

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1
DECEMBER 1, 2009

A Public Hearing was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 7:40 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Swiderski, Trustee Bruce Jennings, Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan, Trustee Meg Walker, Trustee Nicola Armacost, Village Manager Francis A. Frobels, Village Attorney Marianne Stecich, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

CITIZENS: Two (2).

Mayor Swiderski declared the Board in session for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing in accordance with the legal notice that appeared in the November 27, 2009 issue of *The Rivertowns Enterprise* to consider the advisability of adopting Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2009, amending the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, Chapter 244 Solid Waste to Regulate the Disposal of Yard Waste.

Mayor Swiderski: Anyone from the public that wants to offer a comment on the proposed change to the regulation?

Tom Mitchell, 45 Hudson Street: This is regarding the waste removal of organic waste at the dump site. The topic is to charge the landscapers a fee to use the site. The site is paid for through my taxes for me to dump my solid waste down there. If you were to charge the landscapers a fee, then that fee would then, good business sense, be directed right back at the customer, which would be me and other people that use the landscapers. I would be paying for it twice. This is a green opportunity for the town. We have made a pretty strong play in the county from a recycling perspective, and we do a great job with it. I do not see why the solid waste cannot be handled the same way. The original dump site off Washington Avenue is a huge area. There is another big area off Broadway, the back of the Burke Estate. Those are just two suggestions of places that could be developed into a mulching area.

Charge the landscapers a one-time fee, matched by one year of the Village paying for their cubic yards of organic waste that they are going to pay to Yonkers. Pool the money, fence it, gate it, mulch it, sell it. How much do we pay as a town for all our other landscaping needs when it comes to that kind of thing? Why not reuse it? Keep it here in town. Allow the contractors to then take that one-time fee, bill their clients for it. We, as residents, can turn that fee back to the Village for a tax rebate over three years. It would not be imaginable that much money up front the first time when you disburse it, but it would set a precedent that we would get a tax reimbursable any time anything else like this would come up.

I do not see why something like this could not be explored, rather than just throwing money at it. You have these guys come up with three or five thousand dollars, they pass it on to us, and then we pay for it twice. It does not make any sense to me. We have a couple of dumping sites. We could put some money into the program because we are going to do it anyway for the first year. If we could come up with a green solution for this, we would be setting an example for the county and would eliminate the whole problem down at the dump. My landscaper comes to my house, removes my waste, brings it down to the dump. Now he does not go to the dump. He goes to one of the two sites that I mentioned. But people in the Village who do not use landscapers, few and far between that they are and it is their right should they choose to do that, let them use the Village to dump where they are dumping now. It is a hornets' nest that we are stirring up with throwing money at it and having it passed back to the taxpayer. This is a ripe opportunity from a green perspective, not only money but to act locally, thinking globally. I do not know if this is the forum, but I would like to hear some response if that is possible.

Village Manager Frobel: Well, it is not. This is a public hearing, our opportunity to hear from you. But you certainly raise some very interesting concepts. The first problem is finding a site for the kind of operation you are proposing. That is the most difficult task. But we view this as one step towards reducing the amount of yard waste we have to handle. We will take some notes of what you have said, and let us go back with those thoughts.

Mr. Mitchell: If we were to have the town use it on their fields and their public spaces, and the library lawns and whatnot, we could offer it back to the landscapers at a reduced price. It would take a couple of years to get it to run, but in the meantime we will not be taking our cubic yards of waste over to Yonkers and paying for the men to truck it over there and the fees to have it removed. And the fees are only going to go up.

John Gonder, 153 James Street: I think your fees are great. You increased fees for business garbage collections, and you finally hit something here. The only question I have is the \$20 usage fee per truckload. Some guys have big trucks. Why do you not make it \$20 per a certain cubic foot truck, and anything larger \$100 or \$50?

Mayor Swiderski: Since there is no one else in the audience it would be safe at this time to ask for a motion to adjourn.

CLOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski closed the Public Hearing at 7:45 p.m.