

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2010

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at 8:40 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. Frobela, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

ABSENT: Attorney Marianne Stecich

CITIZENS: Thirty-two (32).

DISCUSSION – Wildlife Management Proposal

Mayor Swiderski: First item on the agenda is a discussion about wildlife management. I want to offer an overview of the issue, a work history of how we got here, a description of the potential solution we are considering, and then the next steps. This is the first formal presentation. When more people are around in September or October, there will be other meetings and other opportunities for people to comment on this issue. This is not intended as a public hearing, but I imagine there are going to be opinions. We will have a chance for that, and then move on to appointments and other issues before the Board for the day.

First, the obvious statement about the problem. We all know it, we have it under our noses. Thirty years ago, there really were not deer in lower Westchester. They have re-immigrated, not just here, but into densely populated areas across the Northeast and the eastern seaboard. We have whitetail deer population levels we have not seen in 500 years, literally since Western man came to the continent. There is increasing impact on residents but most communities cannot find a way to deal with this, especially the more densely populated ones. Across the country, if you go hunting for successful examples, there are precious few for dense suburban communities that have handled the "deer explosion," successfully.

Here in Hastings, the numbers are fairly stark. Lyme disease incidence is absolutely up, and there are numerous cases. We do not have a formal reporting mechanism in place, but certainly there are 100-plus cases a year, some with devastating consequences: people who are bedridden, surgeries. It is quite terrible. Serious forest degradation; long-term residents in Hastings remember when you could not look through Hillside Woods; the undergrowth there has been so decimated that you can literally look through sections of the woods from one end to another. There are at least 20 car accidents a year, and substantial property impact. One estimate, based on a model run by a Village resident who has done this in

numerous communities, indicates that economic damages, and it is a hard-to-believe number, but the cost to Village residents is well in excess of a million dollars a year.

So it is a real problem. This is not something trivial, many people feel how real it is, and yet we wrestle with the solution. A number of years ago, Paul Feiner set up a Greenburgh deer committee to attempt to come to some conclusions on what to do with whitetail deer. It was a committee with quite a few members, and with some significant amount of division. It yielded a report which examined, in 191 laboriously detailed and footnoted pages, the negative impacts of deer as well as the likely solutions to the problem. It is an opinionated document, quite easy to read, written in layman's terms; it will teach you more about ticks and all sorts of things than maybe you want to know. And it is in line with the findings of similar studies that have been done both at the county level and in other communities. The report's recommendations were blunt. They recommended bringing the numbers down via a cull by at least 70 percent for meaningful and lasting impact. It did recommend against immunocontraception, stating that is was ineffective in free range populations. The cull recommendations were in line with the recommendations that have come out of similar studies in other communities. And there was a minority report produced by several members, which found fault with some of the underlying science and the final conclusion. So the report was issued, and presented to the Board last June.

In discussing the deer issue here, I think it is worth touching on the issue of uncertainty. Science is less hard and certain about all sorts of things than sometimes we want it to be. That ranges from global warming to quantum mechanics. A theory is a theory, and does not necessarily have every data point supporting it. The same thing applies to the scientific issues around deer. There is disagreement, if you bring the deer population down, at which point there is an influence on Lyme disease in the community. There is disagreement that if you bring the deer population down a certain amount whether it will stay down, how quickly it bounces back. But there is broad agreement that deer have a real impact in a negative way on communities, and those impacts are measurable. You cannot argue with car accident statistics, and you cannot argue with the correlation over time that Lyme disease has risen with the increase in deer population. Exactly what that means moving forward is hard to determine. It is uncertain. We are left with having to make a decision, even though we cannot say for certain whether what we do will have all the effects we want it to have.

To bring us up to date to where we are today, this study was issued last June. We had initial discussions with the DEC over the summer over potential options. In September there was a public meeting with quite strong support for action. Certainly that meeting, which was attended by about 40 members of the public, broke heavily in favor of what was called, generically, a "cull." In October, the Village issued a request, by letter, to the DEC for a permit tailored to our specific circumstances. What I mean by that is that Hastings'

geography does not lend itself well to the typical cure that the DEC issues to whitetail deer over-population, which is hunting. At the state and local level we have restrictions on behavior. The county restricts us to bow and arrow. We are restricted to a 500-foot radius around where the bow and arrow hunter can fire. There cannot be a school or a residence that has not permitted it. If you pull out a map of Hastings and take your compass and draw 1,000-foot diameter circles on that map, looking for places where you can engage in the typical solution the DEC offers communities, which is a hunt, you are left with a narrow strip in the center of Hillside Woods which complies with those conditions. And everywhere in Hastings, you overlap enough homes so that the hope of getting all the homes within that 1,000-foot circle to agree to hunting is minimal.

We did not test that theory. We did not go around and verify that out of 25 owners all 25 would agree to a hunt. But it was felt that that was not likely. So given that, the usual cure the DEC offers was not going to work here. We went to them asking for literally anything that would: "net," meaning throwing a net over the deer, and sterilize; net-and-euthanize; dart-and-euthanize; dart-and-sterilize – please give us something. The DEC, which had attended the public meeting and was struck by the public support for action, went away and thought about it. In January, they came back with a permit for net-and-euthanize. In more popular parlance this is a technique called "net-and-bolt." It serves this discussion well to be somewhat explicit about what that means, because in the understanding of what that means is the understanding of why we are taking the direction we are taking.

Net-and-bolt involves drawing the deer to a given location by baiting a location, usually with corn. The deer become habituated in visiting that area and, on the day of action, either a net is thrown over the deer, or the net is underneath a cover of leaves and swoops up and grabs the deer. But the deer is immobilized. At that point, you have a burly man or two who comes running out and restrains the deer, and another one who uses a device called a "bolt," captive bolt, which is typically used in slaughter yards to kill the cows that we all have, who are not vegetarian, for dinner. However, in a cattle yard a cow is led down a narrow chute and restrained in a way that when the bolt is applied 98 percent of the time it stuns the animal or kills the animal on the spot, and you have the result you are looking for. This is not the same situation. You have got a struggling animal who is being restrained by men who are sometimes holding pieces of plywood to restrain it, and a guy who is trying to line the bolt up to get the deer in the head. More than half of the time that is successful. The other time, it takes multiple attempts. It is not pretty. It is brutal, bluntly. And as, in May, we began to examine the implementation it became clear that if net-and-bolt were a onetime event perhaps, as a community, we could talk ourselves into fooling ourselves that this was something we could do. But it is not. A net-and-bolt episode in a given year will bring the population down by 20 percent, maybe 30 percent if you are lucky. You would have to do it two or three years in a row to bring the numbers down to where you want them. And then

you would have to do it every two or three years forever. No community has done that because after one year of net-and-bolt, after getting a good sight of this, most communities back away. Maybe I am mistaken, but I suspect we are one of those communities that would back away.

I do not know if, collectively, year in and year out, we would have the proverbial stomach for this. That is a value judgment from up here on the Board, and it is open to contest, and comment. However, there seems something wrong in engaging in an experiment where there is a very good chance that you are going to back away after two or three years; a brutal experiment, where the net result is that you return to where you were, prior to the experiment, within a few years. I do not know if that is a stain worth bearing. Again, that is a judgment call, certainly for me personally and enough members of the Board that we decided to look at other alternatives. So in June we reached out and began to examine what we can do here. We cannot use a lethal method like bow and arrow; we cannot shoot, that is outlawed. Net-and-bolt does not feel right. So we have to reexamine the non-lethal options and are they really ineffective. The Greenburgh deer study, based on data at the time, indicated it was not particularly effective in free range populations. But other studies indicated it has worked. So we looked more. And what we saw was that after four or five years of immunocontraception use in a community the deer numbers, even in free range communities like ours, dropped below 50 percent, 60 percent to where we want them. Part of that is because deer do not range much. You are going to have some immigration into Hastings from neighboring communities, but deer are pretty local. So what you do to Hastings deer stays with Hastings deer. And an effort carried out on Hastings can have an effect within Hastings, even though we join other communities. We believe that communities next to ours will be taking action to control their deer numbers. Certainly, Dobbs Ferry and Irvington are looking at options. So if they are controlling their numbers, and I cannot speak to how yet, and we are controlling our numbers perhaps this experiment is worth a try.

To summarize, when we looked at this problem we saw that net-and-bolt would take a couple of years to get the numbers down to where we want. We would be doing it every two to three years forever. Not a minor point, it would always involve professionals. You are never going to find volunteers from the community willing to restrain deer and kill them with captive bolts. It is most stressful on the deer, and that is using coded language. And we were unable to find communities where it has been done for a prolonged period of time. The summary of the factors in favor of immunocontraception were that it has the potential to be as effective. It does take a year or two more to become effective, but as effective. It is cheaper because ultimately it relies on volunteers. It is sustainable in terms of community support because you are never going to get a head of steam out of people going over darting

deer with contraceptives. You are just not. There is nothing morally reprehensible about it, and for those people who find it morally reprehensible I think I do not have much to say. Finally, frankly, we may have support from some funding organizations.

On the volunteer front, I can tell you there is a hunting community in Hastings that is not small; not particularly large, but they are here. To be trained in the use of these tranquilizer guns is inexpensive. The guns are not terribly expensive, and the darts are not terribly expensive. So once the program is going, the annual expense is low single-digit thousands of dollars, which is nothing compared to the impact on the community of deer. We will never bring deer down to zero in Hastings no matter what we do. Those days are behind us. So we are now in the game of harm reduction. If we can bring the deer numbers down relatively cheaply and without comprising ourselves, it has to be a worthwhile experiment.

Let us talk briefly about immunocontraception. There are a variety of chemicals out there. The one we are looking at is something called PZP. It induces infertility in does. You hit the does, not the bucks. That infertility lasts for two years, though it may be longer. But let us just say, for argument, two years. What that means is that every two years we would have a "hunting season," where, starting with professionals and ultimately volunteers, people would dart deer. These darts leave a red stain on the deer coat so you do not repeat darting a deer in that three-month period or two-month period or one-week period, or whatever it is that you do it. Then you come back in two years and do it again. At first this would be done professionally and the expense would be considerably higher. Ultimately, volunteers would take over and it would be cheaper long-term on a maintenance basis. The initial costs here are not cheap, less so than some of the numbers I have seen quoted in the newspapers, but still not cheap, in fact, in line with what net-and-bolt costs. But that is the "startup cost." The longer-term costs are significantly less per deer, less than \$100.

The second part of the proposal is equally important. The fact is that deer are not going away, and neither are coyotes and neither are raccoons and all of it. The natural kingdom has come home to stay. Ultimately what we have to contend with is that changes in behavior will complete the circle of what we have to do to minimize harm. Everybody is familiar with Lyme disease basics by now. Most people know if they see a circular rash to do something. Not everybody. I had a big circular rash on my chest this summer. The thought did not occur to me. In fact, it was Lyme. So a better educational effort probably would not hurt, both in identifying symptoms and how to avoid catching it. It is not just an issue of walking in high grass. There are habitats where ticks are frequent that people can be educated on.

Collision avoidance. Deer are especially active at certain times of the year, and day, and remind people of that. There are things that do not work. Whistles on your car do not work. There are some things that might, and we would explore those and educate people. Finally,

what we can do to reduce the deer impact on our property. Your tomatoes will remain at risk even if we bring the deer down by 60 percent. I think we will eventually give up on tulips. But there are gardening methods, there are substances, there are things people can do. I strung fishing line in circles around my garden, and the tulips made it through the season. So there are things you can do, there are things you cannot. Our Web site will ultimately boast lists of what works, what does not, places you can go, things you can buy, plan, step, do better and endorse. But again, we are talking about harm reduction, not elimination. We are probably moving toward a world where more people have fences than perhaps we would like, and there is nothing we can do about it. The deer are here, and even if we were as brutal as we cannot imagine ourselves being the numbers would always be something more than would guarantee peace in our gardens. So it is harm reduction, and that is the theme.

This is not just an idea. The immunocontraceptive study we are proposing will be run by Dr. Rutberg of Tufts University. He is a national expert on immunocontraception. He has visited Hastings. As luck would have it, he went to Hillside Woods and happened to see four herds. I have only seen one in any given visit, but he saw four different groups of deer, and came away convinced that Hastings indeed have enough deer for the study. The species metrics effort which we are proposing, an effort to verify the impact on reduced deer numbers on the environment, would be run by Dr. Kiviat, who heads up an organization called Hudsonia. Hudsonia is a respected private sector group that does studies for developers, for communities, for environmental organizations seeking to develop metrics on species counts, on the health of an environment: rigorous, scientific and academically-tested results, where they will plot out spots within Hastings and elsewhere, count the species within those plots of, I believe his proposal initially is, plants. Then, over the course of a number of years, see if fewer deer result in greater diversity, larger-size undergrowth, and have this comparison in communities which do not have deer control and see if those communities see it, as well. An academically rigorous test. We have fund-raising, and this effort will, in part, be coordinated by Barbara Stagno. She is the local representative of an organization called In Defense of Animals, and obviously interested in this issue. She has been before us in the past, and will be helping with a package to fund raisers to see if we can get this paid for by the Humane Society or other organizations, at least in part, in heavy part, and also to help coordinate what is not a small effort here. Local metrics will be run by resident volunteers. Ellen Gold, who is a consultant and statistician, will be collecting information via local population logs. Dr. Noah Robbins, a local resident who is head of infectious diseases at Albert Einstein College, will be reaching out to local doctors and collecting informal numbers on Lyme disease to see if there is some progress over time. What you see here is an effort that is beginning to develop into something that is credible, with serious people attached to it, so that if we do engage in this experiment it has the best chance it would have of happening in any community, because it will be tested, it will be monitored, and it will be carried out by people who have done this before.

