

**Village of Martin's Additions  
Council Meeting  
7013 B Brookville Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
March 20, 2014**

**Council Members Present: Tiffany Cissna; Jon Fleming; Bill Lebovich; Josh Bowers. Village Res Ted Stoddard; Bill Catherwood. Village Attorney: Ron Bolt. Village Manager: Jean Sperling; Assi Manager: Tori Hall**

**7:30 PM CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Tiffany Cissna**

**RESIDENTS' CONCERNS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

**None**

**ELECTION UPDATE: Stoddard**

*Election Schedule:* Stoddard presented the election schedule for 2014 election. There is no change from last r nominations have been made- Arthur Alexander and Ed Novak.

The nomination period opened February 28 and will close March 28. Final Candidate Statements and bios are Village Office by April 7, 2014; the election is May 15th

*Community Forum* Saturday March 15th, 2014—was a success-good conversations, nice turn out and good fo

**VMA TREE COMMITTEE MEMBER SELECTION: Bowers**

Council member Bowers remarked that he was impressed by the interest expressed for the Tree Committee. a number of residents with a strong interest and background in the subject. The Council was looking for a bala committee both in terms of location in the Village and background. In order to limit the committee to six, as the previously decided, Bowers recommended the following residents for the study group: Cris Fleming (Shepherd of activism, involvement and knowledge), Paula Goldberg (Bradley, nurse, taken lead in tree issues), Ed Novak builder/developer), Mike Zielinski (former Council member, member of Land Use Task Force and Storm Water Force). Council members Bowers and Alexander will also service on the Committee.

A motion to accept these appointments was made by Council member Lebovich; 2<sup>nd</sup> Fleming; Vote: All in Fav

**FY 2015 BUDGET DISCUSSION: PRESENTATION OF INITIAL FY 15 BUDGET PLANS.**

Council Treasurer Fleming opened the presentation and discussion of the FY 2015 Budget development, explai along with Council Chairman Alexander and Manager Sperling, met with the Village Accountant Dan Baden t current budget and expenditures projected for FY 2014, to discuss revenue outlook for the remainder of the ye look ahead to revenue projections for FY 2015.

On the revenue side of the budget we are projecting close to \$30,000 in reduced revenues in FY 2015 lar category of income tax receipts and personal property tax revenues. The current fiscal year saw an increase i revenues over original estimates but the Maryland State Department of Finance does not anticipate a recurrent higher revenues for FY 2015. Our state advisor recommended an estimate of \$600,000 for our income tax cati property taxes for FY 2015, set at the constant yield level, would generate about \$139,000. Treasurer Fleming that the property tax is an equalizing and fair tax based on land value, something we all share equally as reside Martin's Additions—that is, the value of our land rather than the value of our incomes. Highway User Revenue state are still unpredictable, despite assurances from the state that we would receive a special allocation. Ther attitude of the part of municipalities that we'll believe it when we see it. An additional quarter remains in the fi during which time other revenue sources should get closer to the mark set in the budget.

On the expenditure side of the budget no extraordinary expenses stand out at this time in the category of operating expenses. Additional monies are budgeted for the cost of the Annual Audit, modest increased accou

expenses for the coming fiscal year. Additional appropriates are being considered for legal fees that would be with review and clean-up of the Village Code. Depending on the Village's ability to move forward with new street enhancements this year, additional lighting consultant fees may be needed. Likewise additional consulting engineer road re-construction may be required next year depending on the status of underground utility work and the street repairs. Funds have been set aside in anticipation of these extraordinary capitol program expenses; however, the Manager is working toward getting more firm estimates for the projects. Lastly, \$1,000 was preliminarily added to the budget for the Village's right-of-way maintenance in the hopes that the dead ends of our streets could be clearly improved.

contracted with the Chevy Chase Village Police for similar services as the ones being considered here—the budget set aside at that time was about \$50,000. The opportunity to contract with Chevy Chase Village Police is no longer available for VMA.

