

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 5, 2009

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 8:20 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

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

CITIZENS: Seven (7).

PRESENTATION – H1N1 Flu Report - Hastings Police Department

Police Chief Bloomer: A week ago I knew nothing about swine flu. I have tried to learn as much as I could in the past week. Having said that, it has changed, even by the hour. I spoke to Dr. Lipsman of the Westchester County Health Department at 2 o'clock, and he assured me nothing would change. But since then, they have issued two new directives. Everything I am going to read you is very fluid and could be changed by tomorrow.

Nationwide we have 403 cases of H1N1, or swine flu. There have been two deaths. There was one additional one reported today. That was also in Texas and was the first adult. We have 90 cases in New York State. Most of them are from one school that took a trip to Mexico. Seventy of the 90 cases in New York are from New York City. We have three probable cases in Westchester County and two confirmed cases. The flu is in 21 countries, for a total of 1,085 people worldwide, 590 of those in Mexico.

The Health Department issued a new directive after 4 o'clock today involving schools and the closing of same. They are now saying there is no need to close schools. The virus is not as severe as first reported, and they are not seeing an effect of closing the schools or not. It is either being spread or it is not, so the school they had closed in Rye for two weeks can open immediately. The flu is generally not as severe as first feared. However, the Health Department says this in almost all of their directives: things change, and these are difficult to predict and it is a very fluid disease. The Health Department is treating this as they would any other flu outbreak in any other year. The cases, so far, have been mild. No new emergency procedures have been implemented. One of the problems they noticed last week was that emergency rooms were being inundated by people who thought they may have swine flu. That has subsided. The incubation period is one to five days. The transmission period is one to seven days. They have some common sense recommendations that would be for any flu. Wash your hands with soap and water, especially after you cough. Cover your mouth when you are coughing or sneezing. Try to avoid contact with people who are sick. And if you are sick, please do not go to work or to school.

There are some phone numbers and Web sites that people can contact if they have questions. The Westchester health department number is 813-5000. There is a state 24-hour hotline with flu questions at 1-800-808-1987. The Health Department Web site is www.westchestergov.com/health.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Public Hearing of April 14, 2009 were approved as presented.

On MOTION of Trustee McLaughlin, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 21, 2009 were approved as presented.

On MOTION of Trustee Jennings, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 28, 2009 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

On MOTION of Trustee McLaughlin, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, the following Warrants were approved:

Multi-Fund No. 71-2008-09 \$ 75,226.07

Multi-Fund No. 73-2008-09 \$ 46,215.20

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Swiderski: Again, with the new tradition, we have PSAs. The first is sustainability.

Elisa Zazzara, 68 Southside Avenue: I would like to talk about the idling of motor vehicles. You are sitting at the train station waiting for your friend, you are going to run into the store for a second, or you are waiting in line for that Starbucks or that burger in the drive-through. This idling is killing us, literally. I am here to air out a few misconceptions about idling, and to ask you to stop idling if you are. Idling gets zero miles to the gallon. It is pure waste. Some of you may think stopping and starting your engine is bad for it; it is better to let it run for a few minutes. This is just wrong. Today's engines prefer not to idle. An idling engine is not performing at peak levels so it could actually hurt your engine to idle your car. Some of you will insist that if it is cold out you need to warm your car up for a couple of minutes. That, again, is not true. With today's modern engines, even in the coldest climates

ten seconds of warming up your car is all you need. Gently driving your car is a better way to warm it up. If treating your automobile does not convince you to stop idling, I will appeal to your sense of environmental stewardship and personal health. Idling can produce almost double the amount of toxic waste emissions per second than a moving vehicle. These emissions are linked to increased asthma, allergies, and heart and lung disease. Certainly, in Westchester County, with some of the failing air grades we have gotten we should know that. And then there is the climate crisis brought on by us pumping all of this carbon dioxide into the air. So here is your chance to reduce our emissions of carbon dioxide.

If the environment, your health, and the health of your car is not enough to convince you to stop idling, one more. It is now illegal. In Westchester County on February 10 they passed an anti-idling law that essentially prohibits any motor vehicle in the county from idling for more than three minutes, which is way above and beyond what I feel you need to do. Of course, there are exceptions for emergency vehicles. That is my plea: to let us stop idling. If you have any questions, please send an email in and I will respond.

Mayor Swiderski: The second PSA is on volunteer activity.