This was the easy part. Not that getting to this point has been easy, but PowerPoints are easy. The DEC granted us one permit. We are not acting on that permit; we are clearly going to pursue a new one. That is going to take discussion with the DEC. That is going to take refining our proposal to match requirements they may have. It is going to take work, and that is not going to happen in a month or two. It is going to be six months or nine months of work.

There is a fund-raising component here. We think this is something of potentially national interest and importance. Communities like us are in great numbers around this country, and if we do something here that is rigorous and well-tested and well-run, and has a meaningful result, positive or negative, that is something useful for the rest of the country. If we do it right, we have done ourselves and the country literally an important justice here.

This is the first part of a public outreach that is going to have to happen over the next few months. Lots of people in Hastings have been waiting for something to happen. We have this permit in hand for something that seemed like we were getting close to, and now we are pursuing another tack. There is lots of explaining to be done, lots of buy-in to be bought. That will take some time. Realistically, between permitting, fund-raising, the time to carry out the immunocontraception is in September or October before rutting season, which is late October-November. There is certainly no point in contraceptizing deer if they are already pregnant. So we are talking about something that is going to happen next fall, not this fall. It simply will not move fast enough.

I end, I do not want to call this a plea, but with a statement that we are not the only community struggling with this issue. We are like many others who have not found something that works. Yet we are committing to doing something. But doing something does not mean doing something for the sake of doing something, and then regretting it. Doing something means doing something that you feel good about and, down the road, will not regret. I, at least, think that it is better to experiment with a non-lethal option and fail, and have the regrets of some money lost, than experiment with a lethal option and fail and have deeper regrets. So that is how we have come to where we are and where we are going. Before I turn to the public for comment I would like to ask the Board for comments.

Trustee Armacost: I think that the proposal is humane, which makes me feel comfortable about it. I think it is economically sustainable over time. And I think that was something that was not clear early on. The net-and-bolt would have to happen, basically into perpetuity, in order for it to be effective. And what I particularly like about it is that it is results-oriented. Even if the timeline is a little longer, the results that we are going to get are results that will ultimately be cheaper for the community and equally effective as any other result.

So that combination makes me feel like it is the right choice at this point. I would rather experiment with this and find out where we go than experiment with something else where we end up putting a lot of energy, we create a lot of complex emotional responses that are very strong and heartfelt on each side, and we do not get any results at the end of the day. Thank you for all the work that you have put into this. I know that this has been very difficult for you personally, and I think you have done an amazing job in getting to this point.

Mayor Swiderski: Well, thank you. And I want to comment on that because I think I have to own this. A year and a half ago, when we were elected, we cut up the agenda into the pieces we would all individually tackle. I took what I considered either the losers or the ones that were going to stink the worst, because it seemed only fair if I was going to be cutting up the agenda. So much of the driving behind this has been mine, just like much of the driving behind the waterfront has been Jerry's and behind Friday Night Live and the downtown work has been Meg's, and sustainability has been Bruce's, and budget has been Niki's. We all own our projects, but we all talk to each other and make sure that the other parties are on board. However, there is no question as to who the driving individuals are here. And in all of this, in the tough stuff, in everything I have said, and in the positions taken, we all own our words and on this issue I have done so, too. I will not hide behind the skirts of the Board. This has been my project. And the Board has been on board in terms of understanding where we are, and so has the public. The public has heard what we are doing, seeking the permits. But make no mistake, if this fails it is my failure and if succeeds it is my success.

Trustee Jennings: I do not have much to add to your presentation. I thought it was clear. From the beginning of the timeline that you mentioned we have all recognized that we have a significant responsibility to manage the deer population in Hastings, for a variety of reasons. Our response has been logical and reasonable. We have tried to find out what the state and the law would permit us to do, what our options were. We have engaged in ongoing learning and research, and talking to people about what methods would be effective and which ones would not. It is a dynamic field, and I would not fault the Greenburgh deer report, but since it was done, the understanding we have has evolved and developed. The information this summer that we have received supports the conclusion that you have outlined: that at this time the most reasonable thing to do is to find out more about, and find out how, we can implement a non-lethal population control strategy, not simply because it is palatable to the community, and not simply because it may be more ethically justified, but also because it may be more effective and better public policy for this community than lethal policies and approaches. That is my feeling now. We are continuing to do what we have done all along: responsibly investigate the options and the consequences. We do not want to waste the taxpayers' money by doing something that will put us right back where we are now in just three or four years. That is just stupid; ethics does not even enter into it. That is just very poor governance, and I am afraid that is where net-and-bolt was going to take us and we are

on a better track now. We will see. It may not succeed. We do not know what the state is going to allow us to do, but I do think we are taking a responsible approach and we should continue to investigate and find out what we can do and what maybe will work.

Trustee Walker: It is hard being a pioneer and trying things that other communities have not. I applaud you, Peter, for leading us forward in this clearly difficult and complex issue. A lot of the ups and downs have come from the fact that we are trying something that other communities have not tried. There are always bumps in the road when you strike out on a new road. That is understandable. I think we have been heading in the right direction. There has always been a strong outcry against the deer. There are a lot of people in the village who really want us to do something about it, very vocal citizenry. But on the other side there are equally vocal citizenry who would like to protect the deer and are also speaking out for a humane solution. In the middle, if we were to go in the net-and-bolt direction, costs aside, which are significant, I think we would find that there are a lot more people who would react negatively. I myself am one of them. When I looked at the reality of what net-and-bolt meant, it did look brutal and it was, I think, an inhumane direction. So I am pleased that we are going in a humane direction, and I am pleased that we are looking at the long term as opposed to looking for the easiest solution in the short term. Wildlife management is a very long-term process, and you have to look, perhaps, 10 or 20 years in advance. That is our responsibility as a board. We have to look at that larger picture. Along the way, as we develop our solution, there is going to be more research and more information. We may, in fact, be pioneers in this area, trying out things that will lead to better solutions for others. So I applaud you. Thank you for your hard work.

Trustee Quinlan: It is a very difficult situation that we face in Hastings in terms of what are we going to do. It reminds me a lot of the abortion issue. People feel strongly on both sides,. You get amazing emotional and psychological responses when you deal with that issue, and it is hard to figure out what is right and wrong. You just have to go with your gut, and I think it is the same here. I am not going to comment on net-and-bolt because we have never tried it. We got a license for it, and it appears that the majority of the Board is not going to do it. The problem that I have is I do not think that this solution is going to work. I respect the mayor greatly, he knows that, and we work closely together on all the issues. I hope I am wrong, but the Greenburgh deer committee report said that it would not work. We are flying in the face of them, and I apologize for all the hard work that they have done and now we are not accepting their recommendations. They met for years and put hundreds of thousands of hours into the report, and it is going to be another study gathering dust over in the corner of some governmental office.

Also, there are other people in our community. Dr. Peter Arno, who is a professor and director in the doctoral program in the department of health policy and management for New

York Medical College, does not believe it is going to work. He is working with a Connecticut group very closely, the Fairfield County Municipal Deer Management Alliance, and their main expert, Dr. Georgina Scholl, has indicated in a very clear e-mail that she believes that contraception cannot and has not reduced populations of free-ranging deer in any study.

I thought the proposal was nice, but I would like to see some specifics. I would like to call up some villages and towns, I hope they are out there, and ask if they reduced their population by using contraception, and by how much, and how long have they been doing it and how much did it cost. There are some experts, and I am not saying they are correct, who say that with free-ranging deer, it will not work. I hope I am wrong, but we have a big problem here. The eco-structure of our woods is almost completely destroyed. You walk around Hillside Woods and other woods, and undergrowth is barely left; the deer are eating it. It is almost too late for our woods. I love deer, but how many birds and insects have we wiped out because there is no place for them to live. Lyme disease is a problem, accidents are a problem. I do not worry about people's gardens that much because there are ways and people are going to build more fences. And they have every right to. There are different things that you can do, like the Mayor has indicated, to protect your gardens, and people are going to do that. But I do care about Lyme disease, I do care about the other animals that we are destroying, I do care about the accidents. I will keep my fingers crossed, and we'll go forward with this as obviously we have a majority. Hope springs eternal.

Trustee Walker: In the darting of the tranquilizers, how does the DEC 500-foot radius come into play?

Mayor Swiderski: I do not know. It is an issue. The first round would likely not be darting. The first round would likely be netting and tagging and direct injections. But ultimately we would need either an exception or a change in the regulations to allow for it. It is one of several discussion items with the DEC.

Trustee Quinlan: I would like to add that I do not know if anybody has noticed but we have so many deer in Hastings. It is incredible. They are walking right down the middle of my street in daylight. I do not know how many hundreds we have, but it is an incredible amount.

Trustee Armacost: Unbelievable.

Mayor Swiderski: It seems to be every day now in the season that we have seen them all over.

Trustee Armacost: Just one final thought on the experts. I remember when I had my first child. Everything I read there was a counter opinion to. I have many friends who are experts in many things. But there is a point at which, as a village or a society or a town, you have to make choices that feel comfortable for people, that they can live with over time. We will get studies and have equally high piles on each side making each case. There is a point at which what I care about is that we act, that we do not postpone these discussions until time immemorial, and that whatever solution we end up coming up with, we act on it soon so we will see results before we are all geriatrics.

Mayor Swiderski: This is not technically a public meeting, but people have opinions here. So a couple of ground rules. It is an emotional issue. Wrestle those emotions to the ground for the evening, if you could. Please refrain from clapping if you agree with somebody, because if everybody does that for one opinion, and somebody wanted to express the opposite, it is a suppression of that person's inclination to talk and we want to hear all opinions. Secondly, if somebody has just said what you are going to say there is no need to hear it again. So try to be unique in what you have to offer. Also, if you disagree with somebody, this is not a back-and-forth between people. I do not want this to degenerate into anything that polarizes the community. Finally, I am going to ask those within the community to speak first, and then we will give nonresidents a chance. Before we begin with the public, Barbara Stagno is one of the volunteers who will be helping us.

Barbara Stagno: My name is Barbara Stagno, and I am from Dobbs Ferry. I want to address the uncertainty that people are speaking about, and the fact that there seems to be a lot of talk about this being an experiment, which it is. I thank the Mayor for taking ownership of what maybe failed. But I have very little feeling that this will fail. I have spoken extensively to the two scientists who have pioneered this over a period of 25 years: Allen Rutberg, as the Mayor has referred to, and another scientist in Montana named Jay Kirkpatrick. I have spoken to Jay in particular about the fact that this is going to be an experimental permit, and he laughs. He says, how can it be experimental? We have proven this time and time again over a period of 20 years. The science is there. It has been used on a variety of mammalian species: free-roaming African elephants, free-roaming horses, a number of cervids, which include the deer population, elk, moose. In his mind, and in Allen Rutberg's mind, there is not a great risk here because the science has been proven, papers have been published, peer reviewed. It is very solid. We are not on shaky ground.

I know there is a lot of concern about the aspect of a free-roaming population versus a closed population. Again, studies have been done on deer movements. In particular, one study was conducted in Highland Park, Illinois, a suburb very much like Hastings. It borders Chicago, and is a major metropolis. They radio-collar the deer. They use something called telemetry. They tracked deer movements and proved that the deer never traveled more than one mile.

One square mile was the deer movement, at most. I think that is pretty solid. In addition t studies have been done by Dr. Kirkpatrick and Dr. Rutberg, which also, in a less formal way, have shown that there is not great deer migration. I do not think the town is going out on a limb. I think the science is solid. I want to thank the Mayor and the Trustees for being open to considering this. Everything that the Mayor has said tonight is true: we do have a problem, we do need to seek a solution. There has not yet been a solution because immunocontraception, though it has been around for 20 years, has not been used in this kind of setting. We are going to see that change, and we are going to see that change because of towns that have vision, like Hastings. I did speak here about four months ago. I criticized the town for not looking at immunocontraception. And I want to thank Mayor Swiderski for listening to me, sitting down, giving me some serious air time and some other people as well. I think this will have a very good outcome for everyone. I also want to thank the Mayor for acknowledging the human component of this, and acknowledging that this could tear the town apart. I represent an animal protection organization, and one of the things I have learned is that there is definitely a human anguish component to when we do any harm to animals. It is very real, it has been documented. I appreciate the fact that you have acknowledged that, as well.