The second service enhancement program that is being considered for inclusion in the FY 2015 Budget is snow shoveling support. A clearly defined program is not yet fully flushed out but possible options are going to be explored by Manager Sperling. Snow removal contractor Peyton was asked to consider the kind of equipment that might be needed for such a program. The desire to consider and explore the Village's options in this area was driven by what appeared to be an increased number of unshoveled sidewalks in the town. \$10,000 was added to the budget as a placeholder until more research can be completed.

A budget work session will be scheduled shortly for the Council to discuss the budget and services and prepare a final plan for presentation to the community at the April meeting. It will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in May.

#### **UPDATE ON WELCOME COMMITTEE: Cissna**

Council member Cissna reported that five residents who attended the Community Event at LaFerme have volunteered to assist in reactivating and energizing the Village Welcome Committee. The new volunteers are Chris Fleming (Columbia Street), Judy Starrels (Shepherd Street), Bert Leibman (Thornapple), Bill Lebovich (Summit), and Lisa Single (Columbia Street). Items for the welcome bags will be reviewed and other items considered for inclusion at a meeting of the committee. Cissna will arrange with the assistance of the Village Office.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING: AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO: 2-14-1: Attorney Bolt to Amend Section 5-103 of the Code of ordinances to exempt the Village from Application of certain Montgomery County Laws Pertaining to Canopy Trees**

This above referenced ordinance was introduced February 20, 2014 and is being considered for emergency adoption at the evening's meeting upon taking resident comments. Because of time limitations the Council is considering this on an emergency basis.

No public comments were made. A copy of the ordinance and resolution was published in the February 19, 2014 issue of the Village News. **Motion to Adopt 2-14-1:** Fleming; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lebovich; Vote: All in favor

#### **AN ORDINANCE NO: 2-14-1A: to Amend Section 5-103 of the Code of ordinances to exempt the Village from Application of certain Montgomery County Laws Pertaining to Canopy Trees**

This ordinance was introduced on February 20, 2014 Council meeting and be considered at the April 17, 2014 meeting. In the meantime, the Village has exempted itself from the County Law with the adoption of the emergency legislation.

#### **BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: SPERLING**

*New Permit Requests/Information requests/Acknowledgement*

- 3514 Bradley- Intended tear down
- 7309 Delfield- Demolition permit request coming.
- 3219 Thornapple Street-Addition/porch. Variance will be needed for porch.

- 3404 Thornapple Street- Front Porch, front yard landscaping-may be problematic.
- 3406 Raymond St- Interior work now; addition to follow.
- 3505 Raymond St- Addition. Possible variance.
- 3511 Raymond Street-Renovations. Survey needed.
- 3529 Raymond St- Fence; decorative wall; landscaping. License to use ROW.
- 3514 Turner Ln.-Fence Permit.

*Permitting Process Underway:*

- 7210 Delfield St – Awaiting bond and County Permits; Pre-Con meeting set for Tuesday, March 25; all other requirements met.
- 3411 Thornapple St – Review completed. Rear addition. Awaiting application, fees, county permit.

*Permits Ready/ Issued:*

- 3510 Bradley Ln –Montgomery County Permit Received; VMA Demo and Build permits issued
- 7203 Summit Ave – Drawings reviewed and okayed. Bond still needed. Permit ready to go.
- 7400 Summit Ave – MC Fence Permit issued. VMA Permit issued.
- 3511 Turner Ln –All Montgomery County Permits received. VMA Permits ready to be issued.

**Construction Underway:**

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Other Municipal Support: General Management:

- General building support: Ongoing supervision and progress reporting on construction projects. Records of co with VMA requirements. (tree protection). Prepare and post pre-construction meeting notice• Attend Pre-Cor
- Monitoring of MC DPS Reports.
- Routine Support: Checking on parking restrictions and violations; additional parking sign management (tree re Move in / out parking control. • Storage unit/equipment management • Monthly nighttime check and reporting to street light outages. • Monitoring street conditions and patches. Post storm street condition update. Monitor Util Attend utility meetings. Maintain Village property (e.g. Repair mirror.) Assist w/Community Forum Set up. Re properties on market. Report of service problem (e.g. recycling).

