

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 25, 2006

A Special Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 8:05 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr., Trustee Marjorie Apel, Trustee Peter Swiderski, Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan, Trustee Diggitt McLaughlin, Village Manager Francis A. Frobel, Deputy Village Attorney Marianne Stecich, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

CITIZENS: None.

42:06 ADOPTION OF BUDGET AND TAX RATE - FISCAL YEAR 2006 - 2007

Village Manager Frobel: If you were to adopt this budget as presented it would require a tax rate of \$184.34 per thousand of assessed value. Certainly not as low as as we were hoping we would attain at this point, but better than some neighboring communities.

The total budget will reach just over \$12.3 million, the general fund a little over \$11 million. We have adjusted the revenues to reflect the final assessed values provided to us by our assessor, and a greater dependence upon the unallocated surplus.

We believe the revenues in the budget are sound; they are conservative. We have level-funded most of them, with a few exceptions. Our interest earnings could be better than we have anticipated, but that is still an uncertainty. State aid could be better than we anticipate but, again, that is still unknown. But we will remain vigilant throughout the year for ways that we can save money and be aggressive on our revenue earnings. Department heads went into this budget looking for a very lean budget. I appreciate their efforts, and this budget reflects that.

We are going to be developing a capital improvement budget to allow the Trustees and the department heads to see future needs. A capital budget was prepared years ago that was very well done. We are going to pick up on that and continue that theme into the future.

The only item that really concerns me is our ambulance. We are still going to need to address that. We are going to look for some corporate sponsorship, perhaps, or some money from the Village to make that work. That is something that I have not lost sight of, and I am looking to recommend to you replacement.

We will continue to look for ways to reduce our taxes. Approving the expenditures does not give us the reason to spend it all. Department heads are constantly looking for ways to save

money. We are very much aware of the stewardship that you have placed in our hands to make sure the public dollar is spent wisely, and I expect that trend will continue.

The papers I have distributed tonight show that we made changes only in revenues, not in expenditures. We reduced mortgage tax from \$350,000 to \$275,000. That is still an increase from previous years, but one that we think is attainable. The other adjustment is that our assessor's final numbers has caused an increased dependence upon our surplus. If all this works out the way we anticipate, we will depend on the surplus a little more than I had originally hoped, but is still better than it was last year at this time. In other words, our percentage of surplus as a percent of your budget will increase. So it is going in the right direction. Not as dramatic as I would have liked, but perhaps next year at this time we will be in even shape than we are tonight.

Raf and Susan have been very helpful in putting this budget together. All department heads worked very hard and I appreciate their hard work to put a budget together that is fair, balanced, and will continue to provide the kind of services the people in the Village expect.

Mayor Kinnally: This is the first budget that Fran has put together with his team; it has been a seamless transition. The approach has been one of comprehensive budgeting and a hard look by all the department heads because Fran has instilled in them a proprietary interest in their departments and a viewpoint focused also on the Village as a whole. They are managers, and management has to do not only with execution, but also with shepherding whatever resources we have.

The hard look extends to the Board of Trustees because the questions raised in the budget review were very good and valid ones. Conservatism and prudence have been the hallmarks of this budget process, and I thank everyone. We always say we would like to get it lower, and I never like to say we did a better job than our surrounding communities. But even given the problems with static and stagnant assessments, we seem to have done pretty well in keeping the tax rate at a moderate level. I am pleased with the process and with the outcome. We never know how well we did until the subsequent year, but I think we are in good hands and the stewardship has been a good one.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Kinnally asked for the resolution to be moved.

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Swiderski the following Resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees adopt the 2006 - 2007 Village Budget as follows:

APPROPRIATIONS

General Fund	\$11,247,831
Pool Fund	299,985
Library Fund	732,496
Draper Fund	<u>31,000</u>
	\$12,311,312

REVENUES

Property Tax	\$ 7,835,797
State Aid	546,400
Sales Tax	1,000,000
Re-Appropriated Surplus	390,504
Other	<u>2,538,611</u>
	\$12,311,312

And be it further

RESOLVED: that the property tax rate be established at \$184.34 per thousand of assessed valuation.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Marjorie Apel	X	
Trustee Peter Swiderski	X	
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan	X	
Trustee Diggitt McLaughlin	X	
Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr.	X	

Mayor Kinnally: I mentioned the department heads, but Fran has also been working very closely with Susan and Raf. They have been an integral part of the transition process and the learning curve in bringing Fran along. And vice versa, Fran bringing some of his insights and procedures to the task. I want to thank all three of them, Fran, Susan, and Raf, for the work that they did on this budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Swiderski with a voice vote of all in favor, the Board scheduled an Executive Session immediately following the Special Meeting for advice of counsel.

Mayor Kinnally: We have received this evening a memo from counsel accompanied by the findings from the Planning Board on the 9-A application. With that, the responsibility for dealing with the application shifts to the Board of Trustees. The findings will be on the web site for public review. I suggest that we continue our open public hearing on May 23.

Trustee Apel: Gives it enough time.

Mayor Kinnally: It will give us time, and certainly gives the public time. We would keep the public comment period open through the Memorial Day weekend. I would ask that if you submit written comments, do not read those comments at the meeting. We will act on this officially on Tuesday night, but I wanted to give everybody ample opportunity to clear their calendars.

All of the consultants who were retained by the Village and the Planning Board to look at the traffic, the school component, the engineering, all of the other elements that were studied by the Planning Board and that are incorporated in the findings, will be available that evening.

Village Attorney Stecich: Besides it being the findings, it is also the Planning Board's recommendation of the concept plan approval, which is the next thing you have got to do, or not. It is in one document.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Swiderski with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Kinnally adjourned the Special Meeting at 8:20.