

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**APRIL 26, 2011**

A Public Hearing was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 7:30 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. Fobel, Village Attorney Marianne Stecich, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

**CITIZENS:** Twelve (12).

Mayor Swiderski declared the Board in session for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing in accordance with the legal notice that appeared in the April 15, 2011 issue of *The Rivertowns Enterprise* to consider the advisability of adopting Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2011 amending Chapter 244, Solid Waste, Article II (Collection and Disposal) of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Is there anyone here who wishes to speak about any details of the proposed law?

**John Gonder, 153 James Street:** I understand most of it, but I have a container. It is cardboard, it has maybe a metal bottom, it has a plastic top and foil inside. Is that recyclable or to throw out? Then I have another problem. Sometimes I forget a salsa in the refrigerator for six months and it is kind of raunchy. I throw it out in a glass in the garbage. Am I breaking a law? Some bottles, you know, maybe it is honey or something. You throw them in the refuse rather than washing them. You are using hot water, and we want to be green. It is easier to throw it in the garbage can. There are a lot of items like that, and I do not know what to do. Am I doing the right thing? Am I doing the wrong thing? I asked one of the girls one time, and they did not know. So you should be more specific, and maybe give us a document that we could pin up at home and follow.

**David Skolnik, 47 Hillside Avenue:** On page three, 244-5(c) Storage and Collection of Paper and Commingled Recyclables: I am just wondering about the "paper items shall be kept dry until pickup." My assumption is that this was gone through and tried to be refined so that it all made sense.

**Trustee Armacost:** There was a reason given to us for that; it is not recyclable if it is wet.

**Mr. Skolnik:** I would understand it from the point of pickup. I would understand that paper, if allowed to get wet, will clearly add significance to the weight that the men have to lift and

load. The problem is, you put stuff out and unbeknownst to you, it rains overnight. Then this is an item that theoretically requires some enforcement. I think it leaves more an area open to interpretation than the rest of it. Clearly, there is going to be a great deal of discretion involved in the enforcement of this. But in terms of language and refining the language that seemed to suggest an area that widens the area of interpretation.

On item three of that same page, C-3, and then again later it appeared, the question came up about curb pickup versus grandfathered pickup on property. You sort of resolved it, but did not really resolve it, at the last meeting. The language here does not address it. In the political reality this may be the best way of dealing with it. But again, it is a built-in gray area. Are the people that are accustomed to their backyard pickup going to expect it?

**Village Attorney Stecich:** Let me just explain. That is the recyclables. The regular garbage remains the same. My understanding is recyclables are put in front anyway. The storage and collection of garbage refuse is what the Board discussed last time and decided. It has to be either at a curb or location chosen by the resident. You are just reading from the recyclable section.

**Village Manager Frobel:** There is no change in the garbage pickup, no change in the location. If the homeowner has it to the rear of their property we will continue to pick it up. The recyclables have always been brought to the curbside. So there is no change in that. I did not mean to confound it, but that is the intent.

**Mr. Skolnik:** However, on page five that would be running from four which is storage and collection of garbage refuse. That is section E, which appears toward the bottom of page four and then continues on page five. Item five on page five is basically the same wording, but that time it is referring to garbage.

**Village Attorney Stecich:** It is not the same wording. It says in a single location either at the curb, or a location chosen by the resident. So that is not a change, just like Fran said. It is the same as it is now.

**Mr. Skolnik:** I will accept that as no change. The only other question I had is more general. Once this is passed, is this part of an educational initiative?

**Mayor Swiderski:** It is part of an ongoing effort to change and upgrade the way we dispose of our waste. We would expect both an education internally of the staff, and then of the citizens for any changes that affect them. It is part of a concerted effort.

**Mr. Skolnik:** What I would like to see somewhere, between this document and any concerted effort, and maybe it has been done and maybe I have just missed it, is addressing in some detail the economics how this whole process impacts us, how what we do makes a difference economically, part of that being what the Saturday pickup, or the material that is brought down to the DPW, what the economic impact of that situation is. It has never been clear to me, given the stuff that goes into that truck, what becomes of it and whether it costs money, whether it is a wash. It is something that I would like to see addressed further.