Trustee McLaughlin: The Board of Trustees is rethinking how we use volunteers in the Village. We have lots and lots of boards and commissions, but within the next month we will have some changed procedures for how they work. In the meantime, there are a couple of volunteer jobs we know we need volunteer for. If you are interested in any of these let me know. You can email me at volunteer@hastings.gov.org. We would like some volunteers to work on an ad hoc deer committee. The town and the Village have a report; we do not have it in our hands yet, but it will be ready within the next couple of weeks. We need people who are prepared to do some work right away. If you are interested, concerned about deer, if somebody in your family has had Lyme disease, step forward. This is not going to be a job that lasts forever. We are not sure how long it will take, but it is not going to be a huge commitment although it will be a commitment right away. We also have a need for volunteers for the Public Health Board, the Village Arts Commission, and the Village Tree Board. We have a whole raft of other boards and commissions. We are not sure whether we have vacancies on those, but if you are interested in spending some time on a Village board or commission, let me know.

John Gonder, 153 James Street: The last Board approved Cablevision for the Village. When are you going to get competition against Cablevision and Verizon? There are a lot of others. Are you ever going to bring some other people into town?

Mayor Swiderski: Discussions with the only reasonably real competitor out there to Cablevision, which is Verizon FiOS, ended a little over a year ago. We have been interested

in reviving those discussions. On May 20 I will be meeting with Jerry Quinlan with a negotiator from Verizon to understand what their issues are and restart that process. We are interested in moving that process forward expeditiously, as long as what they are seeking is reasonable, legal, and fair to the Village.

Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Parkway: On the deer committee, what is the goal on that? What are they going to attempt to do?

Trustee McLaughlin: Kill them all. Well, no, I did not really say that.

Mr. Downey: I will say it for you: cull them. Did we not already do this with Jacques Padawer, in a sense? He put all kinds of time into it.

Mayor Swiderski: Jacques Padawer worked with a group for Greenburgh to come up with a report that was never properly finalized but will shortly be so. Its recommendations are culling. We are going to discuss that as a board, and make a formal decision and decide how to move forward at some point this year, following public discussion of the process.

Mr. Downey: Dobbs Ferry went through this process. The heat got raised real high. It seemed like they were on the cusp of going for the culling, and then all of a sudden there was a large petition of folks who knocked it down. I may not understand it correctly. But there should be some finality. We have a raise of hands vote in the community: knock them down through trained people, professionals. I know it is done quietly in Lyndhurst already. A group from Tarrytown comes in and they clean them out. There are many places in New Jersey and Connecticut that do it. If we do not address the population the numbers are going to take over. I talked about this issue back in the '80s when deer first started coming into the community. I used to be a bow hunter; I gave it up in 1992. I said there is going to be a problem, and people sneered and laughed. People who are naturalists and love their vegetable gardens, now those very same people have their yards fenced. Everyone is putting these little fences around their yards, netting 6 feet high. It is absurd. Either we knock them down in a safe, controlled manner, or just live with it. There is no point in making committees and talking about it. It should be cut and dried, set a deadline, and get to it.

Mayor Swiderski: I am clearly in accord with you. We have avoided setting up our own committees or talking about it at length over the years. This is not another committee. It is using the results of a Greenburgh committee and acting on it. When you say knock them down I understand what you are saying. I do not know what the mechanism is.

Mr. Downey: Bow and arrows.

Mayor Swiderski: I am not willing to prejudge what we will decide as a group, but clearly culling involves something. We need to talk as a board, hear the public, and go through the process to understand what works best for the community. In regard to Dobbs Ferry, there was a limited outcry as to the means to do it, but not to the objective. They are still intent on carrying out a cull, and we plan to work with them to organize and coordinate. In fact, Irvington was planning to do it, as well. They had a very sharp reaction from a group, and the mayor has backed off his previous claim that he was going to do it. Dobbs Ferry has not.

Trustee McLaughlin: We cannot do this by ourselves. One problem is that the cost is so great. And if it is only in our two square miles, whatever we get rid of today will be replaced next week. That is why we have to do it with other people. We need to go to the next step. We need to be calling communities that have done it, find out what their prices were, find out what the effectiveness was, and reach out to our neighbors and get substantive groups of people together. This was not the job description of the original deer committee. The work group that we want to have going in the next several weeks would be people who would go that next step; make the phone calls, find out what is happening in other communities, what we can do now, what is going to cost us if we are working with one, two, three, four neighboring communities, and so on.

Mr. Downey: Somebody like Jacques put in so much time, and I feel badly for that kind of effort and work.

Mayor Swiderski: It will not go to waste.

Mr. Downey: The Westchester County Airport culls, and the Rockefeller estate.

Trustee McLaughlin: Did I hear you volunteering?

Mr. Downey: I am on a different mission. But I know people who would be happy. One thing I would absolutely insist upon, though, is there cannot be waste. I collected some information, if a time like this would come up, where they give the meat to food banks or to charities. No waste, and it has to be respectful and humane however the process is done.