Mayor Swiderski: Thank you. Now on to residents.

John Gonder, 153 James Street: It is an ethical problem. I do not see our attorney up here. This has never been brought up that you reconsidered culling. So what is it, Tammany Hall, the backroom antics? When was this decision made, Mr. Mayor? Do you not do it in public? All I know, in the paper it says on July 29 the Mayor's midsummer update announced that lethal options would be tabled. That is why I talk, you need a new ethical code. You lost two years now, Mr. Mayor. You were a Trustee before you were mayor. You told me nobody wants to kill Bambi. I know you are right. And then you became mayor, and a lot of people were upset on the deer. Me, too, because they are eating my gardens. People left my fence open, double fence. They ate probably 80 pounds of tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers, and I was mad. They destructed my dogwoods. I had 36 dogwoods. The storms damaged them. The deer got most of them. I got four left. Mr. Mayor, I took my hat off to you because you had this project and you got a permit, and I was disgusted and disappointed when I read this paper because you waffle around. You back-room stuff. I was going to give you \$10 for every deer up to 100 that you took out of this village. Well, I am renegeing now because it is a new method. God put deer on this earth for food, and if I remember correctly the deer were going to be used for food. I am very disappointed in the Board. You are wasting another two years. The population has increased in my little Pulvers Woods. It is a disaster area. Probably none of you even know where Pulvers Woods is except Mr. Frobel. You should see the damage done. There is an increase of 50 percent.

Another two years go by, it is going to be doubled again. So I am just disappointed in the Board, waffling around and no guts.

Joyce Altman, 123 Mt. Hope Boulevard: I am extremely pleased with the decision that the Board has made. I believe that you have considered all the options, and come up with the humane solution for our community. I understand that we have a deer overpopulation problem in this community. I see deer running across the streets. I know people have Lyme disease. I understand all that. But we share this planet with animals, we share this community with animals. I do not think that we have a right to inhumanely kill creatures that share our space. I have deer that come into my yard every day, I know they eat everything out there, and I do not care that much. I get a lot of inspiration and uplifting just from seeing them out there. To me, they are a wonderful part of our lives. And yes, we need to reduce the numbers of them, but I am in great appreciation of the decision that you have made.

Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Parkway: I would like to thank you for your work. The presentation was fantastic, and I would throw my support 100 percent behind what you did here. People should cut you some slack when they bring up what you said in the past. In two years it has been a learning process. To hold you to something you said before, when new information has been brought to light, people should consider you are entitled to change your mind if you see something that is going to work better for the community. I was one of those people earlier on who would have been in favor of a bow or a gun, hard-culling of the animals, because I did not see enough information with the contraception approach. I still do have concerns on it. Some of your data tonight is not quite accurate, and I would like to volunteer to work with you, bringing my depth of experience both as a former hunter and somebody who has trekked all over the woods in Hastings and adjoining communities and knows these animals and how they move.

Our biggest problem is going to be from St. John's Hospital to the Hastings line, that massive number of deer in Lenoir Preserve and Andrus. If we can get some footprint in there to do darting, and to give us a buffer, communities like Dobbs Ferry in particular are going to love it because we are going to cover that one-mile radius for them. And if Irvington can do it from their side, they are going to have a great time. I think you are going on the right track here. The economy of it works out, the sustainability works out. People should back off and cut you some slack for changing. I do not call it waffling, I do not call it backroom. I call it coming to new information and taking time to thoroughly think it through.

David Skolnik, 47 Hillside Avenue: I want to make sure I express my respect for what you are attempting to do and my appreciation for it. I would probably agree with Trustee Quinlan. There are a number of aspects of this process that I find disturbing, and I would rather address those than the merits of the actual process, the actual way to go with trying a

solution. I also find myself agreeing with Mr. Gonder that this decision seemed to come from virtually nowhere. I was able, finally, to watch the only evidence of this presentation by Dr. Rutberg, which was a presentation to what was listed as a town council on the Greenburgh site. But it really was not a town council. It was a special meeting. I felt it was very unconvincing. I felt that a tremendous amount of more information and discussion would have been needed. And I am surprised at the process, going even from the article that appeared in the paper some time ago, that seemed to suggest that there was some re-discussion to what is being presented now as basically a decision. So I find that process disturbing, too.

I find the discussion about what is humane and what is not humane not intellectually solid. You can pose certain possible constructions and see what your answer would be. If we accept from the Greenburgh study the destruction of the foliage, the flora, and if we happened to be in a community where the rules would have allowed hunting, we would still be faced with a clearer dilemma, which is would hunting actually address many of those issues that you posed. You said that basically this is something we have to live with, that they are here to stay, there is nothing we can do about that. So it is going to be hard to be able to point to a positive or negative outcome. Meanwhile, in the Greenburgh study, the timeline for the destruction was pretty severe. I would want to see a stepping back from what you are presenting as a decision. I would like you to come to this community more convincingly, if there is data. With all due respect, I do not accept people representing studies or doctors or experts on this. I do not agree that if you got a lot of information it would necessarily even out and therefore makes it moot to try to get additional information. I want to see more reasoning. As much as this might be the only solution, there needs to be more discussion on this.

Mayor Swiderski: And I agree.

Jackie Lhoumeau, 157 Southside Avenue: If we are going to use contraception, do we dart the deer with contraceptive or do we have to net the deer and then inject it deliberately?

Mayor Swiderski: We do not know. It may be a combination of both: in the first years a netting with the intention of tagging and monitoring more carefully, and then when the number drops, on a sustained basis, darting. But that is all part of the exploratory phase as we sit down with the DEC and see what we can or cannot do.

Ms. Lhoumeau: It sounds like you were suggesting since contraception lasts two years that you would only do the darting every two years.

Mayor Swiderski: That is correct.

Ms. Lhoumeau: I would suggest doing it every year, but have some way to see which deer you have already hit if the technology might permit, the tags or something.

Mayor Swiderski: If you tag, yes. But deer molt, so the red stain on the side of a deer from a dart would not survive the year.

Ms. Lhoumeau: But there might be some way to have RFID tags.

Mayor Swiderski: Ear tags.

Ms. Lhoumeau: That you could then see we got this already. Just in the interest of getting the numbers down faster.

Mayor Swiderski: Agreed. And that is probably what would happen in the first few years. It would be an annual event.

Ms. Lhoumeau: How long do you think it would take to see whether this is working or not?

Mayor Swiderski: Four to five years?

Ms. Lhoumeau: I appreciate all your work on this. I know it is a hard one.

Mr. Gonder: The doctor may be able to answer this question. I heard that if you do contraceptive methods that it has to be a veterinarian that gives the contraceptive. I do not know if that is 100 percent right, but I heard that from the DEC when they were here one time, or I read it.

Mayor Swiderski: No, we have not been told that.

Mr. Downey: I wonder if, at some point, the Village may make a statement on their attitude towards hunters. Presently a good deal of hunting goes on in the woods around us, a lot of deer are taken. There are some individuals that are highly irresponsible and they should be arrested for their poor conduct. But there are extremely responsible people out there. We need to know more information in terms of if these deer are injected with the birth control and then later shot and consumed by people. If there is any concern to human health, I am sure the word would get out very quickly with all these hunters. They will withdraw from this area, and the population reduction they have been doing year in and year out will disappear overnight and then you will have even a greater leap forward in terms of deer population.

Mayor Swiderski: I do not have a firm answer. I can tell you that PZP is a protein that has its effect upon injection and fades immediately, and is apparently consumable. But you would have to hear that from Dr. Rutberg, and I am imagining the DEA would have to weigh in on that, as well. But I do not believe it has a lasting negative effect on the meat and it can be consumed. If there is what the Greenburgh deer study called "sub rosa hunting" and deer are caught and consumed, it should not be an issue. But you would want to hear that from somebody more authoritative than me.

On to nonresidents. Are there any nonresidents her who want to speak?

Corey Shaff, Sharon, Connecticut: I live in Connecticut, but Hastings is my hometown. I am driving four hours tonight to speak for about four minutes, so I appreciate the indulgence of the Trustees and the residents. While I support the Mayor's new position to pursue immunocontraception, there remain for me some serious concerns. Mayor Swiderski was recently quoted in the local paper saying, I have a hard time imagining net-and-bolt working in our community. I have a hard time imagining that this mayor could make such a statement, given his public record on this issue. On September 9, 2009 Mayor Swiderski traveled to Irvington to sell his agenda, the net-and-bolt slaughter of deer. Based on only 38 hands raised in favor of a cull, and none of those hands endorsing a net-and-bolt cull, Mayor Swiderski misrepresented the people of Hastings, telling Irvington trustees that the Village had, quote, rolled over on the issue. He stated, quote, We're going to do this no matter what. Then, in a derogatory tone, he went on to describe the people of Hastings as, quote, having a reputation for being desperately green and earthy-crunchy. From the very same chair in which he is seated tonight, the Mayor stated that he was proud and excited to be the pilot program for net-and-bolt.

Mayor Swiderski had no interest in providing residents with a description of just what this barbaric, lethal method entailed until tonight. I feel it is important to give a description of what he was so reluctant to make clear. He left a few things out. Deer are baited and then trapped under a heavy net where they thrash about desperately trying to escape, often breaking their own legs in the process. Hired killers then attempt to fire slaughter bolts in their heads, often missing because the captive bolt gun was designed to be used with stationary cattle in slaughter yards. It is hard to imagine a more inhumane and horrific method of killing deer. Despite his continuing reassurance that he had decided nothing on this issue, the following quotes from Mayor Swiderski e-mails, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, reveal otherwise. His personal goal was to kill as many deer as possible. Quote, We're going to do something serious. It won't be definitive, which I would call wiping out all the deer.

Quote, I don't know if we will successfully reduce the numbers to something you would find acceptable, which may be close to zero, and I wouldn't blame you. Quote, We need to lead the community along in this process. And he dismissed several e-mails he received opposing his agenda, referring to them in that meeting as, quote, a few cranky e-mails.

Mayor Swiderski: Mr. Shaff, are you going somewhere with this?

Mr. Shaff: Yes, I am. I drove four hours to speak for four minutes. As a direct result of Mayor Swiderski's misguided agenda and blatant disregard for life, Hastings-on-Hudson is now the first community in the history of New York State to be granted a permit for the net-and-bolt slaughter of deer. As a former resident and someone who grew up in Hastings, I am not proud of this distinction. I have followed this issue very closely, and it is clear to me that this is about more than protecting deer from inhumane treatment. It is about protecting and preserving the reputation of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson itself. The Mayor has stated that his net-and-bolt permit will be, quote, set aside for now. But it is obvious he stills plans to use it if he is unable to obtain a permit from immunocontraception. The fact that his net-and-bolt permit remains active and within arm's reach is an abomination. If Mayor Swiderski is to have any credibility at all on this issue he must commit to this new approach and destroy his permit to net and bolt deer and return it to the DEC.

Mayor Swiderski: Thank you for that.

Perhaps the public now understands why the last year and a half has been difficult. Mr. Schaff, as a nonresident, has not been alone in pursuit on this issue with opinions strongly expressed. I will address the one or two facts that I would care to address. In fact, I did go to other communities and lobbied hard for them to join us. The more broadly a deer control measure is done, the more effective it is. And leadership sometimes comes in overstating your case to get people to march with you. I own my words and I do not walk them back. At the time, I was seeking to rally local communities to take action. And, in fact, Dobbs Ferry and Irvington since that time have taken action to seriously consider what they are going to do. We have shifted. We are being requested to rip up a permit that does not exist in physical form...

Mr. Shaff: I have it in physical form.

Mayor Swiderski: You have a printed-out e-mail.

Mr. Shaff: No, I have a copy of the permit, sent from the DEC.

Mayor Swiderski: You had your time at the mic, and your moment is over. That permit is granted for a year. It is quite clear from the action that we are taking here that we are not taking that path. I will characterize the rest of the opposition I faced as equally sincere and strong, and I have considered it. But ultimately, our responsibility is not to nonresidents no matter how strongly those nonresidents or former residents hold their opinions, but to Hastings residents. And to consider what is right for them, and what makes sense here. That is the way we will continue to do business. Once again, that is the way we should do business.

I will say, with great affection, as a green-home-owning, hybrid-driving, one-car-owning vegetarian that they do not come earthier and crunchier than me. So if Mr. Shaff does not see the polite self-irony of a resident of Hastings calling Hastings residents earthy-crunchy that is his problem. I am proud to be earthy and crunchy, and part of this community. And that factors into my decision-making here. I recognize that those sentiments are strong and deep, and would play a role in the revulsion people would feel to a technique that was a technique handed to us. I have nothing else to say.

