

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1**  
**MAY 6, 2008**

A Public Hearing was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr., Trustee Peter Swiderski, Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan, Trustee Diggitt McLaughlin, Trustee Danielle Goodman, Village Manager Francis A. Fobel, Village Attorney Marianne Stecich, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

**CITIZENS:** Six (6).

Mayor Kinnally declared the Board in session for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing in accordance with the legal notice that appeared in the May 2, 2008 issue of *The Rivertowns Enterprise* to consider the advisability of adopting Proposed Local Law No. 8 of 2008 amending Chapter 282, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson to install a manually operated traffic control signal on Main Street in front of the Fire House.

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson as follows:

Section 1: Section 282-10 of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is hereby amended by adding the following new paragraph C:

C. A manually operated on-demand traffic control signal on Main Street in front of the Fire House.

Section 2: This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York Secretary of State.

**Mayor Kinnally:** By way of background, as a condition for the approval of 45 Main Street the Planning Board required that the developer provide, engineer and install a traffic control device to be utilized by the Ambulance Corps and the hook and ladder to control the movement of traffic on Main Street and to allow the free flow of fire apparatus and response apparatus from the respective houses. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to consider the advisability of amending our law so we could write summonses against anyone who would be otherwise violating the traffic control device that would be installed down there.

Anyone wishing to speak either in favor of, or in opposition to, the proposed local law please come forward and give your name and address for the record.

**Assistant Fire Chief Pecylak:** I want to give a brief overview on the background on this proposed traffic light. The ambulance building was constructed in 1979, at which time we immediately noticed a problem pulling out onto Main Street. Over the years the building to the left was constructed, and it restricted the sight considerably. We began to approach the Village in the early mid '80s about a traffic light. Due to budget constraints the traffic light was tabled. Over the years, the condition has constantly gotten worse. In the fall of 2003, when the Planning Board was discussing 45 Main Street, it was noted that the sight to the right would be diminished considerably. You can see that, especially from the ambulance building, to the left and right now we do have a limited sight line.

A consultant was hired as part of the agreement with the Planning Board and the Village to conduct a study. This study did indicate the need for a traffic light at that location. During the past year, in working with Deven, the developer, and environmental consultant AKRF, Inc. we looked at options for a traffic light. We had hoped for something different than what is currently on the table, but from what I understand, by DOT standards, the only viable option is the light that is being proposed currently. It is a large light, and is something that, unfortunately, is needed and needed sooner rather than later. I am concerned there may be a major auto accident there in light of the developments of 45 Main Street.

**Eric Anderson, Urban Green Equities, 45 Main Street:** Is the horse out of the barn, or has the ship sailed? I would encourage the Board to think twice about the light. With all due respect, I understand the condition on Main Street is problematic, particularly for vehicles coming from the east. But the building that was built to the east that has caused the problem has been there for a long time, and I do not believe there have been any accidents. I appreciate the issue very much, but I wonder if this is necessary. Main Street looks enormously better since we paid Con Edison to take down the power lines overhead. The entrance to the Village looks a lot better. This traffic light, as well-intentioned as it is, detracts from the entrance to the Village. Aesthetics aside, I wonder if it is necessary. And it will be an ongoing expense for the Village to maintain and pay for.

I would offer as an alternative that we would make a cash payment to the Ambulance Corps or Fire Department or whatever of some amount of money in lieu of this traffic pole. For me, it is mostly an aesthetic argument as well as a practical argument for the long term for the Village to consider.

**Assistant Fire Chief Pecylak:** I did not go into great detail about the study that was conducted, but I believe copies were provided to the Trustees. On page three it says that with the new development you are going to be seeing an increase of approximately 20 to 26 vehicles along Main Street during peak hours. The presence of 45 Main Street will further set back the existing building and the presence of parking and pedestrian activity in front of

the building will increase. Parking activity, both legal and potentially illegal, associated with the building could cause vehicular friction and additional distance disturbance for emergency vehicles. This study also, hands down, indicates that the impact of 45 Main Street will clearly justify the need for a traffic light. It does mention the fact that the existing building mentioned did have a sight problem prior to this. I am not sure exactly where it is in the document, but it does mention that 45 Main Street does impact and does justify the need for a traffic light.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Kinnally asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

**CLOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On MOTION of Trustee McLaughlin, SECONDED by Trustee Swiderski with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Kinnally closed the Public Hearing at 8:15 p.m.