On another subject, if I may read from this. "During the course of the next several months I wish to attempt to present ideas to the Board and for the viewers of HoH TV pertaining to items I wish to consider as part of a larger and more comprehensive viewpoint on how the Village may begin the process of increasing our reserve account, creating a surplus out of the current budget for the purpose of paying down debt in advance." Are we able to pay debt down in advance?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes. You can pay it off earlier, and you can refinance.

Mr. Downey: Because I was going to say: “However, if this is not the case, then create a separate savings account for the Village for the purpose of having reserve strictly for debt service.” For example, if we have a coming year with a shortfall, you still have to service debt. This way you do not have a pinch. You can always go to that separate, segregated account strictly for debt service. In my business, I keep a separate account for my sales tax. When my payments come in, that money is already separated out of the checking account. When you have just one big pool, and you have maybe one reserve, it is nice to have an earmarked account specifically for certain things. Debt service being a must item, maybe it would be a nice idea to have a separate partitioned account just for debt service.

Moving on: “I wish to adopt a frugal mindset in this village, and a term that Warren Buffet once used called ‘Thriftville instead of Squanderville.’ In other words we cannot spend what we do not have. The credit card needs to be put away for a long period of time. That is essentially what bond dependence is. I wish to make two point absolutely clear. I mean no disrespect or ill will towards any individual or group. Despite the valiant and good efforts of those who came before you, they have passed on to you a real challenge, the inheritance of a problem that is not amply discussed in these meetings or in the Village publications. As stated, you inherited a serious debt problem. It is time for all hands on deck to overcome this burden. All Village residents must be willing to take on the problem first-hand. The problem is the Village debt.” What is the current level of the Village debt? I have been hearing between \$10 and \$12 million.

Village Manager Frobel: I do not have that number with me right now.

Mr. Downey: And we are going to have almost another million when the new fire hook and ladder comes in?

Village Manager Frobel: Just for that piece of apparatus alone. There is other potential debt that we are going to be discussing in the future.

Mr. Downey: “During the past several months I began to wake up and learn about this process. And through the experience of recent years, with all that has occurred nationally, I felt it my duty to become involved and engage in conversations with fellow residents, compile ideas and voice ideas for this forum and others. In this process, many fascinating ideas and thoughts have been exchanged already, and I wish to present them in the coming weeks. The sad thing is, many folks simply do not wish to take this next step of activity, attending meetings and letting their voices be heard, or simply are short on discretionary time to become more actively involved in the Village governing process and the details,

particularly when it comes to the budget.” Was the Village budget discussion moved up a little this year?

Village Manager Frobel: No. We were, if anything, a few days behind.

Mr. Downey: That goes to show my lack of knowledge in the process, and forgive me for that. “One item that seems to come up time and again is the notion of village government, not unlike other levels of government who operate in somewhat the same clandestine mode, meaning, the use of omission of details and information as a method of communication, and only to provide information on an as needed basis or only with pressed with specific questions. An example came up to me over the weekend when I was on the Village Web site. It said ‘The Goals Initiative of 2009’ on the Village home page. I was bothered by going through that PowerPoint presentation of 20 pages. I would ask that we please do not waste time scouring for pretty pictures of waterfronts, sunsets, farmers’ markets, and other childish nonsense in a PowerPoint presentation suitable for Hillside. That was a complete waste of salary time. Please define the goals, where appropriate, in terms of math, numbers, and dollar figures. When I pay my tax bill to the Village, I do so with a check with numbers on it which are appropriate in the appropriate lines, not with comforting little pictures in the envelope.” How have the tax receipts been for this year, and what would you say about the trend? Are there more, or fewer, delinquencies, and what would you say about the trend?

Mayor Swiderski: This is public comment. It is not to be a question and answer period.

Mr. Downey: “Has the dollar value of the Village debt obligations in the form of bond service pension plans increased over the past several years? More importantly, has the percent of a part of the overall budget pie increased over the past several years? And most importantly, has the rate of change increased or decreased, and in which direction is it going. What do you foresee for 2010? Is there a budgetary problem looming? Do you, perhaps, intend to keep the budgetary increase lower this year? In the coming sessions, with respect to your time, I will address area by area as I develop ideas and harvest other ideas from folks about the Village.”

