member; Richard Krajeck, Treasurer; Todd Mann, Secretary; Jean Sperling, Village Manager; David Podolsky, Village Attorney; Alan Beal, Building Inspector.

Residents in Attendance: Judy Starrels, John Starrels, Margery Thompson, Gordon Thompson, Anita Difanis, Cris Fleming, Peggy Eastman, Elizabeth McAllister, Catherine Gwin, Stuart Kerkof, Ernst Liebman, Alberta Leibman, Sharon Hadary Coyle, Edna Turner, Lois Courtney, John Sharrow, Keith Allen, Bill Catherwood, Ed Holland, Dan Gardner.

Welcome and Introductions: Tim Price, Council Chairman .

Mr. Tim Price opened the meeting with a special thanks to the Village of Martins Additions' Elections Committee, chaired by Ed Holland and supported this evening by Committee Member Ted Stoddard and volunteer Dan Gardner. He recognized their service to the village, especially noted the old fashioned down-home feel of the evening's elections, and extended special recognition to Ed Holland who has served as Chairman of the Committee for more than 20 years!

Candidate Introduction: Ed Holland, Chair, Elections Committee

Mr. Ed Holland, Chairman of the Village Elections Committee, introduced the candidates, Catherine Gwin (Delfield Street) and incumbent Diane Everts (Raymond Street) and extended a special thanks to committee member Ted Stoddard (Turner Lane) and poll volunteer Dan Gardner (Chestnut Street). Ed announced that 44 ballots were cast and that Catherine Gwin and Diane Everts were voted into office with terms to begin July 1, 2007. The term of Council member Todd Mann will expire June 30, 2007.

Chairman's Report, Tim Price, Council Chairman

Mr. Price opened his remarks by complimenting Village Manager Jean Sperling and thanking her for the excellent work she has done since being hired in October of 2006. He also thanked Jean's husband, Bill Catherwood, for all his assistance with the technology required to get the office and equipment up and running smoothly and for implementing many enhancements.

Issues for FY 2008. Mr. Price described the big issues he foresees in the coming year:

- **Tree Care and Protection:** The care, upkeep and replacement of our trees as well as developing and reviewing new legislation to better control the removal of trees on private property are on the top of the priority list for the village and will evolve from the work of our Village's Tree Committee.
- **Street, Sidewalk and Curb Repairs:** The Village just recently completed major repairs to the intersection of Raymond and Melville place and we await a large rainstorm to confirm the accuracy of the repair. There will also be significant infrastructure repairs to sidewalk and curbs especially in the southern portion of the village planned for the coming year. Once those repairs are completed, the Council will have to look to the needed repairs in the northern section of the village. The Council also hopes to develop a long term plan for the maintenance on all the streets so that we can properly plan and budget for these large and costly repairs.
- **New Building Regulations.** The biggest issue we face in the coming year is getting a handle on the building and zoning issues within the village, and developing construction regulations to better shape and control the building within the Village of Martin's Additions. The Council has

scheduled a Planning Assessment Meeting to be hosted by the urban planning firm of Jakubiak Associates on June 14th at Chevy Chase Village Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine the interest of the Community in developing new building and zoning regulations specifically for Martin's Additions. We are hoping that people will come out and express their view about whether the Village should leave everything the way it is today or whether the village should be going forward with new zoning regulations to give the Council some idea of where residents would like the Council to move on this matter.

Council Member Reports

Noell Sottile, Vice Chairman

- **Tree Committee and General Village Tree Care.** During the year, Noell has worked closely with the Tree Committee, especially with the development of ordinances related to regulation of trees on private property to preserve our village tree canopy. These regulations are still under development. Noell recognized and thanked the members of the Village's hard working tree committee.
Numerous large Village trees were removed this year and extensive pruning of needy trees was also completed.
- **Other Tree Work.** Spring tree planting will be limited to a few locations because the fall is the preferred planting season. Noell especially recognized Dan Gardner for his contribution to the village tree program.

Diane Everts, Council member

- **Welcome Committee.** Ms. Everts reported on the progress that has been made in her areas of responsibilities. One of those areas is the Welcome Committee. This committee has three leading members—Chair Debbie Metzger and members Karen Jacob and Diane Everts. Two representatives have been identified for each block within Martin's Additions. It is the hope of the committee that the block rep structure can help support involvement in other community functions. The committee is currently contracting to have canvas tote bags made with the VMA seal on it. This bag will be used as a "Welcome Bag" for new residents
- **Street Repairs.** Diane has also overseen street repairs during the year and was pleased to report that repairs have been made to long standing problems at Melville Place and Raymond Street. Reports to date have been very positive that the alterations to the street grade and creation of a swale have eliminated the water problem. Extensive repair and upgrade work is needed in the southern end of Martin's Additions on the sidewalks. We have received an estimate from Chamberlain. Once the other areas have been identified additional estimates will be received and reviewed.

New construction bonds amounts were adopted and the Village has initiated a more intensive program to review any street damage and see to it that repairs are made with the bond funds, rather than general revenues.