Diana Barrella, Irvington: I want to thank you for gathering more information and changing your mind. And maybe we are all not perfect, and it takes someone bigger to admit maybe a small mistake. I also want to address one thing with your presentation. I was a part of the Greenburgh deer committee since the very beginning, and I can speak for some other people here. We gathered information for Jacques on both sides, against our will for the other side. Like you said, you can pile it this high for this side. But that report is very skewed, very inaccurate. It is very one-way opinionated. So I would not base all my facts on it, because we could argue both sides. Just because they came to a conclusion without notifying the rest of us to net-and-bolt does not mean that their conclusions for the Greenburgh deer report were correct. Maybe we should not emphasize that Greenburgh deer report so much. We should keep going the way you have decided, and I thank you for that. For deciding, and making that decision.

Mayor Swiderski: The Greenburgh deer report is certainly a report written with an opinion. It is strongly written, and I enjoyed reading it because it was not dry. But much of it is without argument. We did break with the final conclusion because, ultimately, when applied to Hastings it is hard. However, the vast majority of that report is without controversy. You cannot argue with accident stats and deer tick life cycles and everything else. There is a lot of information in there, and a lot of it is footnoted and non-controversial. Clearly, there are parts we, in the end, had issues with.

Ms. Barrella: As a committee member, I enjoyed challenging those points on the other side. We just needed a bigger audience to listen to us at that time, which we did not have.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Swiderski: We have one appointment to announce, one we are delighted to make.

Trustee Armacost: Kathleen Sullivan, who was head of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, has agreed to fill a position on the Planning Board that was recently made vacant. We are delighted with that choice because of all of the excellent work that she has done on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. We are hoping that she will take all of that enthusiasm and support of the Village into the Planning Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 6, 2010 were approved as presented.

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 6, 2010 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 9-2010-11 \$ 68,701.54
Multi-Fund No. 11-2010-11 \$313,791.85
Multi-Fund No. 13-2010-11 \$ 2,031.43
Multi-Fund No. 14-2010-11 \$209,233.09
Multi-Fund No. 15-2010-11 \$ 3,181.20
Multi-Fund No. 16-2010-11 \$172,166.21
Multi-Fund No. 18-2010-11 \$135,795.13
Multi-Fund No. 19-2010-11 \$ 18,815.07

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Gonder: It is, again, ethics. The last meeting was July 6, 2010. Under announcements, you had Tuesday, Board of Trustees work session on draft comprehension plan, 7:30, Village Hall meeting. That is the only meeting I missed in three years. I was very ill. Item six, Thursday, August 12, Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m., Village Hall meeting. I was here.

Where were you? In this book, first and third Tuesdays of every month. Look at July and August. You people are geniuses, you are very educated. But you cannot make 24 meetings? Your jobs are more important than the Village of Hastings? You should resign if you cannot make 24 meetings. This is useless. The paper that you print is useless. I lost a good dinner because of it. But I am not here about that, I am here about ethics. Mayor Koch wants to do something with the state, and we all know they need some ethics. The county needs ethics, the federal government needs ethics. And all of you need ethics because the deer culling. What was that? Tammany Hall behind closed doors. You ought to all resign.

Mr. Downey: In June or July there was a group, or a few individuals here, looking for grant money for the quarry. It is unclear to myself and to many people I have spoken with, where the individuals on this Board stand on that quarry issue. Who is in support of holding on to that idea of making it into a park? Who on the Board has entertained the idea, and now realizes it is not a good idea, we are not going to do it? Who would support the idea of having that property, that asset, as consideration for a new DPW facility, as I have been discussing over several meetings? I would like to hear from the Board where it stands.

Mayor Swiderski: I can say that there has been a long-standing commitment to the dedication of the quarry, ultimately, to a park. And while I support that effort, I do not see a serious Village expenditure any time soon, but rather rely on other people's money if it is to happen. Given the effort we are spending on cleaning up the site, I do not think we have ever entertained, though I guess we can certainly entertain discussion, around turning that into a recycling facility. I think we remain committed to it as a park. I do not know if we just want to have a show of hands does that remain, or brief comments. But I have heard those questions, as well, and I think it is worth addressing.

Village Manager Frobel: Mayor, I took my direction from the report that we received in 2006, that citizen committee report on which those residents spent a lot of time and effort. Their recommendation was that area be considered for a park, and I have been reacting to that report and the direction from the Board I received at that time. So that has been my mission and my goal, is to turn that area into a passive park for the community.

Trustee Armacost: At the Comprehensive Plan meeting, as far as I remember, it was one of the areas that was designated as parkland by that committee. It seems like there are a broad range of constituencies that have at least been under that opinion. I do not know if that is a final decision, but it appeared so. If you read the environmental section, it lists a set of areas that will be designated or that are recommended to be designated as parkland. It is one of those areas.

Trustee Quinlan: I am totally in favor of having the quarry turn into a passive park.

Trustee Walker: I, too, am in favor of it becoming a passive park, but I would prefer to spend as little of the Village's money on it as possible. It has to be carefully considered because it is not an area that is easy to monitor and to secure. It is hidden away. I have expressed these opinions before. We have to be careful in making it a park that we come up with uses that are compatible with its location. It was a DPW facility for a long time, and it was difficult to secure, it brought trucks onto the Aqueduct, it was often left open, and it might have been abused by outside contractors. There were a lot of issues because of its location, again, not easy to monitor. But it is y important for us to look at other areas perhaps where we could do some composting in the Village. I do not know where those would be but, Mr. Downey, I think your idea is a good one. I just do not think that is the right location for it, and I would like to pursue it further in another location.

Trustee Jennings: I have not looked up the minutes, and I am not aware of what action the Board took in 2006. The question of designating something formally as a park is an important process and we will have to go through a legislative process to do that. That has not happened yet. We, as a Board, ought to consider alternative uses in light of whatever we find might be toxic in the ground, and there is still some testing to be done. I do not think we can come to a final determination about any particular use until we make sure that it is not contaminated in a way that would pose a health problem. That being said, I am very sympathetic to alternative activities like composting and reorganizing the way the DPW operation is sited, which is not a parks issue. I am very sympathetic to the suggestion of alternative uses somewhere. Right now I am inclined to agree with Meg that our past history with the quarry site as a dumping ground for yard waste was a very unhappy and unfortunate experience. We should not repeat that. The fact that we might not use the quarry for composting or some sort of sustainable activity site does not necessarily mean that we should not have a composting site, we should not seek alternative sites. I guess my answer to you is, I would like to have my cake and eat it, too. I would like to have it both ways. And until we find out more about the actual condition of the site, I would not favor taking any formal action to make it a park or anything like that. I think it would be premature.

John Ciborowski, 443 Warburton Avenue: I am not here today to speak in favor of, or against, the deer population in Hastings. I am here to speak in favor of the residents of Hastings and what I feel has been unfair treatment this past summer. We have gone through, on the south side of the Warburton Avenue bridge, the northeast has, two of the hottest months in the history of weather reporting. We also have gone through two or three of the driest months. We are the most densely populated area of the Village, without a doubt. Yet since the springtime we have seen a street sweeper but once on each side of the street.

We have many absentee landlords in the area. Apartments are overloaded with people. I believe there are many illegal apartments in the area. But we need somebody to work, and the Board has to take it up, as a quality of life issue. We need an enforcement of quality of life. People do not pick up after their dogs. Garbage during these hot and dry months was left uncovered outside. You cannot, on some days, walk on Warburton Avenue without becoming sick from the stench. It is disgusting. We have not had any service with cleaning of the gutters, and the people do not clean up because they are tenants, they are not the landlords, they do not do it. I sweep. I come home today, I find piles in front of my house of garbage, dog feces, et cetera. I have to clean it up at lunchtime. Why should I have to clean it up? It stinks. I have a 90 and an 88 year old parent and aunt in the house. They are incapable of doing this kind of work. It is way too important for us not to have street cleaning in Hastings. Most of these things go right into the gutter. Varmints come, they tear the garbage bags open. Where does the garbage go? Into the gutters.

We have to do something, it has to be looked at. I am a lifelong resident of Hastings. I have lived over there my whole life. In the last five or six years I have seen a difference that is unbelievable. There are new houses up for sale. People can say they don't have parking, it is difficult to find it, no one is going to be interested in purchasing those houses. They just get out of their car and smell it in July, August, September, June. They will be happy to get back in their car and leave Hastings. We do not have a fence at the end of the Warburton Avenue bridge. If you people do not think the mess is going to come north, it will. I really wish the Board would look into it. It does not have to be every week, but every other week send somebody around, take a look at the people, take a look at the apartments. People have put out bags for dogs and they do not use them. Nobody uses them. They just leave it. And these are sidewalks. These are not grassy areas. It is disgusting, and the Village has to start looking into quality of life issues.

Bob Zahn, 24 Crossbar Road: I would like to change the tenor of this meeting. I thank the Village for having the Village-wide sale. It was incredible. I wrote to the Village saying I thought there should be another one in September or October because things that did sell in the early part of the spring would be best sold in the fall, and you followed through on it, and that is great.

I want to acknowledge Mr. Cohen, who made a scholarship for his son at the high school this year. That was truly a great thing, as a member of the community. Steve Pecylak is here. His son and mine went through high school and junior high school together, and his son just left for college and my son just left for college. These are people who members of the Village. And the reason I am here right now is I want to make a proposal that is unique, I hope.

There was a playwright by the name of Thornton Wilder, who wrote a play called *Our Town*. *Our Town* is a character story about an average town and its citizens, and the story of the 20th century as depicted through their everyday lives. I think that describes Hastings-on-Hudson. I have been serving people in my industry for 38 years, putting aside my own interests, my own creativity except when I made the video *Miracle on the Waterfront*. So what I would like to do is a series of photographs with this medium-format camera of the everyday people of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson as a portrait of this Village, and do it in a loving way and a respectful way that would show this Village as Thornton Wilder did in his play. I am mentioning it today because I would like some of you to be photographed, and whoever is, with their permission, with a signed release, I would like to use that to perhaps, if I am lucky enough, have a one-person show called "Our Town."

Mr. Skolnik: This may change the tenor of the meeting back a ways, but it is not going to be all the way back. I am wondering if Boardmembers got the letter that I sent.

Mayor Swiderski: I got the letter, I thought the questions were interesting. I have not had a chance to ask for answers to those questions, but I think they are all valid.

Mr. Skolnik: Then I will not bother reading them, but I would ask that you pursue and report back on the first question which related to modifying the crosswalk at 9-A and Jackson. The second had to do with Ravensdale bridge, about where that stands with the state. A presentation here seemed to indicate that that bridge was in serious condition, and then for presumably budgetary reasons they backed away from following through with that project. Where does that leave us in terms of liability? Is that also something that you feel is reasonable for the Board to pursue, at least in terms of information, of the status of Ravensdale?

Mayor Swiderski: It is a reasonable question, yes.

Mr. Skolnik: The third question had to do with taking down the tree on Warburton Avenue, and that process seemed to come even to the local people as a surprise. My question would be, do we have a process, and was there a process that was followed, in the decision to take down what was a pretty significant element in that particular blockscape.

Village Manager Frobel: I can answer all three questions, but jumping to number three first, I thought there was a process in place, as well. I was away. The decision was made by the superintendent of public works that the tree posed a hazard to the area. It was his opinion the tree was diseased, it was split. In a good heavy rain or windstorm, his fear was that the tree would fall. In my interview with Mr. Gunther, I indicated to him that that is what our Tree Board is for. I wanted those people to come out and make that assessment and take that

burden off his shoulders. For whatever reason, he chose to rely on his own good judgment and had the tree taken down. Besides the diseased tree that he felt posed a hazard to the public, you probably noticed that the sidewalks are up dramatically. You have been there, you have seen where the root structure has caused the sidewalks to rise dramatically. What will happen now is, we will grind the stump down and replace the pavement so it will be much more level and an easier walk for people in that neighborhood.

To the first question, as you know we have a steering committee meeting early in September. I am inviting you to all those meetings. I will be there and, again, I will stress the importance of some kind of a signalization for a crosswalk at that intersection at 9-A and Ravensdale and Jackson. We have been unsuccessful. Mary Jane Shimsky has been at all these meetings. She has been a strong advocate for improvements at that intersection, as well, and I am sure she will be at this next meeting.

The second issue involved the bridge. We were told by the New York DOT the project has been put off well into the future. Perhaps I can pursue that and get a copy of their report from the field and a letter from the director indicating the reasons why that project has been pushed forward. I reported to the Board that it had pushed off well into, I think, 2013 or 2014 or somewhere that far into the distance.

Mr. Skolnik: Right. And I remember the question of the rating of that bridge. I will not pursue this now.

Joe Cohen, 53 Stanley Avenue: On the agenda tonight you have a proposal for discussion regarding a tax reduction for veterans. I have sent you some e-mails on this, Mr. Mayor. We all understand the need for taking care of veterans in this country. I am trying to bring it forth into the Village. When any person put himself into the service he expected to serve, and he did. No problem whatsoever about it. Then he came home and he went on his way, and he got married and, in many instances thank God he came to this lovely village. Which, unfortunately, some people do not seem to understand, as far as I am concerned after 32 years of living here, it is probably one of the best totally rounded-out communities. And I take offense, by the way, for that particular statement that was made. I should have probably gotten up before. But I do take offense.