“A final area of questioning for this evening. It has been brought to my attention that various staff within the Village have use of vehicles for their personal use. While I can full understand why the Village Manager and Michael Gunther would have a need for vehicles, living in the Village and often having to respond at the drop of a dime due to storm conditions and other related emergencies, why are there other employees who have vehicles,” this has been told to me, “which are taken home?” “Is this a perk to use the vehicles to go to and from work? Most of us drive our own vehicle to work, and get into the vehicle at work, and do our job and put it back at the end of the day. I am not sure, it was

brought to my attention. But why are these vehicles being taken home? Is the use of these vehicles 1099'd or W2'd by the Village to these individuals so that it appears as part of the total compensation, or is it when we see on the budget, as it was presented back in April? When we talk about the salaries of employees, are we just talking about the salaries, or is it inclusive of the use of these vehicles in that dollar component that is supposed to be tracked?" I also understand that some of these items are drops in the bigger ocean of things. Our bigger problem is the school budget which is about 80% of our tax burden here. This is only 20%. But I am going to start piece by piece, going through different areas. "In a time of deep debt, why are we not accounting for a simple item like this? I only point this out because it represents a lack of tight fiscal consideration in a time when we need to bear down and have an aggressive plan for early retirement of our debt and to bolster our reserve fund. There are many, many big-ticket items down the road which await the budget in the coming years." I thank you for this chance to speak, and if you have any questions of me I would be happy to take them.

The last item, "I would ask the Village residents watching to become active, spread the word, feel free to call upon me to be a conduit for information and sharing of ideas, as I am seeking assistance from others, perhaps in the form of a blog or some other format." I do not know how to use those things, but if there is some way where people can talk, often times they do not feel comfortable coming up here. I am not the most comfortable person standing here in front of a mic myself, but I have to work through that. I would just like to ask others to become involved, contact me and I will speak.

Village Manager Frobel: I welcome the examination. If you were to put those questions in writing I can report back at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Downey: Did you get my email reply today about the filming?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, you have had it pushed off a few times.

Mr. Downey: I am glad it did get pushed off because a great idea just came up in the past ten days that would be beneficial to add to it.

Village Manager Frobel: We are at your disposal. When you are ready, we will do that filming.

Ms. Zazzara: I have a follow-up on idling. The county put out this two-page question and answer, and one question is who is required to enforce the county's idling law? The answer is that the law may be enforced by municipal traffic and parking enforcement agents if they

are authorized by the municipality to use appearance tickets. It might be another small form of revenue if we can get our parking maids/meter people to hang out for three minutes.

Mayor Swiderski: Not listed on the agenda, but I would like to put out a resolution. This is an accommodation to the former mayor. One of the pleasures of being a mayor is the ability to marry. And one of the pleasures of a Board is the ability to grant somebody the right to marry. It is called "creating the position of a marriage officer." Prior to Lee's stepping down he had a friend of the family request that he officiate at a wedding at the end of May. He is no longer mayor so he cannot do that in his former capacity, but has asked us, as a Board, to pass a brief resolution to enable him to do so.

Trustee McLaughlin: Is he our only legal marriage officer, or can we have others?

Mayor Swiderski: We can have as many as we want. The judge and myself are the ones that are, by statute, automatic. But Tarrytown has elected its entire Board as marriage officers because the mayor got tired of marrying people.

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

RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees hereby appoint William Lee Kinnally, Jr. as a marriage officer in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York for a period of two years without a salary or a wage as compensation.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan	X	
Trustee Diggitt McLaughlin	Absent	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: Saturday and Sunday the Village-wide cleanup was very successful. We had upwards of 20 groups signed up. I do not yet have a count as to how much we collected. That is something Mike Gunther from Public Works will get us. But there were a lot of folks out there Saturday. The weather cooperated so we had a lot of participation.

A reminder that the Fire Department is hosting a carnival, which will run from Wednesday, May 13 through Saturday, May 16 at Zinsser Park. There have been signs throughout the Village reminding folks. I understand it is a terrific time, from what the Fire Chiefs say. It is a very enjoyable time for families, and we hope we get a big turnout.

You had mentioned your ongoing discussions with Verizon. Raf Zaratzian, our Technology Director, has made arrangements to have a representative from Cablevision come out, perhaps as early as our next meeting. We had hoped he would be here tonight, but his schedule did not allow that. There are a series of changes that users of Cablevision are about to experience over the next several days, some of which may be tricky and difficult to fully understand, and we wanted this representative from the company to explain it to all of us at one time. At your next meeting we are hoping to have him here. Raf, did you want to offer any elaboration?

Village Technology Director Zaratzian: The digital conversion was supposed to take place in January. That was moved to June, and with the competition between Cablevision and Verizon there seems to be a push now to change the analog to digital much quicker. As a result, Cablevision today moved a lot of its channels in the 30 and 40 range up into a digital spectrum where you cannot even get it with an LCD TV, a high-definition television; you need a box. I am taking this as their response to Verizon not having any analog channels. That is one of the reasons we would like to have the Cablevision representative talk about what is going to happen. Down the road it is going to be much harder for people to use VCRs because a lot more channels are going to be in digital than they are in analog. A conversion process is going to have to take place, and both companies are going to have to deal with it.

