

Village of Martin's Additions
Council Meeting
7013 B Brookville Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Minutes of ANNUAL MEETING May 15, 2014

Council Members Present: Arthur Alexander; Tiffany Cissna; Jon Fleming; Bill Lebovich; Josh Bowers.
Village Manager: Jean Sperling; **Village Attorney:** Ron Bolt.

Residents in Attendance: Bill Catherwood, Elaine Alexander, Bill Gilbert, Mike Zielinski, Ben Dunford, Keith Allen, Bernice Duvall.

7:30 PM CALL TO ORDER; WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: ALEXANDER

VILLAGE BUSINESS:

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING:

Motion to Approve: Councilmember Fleming moved to approve the minutes of the April Meeting.

2nd Councilmember Bowers; Vote: All in favor.

TREASURER'S APRIL REPORT: Councilmember Fleming; Action:

July 2013-April 14, 2014

	Current	Actual Cumulative	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Revenues	\$2,548.19	\$655,644.32	\$640,326	\$740,600
Expenses	58,859.82	391,631.87	539,096	636,500
Prior Surplus	0	0	1,573,923	1,572,923
<u>Designated Funds:</u>				
Street/Sidewalk Replacement:			400,000	400,000
Street lighting Replacement:			500,000	500,000
Undesignated Balance:			778,023	778,023
Total:	-56,311.63	264,012.45	2,217,119	2,314,523

Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report & Financial Reports: Councilmember Alexander; 2nd: Bowers; Vote: All in favor.

FY 2014 YEAR-END WRAP-UP: Village Services:

OPERATIONS REVIEW: SPERLING

Many challenges this year: # 1--We survived the winter! Our contractor Mark Peyton did an awesome job—consistently we were the best plowed town.

INFRASTRUCTURE WORK

- WSSC: all but about four streets have new water lines. Last upgrades at south end are dependent on easement agreements with homes that back up onto Martin's Additions. Depending on what they find, we may be in line for sewer line replacements.
- WASHINGTON GAS: Four streets repaired - having difficulty pinning them down for other streets that are going to get new lines. We are adding the Washington Area Fuel Fund (WAFF), operated through the Salvation Army, and Washington Gas to our collection of support groups for those who are needy.
- PEPCO: excellent services-no outages. No issues. Tree management has become routine.

TREE CARE:

- Town is almost fully planted up in the ROW. Almost 20 new trees planted this past fall. A few replacements trees will be planted in the fall of 2014. We are planting some interesting new varieties. We'll do a walk-through with our tree supervisor, arborist and then have a review of any special conditions that need the consultation of Barb Neal of Green Legacy Tree Consultants and a review with Sabooh Hakim, the state Forester. Trees have been pruned throughout the winter - canopy has been lifted around the street lights and service lines to the houses. Trees have been fed as needed.

ROAD REPAIRS

- On hold, awaiting agreements with reimbursements from both WSSC and Washington Gas for road repairs. Goal is to try to avoid repaving the streets only to have them torn up again. Sometimes pot holes and cracks and patches serve as traffic deterrents and speed bumps, but we don't support that as a general traffic policy, so improvements will be made as soon as practical.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

- Traffic volume and speed to the untrained eye is certainly a concern and one that seems to be getting worse. The other day when we were planting the Butterfly Garden our volunteer team was aghast at the volume of traffic coming through Cummings Lane. Likewise, on Shepherd Street, Summit Avenue, Thornapple Street and Turner Lane. It may well be time to have traffic counts conducted again.

STREET LIGHT UPGRADES

- The Village continues to assess improvements in street lighting, trying to make a determination of which form of lighting is the best choice. Fortunately other municipalities have set up sample lights for us to look at – one in Section Three and a variety in Chevy Chase Village. We will likely publish a list of locations and light types and begin to solicit public opinion.

