

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**  
**APRIL 7, 2009**

An Organizational Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 8:10 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, Trustee Meg Walker, Village Manager Francis A. Fobel, Village Attorney Brian Murphy, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

**CITIZENS:** One-hundred (100).

**INVOCATION**

**Father James Smythe:** Lord God, as the Village Board begins its new term, and the Mayor and Trustees are sworn in, we ask You to bless them and guide them. In all their endeavors, give them wisdom and patience and common sense so that the good of this community will be well served. I think I should end with good wishes to Mayor Kinnally after his long and valued service to the Hastings community. We pray that God grant him long life in retirement, and I assure him of my support always.

**Mayor Kinnally:** Thank you, Father. Thank you for all that you have done for our community in the many years that you have served here.

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE**

Mayor Kinnally administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Swiderski, Trustee Jennings, and Trustee Walker.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Thank you, Lee. And thank you all for coming tonight to bear witness to a transition for this village and the end of a remarkable period of service on the part of Mayor Kinnally. I will let my colleagues speak in a moment, but I ask your forbearance to say some thank yous.

First, I thank you, the residents who voted our slate into office. We are humble before you and grateful for your trust. I must thank Meg and Bruce for joining me on this adventure and standing to run with me. Campaigns are often tests by fire, and they showed their steel. It was a privilege to run with them, and it will be a privilege to serve with them and with this fine and capable Board. I thank the remarkable campaign team that gathered around our candidacy and put on an effort punching way above our class. I applaud you, especially the fine guidance of Thom Forbes and Bruce Bolger, and the hard work of Stuart Cadenhead.

I thank my father, who is here, and my mother, who is no longer with us, for imbuing their two sons with the spirit of public service. My brother, Andrew, came here from Washington. But I must thank my wife from the bottom of my heart for her loyalty, great patience and love. I am lucky to have a spouse willing to lend me to the Village, and I hope you all thank her, too.

Finally, today happens to mark the one-year anniversary when Dylan saved my son's life. I thank him and the fine men of the Hastings Fire and Ambulance Corps that made my family whole. We are grateful for gifts large and small. On that note, I turn to my colleagues to allow them to speak. I would like to start with Fran.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Mayor Kinnally, it has indeed been my pleasure to have had the opportunity to have served with you over the past several years. Over the course of my career in public service I have had an opportunity to work with many outstanding elected officials. You are, by far, the most honorable, conscientious, and devoted community leader I have ever had the privilege to work with. You are truly committed to the Village, clearly, by devoting over 30 years of your personal life toward improving the quality of life here. Your actions have always been to step up and take position on an issue no matter how unpopular. Edmund Burke probably said it best when he said: Remember that all that is necessary for the triumph of evil to win is for good men to do nothing. Perhaps your career as a public official can be summed up in a quote from Winston Churchill, one of my favorites: Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. Mayor, we will miss your sound advice, your wisdom, your wit, and your sense of humor, and on behalf of all the Village employees we wish you best wishes in retirement and thank you for your service to our village. We will miss you as a member of the Board.

**Trustee Quinlan:** Lee, it has been a privilege to have been your friend for over 25 years. And that is something that I look forward to continuing for many, many years. You were a great mentor to me on the Board. You have promoted my career with your advocacy to appoint me to the Zoning Board of Appeals. I owe you so much that words really cannot say it, but I plan to show it through our friendship in the years to come. Your 29-plus years of service speak for themselves. It just blows me away when I think of how many hours and how much time and energy you gave to this Village for basically no monetary value at all just because you love this Village. It is just amazing what you have done, and I just wanted to thank you. Thank you, Lee.

**Trustee McLaughlin:** There were once children in this country who could not imagine the United States without Franklin Roosevelt as president. Certainly, a child growing up in Hastings, if he or she ever thought about it, would have a difficult time imagining our Village without Lee Kinnally as mayor. It is not really a joke. It is really quite amazing, for those of us who have lived here a long time, to think about what has happened in our lives. Our toddlers, my toddler, is now going off to the Peace Corps. You all have stories like that. Your little children have grown up; they have become husbands and wives, they have become parents, have become grandparents. And in all those years, Lee Kinnally has been sitting up here on alternate Tuesday nights taking care of the business of this Village. As somebody who is a government maven, as I am, it is really humbling to realize there is somebody who is that dedicated to serving all of us in our community. There is a lot of guts, and not a lot of glory. There are not very many nights like these. Lee, I think we are all going to miss you. Even people like me, who have been arguing with you for decades, are really going to miss you. You have been great, in every sense of the word “great.” Thank you for your service.