Mayor Swiderski: You cannot record a digital signal on a VCR?

Village Technology Director Zaratzian: You can through a box, but you cannot by itself. Currently, if you have a VCR you split the signal of the cable and put one end into your TV and one into your VCR. The VCR has a tuner in it, and the tuner gets you channels so you can watch something else. As a result of the change to digital, the tuner cannot find those channels. It is an analog tuner, not a digital tuner. So the VCR is not going to be able to do anything. To say nothing of the fact that once you get to a high-definition channel, a high-definition spectrum cannot fit on the VHS channel. To make matters even more confusing, apparently the high-definition DVD, the Blu-ray standard, is only going to be in existence for another year or so before that is going to be changed. So everything seems to be changing at the same time. There seems to be this big conversion to digital, and it looks to me like the television manufacturers and the electronic manufacturers are waiting to see how this all evens out so they can come out with these new products. There may be, a year from now, a

high-definition-burning DVD that holds 500 gigabytes of information. You could put 100 movies on it, and that would be great. But we do not have it yet, and it may act as some kind of future VCR. That would not be a VCR, but would be high-tech and high-definition.

These are the things that I thought we would have Cablevision come down and describe. We would really like the competition with Verizon. As a member of the Cable Committee, we fought for this competition. It is very upsetting to us that we do not have it. It is also a lack of money for the TV station, which comes through PEG payments which each subscriber pays for: a fee paid from the subscriber to the PEG channels, which are your public access, your government and your educational access. Currently, we are operating two channels, WHOH TV-75, and also 77 for the school district. We are running that also at a new facility at the Community Center. There are a lot of changes coming down the pike. Maybe we can get this whole thing moving so that the future is a bright and multimedia spectrum.

Trustee McLaughlin: A friend of mine has complained that she no longer gets 75 on 75, but at random somewhere around 101.

Village Technology Director Zaratzian: She must have an LCD TV. On a high-definition television with a tuner, the digital tuners do not get the channel at 75. They get it up in a digital spectrum. We have found 75 and 77 have been anywhere between 99-4 and 101-31. There is no standard for the manufacturing of these tuners so the tuner puts these channels anywhere it is designed to. You t have to hunt and find it. If you can find the Greenburgh channel or you can find one of Cablevision's channels, if you go down a couple you will find us in that spectrum. It is disconcerting. There is not standard yet. Everything is just floating up in this digital universe, and depending on what manufacturer of television you get and what tuner you have it could be anywhere between 99 and 104.

Trustee McLaughlin: It depends on the manufacturer.

Village Technology Director Zaratzian: The manufacturer of the TV, yes, how old it is. If you have got one of the new ones I think it is a little lower. We have also experienced problems with sound. Some of the digital televisions do not like our analog sound so we are working on fixing that. It is not easy. There are changes every day and we are trying to keep up with them, and we are working with Cablevision. We hope to be working with Verizon soon.

Trustee Jennings: I certainly support competition, and I hope things can be worked out with Verizon. But if we do get two providers, and there is not standardization, will you simply have another set of headaches on your hands when it comes to WHOH?

Village Technology Director Zaratzian: The only headache we will have, from what I can tell from the other towns and villages, is that most likely WWhoH-TV will be around channel 22. That is where the government access is, and the educational access is around 23 or 24. So you would see a lot more things that say on Cablevision, channel 75; on Verizon FiOS, channel 22. You would see more of us describing the channel in two places. Other than that, we have the equipment right now. We are ready to split the signal so Verizon can broadcast. We are all set for providing it. Ever since we built the Community Center, it was part of the design so we are ready to broadcast on FiOS any time they want to hook us up.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Update on the Waterfront

Mayor Swiderski: In Jerry's absence, I will give a quick summary of some of the things we have going on.

We are in the process of finalizing an agreement with Scenic Hudson, Ned Sullivan heads that organization, to provide us a retainer of services over the next year in terms of advice and assisting us as we work through issues on the waterfront. We have an outstanding grant left over from days gone by that was never fully expended on Scenic Hudson that we hope to tap into and use to cover his services over the next year. He has been very helpful already, and we would look forward to working with him in helping to structure a strategy and be introduced to the right players, and work through how to push the process forward.

