

Village of Martin's Additions Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 3, 2012
Minutes of Meeting

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Council Members: Richard Krajeck, Chris Mueller, Jill Filipczyk, Arthur Alexander and Mike Zielinski. Village Manager: Jean Sperling. Assistant Manager: Deb Schmal

RESIDENTS PRESENT: Bill Catherwood, Jon Fleming, Cris Fleming, Tiffany Cissna, Steve Schmal, Keith Allen, George Dobud.

8:00 PM CALL TO ORDER: Krajeck

Chairman Krajeck explained that each of the Council members would report on different topics related to Village business during the past year.

Arthur Alexander, Treasurer: Financial Matters

In summarizing the Village's financial picture Alexander explained that over the past few years spending was cut back because of the collapse of Village revenues, as so many other jurisdictions experienced. The Village tightened up on expenditures and also delayed almost all of capital budget spending plans. The Village did that so well that a small surplus has developed over the last three years that enabled the Village to put some money in the bank. Revenues are starting to pick up and some of the capital improvements that we have put off can now be reconsidered. For FY 2013 money is being put aside for our roads which will all be torn up as a part of the water main renewal project; sidewalks will be repaired and replaced; improvements in street lighting will probably not happen this coming year—it's a very expensive project-- but the technology is changing very rapidly and efficiencies are improving.

A new Village Investment Policy was adopted in response to resident concerns that better opportunities may be available for the Village to invest its revenues. Currently we are earning less than 1/10 of 1% with the Montgomery County Investment Pool. The new Investment Policy was effective April 30, 2012 and sent to the State Treasurer for recording on May 3rd, 2012.

Chris Mueller: Infrastructure.

The Village will soon face one of the most important infrastructure projects in many decades: Over the next 2-3 years WSSC will replace all the water mains and meters in the Village of Martin's Additions. Every street in the Village will be impacted. Sidewalks and driveway aprons will also be affected because the meters are located at the edge of most property lines. WSSC will work with the Village on street repairs and restoration, agreeing to allow us to either accept their street contract or receive a payment and perform the work ourselves. This restoration work will be a real benefit to the Village.

Pepco: Over the last year and one half we've seen PEPCO improve the power to us—the upgrading of the feeder lines had made a noticeable change in power reliability and the cutting back of the trees, while having an adverse impact on the canopy in the Village, had a positive impact on power delivery. Although the Village experienced fewer storms in the past year, there were a number of wind storms. We know that PEPCO's work has helped the power delivery and reliability in the Village. Poles have been replaced, and while the old poles are still in place because, the poles can't be removed until the cable companies move their cables to the new poles. The Village office is working with Montgomery County Cable Office to try to get those lines moved.

Street lights: We have set aside \$300,000 for new street lights improvements. Technology is a big issue—whether to go with induction or LED lighting. PEPCO will be required to continue to supply induction lighting despite other regulatory changes so the Village may be able to continue with previously developed plans for induction lighting. The Village will explore other available options. While this may not happen within the next year, we remain focused on the fact that the street light is not adequate in the Village.

Sidewalks: Several sidewalk areas in the Village need replacement beyond the work that has been identified for this spring's immediate safety reasons--it makes no sense to conduct extensive replacement until we see what results from the WSSC work. We have allocated a modest amount of money to perform piece work –you'll see sidewalks being repaired soon. The Village will reassess the needed sidewalk and street work after WSSC completes their work.

Mike Zielinski: Building Codes

About two years ago the Village adopted new building regulations that primarily affected building height, wall plan length and other aspects of construction such as set-backs and lot coverage –we limited new homes to one front loading garage, and restricted front yard impervious surfaces. These codes are working as we had intended as evidenced by the number of times builders have had to go back to the drawing board.

As we continue to enforce the new building ordinance we have uncovered imbalances and disparities in fee structures. Over the course of this past year, the Village Council has restructured the building permit fees to address some of the needs that were identified. There have been two levels of fees for renovations and one for complete tear down and rebuild for the permit fee. The cost of code enforcement, meetings, and pre-construction monitoring far outstrip the current fees, especially in the area of renovations. The fee structure was recently altered to better address the square footage and wall plane changes that are being seen in renovation plans. This will help recoup more of the supervision and enforcement costs the Village incurs. While the plan is not to make this budget category self-sustaining, it is important to at least generate the revenues where there is a need for service.

Jill Filipezyk: Community Activities

We have had several successful events in the community and have seen the Community and the Council all work together on many projects. The communication path of the manager to the council and community is a good one. This has helped the community to work together and be aware of what is going on. We hope that this model encourages people to volunteer and get involved—volunteers worked on several special events—4th of July; the Manna Food drive; and the Treat Our Troops initiative. Membership in the Montgomery County volunteer center has allowed us to get community service hours for teens; the Village has also been able to support Chevy Chase @ Home with communications and sharing of our office space. We are committed to encouraging more of this kind of community involvement.

