

**Village of Martin's Additions
Council Meeting
7013 B Brookville Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Minutes
February 18, 2010**

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Council Members: Richard Krajeck, Noell Sottile, Mike Zielinski, Chris Mueller, and Larry Wasson. Village Manager: Jean Sperling; Attorney: Ron Bolt; Building Permit Administrator: Alan Beal
Residents: Keith Allen, Frank and Hanne Correl, Sharon Hadary Coyle, Ted Stoddard, Bill Catherwood

7:30PM CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Krajeck

Action on Minutes of January 21, 2010 Meeting

Chairman Krajeck asked for comments on the minutes. Councilmember Sottile noted a few typographical errors. Councilmember Wasson expressed the opinion that additional remarks should be added to the minutes. The Council discussed the content of the minutes and expressed the opinion that the minutes can not be exhaustive. Wasson provided notes taken from his own recording of the meeting and moved that the minutes be amended with the changes he was proposing. Councilmember Sottile seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Police Report: Sgt Dasilva, Chevy Chase Village Police

There were no criminal incidents handled by the Village police in Martin's Additions during the month. There were also no reports from the County. There were 3 calls in Section 3, several robberies in the Town of Chevy Chase.

Resident Hanne Correl reported that there had been fireworks at Taylor and Brookville. The Sgt. had no record of any such incident. Wasson remarked that he had witnessed cars full of men after the snow storm cruising the neighborhood. He suggested that taking photos of such situations helps disperse the people.

Elections and Ethics Committee Update

Elections Committee Chairman Frank Correl explained that an election package has been prepared and mailed to all residents of Martin's Additions. A Village Saturday Round Table is planned for March 6th. The session will be moderated by Committee member Sharon Coyle and will be an informal give and take. This will be the first of two sessions—the next one will be the Candidates' Forum on April 24th. Mr. Correl suggested another mailing at the end of February to remind people of the Roundtable. Manager Sperling said she had already planned to do so and would handle it.

Residents' Comments and Contributions

Frank Correl (Turner Lane): Expressed the opinion that many of the sidewalks in Martin's Additions were not shoveled and that quite a few residents did not do a very good job. He urged the Council to enforce the ordinances related to clearing sidewalks. He complemented Martin's Additions for clearing the snow from fire hydrants.

Hanne Correl (Turner Lane): Complimented Martin's additions for having Brookville Road sidewalks cleared.

Sharon Hadary Coyle (Summit): Reported how favorable the comments had been about the storm management. She hoped the residents and Council recognized how well the Village came through the storm.

Residents congratulated the Village Manager for a good job with a round of applause. Chairman Krajeck thanked resident and Verizon Weatherman Keith Allen for all his help with the storm and especially for coming to the office to take calls.

Financial Matters

- **Report for the Month of January 2010, presented at the February meeting: Chris Mueller, Treasurer**

Income for the month of January was \$12,823. Of that, approximately \$4,000 was from personal property tax and \$8,600 from real property tax and about \$163 in interest income.

Expenses for the month totaled \$67,162 generally reflecting typical expenses for the month of January, except for snow removal. The December 19 snowstorm consumed about 72% of our \$40,000 snow removal budget. We can estimate total snow removal fees to exceed \$70,000 to date. Expenses were \$54,340 more than income in the month of January. For the fiscal year, July through January, expenses are almost \$197,000 more than income. This imbalance is somewhat anticipated.

A recent discussion with the State of Maryland reveals that the Village is likely to receive approximately \$300,000 in income tax revenue, down from projected revenues of \$450,000. This reduction, in combination with a \$27,000 reduction in highway user fees and significantly reduced interest income, results in a projected revenue shortfall of \$185,000 for the current fiscal year.

While we anticipate an increase in income tax revenue during the remaining five months of the fiscal year, the Council needs to address an anticipated budget shortfall of at least \$185,000.

Motion to accept Financial Report: Zielinski; 2nd Sottile; Vote: All in favor.

- **Budget Development Planning Session.**

It was agreed that the financial picture needs to be addressed as a whole, rather than its part and that individual budget items should be addressed in a work session. Richard explained that typically the Manager, Treasurer and Chairman meet to examine and discuss current financial data and adjust the current year's budget base. This adjusted base then serves as the take off point for developing the budget for the coming fiscal year

Several suggested areas for further study included capital investments, our shoveling program and leaf bag distribution. Wasson suggested that local kids could be used to offer the shoveling service. A full work session will be planned as soon as the initial meeting with the accountant is completed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

January/February Storms: Storm preparation announcements were provided in the newsletter and List Serv. The List Serv was a vital tool for continual updates with alerts we received from Montgomery County, Pepco and the State. Keith Allen and the Verizon weather service were a big help and we even set up a call-in line for residents to talk to Keith in the Office. The Website helped with notice about trash and recycling service changes. Action included:

Street Clearance: Proceeded according to plan—streets open at all times for emergency access. Streets continued to be cleared over time and widened as conditions and equipment allowed. Skid loaders were brought in to widen streets. The streets without parked cars were the easiest to clear.