**Trustee Jennings:** I would like to begin, also, by thanking those who supported me and helped me in the campaign, and my wife Maggie, whose support makes it possible. Civic service really is not possible without family support, and I appreciate it from her.

I am very excited and honored tonight to join the Board of Trustees of this extraordinary Village. I have served as a Trustee before, but I approach my term of office in the spirit of starting anew. Our community is changing: our problems are complex, our opportunities exciting. Village government will work in new ways, with new cooperation, communication, and resolve. A bit later, Mayor Swiderski and we Trustees will present a more detailed agenda of goals for the coming year and beyond. Let me simply say now that I am eager to join with my colleagues and the Village government, and with the broader community, to advance this agenda and to fulfill these goals.

Finally, to all my constituents, my fellow citizens of Hastings, I look forward to listening, debating, and seeking common ground for the common good. To govern a village, the work of a Trustee is to build shared purpose; to achieve together what no one of us could achieve alone. That is what I shall strive to do over the next two years. With ushering in a new administration comes saying farewell and thank you to officials who are returning to private life. We honor, and extend best wishes tonight, to Trustee Goodman for her valuable service. And we honor Mayor Kinnally, whose dedication to Hastings is unmatched in modern times, literally. When he began his career of Village service it was arguably still the pre-modern era. There is so much more to say, and there will be future occasions when much more will be said. Right now I can only express my heartfelt admiration and gratitude for his service to this place, a place where my wife and I have spent most of our adult lives,

and where our son grew up safely and with reasonable contentment on Lee Kinnally's watch. Thank you.

**Trustee Walker:** This is such an exciting moment for me. I am, indeed, humbled and so honored to join the ranks of you who have sat up here and who continue to sit up here. I have long admired you, and been somewhat in awe of the incredible service and dedication you have rendered to the Village. I want to thank Trustee Goodman, particularly, for a really spectacular job. Danielle, you are a hard act to follow. And I want to thank my supporters through the campaign and all the terrific work you did; my husband, Clem, my daughter, Lila, thank you so much. If it were not for you I would not be here. And Mayor Kinnally, you I have been most in awe of. You have been mayor for the entire 15½ years I have lived in Hastings: through my early, kind of innocent, community activism and volunteerism; through the adoption of my daughter, who is now 12 years old; through by five years as Planner for the Village. But more importantly, you have been mayor through some really exciting, turbulent, terrific times in Hastings, both challenging, and full of opportunities; through the RODs and the PRAPs and on and on, that we have been through over the waterfront; through incredibly favorable negotiations with ARCO that you handled so beautifully; through the acquisition of incredible open space for this village that has made it a more beautiful place to live; through the construction and renovation of our great community facilities and community centers and this Municipal Building; and through turbulent times as well. You have been a rock, you have been incredible. And through it all, you have given us steady, strong, clear-minded and conscientious leadership. I just want to honor your awesome service to this village, and thank you.

**Mayor Swiderski:** And now we move on to people who truly know Lee well. Our Village Attorney, who has been here for 21 years, has a few words to say, as well.

**Village Attorney Murphy:** Marianne Stecich, as you know, cannot be here tonight. She is on a jet en route to Europe to visit her daughter. She would have been here if there were any way she could alter the flight. But she has asked me to read a statement:

“Lee, I am sorry not to be here tonight, but do not want to miss the opportunity of saying a few words of tribute and gratitude. I have worked with lots of mayors, in five villages around the county, and can say with absolute confidence that you are *primus inter pares* (just checking out your Latin). Besides being really bright and thorough, you are deeply knowledgeable about Hastings and the details of all the issues it faces, ranging from parking problems to ill residents to the chemical composition of the soil at the waterfront. You have always been respectful to everyone on the Board, Village staff, and to the citizens who appear before the Board, even when they were, albeit infrequently, critical of you, or the Board. You have a

terrific sense of humor, combined with an Irish way with words, that have always kept Board meetings from getting too tedious or self-important. Finally, your dedication to the Village has been truly impressive. The amount of time, energy, and emotional commitment you devoted to the Village made it easy to forget you had a real-world job, which you took just as seriously. Thank you for trusting in me as Village Attorney. If I have been half as good a lawyer as you have been a boss, I feel gratified. I am sure you are not riding off into the sunset, and expect you will find new ways to stay involved in the Village. And I look forward to working with you in the future.”

