

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 28, 2009

A Special Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 10:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Swiderski., Trustee Peter Jennings, Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan, Trustee Diggitt McLaughlin, Trustee Meg Walker, Village Manager Francis A. Frobel, Village Attorney Marianne Stecich, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

CITIZENS: None

31:09 ADOPTION OF BUDGET AND TAX RATE - FISCAL YEAR 2009 - 2010

Mayor Swiderski: This meeting is specifically for the passing of a resolution to set the tax rate for the following year, and there are no other items of business.

The property tax rate translates to a 2.54% increase. We have just gone through a work session that substantially brought this budget down.

Village Manager Frobel: Everyone has done a wonderful job going through the budget closely. Taxes under this budget would go up 2.54% to the average taxpayer, of which we rely on an assessment of about \$17,500. He or she will witness an increase of about \$93 a year in property taxes paid to the Village.

Trustee Jennings: Fran, do you have the comparative percentage of the appropriations? How much have our expenses grown since last year?

Village Technology Director Zaratzian: It is 1.06.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees adopt the 2009 - 2010 Village Budget as follows:

APPROPRIATIONS

General Fund	\$12,531,393
Pool Fund	339,200
Library Fund	786,380
Draper Fund	<u>31,000</u>
	\$13,687,973

REVENUES

Property Tax	\$ 9,143,645
State Aid	498,160
Sales Tax	1,100,000
Re-Appropriated Surplus	6,000
Other	<u>2,940,168</u>
	\$13,687,973

And be it further

RESOLVED: that the property tax rate be established at \$216.30 per thousand of assessed valuation.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYE

NAY

Trustee Bruce Jennings	X
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan	X
Trustee Diggitt McLaughlin	X
Trustee Meg Walker	X
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X

Mayor Swiderski: We have an increase in costs of 1%. Despite the fact that there are no salary increases, head count cuts, capital expenses deferred for another year, and one-time revenue inputs we still have an increase. That shows you where we are as a village. It is a tough place, and there is nothing like a crisis to underscore how tough it is. Even with virtually no increase in anything, we are still increasing taxes. Our assessables continue to decline every year. The amount of developable land left in this village is minimal. It is not a good glide path, and I think we all sense that and all sense that something ultimately, systematically will need to be done to put us on a healthier path.

In good times, we had our taxes double. We clearly cannot have that happen over the next seven years. We are going to have a couple of tough years ahead of us, and it is a moment, and an opportunity, to step back over the next year and do some serious thinking about how to change this glide path in a way that does not leave us cutting people and leaving zero percent salary increases and yet still increasing taxes. It is not a happy place to be for any of us employees of the Village or taxpayers. And long-term, unsustainable. As a village, I think we need to be all about sustainability, whether it is taxes or otherwise. This discussion is to be continued.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee McLaughlin with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Special Meeting at 10:10 p.m.