

**Village of Martin's Additions  
Council Meeting  
7013 B Brookville Road,  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
Minutes May, 14, 2015**

**Council Members Present:** Arthur Alexander, Bill Lebovich, Tiffany Cissna, Josh Bowers, Jon Fleming

**Attorney:** Ron Bolt; **Manager:** Jean Sperling

**Residents:** Tom VanVechten, Anita Samarth, Steve Schmal, Deb Schmal, Katie R. Howard, Margery Thompson, Gordon Thompson, John MacDonald, Bill Catherwood.

**7:30 PM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Chairman Alexander**

Alexander noted the 3<sup>rd</sup> prototype light currently sitting in an office chair. Our lighting Engineer Scott Watson had the manufacturer, Holophane, redesign the light again. The goal is to mimic the LED's illumination of the induction lights that the Council favored in earlier studies. Alexander noted that this endeavor is an example of an area where technical knowledge is required beyond what is held by average citizens, and how we use experts to help. The outside experts include lighting, traffic engineering, accounting, etc. The light to be installed on Bradley Lane to so it can be compared with another light fixture already there that is of a higher wattage.

**VILLAGE BUSINESS:**

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING:**

**Discussion:** Councilmember Bowers mentioned that he had changes to the minutes from the March meeting that he sent to Alexander. The suggested changes have not yet been distributed to Council members or the office for review. **No Action could be taken.**

**MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING**

**Discussion:** A grammatical error was noted and corrected.

**Motion to Adopt with Changes:** Bowers; 2<sup>nd</sup> Alexander; **Vote:** All in favor, with Cissna abstaining due to her absence from the April meeting.

**TREASURER'S APRIL REPORT: Councilmember Fleming**

**Discussion:** Finances are on target, running a surplus. Expenditures are within budget limits. Next budget will have \$2M set aside for sidewalk repair and replacement. This is in addition to designated capital budget.

**Financial Report for April 2015**

	Actual	Budget	July — April	Budget-to-Date	Annual Budget
<b>Revenues</b>	\$1,126.94	53,916.00	738,987.79	729,760.00	839,700.00
<b>Expense</b>	41,028.00	49,309.00	420,975.88	578,338.00	685,500.00
<b>Prior Years Surplus</b>				1,910,049.00	1,910,049
<b>Total Income (39,901.06)</b>		4,607.00	318,011.91		
<b>Designated Street/sidewalk</b>				500,000.00	500,000.00
<b>Designated Street Lighting</b>				500,000.00	500,000.00
<b>Undesignated Fund</b>				1,064,249.00	1,064,249.00
				2,642,587.00	2,749,749.00

**Motion to Approve all financial reports:** Bowers; 2<sup>nd</sup> Alexander; **Vote:** All in favor

**FY 2015 YEAR-END WRAP-UP:**

**OPERATIONS REVIEW: SPERLING**

**Many challenges this year:** Competition for the number one challenge this year was between the **winter snow and ice** in the face of the loss of our contractor, **continuing infrastructure upgrades** of our utilities, and **construction projects** that involved tear down and replacement of many homes.

**Status of Infrastructure Upgrades:**

- **Water lines** have been upgraded on all but 4 streets. The remaining streets are Bradley, Quincy, Raymond and Melville. WSSC has given up on negotiating easements with homes that back up onto Martin's Additions. Last

upgrades at south end will proceed separately from earlier plans. New sewer lines had been scheduled for those streets but that part of the project is still up in the air.

- **WASHINGTON GAS:** Five streets have had gas lines replaced. We are having difficulty pinning them down for other streets that are going to get new lines but they have our interests registered.
- **PEPCO:** Upgrades over the past few years have resulted in almost impeccable service. 9 dual poles recently removed. Dead-end Delfield still needs new poles.

### Specialized Tasks

- Street sign and potential sidewalk tripping hazards are being evaluated for repair.
- Construction projects management, especially in recent years where many homes have been torn down and replaced,--24 active project in 2015, 33 in 2014 and 34 in 2013. Over the past two years we have witnessed numerous tear downs and replacements on every street.
- Work with utilities, Goodwill, coordination and assistance has paid off -Washington Gas, WSSC and Pepco turn to our office frequently for assistance with local issues much broader than just Martin's Additions.
- Maintaining and Advancing technology, requires much more frequent attention than it used to.
  - ✓ we upgraded our website
  - ✓ upgraded all computers and programs
  - ✓ improved recording and amplification
  - ✓ introduced audio recordings to our website
  - ✓ upgraded the Village survey
- Working with State Highway Administration (Brookville Road and Taylor Street intersection) and other state and county offices.