To that, Mayor, I would like to add a few words of my own. I have had the privilege of working with you during your many terms as mayor, and tonight find it almost hard to believe I am looking out from this seat at you in the audience. But I am sure we will see you there sometime in the future. As a municipal attorney, I have spent most of my 21 years defending various municipalities in this county and others in court, so I get to see first-hand a lot of mistakes that are made by municipal officials and employees. And every time I find a new case, I am doubly impressed with the fact that, under your leadership, Hastings has avoided so many pitfalls and so many errors. I have, time after time, found myself speaking to clients and suggesting that maybe they should speak to somebody from Hastings because they have encountered that and managed to get around it nicely. Under your leadership this Village has been a model of municipal efficiency, honesty, and integrity. And you can probably carry that mantle with you as long as you remain a citizen of Hastings and of this state.

It has been a privilege, as I said, to have served under you. And I have always been impressed by the courtesy and civility with which you have conducted your office; particularly in sometimes less than optimal circumstances, and sometimes in the face of rancor and less than good will. It is truly the measure of a man how he meets the challenges and how he rises above them. I am honored to have spent the time on this dais with you and to serve under your mayorship. I wish you God speed, good health, and good luck in the future. Thank you.

Danielle, not to be forgotten, Marianne has asked me to relay her compliments to you:

“If I could, Danielle, I have not worked with you as long as Lee, but feel a special connection, both of us having grown up on the south side of Chicago like Michelle Obama. I have been impressed by your dedication as well as the way you dig into the broad range of issues and offer a different perspective on them. Like Lee, you have also demonstrated great respect and concern for the citizens of the Village

which, I am sure, will continue to be reflected in other Village involvement. I have enjoyed working with you, and wish you all the best.”

**Mayor Swiderski:** Finally, Susan, would you say a few words? Nobody knows Lee better than you.

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** I am totally unprepared. I sit here and just take the notes and call the roll and do all that kind of stuff, and keep my mouth shut even though it is difficult. But I have been so impressed with all the eloquent things people have said about you, Lee. You know that I can only second it. I cannot think of anything to say that has not been said. I cannot imagine looking up there and not seeing you, but I will manage. But thank you, really, for everything that you have done for the Village. It has been a true pleasure to work with a true professional.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Danielle, you have served this Village with all your heart and mind for these two years. The amount of time and devotion you showed went above and beyond the call of duty, and you made a real difference. Your sensitivity to the issues of the elderly and disabled is echoed in changes we see around the Village today. There are new disabled parking spots, curb cuts, and other changes in no small part driven by your concern. You opened my eyes to issues we often too easily let slip or avoid seeing and, for this, I personally thank you. Finally, your work on the LWRP will live on, and I am delighted you have accepted our request to help us complete this process. These flowers are a small token of the Village’s gratitude. Thank you.

**Trustee Quinlan:** Danielle, I did not forget you. How could I? I just want to say a few words about Trustee Goodman. I have been sitting next to her for the last two years, and she has helped me in so many ways to face the issues of our Village. And she has taught me to think in revolutionary ways about the problems we have and how to solve them. She is a model of clear thinking and an open mind, and I will miss you, Danielle, and the Village will miss you. Again, it has been a pleasure to know you. I have just been your friend for the last two or three years, and I look forward to our friendship for many years to come. Thank you.

**Trustee McLaughlin:** You cannot tell this when you are sitting out there, or maybe you can, but this platform has a curve. What that curve means in terms of what we see is, if you are here at the end where I am sitting you often do not see what is in between. But what you do see is the person at the other end. So for two years Danielle and I have been looking at each other and smiling at each other and giving each other little shakes of the fist and thumbs-up and thumbs-down and things that you have not known about.

Danielle, working with you has been just a joy. Jerry said what I would like to have said. You have such a wonderfully acute mind, and you always seem to have a sense when there is one more thing to dig for; one more hidden fact; one more piece of information that, if we have it, will make everything clear. I admire your mind so much, and I am grateful to have had your friendship before you became a Trustee but especially in the time that you have been with us as a Trustee. Happy trails.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Now I think we are at the last speech, which I have the privilege of making. Robert Greenleaf said that good leaders must first become servants. For 30 years, Lee served this Village selflessly in the truest sense of public service. Year in and year out, for longer than he cares to remember, Lee served. He began when the Village was a very different place: recently-closed factories down on the waterfront, poor fiscal health, and without real management. Under two mayors and then, eventually, as mayor himself, Lee led the Village through a remarkable transformation that those of us who have arrived here more recently can scarcely appreciate.