**Village Manager Frobel:** We have done mailings. Our calendar does clearly depict what is recyclable, what is not. We will continue to try to stress to the homeowner the importance of recycling because there is a direct savings to the community. The more we recycle, the less trash we have. We pay to handle the trash. So there is a savings, and it is very substantial. If you would like, I can go into greater detail at a future meeting. But also for Mr. Gonder, the calendar we sent to you lists all the items that are recycled.

**Mr. Gonder:** I do not think so. Here is one. I like Pepperidge Farm cookies when I can afford them. They are aluminum inside and paper on the outside. Do I recycle it, or not?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Well, I would say yes. But I would defer to the expert. I would also tell you, your comment about rinsing out foodstuffs. You are to rinse out the can and put it in the recycling.

**Mr. Gonder:** But if it is rancid. Your Mr. Green over here, he says save water, and go green. It is easier to recycle than maybe flushing something and whatnot and scrubbing in soap and water. So you should be more specific on some items.

**Trustee Jennings:** It is not entirely clear that you are doing something negative to the environment when you rinse out recyclable materials as opposed to throwing them into the landfill. I defer to experts about that.

**Mr. Gonder:** What if it goes into the sewer system?

**Trustee Jennings:** Perhaps if we all tried to not let things go rancid, if we tried to change the way we have so much packaging in our lives, it would all be better for everybody. This is just a beginning. Recycling is just the first step to changing out ways of living to make them more compatible.

**Mr. Gonder:** We have been doing it for 20 years though: paper and recyclables. You give me a bucket, two buckets. They are getting a little beat up, but we have been doing it for 20 years. But there are some items we are not sure of, and that is where you have specifics.

**Elisa Zazzara, 68 Southside Avenue:** You can call 211 with any question you have on recycling. They will answer it for the county. That is the perfect thing to do. Your Pepperidge Farm, take the aluminum foil out, put the paper in the paper and use the foil. It is not a perfect scheme. We are all figuring it out as we go along. We can have coffee one day and I will show you how I save water by rinsing out things.

One thing in here that we mentioned, which I think should be taken out, was the definition of recyclable refuse. It goes on to talk about film, low-density polyethylene plastic. It is never discussed again in the code, so that should just be taken out.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Specific citation, please?

**Village Attorney Stecich:** I know what she is talking about.

**Ms. Zazzara:** It is under "definitions?"

**Village Attorney Stecich:** So it should end "plus textile recyclables," period. Right?

**Ms. Zazzara:** Yes, that is what I think, because we never discussed that.

**Village Attorney Stecich:** Yes, it was in there.

**Ms. Zazzara:** "Paper," by county's definition, if it is wet it is not usable in their recycling thing. So you do not know if it is going to rain out, if you have a tarp stick it over your paper the night you put it out. We have got to figure it out as we go along. Two-one-one if you need a garbage can with a lid.

**Trustee Walker:** Elisa, in response to their questions about an educational campaign?

**Ms. Zazzara:** If you open your calendar past December, the very last page has what is recyclable. The Conservation Commission is looking at June to do something at least at the Farmers' Market on Saturdays, and possibly get another mailing out because the plastics will change, according to the county. Hopefully, that will happen June 1 we are going to take all plastics.

**Jim Metzger, 427 Warburton Avenue:** I had asked the Trustees a number of years ago. Somebody should do a study on the efficiencies of what it takes for our DPW workers to go into somebody's backyard, bring the garbage out. It is a matter of convenience for most people,; it is not a necessity. When you consider that there are three men per truck, and it is

probably taking a minute to a minute-and-a-half to get the garbage, put it in the truck, bring the pails back, come back out. The wear and tear on our DPW guys, and for anybody who thinks that is not a hard job I suggest they try it for about 20 minutes. We should look into trying to encourage people in the Village to bring their waste to the sidewalk. That would free our DPW people up to do other necessary work for the Village. In these tough times efficiency is important.

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

**CLOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

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