**FINANCIAL MATTERS: FLEMING**

**Report for the Month of February 2014: Summary**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Annual</u>
		<u>Cumulative</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Revenues	\$122,942	\$654,252	\$540,052	\$740,600
Expenses	\$22,289	\$270,818	\$468,692	\$636,500
Net Income	\$100,652	\$374,434	\$ 71,360	\$140,100

Snow removal expenses as of 2/14 have not been received.

Fleming commented on a conversation at the Village Community Forum on March 15 about growing surp budget was noted. There are several significant facts to understand in any reserve funds that exist. First a lar our income tax revenues results from taxes paid by a very small number of tax payers whose income are very and unpredictable. Second our real property tax is paid by all residents, primarily on the value of the land and l value of the structure sitting on the land. The real property revenues currently are about 22% of the total reve \$142,000 annually. This too fluctuates due to house construction, tear downs and the like. The Village faces su expenses in the area of street, sidewalk and curb repairs and replacement of the very antiquated street lights. ) also look to the future including possible acquisition of new park and recreation land. The Council may also wis consider additional or new services for our residents.

**Action on Financial Reports**

Motion to approve March Financial Reports: Lebovich; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bowers; Vote: all in favor

## **Action on Minutes of January 16, 2014 and February 20, 2014**

Motion to approve January and February Minutes: Lebovich; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bowers; Vote: All in favor.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT: SPERLING**

#### ***Sanitation Services/Street Cleaning***

- Garbage Collection/recycling: Challenges continue with snow and utility work.

#### ***Winter Services***

- Snow removal and Brookville Road sidewalk shoveling was excellently executed. Seems we have it down.
- Raymond Street hill parking had some problems-children sledding on street and competing with plow.
- Winter continues...

#### ***Utility Services:***

##### ***WSSC***

- No progress on the project-start date for Pinehurst Circle waterline. Project leaders very frustrated. This water and sewer.

##### ***Washington Gas:***

- Quincy and Oxford Streets continue. Weather delays; waterline break a challenge. Lateral house connections begin soon.
- Delfield Street needs better repair of patch. Suggests bigger problems.
- No further information yet on other gas line projects that may impact our street repair projects throughout the city.
- Still working on re-imbursement payment with WGL-Wayne and Joe Cutro did a street condition evaluation.

##### ***Pepco:***

- No reported outages despite several opportunities that were presented by Mother Nature!
- New poles/lines installed on Quincy - major conflict with Washington Gas. Major complications for residents.

- WGL nice enough to fill a pothole for us on Cummings.
- WSSC pothole received a permanent patch on Thornapple
- Delfield awaiting permanent patch from WGL.
- Resident on Cummings insists that we have singled them out for removal of yellow curb markings-Not the weather preventing further removals. Consider new apron as a solution.

#### ***Street light update:***

- 8 lights (cobra heads) have been installed in CCVillage. No further installations yet. Not measured yet due to weather conditions.

#### ***Community Events and Wellbeing***

- Discussion with "A Wider Circle" with our heavy trash pick-up very positive.
- Considering partnering with WAFF (Washington Area Fuel Fund) -treat it like Manna.

#### ***Administrative Matters***

- Attended at class at UMD T2 Center on Asphalt Resurfacing with Wayne.
- Budget Development underway—schedule a work session
- Community Forum 3/15/14 a success.
- Directory updates continue.
- Building issues have been many this month, between unpermitted work and non-conforming plans.
- Website Update: Website update still under development.
- Survey Update: The work continues and is expected to be completed by April 1,2014
- To be done: Toters; State Highway Meeting re: Taylor and Brookville;

**ADJOURNMENT 8:50 PM**