Jerry and I are meeting with ARCO this week with what is typically a monthly meeting. We will be pushing them on a couple of issues. Testing has begun on the Tappan site on a limited plot of land, testing out some bioremediation technology. What that essentially involves is injecting Miracle-Gro and a diluted solution of hydrogen peroxide, which provides the oxygen. Between the two of them, they supersize the bacteria in the soil that digests the aromatic compounds that are bad for us. This is a pilot that is supposed to last for a couple of months, and out of it will come a recommendation or decision about whether to use that technology across a greater portion of the Tappan site. It is just nice to see something happening.

Finally, we also sent out a letter to the DEC commissioner, introducing the new Board and expressing our desire to move forward as quickly and aggressively on the selection of an approach, and then implementation thereof on the ARCO site.

Trustee McLaughlin: Has the hydrogen peroxide/Miracle-Gro test been tried anywhere else?

Mayor Swiderski: I do not know, and it is not, apparently, new technology. It is not the leading edge anymore.

Trustee Jennings: It is a misnomer to call it an experiment then.

Mayor Swiderski: The solution works in some environmental conditions and not in others. It is a way of verifying whether this will work to accelerate a breakdown of the polyaromatics and whether this environment is conducive to that.

Trustee Jennings: My question anticipates the next topic about the comprehensive plan. Together with many others I attended the meeting on Saturday morning. Some of the comments during the discussion of the waterfront suggested to me that as soon as we possibly can we need to have an update for the Village on the status of the cleanup, both the ARCO/BP site and the Tappan Terminal. A few people did not realize that as much was going on as is going on. I know this is in Jerry's plans, but it would be very useful, after you have had your meetings and after we work with Scenic Hudson, if we could get an update. Doing it in the Board meetings is useful. But it is not a substitute for a more general effort. I do not know whether that would take the form of a written report on the Web site or something on HoH, or maybe even a meeting at the auditorium of the high school like we have had in the past, but I have the feeling that it is time for a community update just on the cleanup. Not the design, not the Comprehensive Plan, but the cleanup itself.

Trustee McLaughlin: Was your take that people do not understand that there are two sites?

Trustee Jennings: I felt they understood that. I thought they had a time horizon which is a bit longer than the one I have in my own head. It is a matter of 10 versus 50 years.

Trustee McLaughlin: Recent conversations have been so much more optimistic than we are used to.

Trustee Jennings: We are stuck in a fairly pessimistic rut from the last six years, and it might be time for a ray of hope, a little bit of optimism.

Mayor Swiderski: I concur.

2. Update on the Comprehensive Plan

Mayor Swiderski: The meeting was held on Saturday. It was a four-hour guided discussion by the consultant. Very interesting, some very provocative ideas. The highlight of the

meeting, for me, was when he discussed some ideas that left the room in silence for 30 seconds, probably the first recorded moment in Hastings' history where 60 residents were reduced to a moment to pause to consider. I do not know when the next meeting is happening but I thought it was great.

3. Other

Mayor Swiderski: Over the course of the next month I want to nail with Raf a platform for the update of the Web site. Part of what I hope we will be able to do with a new framework is easily publish updates on key issues like the waterfront. I would hope to see a timeline for how we would like to see the process move forward and a short history of what has occurred to date, and have this not just for the waterfront but for other key issues. The hope is, in the redesign of the Web site all this would be made available and easy to update, easy to get, and part of a much more aggressive outreach.

Tim alluded to it in his public comments, but I find fault with the characterization that are not public. I would say, rather, that we have a lot of information and we can do a better job of getting it out there. That is not just about the budget, but about other things. Our Web site is, in terms of quantity and quality of content, very high. In navigating to some of it, not so transparent. So a new site, properly restructured, will make all information, in theory, two clicks away, easy to get to, and more intuitive; and will address, in part, what you are talking about in terms of a public forum.

I had the first of what will be a monthly meeting with Superintendent Shaps from the schools to discuss areas of mutual interest and always where there is room for cost-sharing and cooperation. We are both under similar budgetary guns, and you can react in one of two ways. You can get defensive and say, you use our fields and churn them so we will not let you use our fields, and pull inside your shell. Or you can extend your hand and work cooperatively. We are better off doing the second, trying to figure out how to work together so we head off any instinct to pull into our shells, both within the Village and, more broadly, externally. In the past we have tried various things in terms of cooperating with the School Board. They have been of nominal success. I would like to continue meeting with Mr. Shaps and report back at the Board meeting and, ideally, have a member of the Board of Trustees join me at these meetings. We will come in with fixed agendas and, where it is appropriate, publish the results. It is not intended to be a secret discussion. We are looking to make sure we do not accidentally step on each other's toes and also identify areas where we can cooperate. If future discussions are anything like the ones we had today it is going to be a good relationship.