Sidewalk and Path Clearance: Seemed slower than some residents would have liked. The volume of the snow slowed the progress the shovelers could make. By Friday most of the paths had been cleared.

Brookville Road sidewalks were cleared with skid loaders and the snow was hauled to Turner Lane cul-de-sac to speed up the process. It was gruelingly slow because of the traffic on Brookville Road and the process itself of having to scoop, load, truck, and unload.

Fire Hydrants: Cleared with hand-shoveling by Verges.

Storm Drains: Opened up in anticipation of thawing.

Sand Cans were kept full. They are being heavily used

Trash and recycling services: Cancelled for a week and resumption difficult because of the volume of trash. Recycling was a bit spotty. It is difficult to schedule additional service because Waste Management only runs the recycling trucks on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Post-storm tree evaluation: Paul Wolfe has been through the community to evaluate all the trees and has found some minor damage, mostly in evergreens. Once the snow has cleared we will clear the trees up and offer chipper services to residents for debris that is in their yards. Paul also identified trees that need to be tended by PEPCO.

Power Outage a significant complications: Power outages were the biggest safety concern in the Village and the biggest time consumer. The Village called into the PEPCO Conference calls to stay on top of the situation. A buddy system or block captain of some sort would have helped with the calls about PEPCO.

Storm-related water problems: Quincy Street's water problem was not as severe as in the past storms. It appeared that the water created a channel underneath the snow piles and made its way to the storm drains. The area was tended to everyday by Verges adding almost another \$700 for specialized services for Quincy/Oxford so far. No serious icing issues were reported elsewhere.

Street and/or Utility Issues:

-The street has been repaired at the WSSC Water line break on Taylor Street that was reported at last meeting.

-WSSC Water line break Tuesday 2/16 at 3410 Taylor Street.

-WSSC Water line replacement originally planned for Oxford Street will be delayed for a year because a portion of the water line changes are along Western Avenue and DC is requiring WSSC to go through the entire permitting process in DC which is expected to take a year.

Quincy Street Water Problem.

- A detailed list of interactions with various experts was attached to County brochure about Sump-Pump discharges in the Public Right-of-Way and an illustration is included in the Council files.

The most significant finding is that Montgomery County is responsible for the storm drains. Sump pumps discharging to the street can be connected to a County installed ancillary drain pipe and connection boxes placed on private property. County has said they can solve the problem before next winter. Mr. Wasson asked that the County sump pump pamphlet be placed on the website.

Oxford Street Water problem.

The County engineer said that the County might be able to run an ancillary storm drain connection to the storm sewer but a large private investment will be needed to direct the water from the private dry well at 207 Oxford Street to the street before the County will do the work.

BUILDING PERMIT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Alan Beal

There were two building related items this past month

- The Village issued a building permit for a dumpster on Bradley (Butler).
- Mr. Beal consulted with the Barnaby and Sarah Crahan's on possible variance requirements for their property that would be needed for the construction of an addition.

OLD BUSINESS:

Storm Water Committee development

Chairman Krajeck described a meeting with Councilmember Zielinski, Alan Beal, LUTF member Bill Lebovich, Manager Sperling and Chris Jakubiak to discuss and develop a plan to move forward on the creation of a stormwater Task Force. He explained that the Village would probably like to have a better idea of what we want to do with the stormwater issue before a contract is signed with Jakubiak, & Associates. He further explained the importance of assembling a task force that is representative of the entire Village. It was suggested that the Village use any resources the County might be able to offer on the subject. Zielinski felt that there were at least two phases to this project. The first phase is to talk to experts to gain an understanding of the problem.

Street lighting work session

Zielinski and Wasson agreed to work with Jean to schedule a work session to further explore the issues related to new streetlights.

Street Maintenance Work session

Wasson stated that his concerns about street maintenance were answered in the Village Manager's report so there was no longer a need to set up a work session.

NEW BUSINESS:

Content and timing of minutes

Wasson had asked that the timing of the release of Council meeting minutes to the public be placed on the agenda. He felt it was important that the information presented in the minutes be available as soon as possible. A lengthy discussion followed that included the extensiveness of the minutes, how they were approved and made available. Sperling noted that as soon as they are approved at the Council meeting they are posted on the website and the bulletin board and then placed in the newsletter. Zielinski suggested that the Council be sensitive to the timing and notice of legislation and that we assure that sufficient time has been allowed for the community to receive important information about legislation before the Council votes to enact an Ordinance. It was pointed out that there are time requirements in our charter that the Council abides by with regard to introducing and adopting legislation. The Council agreed with the suggestions to be more sensitive to the time allowed for dissemination of information about public comment periods and voting.

Appointment of Assistant Secretary:

Wasson motioned that Councilmember Zielinski be elected to the position of Assistant Secretary in addition to being Deputy Vice-Chairman of the Council to be able to sign necessary documents in the absence of the Secretary. 2nd Mueller. Vote: All in favor.

Meeting Adjournment: Krajeck asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Muller; 2nd: Zielinski. All voted in favor.