But anyway, getting back to the real nuts and bolts of the issues, Board and Mr. Mayor, when you review the need for a tax reduction for people who have built this community, I'm talking about World War II veterans and older people. They are hurting. And we do not have to go into a long discussion about the problems at hand with our economy. We all know it. If this will make one person able to stay in the community, we should give serious consideration to giving a tax reduction for that individual.

I realize we have many constraints. I realize we just came off a whole issue with the school board,. I realize what the budget is all about. I have been a president, for 10 years, of a co-op upstate, and I know what it means to watch the pennies. But I also understand that when you look at your dollars invested into anything, in this case it is a community, these people do not ask for anything, but I am asking for it because of the effort they put into being a veteran and serving our country. Please understand these are very proud people, a lot of them. They do not come out to ask for help, but they are on the borderline of needing help. Some of these people might really be moving out of the community, and I would not like to see this.

63:10 AWARD OF BID FOR UNIONTOWN CONCESSION BUILDING ALTERATIONS

Village Manager Frobel: This project shows a lot of cooperation between Little League officials and the Village, and the use of a topnotch outside engineer who helped throughout the process. They are taking a building that is used for just storage and turning this 32 foot by 20 square foot building into a very nice concession stand, some good, clean storage, and overall turning it into an attractive, functional building. I am pleased with the process. It perhaps took a little longer than some may have liked, but it was the best way to go. We were able to attract two very good bidders, the price is very fair, I am looking forward to it starting, and I hope the Board would support this resolution.

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

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorized the Village Manager on July 20, 2010 to request proposals for alterations to the concession building at Uniontown Field, and

WHEREAS, two bids were received on August 16, 2010, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees award the bid for alterations to the concession building at Uniontown Field to the lower bidder, Ricci Construction Corp., Dobbs Ferry, New York as follows:

Base bid: \$33,450
Alternate #1: \$ 1,175
Alternate #2: \$ 675

for a total project cost of \$35,400 to be paid from the General Fund in the amount of \$16,850 and by the Hastings Little League in the amount of \$18,550.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan	X	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

64:10 AWARD OF BID FOR STREET RESURFACING

Village Manager Frobel: This shows how far we have come in terms of working cooperatively with neighboring communities. This is the third year that we have done it just with the villages. The proof is in these results. We were able to attract six very good bidders. There was quite a range in prices. We are comfortable in the price that we have recommended to you for approval. Last year we paid \$87.26 a ton so we see that coming down already. I am comfortable in saying individually we would have paid more per ton to get the work done. I will note that the contractor has already started in the Village, at his risk. Our goal is to get these streets done before the start of school. Unless the equipment breaks down or we get a lot of heavy rain we could be finished in Hastings as early as mid to late next week. I am very pleased with what we are seeing out there already, and I think this is a very good contract.

Trustee Walker: In addition to unit costs, are there other savings based on this cooperation? Is it in a number of different areas, from the contract to the startup costs?

Village Manager Frobel: Very definitely. Ardsley takes the lead in preparing the specifications and running the legal notification. So there are savings from the very beginning, besides the fact that you have got a relation with the contractor who is pleased to keep his crew busy. And he is someone that we can turn to for the same unit prices if we need him during the year. So it is a win-win all round.

Mayor Swiderski: I have one sidebar comment. Mr. Downey submitted a thoughtful e-mail about the oversight of the work, things to watch out for. He knows the business. We are happy to accept outside input on this process. I have no expertise, nor does anyone on the Board, on these issues.

Village Manager Frobel: Mike Gunther is there every day almost all day with the crews. If Tim has some suggestions, if he could share them with me I will sit down the Mike and let us coordinate that effort.

Mr. Zahn: Having the lowest bid is very important. I take note of the work on surfacing that was done on South Broadway that could have been done much more effectively, where there are departures between the surfacing work, leaving some ruts. So I am just mentioning that we be vigilant about the way the work is done.

Mayor Swiderski: Quite similar to the comments from Mr. Downey. We certainly agree.

Mr. Zahn: And is there any work going to be done on potholes?

Village Manager Frobel: That is an ongoing effort on our part. Crews were out last week filling potholes. We have a list of streets. When I can assemble a crew, the men are out there doing it at least once a week, more frequently if I can get enough men together.

Mr. Zahn: Jordan at Tompkins.

Trustee Jennings: This is a cooperative venture with other villages which brings down the unit cost for each of the villages. But the portion of the contract we are voting on involves work on Village streets, the streets that we are responsible for repaving and resurfacing. Is that correct?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes.

Trustee Jennings: OK. Broadway was not done by us, and it is not our street. So if it was done badly it would not necessarily have anything to do with this process. But secondly, my question is, have all the villages agreed to take the lowest bid, or is there some investigative process where you look at the bids that you get and you might make a judgment that one vendor was superior to another even though it was not the lowest bid. Could you describe how that process works, and who is involved in it? Are there professional representatives of each of the villages? This Board has not had any input into that, and we are voting on this now without having had any input into this, in contrast to things we do just by ourselves. So I am curious what the process looks like.

Village Manager Frobel: Ardsley and Elmsford took the lead in working with their engineering team. They have engineers available to them who help prepare the specifications. They review the proposals made by the bidders and make a recommendation.

We defer to them. They look at not only price, as you mentioned which is, of course, important. But they have to be a qualified bidder, someone that is capable in terms of his reputation and the references that are offered. This firm that we are awarding it to tonight is one that has done work in the Village in the past. This firm had the contract last year and we were satisfied with their work. And that does play very heavily into the decision-making process that we make before we make a recommendation to our respective boards.

Trustee Jennings: If there was someone in the Hastings with the relative expertise they would be able to have input into the process, through you?

Village Manager Frobel: Sure.

Trustee Jennings: So it is not closed.

Village Manager Frobel: No. We do not have, as you know, on staff a licensed engineer. So if there was some citizen out there who felt that he or she could help us out in terms of developing specifications for a project we would turn to them. For the project that we just approved at Uniontown, a local engineer, one we found who is active in the League, played very heavily in developing those specifications for us.

Trustee Jennings: Somebody could take a look at the various bids and make a recommendation early enough in the process that would make a difference. Thank you.

Village Manager Frobel: Although it would be awkward. We go into this as a group and we bid it as a group, and the contractor assumes he is going to have X amount of dollars available to him committed. I do not think it would happen, but if one of the communities broke out of the group and said we do not want this bidder, then we would have to rethink our position.

Trustee Jennings: I understand the deleterious consequences of breaking ranks. I am more concerned about closed doors, and this is not a closed-door process.

Village Manager Frobel: Oh, no.

Trustee Armacost: Is it possible to send us the Village procurement guidelines?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes. In fact, that appeared on the Web site, I think, last fall. We listed all our vendors, all the people we have ever done business with over a period of time, and a copy of our purchasing policy. But I can send you that.

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

WHEREAS, the Villages of Hastings-on-Hudson, Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, Ardsley, Elmsford and Tarrytown agreed that the Village of Ardsley would advertise a Notice to Bidders for street resurfacing on behalf of the six villages in an effort to obtain the best possible price, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Ardsley received six bids on July 23, 2010 and reported the results to the participating Villages showing Petrillo Contracting Inc. as the lowest bidder, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees award the bid for street resurfacing in Hastings-on-Hudson to Petrillo Contracting, Mount Vernon, New York as follows:

Top:	\$80.60 / ton
Milling:	\$2.96 / square yard
Adjust Manholes/Catch Basins	\$251.00 / unit
Furnish & Install Concrete Curbs:	\$17.50 / linear foot

for an amount not to exceed \$275,000, to be paid from bond proceeds and the General Fund.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan	X	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

65:10 CLOSEOUT OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Village Manager Frobel: Last year when we met with our outside independent auditors, there were some recommendations from them, including closing out some of these capital projects that are long since completed, and transferring the available funds into these accounts. The first part, we talk about just switching money within the same account of the same project, that being Boulanger Plaza, the library, and the cove.

The second one, the debt service surplus, those are monies and projects that are complete from money that we have borrowed that will go into our debt service surplus available in future years to help pay down your debt. The transfer to the general fund is, again, projects that are complete. That money will now be transferred into the general fund surplus, freeing it up for you to reallocate for future projects, perhaps in next year's budget.

Trustee Walker: How do you distinguish between what goes in to the debt service surplus and what goes in to the general fund surplus?

Village Manager Frobel: The source of the money. The debt service projects are projects that the community borrowed money to do the work. The other ones are projects that were funded through the general fund.

Trustee Walker: Through the general fund, so these were simply surpluses on paper in the general fund?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes.

Trustee Armacost: Where we underspent.

Village Manager Frobel: We underspent, yes.

Trustee Quinlan: The transfer to the debt service surplus will reduce the money we owe?

Village Manager Frobel: It could be used for that. That would be a legitimate reason. The first step is to put it in that fund, and then have it available in next year's budget to pay down your debt. We have done that in the past, in fact. Two years ago the operating budget included transfer from your debt service to pay down your debt. This year we did not have any money to offer you to pay down debt through this source. Next year we will.

Trustee Quinlan: So next year you are going to recommend that we take this \$181,000 and change to reduce our debt?

Village Manager Frobel: We may. We will look at the budget and see where we are at. Ideally it is not a bad idea to build that up a little for the future. I know it seems like a lot of money, and it is as a percentage of your taxes. But we have had a goal to try to build up our available surplus, and that would be one way. But in answer to your question, probably it will be recommended to you next year for paying down your debt.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees close out Capital Projects as of May 31, 2010 as follows:

Bou langer Parking Lot – Close and transfer \$133,408.06 from Wall Reconstruction (H2002-1) project to Bou langer Parking Lot (H2002-9).

Library Addition – Close and transfer \$4,300 from Library Renovation project (H2000-1) to Library Addition project (H2001-1).

Kinnally Cove – Close and transfer \$20,271.46 from Kinnally Cove Purchase (H2001-8) to Kinnally Cove Development Project (H2002-7)

The following Capital Projects are to be closed and any extra funds moved to their original funding source.

TRANSFER TO DEBT SERVICE SURPLUS

Commuter Pkg Renovation	H9008	\$11,408.74
Playground Renovations	H2001-3	
Skate Park	H2000-4	22,616.47
Ridge Street Redevelopment	H2002-4	17,994.95
Garbage Truck	H2002-5	
2 yd Dump Truck	H2002-6	2,442.00
Uniontown Pumper	H2003-1	7,978.75
Backhoe/Loader	H2004-3	4,107.18
Pickup Truck	H2005-2	611.00
Street Resurfacing 2006	H2006-1	114,667.60
TOTAL		\$181,826.69

TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND SURPLUS

Vehicle Lifts	H2001-7	\$ 310.00
Trailway Map	H2002-10	561.00
Police Equipment Grant	H2004-1	233.36
Street Resurfacing 2005	H2005-5	10,297.94
Villard Ave Repair	H2007-3	69,844.77
TOTAL		\$81,247.07

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan	X	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

66:10 INTERFUND TRANSFERS FISCAL YEAR 2009-10

Mayor Swiderski: In the interest of describing what I am about to read here, these are accounts where we went over, so to speak. And we are transferring money into these accounts from those accounts where we had contingency or other money left over.

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, exactly. I indicated in my narrative some of the reasons why some of these accounts were over, or under. A lot of this we talked about during the budget development. I suspect, based on what we did this year and the budget we are currently in, this list of items that have to be modified like this will be reduced. Or that is my belief, now that we have tightened up some of these accounts, and we have got numbers in there that are truer to what we expect it will cost at the end of the day. This will bring your books in balance. The auditors are finishing up their work, and are then prepared to meet with you in early December. I do have the draft audit report. With these changes, your available fund balance will grow about \$75,000. Not much, but in a typical financial climate we were able to add to our surplus based on our operations that closed out last fiscal year. Again, I wish we did not have the number transfers that you see. I do think we have taken some steps to remedy that. But this is how we bring these books into balance.

Trustee Armacost: Thank you for that last little comment because it will be very exciting to be at this point next year and not to be looking at almost half a million dollars which have to be transferred from one place to the other. What is happening is that people are budgeting much more closely in terms of expenditures and they are not doing internal transfers that are not transparent. I am excited to see that that process is happening and that people have bought into that. I am also excited that we saved money. I congratulate all of you because it has been a very difficult financial period and you are to be commended for that work.

Village Manager Frobel: Thank you. The department heads have a big part of that because they really did manage their budget. To end up with a surplus at the end of the day, for a very difficult year, is quite a tribute to the Board of Trustees and your management of our finances, as well.

Trustee Armacost: Please thank them for us. It is important that they understand that we value that.

