

**VILLAGE OF MARTIN'S ADDITIONS
COUNCIL MEETING
7013 B Brookville Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Minutes of February 28, 2008 Meeting**

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Tim Price, Chairman; Richard Krajeck, Treasurer; Diane Everts, Secretary; Jean Sperling, Village Manager; Ron Bolt, Attorney; Alan Beal, Building Administrator.

Residents: Frank Correl, Hanne Correl

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chairman Tim Price

POLICE REPORT: Office Dasilva reported that there were no incidents in Martin's Additions during the month of February. There were nearby incidents: a robbery on Hillcrest Place in the Town of Chevy Chase; property stolen in the 3200 block of Cummings Lane and a rash of vehicle break-ins. Permanent speed cameras are expected to be fully operational on Connecticut Avenue near Newlands Street by mid-March. During the recent test phase, the Village has witnessed a drop in speeding and a dramatic drop in accidents—from 15 or 20 per month to about 1 per month.

ACTION ON MINUTES: The minutes of the January 17, 2008 meeting were approved with a motion from Richard Krajeck and a second by Diane Everts. All voted in favor.

RESIDENTS COMMENTS: There were no resident comments.

ELECTION COMMITTEE - Progress report presented by Frank Correl, Chair, Elections Committee. ***Nomination process officially opens Friday, February 29, 2008.*** The 2008 Election detail and nomination form were received by residents in advance of the actual opening of the nomination date of February 29, 2008. Two nominations were received (on one form) in advance of the official opening of the process, but the Committee has agreed to accept that early nomination.

State of the Election Roster is seriously antiquated. The committee intends to make every effort to update the records, using the directory as a basis for the update. They would like to computerize the data on a spread sheet. Frank formally asked that the Council agree to an investment of money to get this job done before the election on May 15th. The Council agreed that the Manager would take the lead on this matter.

Goal is to improve voter turn out and voter registration. The committee would like to improve the voter turn out and especially attract the new young voters—those just turning 18 years of age.

Richard Krajeck asked if the Election Committee foresaw a problem with regulation that allows both property owner and resident to vote in the election. Frank felt that it would be very unlikely that we would have a non-resident property owner choosing to vote.

The Council agreed with all the plans presented for the Election Committee.

FINANCIAL REPORT for the month of January: Presented by Treasurer Richard Krajeck.

Treasurer's Report: Income for the month of January was \$33,210. Of that, approximately \$3,100 was from Highway User fees, \$18,000 was income tax rebates, \$7,300 from property tax and \$4300 in interest.

Expenses for the month totaled approximately \$36,000 and were the usual anticipated monthly expenses. The exception was about \$10,000 in street and sidewalk maintenance for street cleaning, sign installation and removal.

Expenses were \$2,900 more than income. For the Fiscal year, July through January, expenses are about \$110,000 more than income. This was anticipated: the approved budget included a drawdown in reserves; and higher income levels are expected later in the Fiscal Year.

Tim Price remarked that the Council had agreed to allocate \$600,000 of Village Funds for an infrastructure maintenance fund and that the reports from the Dan Baden (Accountant) do not reflect that transfer. Richard agreed to clarify the matter with Mr. Baden. Richard moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report as presented. Tim seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Budget Development: Initiatives: The Council discussed the need to consider any new budget initiatives it would like to see in the FY 2009 Budget. Jean remarked that she would like to replace all the municipal trash cans in the Village and consider a couple of benches. Waste Management has presented materials about providing advanced recycling services. She reported that there has also been interest expressed by several residents in providing dog waste bag dispensers and possibly collection systems. The Council directed Jean to gather information about this topic and agreed to review the materials and discuss them further.

Constant Yield Tax Rate: Exemption: The Village received its Constant Yield Tax rate statement from the Department of Assessments and Taxation, State of Maryland which indicates that the Village is exempt from the provision of Section 6-308 of the Tax-Property Article. This allows the current property tax rate of \$.008 to be retained because the change in revenue from FY 2008 to 2009 will be less than \$25,000 as the law allows.

Budget Development Meeting: It was agreed that the Manager and Treasurer will meet with Dan Baden and develop preliminary budget numbers. The budget work session will be held on Thursday April 3, 2008 at 7:30 PM. The budget will be introduced at the April 17th regular Council meeting.

Development of a Capital Improvements and Maintenance Plan: The Council discussed the need to develop a long term maintenance plan for our capital assets. Richard and Jean agreed to work on securing the necessary information.