TRASH COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

- There have been some challenges this year, with changes in some of the higher level management at Waste Management. A meeting has been scheduled with the WM management tomorrow to review some of the problems we have been experiencing. Generally the service has been good.
- We are going to order some additional recycling bins - I hope everyone saw the 64 Gallon bins on the sidewalk.
- BULK TRASH- we are going to add a connection to *A Wider Circle* prior to our heavy trash pick-ups or perhaps at a separate time to see if we can collect good furniture, etc., that could be recycled rather than thrown out.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- *New Directory* is ready to go to the printer—hope everyone looked at it to make sure their names and numbers are correct!
- *Website improvements* have lagged a bit but we hope to get to that soon.
- *New computers* are soon to be installed in the office along with an updates town survey.
- *Biggest operational challenge* now and in the immediate future is managing the explosion of building projects and oversight.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' REMARKS:

CONSTRUCTION & INFRASTRUCTURE: LBOVICH

Councilmember Lebovich reported that he oversees the construction sites in the Village, visiting the sites generally two times a week; and also attends the pre-construction meetings. He noted that there are virtually no cases where the houses are not being built to the limits of the Village's building regulations. He noted that styles have changed considerably since the 1980's.

FINANCIAL REPORT: FLEMING

Councilmember Fleming remarked that the Village's financial position is good, and that the amount of our revenues are affected by a very small group of residents and that the income generated by these residents cannot be managed through any tax rates that the Village has control over; it is also very unpredictable and unstable. The Village invests our reserves wisely and conservatively.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES: CISSNA

Council member Cissna reported on the volunteers efforts that support Village activities; that includes two official (appointed) committees- The Election and Ethics Committee and the recently appointed Tree Committee. There are also two "unofficial committees"--the Welcome Committee and the "Dirt" or Gardening Committee. The Welcome Committee is being reinigorated with the design and purchase of new canvas bags with the VMA logo on them.

VILLAGE TREE CANOPY: BOWERS and ALEXANDER

The issues that underlay the protection and maintenance of the Village's tree canopy are under many influences, but PEPCO's line clearance and construction are likely the two largest contributors to the loss of tree canopy. The mission of the recently appointed Tree Committee is to study the issues related to changes in the Village's tree canopy--particularly the trees on private property. Bowers noted that the meeting must meet the requirements of the State's Open Meeting Act and they are therefore open to all residents.

FY 2015 BUDGET AND TAX RATE PUBLIC HEARING: ALEXANDER

Programmatic changes included in the FY 2015 Budget are few; one exception is the inclusion of monies to support the reintroduction of police services.

Police Services: Councilmember Alexander noted that the major change to the Village budget designed for FY 2015 is the creation of a program to provide police services in the Village of Martin's Additions. The improvements in our financial position allow for the consideration of policing services. Councilmember Fleming who has championed this project explained that the model that is contemplated is one that the Town of Chevy Chase View developed and shared with Martin's Additions officials--it is intended to establish a police presence and deter opportunistic crime. Councilmember Lebovich notes that this program will be costing us less than the previous arrangements we had with the Chevy Chase Village Police.

A discussion followed regarding whether there is any reliable evidence that supports the effectiveness of this Community Action Model. Fleming remarked that the intent of this program is to provide a police *presence*. Alexander added that a sense of community "comfort" is an important intent of this program. Councilmember Lebovich noted that every other jurisdiction around us provides similar police services. Councilmember Alexander wrapped up the project outlook for coming fiscal year with remarks about waterline work; street lights, and road repairs.

ACTION ON TAX RATES (RESOLUTION 4-14-1)

All locally controlled tax rates are unchanged for the coming budget year. The Council chose not to adopt the constant yield tax rate, meaning that this year's rate will remain unchanged despite any changes in property values and homestead deductions.

Motion to Adopt the tax rates for FY 2015: Fleming; 2nd Lebovich; Vote: all in favor

ACTION ON BUDGET ORDINANCE (4-14-2)

Motion to Adopt the FY 2015 budget presented: Bowers: 2nd: Fleming, Vote: All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS: Frank Correl

Chairman of the Election and Ethics Committee Frank Correl presented the following voting information: There were 174 ballots cast, 18 of which were absentee. The votes were distributed as follows: Arthur Alexander:116, Tiffany Cissna: 95 and Ben Dunford: 94

ADJOURNMENT

There were no further comments. The meeting was adjourned.