

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 29, 2008**

A Special Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at 8:05 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr., Trustee Peter Swiderski, Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan, Trustee Danielle Goodman, and Village Manager Francis A. Frobel.

ABSENT: Trustee Diggitt McLaughlin.

Mayor Kinnally: Diggitt is not here this evening. She is not feeling well.

This is a special meeting. The only item on the agenda is adoption of the budget and tax rate for fiscal year 2008 - 2009.

44:08 ADOPTION OF BUDGET AND TAX RATE - FISCAL YEAR 2008 - 2009

Village Manager Frobel: We have had several work sessions, and our public hearing. We have focused a lot of attention on some specific areas of the budget this year. We spent a lot of time on debt and surplus. Now we are at a point where we are ready to recommend to you adoption of the budget.

The budget reflects the difficult times we anticipate we will soon be encountering. We are unable to count on growth in some of our revenue items. We have continued to look at money we can generate ourselves. Continuing to look for other sources will be our focus, but the likelihood of seeing an increase in sales tax revenues or mortgage taxes is remote. We took a conservative approach toward revenues. We have kept our expenditures under 3.5%. We have recognized that now is not the time to begin to expand programs. They may come in the future, but for now we need to be very conservative.

We will continue to seek out better ways to provide services, and we will look for alternative funding sources. We are sensitive to this tax increase. It is more than any of us wanted but, given the conditions we are operating under, we believe this is the most financially prudent approach to take for not only next year's budget, but looking toward fiscal year 2010.

You will note that we have had to adjust the tax rate slightly. When we met just last week we thought it would be \$210.93. We had some last-minute adjustments from our tax assessor, which came in Friday afternoon. What you see now is the rate that we recommend to fund this budget.

Trustee Goodman: The Comprehensive Plan is going to be funded to a greater extent, correct?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes.

Trustee Goodman: Is it \$65,000 with the grant?

Village Manager Frobel: With the grant, it will be a \$65,000 budget. You are going to increase the Village contribution to \$50,000. That will easily match the \$15,000 we have already received toward the grant, giving them a working budget of \$65,000. Now that you have additional Village money in there, we will be eligible to apply for other money to match it. I have spoken to the chairwoman of the group, who seems very appreciative that this will give them the right numbers to start off with.

Trustee Goodman: Thank you for reconfiguring things to accommodate that request. I hope that mid-fiscal year we could have a talk about cost-sparing measures, if any, and not wait until next March or February to start talking about the budget. Mid-year we could have the department heads come in and try to put our heads together. I am noting some ideas as I sign the checks.

Mayor Kinnally: We used to get monthly reports on where things stood on revenues and expenses. Somehow we have gotten away from that. I have spoken to Fran, and we are going to reinstitute that so we get a better snapshot of where we are. It is not an accurate reflection because of accruals, etc., but it will give us more than we have now.

Trustee Quinlan: I agree with Danielle about the Comprehensive Plan, and also about the surplus; we are going to be able to save a little more money. I have made my comments through the budget process, and I do not have to repeat them here. But I do want to say one thing, and I think this is important. Fran, you reported to us that the average assessed home in the Village is \$17,950. This budget will cause the average taxpayer's tax to rise \$295 a year. When viewed in another way, this is 81 cents a day. That is the increase this year. I think those are important numbers to keep in mind. Nobody likes to raise taxes, but I do believe that considering the state of the economy and some of our expenses that Fran, and the whole Village staff, have done everything they can to have a fair budget.

Trustee Swiderski: I concur with everything said by Jerry and Danielle.

Mayor Kinnally: Fran, we have all talked during the work sessions about all the work that went into it, the flexibility that you and the department heads have shown, some voluntarily, some involuntarily. But it is the nature of the game, and it is a serious game. I was

interviewed by the *Journal News* on Friday, and they asked how I felt about the increase in the budget. As somebody said earlier, nobody is happy about raising taxes. But given what was projected as the bare bones needs of the community, I said that it would be irresponsible not to raise taxes because we have to provide the basic services to the community and we are caught in this spiral of increased energy costs. Energy touches on everything we have, not only the manufacture but the distribution and delivery of all of the items we use here. Fran has demonstrated, in the past, vigilance in keeping the costs down, and we will continue to do that. But I think the community has been well-served with this budget, and the Manager, department heads, and staff are to be commended for their hard work in the tough decisions that have been made and imposed upon them.

John Gonder, 153 James Street: On the revenue side, I had a suggestion for the future. We have the police trying to make sure our village is safe, and we have police cars watch the stop signs. That works maybe two or three times, but people flash their lights and give other people signals. Last Thursday I was at James and High and it was about 5 p.m. I watched 50 cars, in 33 minutes, coming from Tompkins Avenue across James, most of them making a right down High. Out of the 50 cars, 37 did not make a complete full stop; 13 did, and most of those were because traffic was going up and down. Two of the 37 had cell phones. We have cameras. Maybe you can hook something up at these intersections, like Ravensdale, Kent, Villard, and other places, and you may get some revenue. We do have a great police department. The Chief O’Sullivan is great, and all his lieutenants and sergeants and employees. But this is something you may want to consider to keep the Village safe and a place to get revenue.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees adopt the 2008 - 2009 Village Budget as follows:

APPROPRIATIONS

General Fund	\$12,408,688
Pool Fund	326,000
Library Fund	776,900
Draper Fund	<u>31,000</u>
	\$13,542,588

REVENUES

Property Tax	\$ 8,972,620
State Aid	575,360
Sales Tax	1,100,000
Re-Appropriated Surplus	212,500
Other	<u>2,682,108</u>
	\$13,542,588

And be it further

RESOLVED: that the property tax rate be established at \$210.95 per thousand of assessed valuation.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYE

NAY

Trustee Peter Swiderski	X	
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan	X	
Trustee Diggitt McLaughlin		Absent
Trustee Danielle Goodman	X	
Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr.	X	

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Goodman, SECONDED by Trustee Swiderski with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Kinnally adjourned the Special Meeting at 8:16 p.m.