Speaking of cooperation, last Thursday we had another monthly meeting of the Village Officials Committee, which is the mayors and village managers from all six of Greenburgh's villages. This has been an ongoing discussion to identify areas where we can share and cooperate. We have a half-dozen different contracts for which we are cooperating to come up with joint RFPs that will be issued in the name of all the villages. There is a repaving contract which we will do as a group in August. There is elevator maintenance. There is tree service, electrical and plumbing, and at least one or two others. Each village assumes responsibility for any contract or RFP. The other villages guide their needs and requirements to that village, and that village runs the RFP for everybody else. It is very promising. We will also open this process up to the schools within our district. For example, if the school wants to join us on the elevator maintenance contract they could, and it is always cheaper to buy in bulk. That applies to services as well.

Trustee Jennings: I have begun to talk to a number of people in the Village and do some research, and I am struck by how much activity is going on in the state and in many communities around the state in terms of sustainability, using green materials, trying to cut down on CO2 pollution and so forth. I am heartened by how much I am finding. I am heartened by how much we here in Hastings, in our own thinking, are converging with the thinking of other communities. You could say we are reinventing the wheel but, in fact, we are all coming up with the same basic sets of approaches and ideas. That is encouraging because there are things that have worked in other communities, and they will work here, too, when we begin to implement them. There is a very active program by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation about climate-smart communities, and I think it is very promising. There are all kinds of things in the wings, and it is a very exciting time. They are a win for the budget, they are a win for people's pocketbooks, they are wins for the environment, as well.

Getting back to the automobile idling report that we heard tonight, it is important that it is a law in Westchester County. I believe that Westchester County has either passed, or is about to pass, a law regarding lawn fertilizers, as well.

Village Manager Frobel: It is under consideration.

Trustee Jennings: That is another area where the county is moving forward. The Town of Greenburgh just had a large meeting on its sustainability operation, and it is doing a lot of things. We are surrounded by some very innovative and interesting things. In terms of the idling law, we will be talking with the Police Department about the best way to meet our responsibilities to enforce the law. This is an issue where enforcement is one part of it, but public voluntary acceptance and support and behavior change is the other part, and probably the bigger part. We have to work on both fronts and appeal to people to recognize the win-

win. It is simpler than seat belts. It is simpler than not talking on your cell phone. We have done harder things already to change our behavior; this one is a no-brainer. The more people do it out of habit, the fewer tickets we will have to issue, the fewer times we will have to get into law enforcement. Carrots are always better than sticks; education is always better than punishment. We are going to have both those things. I hope education wins out 99.9% of the time.

Trustee Walker: I would like to say something about the downtown initiatives that we are beginning. I am not going to say much tonight because I would like to put together a presentation for the next meeting.

Mayor Swiderski: In fact, I was going to ask that you be the first of the mini-presentations on what the year looks like.

Trustee Walker: I would be delighted. So we will put that on for next time.

Village Attorney Stecich: I wanted to report to the Board that I met with Christina Griffin and Bennett Fradkin about the issues I had seen with the design guidelines: overall enforcement issues and how it is going to fit into the Code. We are of one mind and ready to meet with the Board on it. It is ready to go.

Mr. Downey: Mayor, I loved to hear what you said about shared services. The paving is subject to the swings of the petroleum. That was a big problem last year. The elevator and plumbing people may be one group of people. The paving people are a whole different crowd. They tend to operate in more of a monopoly type fashion. How are we going to benchmark, or measure, that they do not give us the appearance of a deal one year, and then create excuses the following year if you get locked into a contract with them? How do we make sure we keep them honest?

Mayor Swiderski: Not being a contracting expert, I do not know if I can speak to that. You are right. Much of the savings on the paving contract come from the deployment of milling equipment. It does not come from the actual material. Asphalt is a commodity, and the price does not much matter whether you are buying a million dollars' worth or ten million. So the economies of scale there do not come into play. It is more deployment of equipment. The savings are lower than I thought, but they are something. How do we know? I do not know how you can answer that.

Village Manager Frobel: We have done this before. We joined last year with other communities, and it is only a one-year contract. You compare it with the other bidders. If you see there is a wide gap, then there is a problem there.

Village Manager Frobel: Mayor, can we meet next Tuesday with the ARB? Does everyone's schedules allow? We had tentatively agreed to that a few weeks back, and we were also going to have, that same evening, a conversation with the Quarry Study Committee. They are ready to make a report to you as well

[Discussion of date, time and location]

Mayor Swiderski: The meeting will be a work session next Tuesday, May 12, at the Community Center at 7:00 p.m. We may want to ask for just a representative from the Planning Board rather than full court press.