### New Services/Programs:

- **Community Policing Program** stands out as a new and terrific service initiative.
- Use of a **new contractor for snow removal** with excellent results (emergency basis).
- Continuing effort to build an acceptable **LED street light** to replace the existing stock.
- The introduction of **Constant Contact as a communication tool**. Considering of the introduction of Facebook and Twitter.
- Our **Butterfly garden** was a "first" and a great opportunity for many diverse members of the community to work together to build this lovely addition to our neighborhood.
- Our "**Dirt Committee**", as they affectionately refer to themselves, has become a force for beautification around our Market Area--a most important focal point of our community, and for maintaining the Butterfly Garden.

### Community Support Activities

- Several of the activities that the Village supports have built a stronger and more cohesive community.
  - ✓ The Manna Food donations that have been made in the name of Martin's Additions are known county wide. Other municipalities have modeled themselves after our efforts, but we proudly lead the way. Although this is a resident-sponsored effort we actively support it and promote it for the good of the community.
  - ✓ We have partnered with Montgomery County Community Services Center to grant service hours to County students and offer volunteer opportunities to our residents.
  - ✓ Our Holiday Fund and Toy Drives have been wonderfully received and are a testimony to the importance our residents place on being provided a convenient opportunity to reach out to others.
  - ✓ Our newly created link with A Wider Circle with our heavy trash collection has routed tons of useful household items out of our heavy trash stream to be provided instead for needy families; other towns are modeling our efforts.
  - ✓ The VMA Lending Library
- We also support other community organizations, through our newsletter, postings on the listserv and website for
  - ✓ Chevy Chase @ Home
  - ✓ Live and Learn Bethesda

- ✓ Chevy Chase Library
- ✓ Chevy Chase Historical Society
- Community Events such as Halloween party, Celebration of our Incorporation, etc.
- We have also secured our position as members of the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that requires monthly training in order to maintain our status.
  - ✓ This is an important confirmation of our status as a full blown member of the County despite our size and it is a particularly important service for Martin's Additions. It allows Sperling to bring the strength and weight of County and state-wide resources to our community in an emergency.
  - ✓ Martin's Additions and Chevy Chase Village are the only local municipalities that participate in the EOC.

**Routine, Daily Tasks Of Operations:**

- Supervision and Management of Garbage, recycling and yard waste collection. We must rebid our trash contract since the current contract expires June 30, 2015.
- Trees--planting and pruning --mostly pruning and care since there if little room for new trees.
- Streets and sidewalk repairs are minor in nature as we await completion of infrastructure improvements .
- Street lights maintenance is ongoing--steady flow of increases in outages.
- Communications with the world: There are almost 32,000 emails in my un-archived inbox. Thousands more populate the archives and the daily additions run close to 75 a day. An estimated 90% must be reviewed and at least 75% require a response and long term follow up, many adding a complex task to the existing list. E-mail has changed the world but not necessarily always for the good.

**CONSTRUCTION & INFRASTRUCTURE: LEBOVICH**

Change in Housing Design. Council member Lebovich noted an interesting change in the pattern of recent construction that is resulting in respectful design that mimics the original structure. He also made reference to the amount of new home construction that was mentioned in the Manager's report.

Water Problems in the Village. VMA is seeing more water problems resulting from poor design of the storm water system and construction. Alleviation of the problems will require collaboration among VMA, Chevy Chase Village, and Montgomery County/State. Councilmember Alexander mentioned the deal Manager Sperling was able to broker in the past with the County to add additional access to the storm drains.

**FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: FLEMING**

Council member Fleming made reference to the earlier report he had presented on the financial condition of the Village. There is nothing further to add.

**VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES: CISSNA**

Volunteers contribute significantly to the Village. Deepest thanks go out to the Elections and Ethics Committee, including Frank Correl, Ted Stoddard, Steve Trowern; the Tree Committee including Paula Goldberg, Cris Fleming, Mike Zielinski, Ed Novak, Arthur Alexander, Josh Bowers; the Welcome Committee, including Judy Starrels, Lisa Single, Bert Liebman, Bill Lebovich, Tiffany Cissna; the “Dirt” Committee, including Bernice Duvall and Mike Zielinski; the Manna volunteers Dick and Linda Kirschten; Community Service Directory Alma Eisele; Tree Supervisor Dan Gardener; Fire Board representatives Paul Weller and Natalie Welle.

**VILLAGE TREE CANOPY: BOWERS**

Council Member Bowers reported that Village Tree Committee was created a year ago to examine the public and private trees in the village. The group has met with subject matter experts, tree committees from other towns, Village Managers elsewhere. A report is due out soon. With new construction expanding, the Tree Committee hopes to have plans in place.

**FY 2016 BUDGET AND TAX RATE PUBLIC HEARING: ALEXANDER**

FY2016 Budget moves forward without significant changes. Budgeted amount for Community Policing actually lower than our FY2015 “guesstimate” since we know more about costs. Money has been designated for sidewalk repair and replacement.