Trustee Quinlan: I want to thank Trustee Armacost for educating me on the budget last year and tightening up our budget and making it more transparent. That is very important, Fran, and really educational. It made me a better Trustee. How much do we have left in the contingency fund after we transfer the \$181,034?

Village Manager Frobel: If the final report holds true you are going to hear that the undesignated fund balance will be set at \$272,170.

Mayor Swiderski: And that is about half of what the auditors had recommended?

Village Manager Frobel: It is. It is very low in comparison to where they like us to be. That fund balance would be larger except the auditors are taking from your available surplus \$123,000 and holding it in reserve for the deficit in the pool fund. You heard last year some criticisms about our inability to get the pool fund self-sustaining. The auditors appear to be following through on their, I will not say threat, but their observation. They are going to take from the surplus and wipe out that pool deficit. They will define that action and the logic for it at their meeting with you in December.

Trustee Armacost: So are you saying that, in effect, it would have been \$400,000?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes. But you are going to be asked to pay back, make even, the pool fund deficit. The steps we recommended to you did not go far enough this year, although we will make revenues. We could have perhaps made even more. The idea of selling pool memberships to members of other communities was a wise one, and I will be coming back next year suggesting we sell more than we did this year. In hindsight, I probably should have come to you earlier in the year. That would have helped a little.

Mayor Swiderski: But we ran a surplus.

Village Manager Frobel: Current year, yes, ran a surplus.

Mayor Swiderski: Just not sufficient to wipe out existing deficit.

Village Manager Frobel: Not enough to wipe out the pool deficit.

Mayor Swiderski: But there is operating reserves, surplus.

Village Manager Frobel: For the current year, Raf, did they end the year in surplus?

Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian: When you say current year, are you talking about March 31, 2010?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes.

Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian: No. We went up in debt, from \$107,000 to \$123,000.

Trustee Walker: But this summer.

Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian: This summer we are doing very well. But we will not know. It is very hard for us to know because when the pool ends, if they find a leak or if there is a problem, that is when we lose the money we made. We have had lots of profits in September, but they have dwindled to nothing by May when they open it up. It takes about \$10,000 in May for them to open the pool.

Mayor Swiderski: The point is well-taken.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Deputy Village Treasurer to make the following budgetary interfund transfers for FY 2009-10:

Account Code	Account Name	To	From
A1020472	TRAVEL		589.00
A1110478	JURORS FEES		13,426.00
A1230475	BOOKS		4,611.00
A1325464	OTHER SERVICES AUDIT		4,490.00
A1420464	SPECIAL COUNSEL		25,550.00
	UNALLOCATED		
A19104	INSURANCE		23,373.00
A19204	MUNICIPAL ASSOC DUES		1,784.00
A19300	JUDGMENT AND CLAIMS		55,932.00
	TAXES VILLAGE OWNED		
A19504	PROPERTY		965.00

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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A19704	E T P A	4,240.00	
A3413457	HYDRANT RENTAL	32,293.00	
A3620412	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,623.00	
A5142415	SUPPLIES	46,005.00	
A8140100	PERSONAL SERVICES	9,241.00	
A8560452	TREE SERVICE	18,554.00	
A4210484	SUMMER PROGRAMS	14,682.00	
A8010464	OUTSIDE SERVICES	1,205.00	
A8020464	OTHER SERVICES	11,987.00	
A7020453	MAINT AUTO EQUIPMENT	7,389.00	
A7145479	SENIOR PROGRAMS	363.00	
A7311100	PERSONAL SERVICES	10,859.00	
A90008	FIRE SERVICE AWARD	15,744.00	
	NYS EMPLOYEE		
A90158	RETIREMENT	26,600.00	
A90308	SOCIAL SECURITY	27,437.00	
A90408	WORKERS COMP	34,511.00	
A90508	UNEMPLOYMENT INS.	12,822.00	
A97306	B A N PRINCIPAL	1,975.00	
A19904	CONTINGENCY		181,034.00
A8160100	PERSONAL SERVICES		116,425.00
A3120105	LONG O.T & HOLIDAYS		6,874.00
A3120300	CAPITAL OUTLAY		9,200.00
A90108	NYS POLICE RETIREMENT		28,733.00
A90608	HEALTH INS.		61,048.00
A5110101	SEASONAL EMPLOYEES		15,159.00
	TOTALS:	418,473.00	418,473.00

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYE

NAY

Trustee Bruce Jennings	X
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan	X
Trustee Meg Walker	X
Trustee Nicola Armacost	X
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: Mayor, you had asked me just to give a brief sketch as to where we are in terms of our finances as we approach 25 percent of our year complete. I am pleased to report that expenditures are in line. We are about 20 percent expended at 25 percent completion of the year. Obviously, it is still too early to detect any problem areas, but we seem to hit the tough spots during the winter with winter storms. Fuel could spike, any kind of public safety emergencies would generate any kind of overtime. Any lost time coverage that would occur has not occurred yet and could occur any time in the next several months, obviously. So we are on target with our expenditures. Nothing out of the ordinary. Again, a little bit below where we would be at 25 percent of the year passed.

I did share with you some good news that the state did indicate that they have a revised estimate as to what we should expect to pay into our pension fund for our employees next year. Although I saw the paper over the weekend; that even may be revised upward again, I do not know. But the basis of what I gave you several weeks ago was we could avoid paying about \$138,000 in our police municipal pension plan if the estimate provided holds true.

On revenues, building permits are at 25 percent of budget; parking meter receipts are at 20 percent, down a little bit. Most revenues, the big revenues, come in late in the year so there is nothing to report on that. Our first payment for the property tax exceeded 50 percent. We collected 52.2 percent on the levy, so that is in line. Sales tax for the last quarter was up 7.3 percent. We realized just \$20,000 more than we did in our April payment.

Mayor Swiderski: There is going to be some hit on hydrant costs. It was going up some remarkable number, and so is water.

Trustee Armacost: Maybe we can have a meeting relatively soon to talk about the budget process for next year. It is probably worth starting that conversation much earlier than ended up happening last year.

Mayor Swiderski: Let us plan one of the meetings in September to have a dedicated portion to the budget process.

Village Manager Frobel: My other topic this evening, I am going to yield my time to Ned Baldwin. Mr. Baldwin represents the property owner of some land on Warburton Avenue that has been a matter of a lot of concern for the neighbors and the community for a number of years. That reached resolution. We now have the new owner, and they have a very exciting proposal to bring that building back to where it should be. But they have a concern, and Mr. Baldwin has asked for time to just talk to you about his proposal. Although no

decision can be made tonight, he would like some indication as to whether you are inclined to pursue his notion.

Ned Baldwin, Baldwin & Franklin Architects: My client is Alex Cheng. Alex has recently bought 495 Warburton Avenue and proposes to make a two-family residence out of it with an accessory office space behind it. The problem with this property is that it has no off-street parking and no possibility of off-street parking. We thought that since the rear corner of his property is only some 30 or 35 feet from the municipal lot that it would be wonderful if he could get access to the municipal lot across Village land and, if possible, obtain two parking spaces which would be half of the requirement that he needs to satisfy the zoning.

The grade there is about a 15-foot rise from the municipal lot up to the northwest corner of his land. We are proposing steps down to an office space built down at this lower level with a planted garden roof so that this will appear as all landscaped space. But these steps come all the way to here, and this is a very short connection down to the municipal lot. Mr. Cheng is interested in parking, and he is also interested in being able to get off that corner of his property down. Because of the 15-foot grade change it is only practical if he is allowed to build some steps down to the municipal lot elevation. If it was level, you would simply walk across the Village land. It would be no question. But this would be not practical unless we build steps. So it involves permission from the Village, or a right-of-way, or something to enable him to build those steps. And if the parking can be made available that would also help a lot.

We have approached the Village with a proposal that he be granted some sort of right-of-way with permission to build stairs, and to lease two spaces at the current rate. We are going to the Zoning Board asking for a variance for all four spaces but it would be very nice if he could reduce that to two.

Trustee Quinlan: The first question is, as a policy decision, whether a Village Board should be leasing municipal parking to a private property owner. Should the Village lease two commuter parking lot spaces to a private property owner because he happens to be close to the commuter lot? Now, we have a lot of apartment buildings that are close to a commuter lot, many on Southside Avenue. I am very happy that he bought the building and I hope you get your variance, but I think if we open that door when do we say no to other people on Southside, number one. Number two, we have a problem with the spaces in the commuter lot. The complaints I have heard over the years is that there are not enough spaces. And now we are going to have two less. So my initial reaction to you is that as much as I am sympathetic, and if I was a property owner I would be asking the same thing you are and I would cross my fingers and hope to get it, as a policy decision, as a Village Trustee I cannot

be in favor of leasing two commuter lot spaces to a private individual because he happens to be adjacent to the parking lot. I would like to lease a couple spaces in municipal lots, too, and then I would not have to pay parking tickets or worry about feeding meters. Where does it end? I understand the request, but I am against it.

Trustee Walker: I agree with Jerry that once you open that door, where do you stop. There are other apartment buildings on Southside whose tenants would probably enjoy having parking spaces, as well. However, I might propose a compromise. There are a lot of folks on Southside and on other streets in the downtown who use the commuter spots at night and park overnight as long as they are out of there in the morning. You do see people parking there on the weekends. So could we approve an easement to allow stairs down, and then the tenants or owners could use the parking spaces in off-peak hours. I see nothing wrong with encouraging people to use our parking lot when it is not being used by the commuters because it sits there all the time, this vast expanse of asphalt that could be used for other purposes. We encourage people to park there who are shopping in the downtown on the weekends, the Farmers' Market, attending restaurants, so why should residents not be allowed to use it. So that is one compromise.

Trustee Armacost: It seems that it is fair and smart to build stairs if there is no other way to access that building from behind except through stairs. Even just from a safety point of view it seems like a sensible solution. I know how difficult it is to park in that lot. So we should spend some time thinking about creative solutions either along the lines that Meg has, or some other solutions to find a fair parking scenario that does not benefit one set of constituencies in the Village over another set.

Mayor Swiderski: I am not sure what you are proposing.

Trustee Armacost: I am proposing that I do not want to make a decision about the parking lot decision now. I would be very happy to make a decision about the stairs. If we could separate those two issues, that seems reasonable. I do not know that we are being asked to make a decision, are we, now?

Mayor Swiderski: No, but a sense of direction.

Trustee Quinlan: Meg, are you suggesting that we allow a private owner to have access on Village property for his own personal use to get to the parking lot? Are we going to make it available to the public? Is he going to build steps all the way around so that all the people on Warburton Avenue can cut through his property and get down to the commuter lot? I would be in favor of that. But to have one particular property owner get the benefit of an easement over Village property so that he can get to the parking lot quicker?

Trustee Armacost: If the issue is that you cannot get out of the house at the back because of it, then it is a safety issue. People cannot escape from the house through the back any other way.

Trustee Quinlan: They can escape from the house.

Trustee Armacost: Yes, but it depends where your fire is. Maybe the fire department should do an evaluation of the building to see if there are safety issues.

Trustee Quinlan: How about all the buildings, then, in that whole row?

Trustee Armacost: You should be able to get out of buildings from the front and the back.

Trustee Quinlan: I am sure they can get out of the building in the back. There is no back door?

Trustee Walker: There is a rear yard. You just cannot get anywhere from the rear yard, just like a brownstone.

Trustee Quinlan: I cannot get anywhere from my rear yard either. There is a big fence, and Reynolds Field. I have to climb over the fence. I am a little too old to be climbing over that fence. It is about eight feet tall. If my house catches on fire either I run out the front door or I run out the back door.

Trustee Jennings: I share the concern about fairness and the parking allocation. I wonder if it would satisfy the requirements that you could always go into the commuter lot parking lottery. Maybe you will be fortunate enough to get two spaces, pay for them, and maybe that would be enough. But for us to set aside two spaces, and take them out of the lottery just for you, I would have a problem with that. As for Jerry's other suggestion, I do not know the site. I do not know your topography at all. But it might be beneficial to the Village if we had another public stairway access from down there to Warburton Avenue. We have one now up through Maud's parking lot and into the municipal parking lot. I am not asking you to make a commitment, but is it physically possible that this stairway could be extended and would go all the way up to the street level on Warburton Avenue?

Mr. Baldwin: In fact, it probably is. We do not know enough about the ownership of the property, how far the Village land extends at the south end of the bridge. If the Village owns land all the way to Warburton, and I have no survey to prove this, then certainly at midpoint on our stairway going up to the house there is a landing and a path could go around to the left

and reach Warburton Avenue. The Village owns all the land up to the building which is immediately adjacent to Mr. Cheng's house, but I do not know if the Village owns the land north of that where the steps go up onto Warburton right now.

Trustee Jennings: I think it would be beneficial to the Village to have a route from the train station up to Warburton Avenue. If we could work out a deal with Village land and your private property and an agreement that was mutually acceptable and beneficial, I would be interested in exploring and discussing that possibility.

