

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 13, 2010

A Public Hearing was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 7:35 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Swiderski, Trustee Bruce Jennings, Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan (8:25 p.m.), Trustee Meg Walker, Trustee Nicola Armacost, Village Manager Francis A. Frobels, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

CITIZENS: Three (3).

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 March 26, 2010 issue of *The Rivertowns Enterprise* to consider the Proposed Budget for the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2010 and ending on May 31, 2011.

Mayor Swiderski: We start with the public approaching the mic and expressing sentiments about the proposed budget. Is there anyone here who would like to speak?

John Gonder, 153 James Street: Mr. Frobels, when I read your budget a few weeks ago in the *Enterprise* I was a little upset. You have probably the toughest job in the Village to come up with a budget. The next day, I read White Plains' budget, almost 19 percent, and that upset me. The state upsets me. I have a few cars. License plates are now an extra 25 bucks. I hear the federal government may want to put some kind of tax for everyone. So taxes are a tough thing. I play a lot of golf, the county raised the prices 16.5 percent. So it's tough for senior citizens. And I don't like renegotiating contracts. You have a contract, you stick with it. The next contract maybe you make deals. I know you have a very tough job.

I think there are some things you have to put in the budget. One of my pet peeves for 40 years or so is swimming free for every student in the Hastings school system, whether they live in Hastings or in the Town of Greenburgh. They should have free swimming. I almost drowned twice, so I know what I am talking about. Swimming is very important. Once in the duck pond and once in the Saw Mill. Thank God somebody saved me both times. I think it is very healthy for kids to swim, and I know you have some thing for poor people that they can get in. But I think it should be free for every child in this school system. The rest, anybody else wants to join the pool, make them pay.

I hope you have money in there for the deer. There was a gentleman here from Cedar Street a couple of months ago, the president of the Little League, had a good program, and was looking for some money. I remember Mr. Callahan, maybe the last meeting and he talked

about Building 52. He was in favor of it, and I was the only one that was against it. I have nothing against Peter Callahan but I remember him when he was about this high and he had a first baseman's mitt about that long, and I think he was a southpaw. My son also played on the Red Wings, and it was coached by a guy named Antku. He was a very good coach. He came from Anaconda, and he worked hard with these kids. Peter Callahan looks like a nice young gentleman, a good citizen. And so is my son. They are taxpayers.

Mayor Swiderski: Stick to the budget. In the interest of time.

Mr. Gonder: I am all in favor of the Board putting some money into the Little League, especially now that it includes young girls. I think that is an important thing. Then there is one pet peeve I had, thank goodness, at least Mr. Frobels came up and looked at a storm drain running through Pulvers Woods. He saw it leaking, and he also saw that it is running at at least a gallon a second. I hope there is money in there.

What do you need in Hastings? You need revenue. That is where the Board can come in. I hear that the police chief has this new instrument that can read plates, and maybe we should use that a lot more to get some revenue. Swallow your pride and start negotiating with Verizon. There is some income that you can get. One of my other pet peeves is Atlantic Richfield. You accept money all the time, or you accept vehicles. You accept money for the Henry Hudson 400th anniversary, or for Friday Night Live, \$2 million for Building 52. Maybe you should ask Joe Sontchi to give us a little money, this budget is kind of high for the citizens. Maybe he will come up with a million or so and make it a little easier on us.

Ann Mahaney, Burnside Drive: I have been here for about 30 years. I do not usually come to these meetings. I know some of you, but not because I come to these meetings. I really have not had an opportunity to look closely at the budget. I did not realize it was online, and I just got a copy right now. I have read a little bit in the paper.

I am here tonight to find out why you think we need an approximately 7.9 percent increase in the budget. The school board seems to be working very hard, under a lot of pressure, to keep it down to zero percent. Times are tough for individuals. I lost a job over the past year. I certainly did not get a 7.9 percent raise when I got another job. My husband and I are approaching retirement age. While we love Hastings, I cannot see us staying here and paying these taxes. We want to. We have explored the options about a year ago, right after I had lost my job. We could not find another place we wanted to go to. It is just not fair that people cannot retire and stay where they want to be. I just hope you have looked very carefully at what you are proposing and ways in which taxes can be reduced for everybody.

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

CLOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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