Council Chairman Krajeck: Wrap Up

- Krajeck noted a few other projects that the Council undertook this year. A traffic study of Shepherd and Cummings Lane shed light on traffic increases in Martin's Additions particularly on these two through-streets.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up with Montgomery County for Debris removal in the case of a major storm such as a hurricane or tornado.
- A change in insurance carriers this year saved the Village an enormous amount of money.
- Extensive discussions about Village contributions to non-profits resulted in the development of an ordinance to restrict such donations.
- Concerns about residents who are using the right of way as an extension of their own property and planting extensively in this public space has arisen. These plantings present some difficulties for pedestrians and for vehicle ingress and egress. The Council hasn't been able to solve the problem but perhaps when the new water lines are installed by WSSC some of the issues related to this indifference of some of our residents to planting in the ROW will increase the understanding and importance of observing these rights-of-way.
- Efforts to improve snow removal services lead to a resolution to allow the Village to restrict parking to one side of the street during snow storms.
- The Village Council has joined with Chevy Chase Village in support of the construction by the state of a crosswalk across Connecticut Avenue at Lenox Street.

Resident Comments:

Bill Catherwood (Shepherd Street) thanked Village staff, Jean, Deb and Wayne for all their hard work, especially on the Celebration on the Sidewalk. He was particularly happy to see many of the younger residents with their children--although they are not here for the Annual Meeting, they voted and stayed for a long time on the sidewalk and chatted about the Village and what it was about. It was a great opportunity for newer residents to learn more about Village operations. Just because they don't come to the meeting doesn't mean that they are not interested. He reported that he had conversations about municipal incorporation with many residents. Krajeck added that great voter turn-out totals were evidence of the success.

Krajeck offered thanks to the many people who made contributions to the Village over the past year. Thanks went first to Election Committee members **Frank Correl, Ted Stoddard and Noel Sottile** for the exquisite execution of the entire election process. Manna Food Program captains **Dick and Linda Kirschten** were commended for their wonderful success with the food donation program. **Linda Kirschten** was also thanked for her Newsletter editing assistance. Special appreciation was given to **Hanne Correl** for maintenance of our dog stations and general office help; **Pam Sacks** for assistance with office filing; **Keith Allen and the gang** for their help with parties, village activities such as flyer distribution and last moment requests for help; **Holly Worthington** for all things related to any party that pops up in the park; **Dan Gardner**, the Village tree supervisor, who has devoted untold hours helping with everything tree-related in the Village, **Bill Lebovich** who monitors and maintains our list serv and also serves on the Chevy Chase Fire Board along with **Natalie Welle and Paul Weller**; **Rick Michel** the trusty office neighbor who always comes to help when called; **John MacDonald** our recently retired representative to the Montgomery County Chapter of the MML and to **Molly Ruhl** who was recently appointed to fill John's shoes; **Steve Schmal and Dan Gardiner** for the Village Right of Way (ROW)

data compilations and review; and **Bill Catherwood** for IT support. Krajeck also recognized and thanked the Village staff and all the other Council members.

FY 2013 BUDGET AND TAX RATES: Alexander

TAX RESOLUTION 3-12-1: FY2013 Taxes: Resolution to maintain all tax rates as they are in the current fiscal year with the exception of a small increase in the property tax rate that results from an adjustment for the constant yield tax rate (\$0.046 per \$100 of assessed value for the current year to \$0.0466 per \$100 for FY 2013). Other taxes remain at the same rate.

Motion to approve resolution 3-12-1: Councilmember Mueller; 2nd Alexander; Vote: all in favor.

BUDGET RESOLUTION 3-12-2: FY 2013 Budget: Resolution to approve the FY 2013 budget as presented.

Discussion summary indicated that the budget for the coming year foresees a small surplus and budget categories close to the current levels with the exception of set-asides for capital improvements for street repairs and street lighting.

Motion to approve budget resolution 3-12-2: Alexander; 2nd Zielinski, all in favor.

RESIDENTS REMARKS on Taxes and Budget

Steve Schmal (Summit Avenue). Steve congratulated the Council on a job well done.

ACTION ON MINUTES OF 4/19/2012

Motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting: Jill Filipczyk. 2nd: Alexander. Vote: All in favor.

ACTION ON SIDEWALK REPAIR CONTRACT

Manager Sperling presented the contract comparisons for three bids received in response to our RFP for sidewalk repairs. One of the bids (DNR) was considerably less than the other three, largely because they do not use mesh for structural reinforcement as required in the bid request. Zielinski added that the structure of the bid seemed to suggest that any additions might be significant since their additional costs estimates were out of line with the other bids. Sperling recommended the bid from Chamberlain Contractors, Inc. be accepted. They've done a lot of work for the Village (the repaving of Shepherd Street is one example) and have a fine reputation and they were the lowest of the other three bids.

The Council concurred with Sperling's recommendation. She noted that thicker concrete is being poured at corner and driveways. Mueller suggested that the corners be blocked off for 30 days. Sperling said she would consult with the contractor.

ELECTION RESULTS: Frank Correl, Committee Chairman

Correl introduced the members of the Election Committee, Ted Stoddard and Noell Sottile. Correl announced that on behalf of the committee the following results:

A total of 137 ballots were cast including 2 absentee ballots, one ballot was disqualified. Actual results were as follows: Jill 132; Tiffany 131; Arthur 124; there were seven write ins. Correl remarked that the excellent turnout was a pleasant surprise that speaks to the whole way the event is run. A round of applause followed for Tiffany Cissna, Arthur Alexander and Jill Filipczyk. Special thanks were offered to Keith Allen for the great and accurate weather forecast.

Chairman Krajeck thanked everyone for coming.

8:50 Adjournment.