Mayor Swiderski: To weigh in myself, from an equity point of view there is no way we can set aside two slots in that parking lot for a private resident because why not offer it to all residents. And why not have an auction? Could make some serious money. If we sold the property, as some cities in California have done, actually ceded the property for \$25,000 or whatever, that is one thing. But that is not what is being proposed. What is being proposed is a favored lease, and we have made a decision in the way we allocate those parking spots, not by an auction but by a lottery that it is a public good and it should be treated as such. Unfairly allocating two to an individual because of proximity would go against the spirit of why we set up a lottery in the first place.

However, Bruce began a line of thought that I do want to throw out. We are asking a staircase to be built for nothing. There is consideration here on both sides. Is the public benefit of a second access such that part of the swap is worth two slots of parking? I do not know. I have not been to this spot to take a look at that and to think about that. But if you are going to talk about consideration on both sides of a legal contract, giving up a bit of privacy by having people go up and down by your house on what is now a public staircase deserves consideration from the other party. One thing we could consider is that lease. An argument could be made that this is a public good. You are trading one public good for another.

Trustee Quinlan: They are not the end house by the bridge. They are the second house in.

Village Manager Frobel: There is questions about encroachment, too. It is a very complicated piece of property.

Trustee Armacost: I know exactly the spot you are talking about because I have spent quite a lot of time parking in the exact spots that you would like to have for yourself. Those are metered spots. You may find that at the end of the day it is a bit of a pain because you have to have a lot of quarters. But it may not be that expensive. And you are not doing it for the weekends. I think it is 260 days worth of dollars. So you might do a better deal by feeding the meter than getting a commuter spot.

Trustee Quinlan: But that is what the people in the apartments on Southside do. They park there overnight, and they wake up and run out and feed the meter. That is why they want those meters to continue instead of having the prepaid lottery tickets. Because they feel, quite rightly, that they have been historically meters and they have been provided some measure of relief from off-street parking. That is another problem we have with the commuter lot. So it is a very difficult situation, and I do not think, unfortunately, your client is going to get any benefit from a difficult situation other than everyone else.

Mayor Swiderski: Since there seems to be a general sense that the parking swap is not going to happen, we are left with the staircase access.

Trustee Armacost: There is the tree issue.

Mr. Baldwin: There is a tree on the northwest corner of Mr. Cheng's lot which is partially on his lot and partially on Village lands and it does interfere with the building we would like to build. We would like to have permission to take that tree down.

Mayor Swiderski: I do not think that is something that comes before the Board, though.

Village Manager Frobel: We are going to have to get the Tree Board to take a look and see if there are some alternatives.

Mayor Swiderski: But setting that aside, the question here is a two-part proposal: a staircase, and access to the parking. If the parking is off the table is there still an interest in the staircase?

Mr. Baldwin: Absolutely. I think Mr. Cheng recognizes the value of the parking lot for all the reasons you have pointed out. It is the closest parking to his property, and the most convenient if he could have steps down to it.

Mayor Swiderski: I do not know that corner, and I do not know the property and I do not know the proposal. I have to look at it. I think it is pointless for me.

Trustee Quinlan: I cannot visualize it.

Trustee Armacost: We also need to find who owns what there.

Mr. Baldwin: I would propose that we study the possibility of making the staircase access Warburton Avenue across Village lands.

Mayor Swiderski: Fine. What I would suggest is, take a look at it, think about it. The sooner the better. I imagine time is of some consequence for you. Saturday or Sunday morning throw out a couple of days and we will show up to take a look.

Mr. Baldwin: Fine.

Trustee Quinlan: I think you may have to pay for a survey. Find out where our property is and where your property is.

Trustee Walker: Where the county property is, too, because Warburton is a county road.

Mayor Swiderski: It is a nix on one idea, but not a nix on the other.

Mr. Baldwin: You have given us a pretty good idea of the situation. Thank you very much.

Mayor Swiderski: I hope you do not consider this not a welcome to the community because we are excited that somebody has bought that building.

Alex Cheng, Owner, 495 Warburton Avenue: Yes, I understand this is a major undertaking on my part, and I thank you for your time.

Mayor Swiderski: Great views, and a great community. So welcome, and do not feel discouraged.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1.Fire Departments' Parade in Hastings in September - Discussions with Fire Chiefs

Village Manager Frobel: The end of September is a major parade that has been in the planning stage for quite a while. I wanted the Chiefs to have an opportunity to meet with the Board and go over some of the events that are going to occur that weekend, which are certainly very exciting.

Fire Chief Gagliardi: Back in early 2006, former Fire Chief Robert Schnibbe recommended that Chief Sarfaty look into having the Hastings fire department host a 2010 Westchester County Volunteer Firemen's Association Convention and parade in conjunction with celebrating the 100th anniversary of Riverview Manor Hose Company No. 3. This upcoming fire department parade is scheduled for Saturday, September 25 starting at 3 p.m. To date, we have over 30 volunteer fire department and ambulance corps units scheduled to march. These units will be lined up on Rosedale Avenue and Hamilton Avenue facing south.

When these units begin their march, they will proceed to Merrill Street, go north on Farragut Avenue, through the Five Corners, down Main Street, north on Warburton Avenue to North Street, south on Maple Avenue over the train station bridge, and then north on River Street and ending at MacEachron's waterfront park. There will be a reviewing stand at the VFW park on Warburton Avenue, where Deputy Chief Jim Drumm will announce the visiting officials, Hastings officials, and visiting fire departments and ambulance corps. Along the parade route will be judges from the Westchester County Parade Judges Association. Because this parade is competitive amongst the departments attending, the parade judges will assist us in determining which departments receive trophies. These trophies will be given up at MacEachron Park at approximately 7 p.m.

Chief Sarfaty started the paperwork and formed committees to begin to prepare for this three-day event back in 2007. Since 1955, the fire department has hosted this same event five times, the latest in 1999 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Uniontown Hose Company No. 2. Because of the amount of work involved to host this convention and parade, a parade chairman and grand marshal for the parade was needed. It was easily decided that First Assistant Chief Jim Sarfaty is the best person to organize this event.

This parade is the last part of a three-day celebration. The three-day event starts off on Thursday evening, September 23 with the 104th annual business meeting and memorial ceremony of the Westchester County Volunteer Firemen's Association. This meeting will be held at Riverview Catering on Warburton Avenue, which will be attended by many neighboring departments and Westchester County officials. All Hastings officials have been invited to attend this meeting. On Friday night, September 24 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. the Hastings Fire Department will host a block party on Main Street, much like the Friday night events. Main Street will be blocked off from Citibank to Whitman Street. All Hastings residents are invited to attend this block party, which will feature several different music bands playing on a stage at the ambulance corps parking lot. Water, soda, and hot dogs will also be served by fire department members free of charge.

At this time, on behalf of the fire department, I would like to thank Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Ray Gomes, Superintendent of the DPW Michael Gunther, Chief of Police David Bloomer, Mayor Swiderski, Village Manager Fran Frobel, and the Village Trustees for working with the Hastings Fire Department on this convention and parade.

First Assistant Chief Sarfaty: As the Chief said, the fire department in the Village first hosted this event back in 1955. We hosted it in '65, '75, '84, and '99, and now it brings us to 2010. These events are held throughout Westchester County on an annual basis. Last year it was in Elmsford, next year it is in Ardsley. They are usually held to commemorate a department's anniversary. So this has been going on a long time, and the word in the county

is they are looking forward to coming to Hastings because we have always proven to be a good host. We hope not to let anybody down this year. The pressure is on, certainly. We have a reputation to uphold, and I hope that we will do so. Invitations have gone out to all local county, state, and federal officials. We did receive an RSVP from the White House. The president cannot make it; he sends his regrets. The word is still out on the senators and congressional representatives. But you never know. It is an election year, so we will see who shows up. But so far, so good. We have over 30 departments. We have a number of departments from Rockland County coming. We have a couple of departments from Long Island. We have a department coming up from Maryland. And we even have a member who was a volunteer in Hastings who moved down to Charleston, South Carolina and became a career member down there. He is going to be coming up, as well. It should be a lot of fun.

Mayor Swiderski: How many apparatuses are you expecting?

First Assistant Chief Sarfaty: Right now we are anticipating in excess of 70 engines, probably about 30 ladder trucks.

Mayor Swiderski: Where are they going to go after the parade?

First Assistant Chief Sarfaty: We will make them fit. Probably in excess of about 15 or so ambulances, a couple of tanker trucks, some rescue vehicles, miscellaneous chiefs' vehicles.

Mayor Swiderski: Over 100.

First Assistant Chief Sarfaty: Oh, yes. And some antiques, as well. And, of course, every department shows up with a band so we will have drum corps and bugle corps and bagpipe bands. So there will be a lot of music, a lot of fun. I hope you will all be there.

Trustee Walker: Is this bigger than '99?

First Assistant Chief Sarfaty: It is relatively within the same scale, I would say. Just about. We have contingencies figured in because we know there are going to be departments showing up at the last minute so we will be ready for them. We will be serving refreshments down at the park to all the participants Saturday evening right after the parade.

Trustee Quinlan: Have you talked to the Harvest about the parking lot?

First Assistant Chief Sarfaty: Yes. We have made plans to limit it. All the marching participants will be heading down to the park. None of the hundreds of apparatus will be allowed over the bridge. We are going to keep the area clear for restaurant activity. It is

going to be all pedestrian from the train station, across the bridge, and then down along River Street. All the apparatus is going to be parking under the Warburton Avenue bridge in the commuter lot, similar to what we did in '99. It worked back then.

Trustee Quinlan: How about the low branches? Are we taking care of that?

Village Manager Frobel: We will do what we can. We got a list today of some trees, and if I can get some crews together we will take care of that.

First Assistant Chief Sarfaty: There are some pretty big pieces coming in. Tarrytown has a very big ladder truck.

Mayor Swiderski: Will ours be available by then?

Fire Chief Gagliardi: Oh, yes.

Trustee Quinlan: So we definitely do not want to hurt ours. It is not my bailiwick, but I do not want to see trees wrecking fire engines, including ours. I do not know how we do that, Fran. That is why you get paid the big bucks, Fran, to figure that out.

Mayor Swiderski: That is a viable use for contingency if there ever was one.

First Assistant Chief Sarfaty: Some letters went out today notifying residents around the parade setup of what the plans are. It was published in the Village calendar, we have requested Raf to put the scrolls up on HoH, and you will start to see some signs and articles, hopefully in some of the local media. So word it going to get out.

Trustee Quinlan: When is the dinner on Thursday? What time does it start?

First Assistant Chief Sarfaty: Registration for the delegates and dinner starts at 5:30. Captain Jimmy Walsh from the New York City Fire Department, who used to be the chief in Dobbs Ferry and the Westchester County Battalion 14 coordinator, will be hosting a fire department training seminar from 7 o'clock to 8 o'clock. The business meeting begins at 8.

Trustee Quinlan: Should we come to the business meeting?

First Assistant Chief Sarfaty: If you want to hear about Westchester County volunteer fire department activities I would recommend it. I would highly recommend, if you are interested in fire dynamics discussions, the training seminar. Chief Walsh is a very informative and engaging instructor

2. Use of Solar Powered Golf Cart by Hastings School District

Mayor Swiderski: We have offered the solar powered golf cart upon request from the groundskeeper at the school for their use if they are interested, and willing to take on the insurance coverage for the vehicle. They are looking at it. It is a cooperative effort. If they can put the vehicle to good use, we would welcome that.

3. Property Tax Exemptions for Veterans

Mayor Swiderski: We got a request from Mr. Cohen to review a property tax exemption for veterans. We had some numbers pulled by our Deputy Village Manager on how much such an exemption could potentially cost the Village, and some indication of the number of people involved. What are the Board's thoughts on this?

Village Manager Frobel: Hastings does offer some tax breaks for veterans. There are about 92 who are still on that program. We took a look at Greenburgh because Greenburgh also offers veterans some exemption on their town tax. They have about 102 veterans already enrolled in that program. We could probably assume those 102 would register for this program if it were to be offered in Hastings, as well. Like any exemption, it is a loss of tax revenue no matter how you offer it. It is money that other taxpayers who are not in that class would have to make up to make your budget work. With these financial times that we are in today, which are extraordinary and I have to tell you in my career some of the more difficult times I have seen, almost every revenue source has dried up. Just when you needed the federal government the most, there is no revenue sharing program. But if we expand it, we assume now 194. That is the original 92 and the 102 potential. That could represent over one percent lost revenue on your rate. Remember, one percent raises about \$91,000 today.

I do not know if this is legal, but is there a way we can tie it to need? Is there a way we can offer a veteran who meets a certain income guideline a qualification? For example, I know firsthand I am one of those fellows, as is Susan's husband who are both veterans. I am not in the grandfathered group and I am not in the Greenburgh program. But if Hastings were to offer it, people like myself and others would probably look at it. I certainly am not in a position where I need a tax break, but if you were to tie that to need maybe that would be fair if that was your objective; to protect that class of taxpayer. The law is very complicated. If your recommendation was to look at it more closely we would talk to our assessor, let him translate this to us, and to see if there is a footnote that it could be tied to need. I do not know that answer.