A resident inquired about how repairs are made to the street if a contractor damages it during the construction process. Ms. Everts explained that the Village takes a performance bond of \$2,500 to assure that if damage is done, the Village has these funds to make the repair and Martin's Additions has just done this in two cases.

Todd Mann, Council Secretary

- **Website.** Mr. Mann reported on the efforts of the Village to move forward on the development of a website. He explained that the Council had researched the websites of neighboring jurisdictions and subsequently met with the Calvert Design Group, who had designed the

website for the Town of Chevy Chase. They have a condensed web site design package that costs less than \$5,000 that the Council has signed a contract to develop. It is hoped that the work will begin in earnest over the summer with a goal to have something up by the Fall.

- **Trash Collection.** Todd reported that the Village will go to a once a month bulk trash pickup system, much like the services offered by the surrounding towns. This decision was made as a part of the FY 2008 budget development. The contractual change will result in significantly enhanced service for residents—rather than heavy trash being picked up twice a year it will now be picked up once a month for an increase in cost of only \$1.40 per household per month.
- **Local Hazardous Waste Collection Point.** Several residents have asked that the Council look into the possibility of joining with neighboring communities to create a one-time nearby hazardous waste disposal site to make it easier for residents to disposal of hazardous materials such as batteries, insecticides, paint and the like.

Richard Krajeck, Treasurer

- **Street Lights.** Mr. Krajeck reported that the Village has had a significant number of problems with street lights out over the past 6 to 8 months. The Village finally had to resort to contacting our State representatives to have the problems corrected; we are happy to report that despite these difficulties all repairs have been made and we are hopeful that a new awareness of Martin's Additions on the part of PEPCO will result in improved services. Richard encouraged residents to thank their elected state representatives for helping in this matter.

FY 2008 Budget Presentation and Adoption.

Changes to earlier budget presentations. Richard reported that the FY 2008 Budget document, presented in the last newsletter has since had two changes that bring us to the final FY 2008 Budget. The proposed FY 2008 budget was mailed to all the residents of Martin's Additions a few weeks ago and is included in the packet of materials you have for tonight's meeting.

- The Council is proposing to increase income under personal Property Tax from the current rate of \$0.008 to \$0.50 which would increase income projections from \$35 to \$8,000. Based on information from the Montgomery County Office of Taxation, we believe the total Personal property value for businesses and utilities within Martin's Additions is approximately \$1.6 million. This does not change the real property tax rate people pay on their homes.
- The Village has been notified by Waste Management that Montgomery County is increasing the "tipping" fees for the garbage trucks, or the costs of using the land fill to empty the trucks. That proposed increase is approximately 8%, which we believe will increase our annual expense by \$5,500.

In the earlier mailing, changes in the budget from FY 2007 to FY 2008 were outlined. The most significant changes in income are: an increase in personal property revenues because of the rate change; an increase in permit fees because of recent changes to the fees to better reflect village costs of issuing and supervising construction permits; and an increase in interest income. Income projections are based on a keeping the Real Property Tax rate for the Village of Martin's Additions at the current level of \$0.008 and Personal Property Tax at the rate of \$0.50.

The most significant increase in expense is the addition of \$160,000 in new monies to update our infrastructure: sidewalks, streets, curbs and gutters. This is the first installment of a long-term plan to address infrastructure needs.

This budget, as proposed, will result in a drawdown of reserves by \$118,300 leaving the Village with a cash reserve of \$963,000.

Richard called for questions before a vote on Resolution 5-7-1, the FY 2008 Budget Resolution. A resident asked for a clarification of the cable fees of \$6,450 that appear to be a fee-in / fee-out budget item. Richard explained that most municipalities follow a formula where the cable subscription fees that are paid by our residents are then returned to the Montgomery Municipal Cable Channel (Channel 17) for its operation. Municipalities are able to make use of the cable capabilities offered by this municipal channel. (It is NOT Montgomery County cable). VMA does not make use of these opportunities. Richard further explained that not all communities return the proceeds. Tim Price said we've always done this; at some point in time someone decided that this was the right thing to do. Sharon Coyle, resident and former Council member and chair recollected that the intention was to bring information about municipal activities into people homes—this was pre-internet. She suggested that the Council might want to consider this more closely in next year's budget cycle.

Adoption of the FY 2008 Budget for the Village of Martin's Additions (Resolution 5-7-1). With no further questions Richard moved to adopt the FY 2008 budget, as presented. Diane Everts seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor. Vote: All in Favor.

Setting of the FY 2008 Real & Personal Property Tax Rate. (Resolution: 5-7-2). Since the FY 2008 budget has been adopted the next step is to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.008 and a personal property tax rate of \$0.50 per \$100 of value in accordance with the budget just passed. Richard made the motion to adopt the tax rates presented. Noell seconded the motion and all Council members voted in favor of the motion.

Announcement of Newly Elected Council Members. Ed Holland, Chairman of the Elections Committee announced that Catherine Gwin will be the new Council member with the term beginning July 1 2007, replacing Todd Mann. Diane Everts was re-elected to a second term.

Adjournment. With no further questions, Chairman Tim Price called for adjournment. Todd motioned and Noell seconded; all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50