### **ACTION ON TAX RATES (RESOLUTION 4-15-1)**

The only change for FY 16 Tax rates is that the rates same for Residential and Commercial properties. Rates for homeowners are unchanged. The resolution is summarized below:

Resolution No.: 4-15-1 Introduced: April 13, 2015 Adopted: May 14, 2015 Effective Date: June 3, 2015

**SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LEVYING A TAX ON CERTAIN REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 6-203 OF THE TAX-PROPERTY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AS AMENDED**

NOW, THEREFORE, be it:

RESOLVED: That the Village Council of the Village of Martin's Additions, pursuant to the authority granted by the Village Charter and Section 6-203 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, hereby levies a tax at the rate of four and seventy-two hundredths of a cent (\$.0472) per One Hundred Dollars of assessable value (fair market value) on real property subject to taxation by the Village; fifty cents (\$.50) per One Hundred Dollars of assessed value of assessable personal property subject to taxation by the Village; and one dollar and forty-five cents (\$1.45) per One Hundred Dollars of assessed value of assessable utility property subject to taxation by the Village; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the tax levied hereby be certified to the County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, and that Montgomery County, Maryland be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to collect and pay over said tax to the Village of Martin's Additions; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Director of Finance for Montgomery County, Maryland be advised of this resolution.

**Action on the Tax Rate resolution:** Motion to adopt: Fleming; 2nd Lebovich; Vote: All in favor

### **ACTION ON FY 2016 BUDGET ORDINANCE (4-15-2)**

Ordinance No.: 4-15-2 Introduced: April 13, 2015 Adopted: May 14, 2015 Effective Date: June 3, 2015

**SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016.**

WHEREAS, Local Government Article, Section 5-202 of the Maryland Code grants to the legislative body of every incorporated municipality in Maryland, including the Village of Martin's Additions, general power to pass such ordinances not contrary to the Constitution of Maryland, or public general law, as they may deem necessary in order to assure the good government of the municipality, to protect and preserve the municipality's rights, property, and privileges, to preserve peace and good order, to secure persons and property from danger and destruction, and to protect the health, comfort and convenience of the citizens of the municipality;

WHEREAS, Maryland Code, Local Government Article, Section 5-205, as amended, authorizes the legislative body of each municipal corporation in the State of Maryland to spend money for any public purpose and to affect the safety, health, and general welfare of the municipality and its occupants;

WHEREAS, Section 501 of the Charter of the Village of Martin's Additions authorizes the Village Council to pass such ordinances as it may deem necessary for the preservation of the property, rights, and privileges of the Village and its residents;

WHEREAS, the Village Council introduced the following Ordinance in public session assembled on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015;

WHEREAS, the Village Council, after proper notice to the public, considered the following Ordinance at a public hearing held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015;

WHEREAS, prior to adopting this Ordinance, the Village Council held a public meeting on May 14, 2015 to adopt tax rates for the forthcoming fiscal year and, by the attached Resolution, adopted the tax rates for the forthcoming fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council finds that the foregoing Ordinance would assure the good government of the municipality, protect and preserve the municipality's rights, property, and privileges, preserve peace and good order, secure persons and property from danger and destruction, and protect the health, comfort and convenience of the citizens of the Village of Martin's Additions, and is necessary for the preservation of the property, rights, and privileges of the Village and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Village Council does hereby adopt the foregoing Ordinance

**Motion to Adopt Ordinance 4-15-2:** Alexander; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Fleming; **Vote:** All in favor.

### **RESIDENTS COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

*Steve Schmal (Summit Ave)* – Village infrastructure is good. Concerned street lighting will take too long. Councilmember Alexander stated the rates for the LED streetlights will be lower and maintenance costs lower. Schmal urged Council to postpone street paving only if we have good information, if can't predict when utilities will disrupt plans, should proceed. Pothole repairs look good. Budget figures are confusing, should be

clarified. Concerned interest rates from bank are too low. Manager Sperling mentioned ongoing discussions with Washington Gas.

*Tom Van Vechten (Turner Ln)* – Requested pothole repairs more extensive, filling in cracks. Would be nice to have brick sidewalks, although require more maintenance. Questioned how gas lines were replaced and whether streets needed to be dug up to fix one connection.

**8:45 MOTION TO ADJOURN: Alexander; 2nd Bowers; Vote: All in Favor.**

**•Later Announcement of Election Results**

After the completion of the vote counting the Election Committee returned to the office to announce the following:

The following is the Official Report of the Elections and Ethics Committee regarding the results of the election held on May 14, 2015:

Grand Total of Votes Cast	404
Ballots Rejected under Current Rules	11
Total Ballots Counted	393
Cast at Polls	265
Absentee Ballots	128

Results:

Richard Krajeck	255
Katya Hill	246
Bill Lebovich	143
Mark Weiner	131
Jon Fleming	123
Katie Filipezyk Howard	111
Write-Ins	3

Accordingly, the three new Council members assuming office on July 1, 2015, are Mr. Richard Krajeck, Ms. Katya Hill, and Mr. Bill Lebovich.

Submitted this 15th day of May, 2015:

Ted Stoddard, Chairman

Frank Correl, Member

Steve Trowern, Member