Mayor Swiderski: This is sort of nuclear material you touch at your own peril, so I might as well take the first comment since I usually defer. I agree, Fran, on your general thrust. The pool of income we have is Play-Doh; if you squeeze it, somebody else has to pay it. From an equity point of view, if you are asking others to pay it, and the ones you are asking to pay it are in an even more strapped financial condition than those who you are offering the exemption to, despite the service to the country it seems a burden in this time to impose. Without some sort of needs test, I have a hard time squeezing the Play-Doh and hurting somebody who that one percent will mean something real to. So I am inclined, if we are going this direction, to make sure that it is means-tested.

Trustee Armacost: I just came back from Afghanistan. Been there twice this year. I was doing work there which was civilian-oriented. The people in the armed forces are doing work that none of us can even imagine. They are going through experiences, and serving their country, in ways that I certainly never have and that any of us who have not been in the armed forces cannot imagine. So if there is a way to find a way to recognize the service of those people it would be an admirable thing for us to do. It would be very meaningful to those people, particularly those people who fought in wars that were controversial, which this one is at the moment. At the same time, I am a huge advocate of trying to cut the budget and keeping it tight and keep it slim. So it is a very difficult choice to make. Means testing is a way to maybe ease us into thinking about this in a more long-term way. It is important to look at the legality of that. That is a place for us to start.

Mayor Swiderski: So, again, to try to distill out what you are trying to say, you concur.

Trustee Armacost: I concur with you. What I am adding, which you did not mention, is the importance of recognizing the service of people because I have watched it first-hand and it is really serious, that service.

Mayor Swiderski: We all have those personal connections, and I understand that. But it a late hour, and we are trying to get through an issue. So any other thoughts?

Trustee Walker: Was the veterans' exemption stopped because of financial restrictions?

Trustee Armacost: There was a financial crisis in '82, so it is quite possible.

Trustee Walker: I agree with both of you. I also agree we should check out the legality of looking at means-testing. But what is interesting is that they stopped in '80 giving new exemptions, but continued with those that were already on the books. So the older veterans still have it, but the veterans of newer wars do not.

Mayor Swiderski: There are not many of those in this village, though, comparatively speaking.

Trustee Walker: No, that is true. But it does seem unequal the way it stands right now. I will just make that point. I think it is worth looking into and thinking about.

Trustee Quinlan: I concur.

Trustee Jennings: I concur. I have not had enough time to think through this. The issue did not come to my attention and I did not receive the material very long ago, so I do not know where I stand. I share the reflections that others have made. Recognition for military service is extremely important in our society. Property tax is the worst way to do it. Income tax would be a much more reasonable way. If we can do it, a means-tested approach would be more appropriate for our village at this time of fiscal crisis. And while I certainly acknowledge and admire the service of people who serve in the military, I make a distinction between people who were in combat areas and those who are not. I do not know if that can be made a meaningful distinction or not. Finally, there are a great many people, policemen, firemen, and others who give service to this society who risk their life and safety. I am not sure that, for me, the armed forces has such a privileged position in that endeavor. A lot of people give service to our society, and if we could see them up-close we would find that they deal with very difficult circumstances, as well. I do not know how to honor them, but I think we probably should not forget about them.

Mayor Swiderski: So, Fran, you have a couple of questions to follow up on.

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, will do.

4. River Towns' Tourist Board

Mayor Swiderski: There is an effort underway among Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, Hastings, and Tarrytown setting up an informal tourist board seeking to bring people to the river towns. Not as crazy as it sounds, there are an increasing number of amenities here that can be packaged into walking tours when people come up from the city, up the Aqueduct, drop in on Sleepy Hollow or start in Hastings at the Draper cottage and hit various sites on the way up. The restaurants are increasingly of a quality to appeal to city residents. And there are a number of proposals out there for ways to package something that could draw people here. The first step is to formalize a tourist board that will then seek to promote those sorts of activities. Bruce, you attended a meeting of the first nascent members of such a board. Do you want to speak to that?

Trustee Jennings: Yes, I did. About a week ago or so I attended an informal organizational meeting of people from the villages of Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, and Hastings. It was a very interesting discussion. Hastings resident Bruce Bolger is a professional who knows how to advertise and promote tourism as his field, and he was making a proposal that would make the tourism board not just another committee, but an advisory board for a concerted campaign to promote tourism and hold various events and do various kinds of advertising. I was impressed by the enthusiasm and the knowledgeable ability of this group of folks. There were some village trustees from the other villages, some businesspeople from the other villages, Chamber of Commerce people. I was impressed by Mr. Bolger's presentation, and this is likely to evolve into a practical, results-oriented thing which would enhance as far as Hastings goes. It would dovetail beautifully with Friday Night Live. It would add to, and supplement, our other efforts to promote our own downtown economic stability and revitalization. It is well worth our continuing involvement and careful scrutiny.

Mayor Swiderski: There is no request for financial support. Rather, these efforts tend to be self-funded by drawing people and seeking advertisers for literature that is handed out to people who come to town. So this is not a request for funding. It is a request for Board support of the concept.

Trustee Jennings: As this is foreseen not a penny will come out of the taxpayers' dollars of any of the villages. The villages would have people participate in the advisory structure of this and give their advice and feedback. Mr. Bolger would like to have an endorsement by the respective village boards of this initiative. He feels that with that kind of high-level visibility he would be more effective in dealing with advertising firms, tourist tour companies, and other entities that he would be reaching out to in order to put the river villages on the map. This is both private and public. It is private in the sense of signage and people who are here anyway walking along the trails. But it is public in the sense of trying to get people, in organized ways, tour groups, to make us a destination. To come on the train and get off; to do some things perhaps in Irvington in the morning, Dobbs in the afternoon, Hastings later in the day. It would be a three-village all-day thing that could be marketed to people. We would benefit through sales tax, and our merchants would benefit through patronage. It all sounds very exciting. Meg, because of your expertise, you might want to follow up and be a part of it. I am sure you could give them a lot of good advice.

Trustee Walker: I am very interested, and I am so pleased that this is coalescing. Thank you for attending the meeting because I was out of town and could not. I would have if I had been here. I am appreciative to Bruce kind of having this brainchild. He has been talking to us, the Friday Night Live folks, the Chamber, looking at a variety of ways that he could help us market the downtown and Friday Night Live. Reaching out to the other river towns was

really genius because we really have to do this at a larger level. We have to do a lot of things at that inter-village level, and this will help us get started thinking about ourselves as a region and not just an independent downtown. We have to do that in order to attract people from the outside to this area and to help make our downtown much more viable. So on a lot of levels it is a really good idea. It will lead to some other realizations that maybe we should have joint Chambers of Commerce, that maybe we should have more cooperation on our events, and so on. I see it going in a lot of directions, so good job.

Mayor Swiderski: In terms of the next step, there is interest, but what do they want? Do they want us to appoint two people to a board?

Trustee Jennings: There was discussion of those nuts and bolts. What will be coming to us in September is some sort of a proposal. It will inform us about what they plan to do, what their financial structure will be, what their governance structure will be; whether they want to invite people to be on this advisory board and they will just make sure that they invite representatives from all the villages, or whether they want the village governments to, as it were, select people. That has not been decided yet. But they will probably ask us to do a sense-of-the-Board resolution that we support this as the Hastings Village Board and we are prepared to lend our cooperation in an ongoing fashion.

Trustee Walker: It is a little version of what used to be the Historic River Towns of Westchester, which is now the Historic River Towns of the Hudson Valley. They have gotten a bigger, broader kind of venue. But this more local and more manageable, and we can be more directly involved in it. If we had a resolution, that is the way to start to at least appoint members. But we will see where it goes. I will try to attend the next meeting.

Mayor Swiderski: Indicate our openness to a proposal. I guess that is what we can say.

Trustee Walker: And my willingness to attend meetings in the future.

5. Update on Waterfront

Trustee Quinlan: A lot has been going on in the last couple of weeks on every level we could possibly imagine. But we will start with what is going to happen fairly soon: the start of the cleanup of the Exxon Mobil site, the 15 acres in the southern part of the waterfront called the Tappan Terminal. They are going to start some minor work, the breakup of the concrete pads on the property that were underneath the storage tanks, and they are going to do clear out the bushes and trees on areas where they are going to excavate and move big equipment. Fran and Chief Bloomer and I are reaching out to work on the truck route. Not to get into specifics on that yet because they have not hired a trucking company. But they have been very open to all our proposals. It appears that they are willing to do it pretty much

the same way we did the demolition: up and out, and over the Tappan Zee bridge and then south. We will be working on that and following it closely.

There was an issue on air monitoring at the meeting in June. It has been decided by the DEC that there is no need for an air monitoring station on the southern tip of the platform because they are going to have air monitoring on each corner of the property that is being worked on. They cannot see how if there is anything, it is going to go up over their air monitoring system and then come down and go down to the train station. It just does not make sense to anybody. So they are not worried about that. But they have agreed to put an air monitoring system on Warburton, which we are very happy about because there was some reluctance on the part of everybody at that meeting, except for the Village, to do that. We are looking at locations for that right now. The one place we are thinking about, and we have not discussed it with the DEC yet but I had a brief conversation with Bill Ports and he seemed to be positive about that, is the pocket park on Warburton, on the east side across from Antoinette's. He said that would be right in the general population. It is Village property, and it would be where the densest population is so we would be monitoring where most people live. But we will see. We are thinking about maybe the skate park.

6. Update on Comprehensive Plan

Mayor Swiderski: A marked-up version of the first three chapters was returned to the Board. The fourth, which we got halfway through, has not yet been marked up and returned. It probably will not be, because a number of the issues were not fully resolved and we might need to readdress. We need to return to the Comprehensive Plan and finish it up.

Trustee Walker: We had also talked about having a meeting with landlords in the downtown about the design guidelines and moving those forward in September. For the most part, all of our issues were addressed in the design guidelines. I simply brought up bringing them to the attention of property owners...But meeting on the Comp Plan may be more critical.

[Discussion of dates for Comprehensive Plan meeting]

Mayor Swiderski: So Sept. 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center for a work session on the Comp Plan, and prior to that meeting we need to circulate open issues in the fourth chapter so we queue up the discussion and can get to it promptly.

[Discussion of dates for October]

Trustee Walker: We can try to meet with the building owners perhaps in early October. I would like to send the Guidelines out to them, give them the opportunity to speak up.

We can talk about other topics as well. We could talk about what is going on with Friday Night Live and our initiatives.

Mayor Swiderski: We will have our regular Board meeting on Oct. 5, and on Oct. 19 a work session on the Design Guidelines from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. here in this room followed by our regular Board meeting.

Trustee Armacost: And which is going to be our first meeting dealing with budget issues? Is that all as a group together?

Trustee Quinlan: Did you not have meetings last year with you and Fran and Peter?

Trustee Armacost: In April. It was very, very late. I would like to do a meeting of brainstorming on a reasonable process.

Mayor Swiderski: I agree.

[Discussion of dates for budget meeting]

Mayor Swiderski: Wednesday, September 8 at 6 p.m. here in Fran's office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Trustee Walker: Friday Night Live on September 3 is going to be a celebration of local foods, our local restaurants, and local agriculture. It is going to be called "Hastings Harvest." Local restaurants will be participating, and prepared food vendors for our Farmers' Market, and local restaurants from other towns as well. There will be a number of contests: garden contests, flower arranging contests. Those are up on our Web site, at rivertownsguide.com. There is going to be a gas grill raffled off, thanks to Hastings Electric. Proceeds go to Friday Night Live. The idea is a communal supper and celebration.

One thing I need to mention which I did not in July. We had a wonderful contest in June at the town square Friday Night Live, which was called "Best of Hastings." People were asked to buy something from a local merchant or local restaurant, and extol its praises in public. People were required to give a speech about the item or food that they thought was the best in Hastings. There was a young man who gave the most eloquent speech about the Smencils,

the fragrant pencils that he loves to purchase at Chelsea's Closet. I would like to announce that Cole Armacost was the winner of a \$25 gift certificate to Chelsea's Closet, thanks to his love for Smencils and his eloquent speech in June. I apologize for not getting this out sooner.

Trustee Armacost: That is so sweet of you to remember.

On September 11 the "Take Me to the River" festival will take place. That is also a celebration of all sorts of talent here, mostly musical but also art and food. The Village is a sponsor of "Take Me to the River," and has been for many years.

Mayor Swiderski: It is going to be a blow-out all-day event. These are as fun as they come. Bring a picnic blanket, hope for good weather, and a lovely way to spend a day.

Trustee Armacost: Thanks also to all the Village staff that make it possible: to Ray's team, to the police, to the fire chiefs. There are so many different people: Lisa, Fran, so many people who make it possible in the Village.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 11:20 p.m.