MANAGER REPORT

Tree Removal Approval. The State Forester has approved the removal of four trees in the Village—two on Thornapple, one on Shepherd and one on Cummings. The next step will be the review of the request by an independent arborist.

County Council Expenditure/Revenue Report. Jean attended the presentation by the staff of the Office of Legislative Oversight report on Municipal Expenditures and Revenues to the County Council. A follow-up public hearing will be held on Monday March 17th.

MML Meeting of 2/20/08. Jean, Richard and Tim met with other municipal officials of the Maryland Municipal League at a meeting with the County Executive to receive a presentation about the revenue gap in the County as well as executive initiatives related to Pedestrian Safety and the institution of a 311 system that would direct residents to County Services.

Speed Cameras for Brookville Road. Section 3 is considering speed cameras for Brookville Road and has asked Martin's Additions if we are interested in joining with them. The Council felt that additional information is needed before we are able to move forward on any decision on this matter.

Subpoena of records. The Village has received a subpoena for records related to the employment of Alice Schwartz. Jean is being assisted by the Village attorney in submitting the appropriate documents.

Water Problem Turner Lane. There is a long standing water problem on Turner Lane that the resident at 3407 has brought to the attention of the Manager. The situation has been reviewed by Joe Cutro and Alan Beal, and the storm drain at this location was cleaned out. Jean recommended that an engineer with a specialty in water management be engaged to review this problem. Bill Bissel has done work for the Town of Chevy Chase on such matters. The Council agreed that he should be contacted for a recommendation on how to proceed.

Storm Drain Repair at Market Lot Exit and Turner Lane. No progress has been made on the repair of the storm drain. Jean will deliver materials to Tim to help determine if the Market's insurance might cover the cost of the damage to the storm drain cause by the delivery trucks. The cost of the repair is about \$7,500.

Website. A deposit has been placed with Calvert Design Group for the design of the Village's website and the contract returned to them for their signature.

Village Survey. Dan Schriever of AMT reported that survey monuments should be placed within 2 weeks and that the photography of houses will begin the following week. It is their plan to have the GIS ready in early April. Preliminary map of the ROW throughout the village has just been received.

Re-Schedule for Next Council Meeting. March's Council meeting conflicts with the County Council meeting with MML. Delaying the meeting a week will then conflict with the Land Use Task Force. The Council agreed that it wants to have elected representatives at the meeting with the County Council, which will require that the March VMA meeting be changed. Jean will coordinate a date and report back to the Council.

CONSTRUCTION REPORT: Alan Beal, Village Building Administrator

Project Updates:

7207 Chestnut Street (Builder-Salehy). This project is coming to a conclusion; the changes made in the driveway aprons at this location and for the neighboring location (7205-Spencer) that we discussed at last month's meeting have been very nicely executed.

7220 Delfield Street (Builder- Reshefsky). The well drilling equipment has just been delivered to this property and is expected to begin shortly. This is a first for VMA.

3501 Raymond Street (Builder- Singles). All seems to be going well on this project.

6801 Brookville Road (McNamara). No technical construction problems have been raised, but complaints concerning construction noise, delivery and parking persist, particularly as a result of activity on President's Day.

Permits Issued: **Granted:** Washburn, 3521 Cummings Lane. Fence Permit

Requested: Roumell (2/28) Garage Demo and rebuild

Bond Processing: **Returned--** \$430 for the Bishop/Schlegel project with \$1,570 retained for repairs to the street Original of Bond \$2,000.

Requested Return: Farkas, Bradley Lane. Original Bond \$5,000.

Berliner Zoning Ordinance Amendment: County Council member Roger Berliner has introduced a bill authorizing a change in the County building codes. The work on this legislation was done by his In-Fill Development Task Force. The main change in County building code that is found in this legislation is the use of a sliding scale for lot coverage. For example, a lot of 6,000 sq.ft. would be allowed 30% lot coverage; a lot of 7,000 sq.ft. would be allowed 29% coverage, 8,000 sq.ft. of land will allow for 28% of lot coverage. Alan felt that the bill is a long way from being enacted.

9:15 PM Adjournment: Richard moved to adjourn the meeting. Diane Everts seconded. All voted in favor.

Richard moved that the Council go into Executive Session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. The topics discussed concerned enforcement of Section 6-311 of the Martin's Additions Code. Diane Everts seconded. All voted in favor.