To fully list the changes to this Village during his term is to take more time than we have now, but every citizen enjoys them every day. Hillside Woods was purchased and is the gem in our park system, which has increased significantly in the past 30 years. This building was renovated, and a new Community Center graces our Main Street. Numerous renovations around the downtown; MacEachron Park; Kinnally Cove. ARCO was wrestled, at the negotiating table, into a deal to clean up the waterfront. And so many more issues, large and small, have been addressed with both discretion and determination.

Lee, you were our Cincinnatus, called from the fields of law, to lead us through a long transformation, ready to face the future. Walter Lippman said that the final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on, and that you have done. A Board willing to face the challenges you did in a community well-governed, well-policed, and orderly. You leave a Village better than you found it, so very much better. This is all that we can hope to aspire to in our brief time on this earth, and you filled that aspiration more than most.

Sue, you have spared your husband to the Village for a mission he fulfilled so well, and thanks go out to you, too. We all privately know that it is the good will generated by your skillful teaching that netted Lee more votes than anything he ever did. But we all kept that to ourselves. The marriage vows state in sickness and in health, for better or for worse. But there is definitely no clause on time apart for Village business. You allowed for that, and we are all the better for it. Thank you. These roses are for you.

Lee, our parting gift, I think, is especially fitting. It speaks to the past, as well as to what you provided this Village. It is a gift from the Hastings Historical Society, and a metaphor for the way-finding you provided us. On behalf of the Village.

**Mr. Kinnally:** Oh, I love it. Thank you very much. This is the way the Village looked when I started, I think. Thank you to my colleagues on the Board of Trustees here and out there. So many of you came this evening, and I am deeply touched that you did come. The evening started off a little raucously, as everyone, I am sure, heard. And I am uncharacteristically at a loss for words. I must say, this has been a bit overwhelming. People say how are you going to react to all of this. I do not know. But let me go back to something Peter said, and that was it all comes down to the spirit of public service. You do not do it alone. I look around this room, and there are so many people who were on the Board of Trustees with me, department heads, volunteers, paid staff. Susan, thank you for your many, many years of service. Fran, thank you. Irene, thank you for your time and Neil's time with us. Linda is here.

It really is overwhelming. So much has happened with so many people contributing that I would be remiss and would get even more enemies than I have now if I started naming people and missed people. But I look around the room and I see how many people have worked on so many projects for such a long period of time: the planning, the waterfront, LWRP, SEQRA. The acronyms and all the shorthand phrases for too many of us become second nature. But it is the real work of what we do here and what the professionals in this Village have done for so many years; from planning, managing, balancing budgets, dealing with finances. It is truly remarkable. What we really talk about is an education: how much have we learned, and what kind of an education have I gotten over these years. I believe I have probably gotten more than I have given.

I thank everyone for all that you have done for me; for helping me, for supporting me, for criticizing me, for the arguments, a few of which I have won. I see Ben smirking over there. But it was all for the Village, in the spirit of public service. A number of my colleagues talked about civility. We had heated discussions, not always in public but certainly in private and executive sessions. But all in all, it was done because people had the best interests of the Village at heart. I think what has happened over the last many years, and for me it is over 29, has inured to the benefit of this village. I salute Peter for taking the call, and I think he probably will be angrier at me as the days go by because I pushed him and advocated that he become our mayor.

For all of the Board members who worked with me over the years, it has been great. It has been, I think, ultimately a mutual admiration society. You cannot do this alone, and everyone has pitched in just terrifically. I thank everyone who has come up for public



comment. There has been some good back-and-forth with everyone, and we do listen and try to listen. Peter talked about Sue, and Denis is here with Lily, and my sister Marian is here. You cannot do it alone. Maybe the secret of our marriage success is that I was out of the house so much. So this, indeed, is the true test.