Trustee Walker: The guidelines are up on the Web site?

Village Technology Director Zaratzian: Yes.

Trustee Walker: Will the public be allowed to comment, particularly business owners and folks in the downtown?

Mayor Swiderski: We are always willing to take comments at some point, and I certainly have no issue. But I do not want to make this a public comment period, where it is dominated by that.

Trustee McLaughlin: Do you want responses from the EDC and/or the Chamber?

Mayor Swiderski: The Chamber.

Trustee Walker: Since it went up on the Web site, have there been any comments from the public?

Village Manager Frobel: From a businessman, yes.

Trustee Walker: Maybe we should make folks aware with an email that it is up there for review. Is it too early?

Village Attorney Stecich: At this point, you ought to figure out where the Board wants to go with it. It may be that the Board looks at it, and when you realize the implications, you may say you do not want to go that far, or whatever. Maybe it is premature. I certainly made it clear at that meeting because, for certain, building owners, these design guidelines are going to be really significant because they have identified particular buildings as

historically significant. And then, as to them, there are special restrictions. It may be that the Board of Trustees looks at that and says we are not going in that direction.

Trustee McLaughlin: It is not proposed that we make anybody change what they currently have, is it?

Village Attorney Stecich: No, that is not in the design guidelines. It is going to kick in any time anybody comes for a building permit. There is going to be a lot to discuss, so maybe it makes sense for the Board and the ARB, and a representative of the Planning Board, to get a sense of it before it is started by the public. The Board has not looked at it other than briefly at the one meeting where we talked about it.

Trustee Walker: All right. So this will be a first go at it. As long as we continue that discussion about how the process will work; the content, but also the process.

Village Attorney Stecich: I think that is important to it, yes.

Trustee Jennings: I would like to see built in to our administrative process, when we have proposed laws and guidelines and so on, encouraging the public to submit written comments. The verbal comments at the public hearings are excellent and indispensable. But written comments are often very useful to the legislative process. Sometimes they are more thoughtful, more carefully prepared. So a little tweak of the culture of Hastings politics, to encourage, and make sure that we get the stuff to the people in a timely fashion so they can submit written comments.

Trustee Walker: That is a great idea. But as a planner who often does community processes, sometimes it is useful to set up a series of questions for the public to answer. Instead of getting random comments, structure the process so we get input in the most helpful way where we need it most. I am sure we will get comments about everything, but structure it so we get the information that is useful to us and the ARB. We could think about that maybe next week, when we have that meeting.

Mayor Swiderski: That is a very interesting idea.

I did not realize during the comments section that this is a new store owner in town. I am sorry I did not get you during public comments. We make it a habit to give new store owners a couple of minutes to describe what they are marketing.

Abraham Kim: We took over the MC Cleaners about two months ago, and I have been busy renovating and improving the inside. Now, I have to attack the outside a little bit. We have

other operations in New Rochelle and Pelham, and our clients are Trump Plaza tenants. We get contracts from those people, and we know exactly what we are doing. By education I was a CPA. I do not know how I got into this, but I love it. I successfully ran the other businesses. I increased it about 70% in the last two years using my marketing. I have a marketing point of view and a financial point of view. I learned so much.

It is my privilege to be part of this community. I love to be with the people of this town and am enjoying it so far. We are a little different than other dry cleaners. We are different in the way that we no longer use the petroleum solvent. We use silicon, one of the most innovative technologies in the dry cleaning industry. And also the poly bags, we use biodegradable. They cost me much more money, but I do not mind. It is good for people and the environment. We are recycling the hangars that people return. In terms of pricing I like to be Dunkin' Donuts more than Starbucks. I like to see everybody come in so everybody enjoys it. I want to say we are one of the most comparative dry cleaners in Westchester. The shirts are \$1.60. I hope everybody enjoys doing business with us and, if there is anything I can do for this township I would love to if I can. The outside, I would like to do a little bit. But I have to wait until the next meeting to get approved so I might have a nice little awning and the storefront a little bit. I really appreciate this opportunity, Mayor and Trustees. Thank you.

Mayor Swiderski: Your renovation so far, we look into your store as we come down Main Street, is a nice improvement, so thank you.

Mr. Kim: I try to do every possible thing, but still there are a lot of areas I would like to improve. In front of my store is a fire hydrant. I would like to repaint it. And there is a pole in front of the store that is rusty, so I made a proposal. I do not mind painting, if I get that same color. I do not mind doing that kind of stuff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION of Trustee Jennings, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, the Board scheduled an Executive Session immediately following the Regular Meeting to discuss personnel, contract negotiations, and litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee McLaughlin, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:40 p.m.