Possibly the biggest benefit of all of this is that Denis lived through all of this and learned. I think he learned an awful lot, not only about what government may be about, and public service, but also what it takes to run a village, to run government, and the dedication of all of the people. And the arguments, the hard work, and the dedication that goes into it. If he took anything away from his lifetime of me on the Board of Trustees I think that is a lesson well-learned. And I think you probably have not heard the last from him, but that is for another time. He is shaking his head. He has also learned to play golf with me, so lessons. Some well-learned, some not. But I thank everyone. It was overwhelming tonight. It was overwhelming for the last 29-plus years to come here on Tuesday nights and to work with everybody. And tonight was just incredible. I thank everyone. I have a few things, if I can,. That is a beautiful map. Thank you, Susan [flowers]. Linda Knies. Thank you, Linda [flowers].

Thank you, all. You have a meeting to run. Thank you very much. Good night.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Tonight also happens to be the biannual swearing-in of the Chiefs. Our four Chiefs at our four fire houses are now at Uniontown awaiting Lee's arrival. It is my distinct pleasure, as my first act as Mayor, to deputize Lee to swear in the Chiefs for the next two years. I am hoping that Lee will not be seduced by the bar upstairs and will, indeed, return in a half-hour for a reception that will follow this, and the next, meeting.

#### **24:09 MAYORAL AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTMENTS**

**Mayor Swiderski:** This is a set of resolutions that are part of the organizational meeting that enable certain institutions and people to carry out their function for the next year or two. Of the four resolutions, we are putting two on hold [Executive Session Policy and Rules of Procedure] until the next meeting so our new Board members have a chance to review them and discuss them.

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

**A. DEPUTY VILLAGE TREASURER**

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint **Rafael Zaratzian** as Deputy Village Treasurer for a term of two (2) official years.

**B. VILLAGE CLERK**

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint **Susan Maggiotto** as Village Clerk for a term of two (2) official years.

**C. DEPUTY VILLAGE CLERK**

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint **Linda M. Knies** as Deputy Village Clerk for a term of one (1) official year.

**D. VILLAGE ATTORNEY AND VILLAGE PROSECUTOR**

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees award a contract for services to **Stecich Murphy & Lammers LLP** as Village Attorney and Village Prosecutor for a term of one (1) official year.

**E. ACTING VILLAGE JUSTICE**

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint **James R. DeVita** as Acting Village Justice for a term of one (1) official year.

**F. REGISTRAR**

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint **Susan Maggiotto** as Registrar and **Marie C. Oelkers** as Deputy Registrar for a term of two (2) years through April 30, 2011.

**G. HISTORIAN**

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint Barbara Thompson as Village Historian for a term of one (1) official year.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan	X	
Trustee Diggitt McLaughlin	X	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

**25:09 MAYORAL AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES DESIGNATIONS**

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

**A. OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS**

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees designate the **Rivertowns Enterprise** and the **Journal News** as official newspapers for a term of one (1) official year.

**B. OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES**

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees designate **JP Morgan Chase Bank, Citibank, N.A., Hudson Valley National Bank, First Union, Hudson United Bank, Commerce Bank, and MBIA-Class** as official depositories for a term of one (1) official year.

**C. VILLAGE AUDITORS**

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees designate the firm of **O'Connor Davies Munns &**

**Dobbins LLP, Bennett Kielson Storch Yablon  
& DeSantis Division** as Village Auditors.

**D. POLICE AND FIRE SURGEONS**

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint **Dorian Tergis, M.D.** and **Charles Edelson, M.D.** as Police and Fire Surgeons for a term of one (1) official year each, to be compensated on a fee or contract basis.

**E. REGULAR MEETING DAYS**

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees designate the **first and third Tuesday of each month** as the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting days.

**F. AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN CHECKS AND INSTRUMENTS**

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the following to sign checks and instruments of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, when countersigned by the Mayor or one (1) Trustee:

**Francis A. Frobel, Susan Maggiotto, Linda M. Knies**

except individual payroll checks which shall require two (2) of the following signatures:

**Francis A. Frobel, Susan Maggiotto, Linda M. Knies**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**AYE**

**NAY**

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

X  
X  
X  
X  
X

**Mayor Swiderski:** We are going to adjourn this meeting and, after a couple of minutes' break, move into a Board of Trustees meeting. Instead of the usual agenda we are going to offer instead a presentation of about 25 minutes about our goals and objectives for the next year and what we hope to achieve. After that, we will have a reception downstairs for pastries and coffee and then, at around 10 o'clock for the heartier ones, beer down at Maud's.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On MOTION of Trustee McLaughlin, SECONDED by Trustee Quinlan with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Organizational Meeting at 9:00 p.m.