

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARCH 6, 2012**

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 7:35 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Peter Swiderski, Trustee Bruce Jennings, Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan (7:40 p.m.), Trustee Meg Walker, Trustee Nicola Armacost, Village Manager Francis A. Frobel, Village Attorney Marianne Stecich, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

**CITIZENS:** Seven (7).

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

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

Multi-Fund No. 58-2011-12 \$36,781.23

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**John Gonder, 153 James Street:** I reside with the deers over on James Street. At the last meeting, three individuals voted for a tax, and Jeremiah Quinlan voted against it. I wish he was here because I wanted to congratulate him. Trustee Armacost abstained, so I give her a half a thumbs up. And a thumbs up for Mr. Quinlan. Tax, tax, tax. We, the people, and you represent me; I thought we agreed 50 percent, but it is a lot less than that I agree with you.

I do not think we need tourism in Hastings. We are crowded enough. The benefits that you get from it just makes this village more urban. I do not think a lot of the community wants that. Mr. Mayor, you talked about home rule. To me, home rule is doing something about the deer, doing something about sidewalks. For 60 years that I know people have been after sidewalks in this community. The only sidewalk I have seen recently was Washington Avenue, and real nice. They had a sidewalk, but there are a lot of places that do not even have sidewalks. I agree with Mr. Quinlan. It cost my family a lot of money when they come into town, all of my children and grandchildren, for holidays and other occasions and I cannot put them all up. One of them has to go to a hotel, and I cannot afford that expense. So I wish you would do more things for the village people, the residents.

I walked around, and I see not only buses but boats on trailers, campers in driveways. Back in the '70s, we had a law you could not do this. You could not have commercial vehicles. The buses aggravate me and a lot of people on my street. We have a Florida license. I do

not know why the Board does not tell the attorney look into this. We have laws in New York State about vehicle registration, and Florida has certain rules and regulations about vehicles. If you are a resident, you have to live in Florida at least six months of the year. You can do something about it, but past Uniontown I do not think you care about us too much.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I think we have looked into that in the past, but it is certainly worth taking a look at again.

**Michael Ambrozek, 16 Sheldon Place:** I would like to make an observation about the lane narrowing on Broadway southbound from the Dobbs Ferry border to Edgar's Lane. At the traffic light southbound at Edgar's Lane there is only one lane. This sometimes causes delays for people trying to get to the train station or into the Village in the morning. I would like to request if the very short bit of striping that exists to reduce it to one lane could be made two lanes. This would allow traffic to turn more easily to the right and help the flow of traffic. I do not think it would affect anything in the way of road rage or speeding in that area. I do not know if the New York State Department of Transportation has to be brought into this to change it.

I am puzzled as to why, if they reduced Broadway southbound to one lane, they did not reduce Broadway northbound to one lane. There is very often the need, for example, in front of the synagogue to park vehicles for special Jewish holidays. There can be as much road rage, I would imagine, northbound and southbound. I would like to reduce that to one lane. It would also help people that enter onto Broadway from the east to get onto Broadway because there would only be one lane of traffic in each direction.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Thank you. I will pass those comments on to the Chief of Police.

**Jim Metzger, 427 Warburton Avenue:** I would like to respectfully disagree with Mr. Gonder about the need for tourism in the Village. Three years ago, people were complaining there was no ethnic food to be found in the Village. We now have Japanese, Middle Eastern, American, American fusion. There is a huge range of food types. In order for those restaurants to succeed they are not going to survive strictly on the people from the Village. We just do not have enough population density to support those restaurants.

At a time when some of the other Village regular restaurants like Thomas' Coffee & Teas are closing - we are losing the best hot and sour soup possibly in the northeast corridor - we need to look into the concept of tourism as a destination space to come to an event versus tourism that supports our local businesses. We should encourage people to come to Hastings to utilize the downtown to make sure it remains as vibrant as possible.

## **VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Village Manager Frobel:** I would like to talk about the work that our technology department has done over the past several months in terms of making modification to our payroll processing. You received in your packet a memorandum from Mr. Zaratzian in which he summarized the work. Our payroll software is aged, it is not as user-friendly as some of our employees would like in terms of the data that it provides them. We see an opportunity whereby switching over to some different software and having service provided to us, we can realize some long-term cost savings, but certainly less paperwork, less opportunity for errors, and a way to automate the entire system. I asked Raf to be here tonight to summarize, his memorandum and to respond to any questions the Board might have. This is administrative in nature, but because it is a rather innovative approach to streamlining our operations I wanted to take a few minutes t to talk about it.

**Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian:** We were asked to take a look at different options for payroll and personnel services. We talked to ADP and Paychex, and we also looked at upgrading the software, which seemed like a very big investment to do when everything seems to be going more to outsourcing. ADP and Paychex come in pretty much even. The things that stuck out to us was that the employee would have the ability to go to a Web site, find out how much vacation-sick time they had, get their stubs electronically saving a lot of paper, making sure that the employee could ask for vacation and time off through the system as well as giving us a portal to do our employee newsletter electronically as opposed to putting in a paycheck. It would also allow each department to input their own payroll information, and for it to be reported in a more general way that can be interpreted better by the department head to find out where overtime is being used, where resources are being wasted in a way that has not been done in the past. All these things were looked at, and we came to the conclusion that ADP, over a long-term period, would be the most cost-effective way to go.

**Trustee Armacost:** I think what you are doing is exactly right. My company happens to use Paychex, so I know that service better than ADP. But either one seems a perfectly reasonable way to go, and it seems like a sensible way to do it. I wanted to commend you, or whoever wrote the memo, on the way in which the cost-benefit analysis was presented. I thought it was persuasive and helpful. So congratulations on that part. I do not mind either way, if you feel that ADP gives you more of what you want or is more effective long-term.

**Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian:** Long-term, yes. Basically, the two services are very similar and they compete with each other directly. Their services are very much the same. The thing that we were a little shy about Paychex was that they did not allow each employee to have access to their own Web portal. That was extra. And also that their yearly increase

over four years would go up more than ADP's would. So over a long period of time, or a three-year looking-out, we felt that that would be a cost savings on the ADP side. But both services, you are correct, are relatively the same.

**Trustee Jennings:** I agree with Trustee Armacost. My employer for the past 20 years or more has used Paychex. Automated outsourcing is a very good idea, a very cost-effective thing to do. It is good for the individual employee to have access to the Web site to get their personal information. That is a plus. If it is more expensive on a Paychex to do that than it is ADP, that is a consideration. I do not have a preference as to company myself, but the service is a good thing to move to.

**Trustee Walker:** Just to be clear on the numbers, the annual cost for both is around \$12,500.

**Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian:** Yes.

**Trustee Walker:** And what is the one-time expense?

**Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian:** That is the conversion of the data and the implementation of the system. There is going to be a lot of interpretation on the computer side, where the DPW contract is different than the police contract and is different than a non-union contract. All that has to be interpreted into electronic language, in a sense.

**Trustee Walker:** But you do that once, and then you do not have to do it again.

**Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian:** Exactly. And that is why there is that one-time fee, converting the data over.

**Trustee Walker:** The numbers are very persuasive, and you did a good job of spelling it out.

**Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian:** If I had used Paychex's and ADP's numbers they were much more giving in savings. I thought that was a little too much to think we were going to have a savings of \$90,000 or \$150,000. That was a bit of salesmanship there. But I came to some numbers that I thought were more reasonable, and used that.

**Trustee Armacost:** I am assuming that the \$83,000 cost of the current method is a cost in human resources. That is people's time.

**Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian:** It is.

**Trustee Armacost:** So you are not saving money, in that you would lay off the person who is doing that function. You would be employing them in another capacity. Could you tell us, Fran, how we are going to accrue that benefit, through what someone would be doing with time not spent on this. I know, in the context of my organization, it is a huge amount of time saved which can be put to good uses.

**Village Manager Frobel:** We saw it as the input time, where it is handled a couple of times from the employee to the supervisor to the payroll clerk. What Raf was identifying is the time saving we should realize that will free up the supervisor's work time to do other tasks. We can reduce the hours for a part-time clerk that assists her, and now the payroll clerk can work on other assignments rather than the payroll, which takes quite a bit of her work day on Mondays.

**Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian:** Mondays and Tuesdays.

**Village Manager Frobel:** So that is where we see the time savings.

**Trustee Armacost:** So mainly, it is the supervisor and the payroll clerk.

**Village Manager Frobel:** That is where I see it.

**Mayor Swiderski:** It is not a re-juggling, it is not just opportunity cost. It is a real savings. It is less part-time.

**Trustee Armacost:** So the idea is that we would employ the person for less time?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes. The budget that will come to you in a few weeks would reflect less hours for the part-time person.

**Trustee Walker:** But that is just the part-time person. Then there are other folks.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Right. That is the opportunity cost.

**Trustee Walker:** And then the errors, that is a big number. What does that mean?

**Village Manager Frobel:** That is an industry standard. As Raf indicated, we reduce that some. We do not see that ratio here. It is a much smaller payroll than ADP or Paychex is using as a national standard for checks that have to be cut, voided, or reissued.

**Trustee Walker:** So that is an estimate, the \$29,990.

**Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian:** Again, all I am doing is taking the 0.01 percent for the automated and the 0.05 percent for the manual, which was a lot less than what ADP and Paychex had. They had calculated it at a much higher rate, which I do not believe is correct. This is more realistic. We are also looking at the fact that this would give the department the ability to get information more quickly. As opposed to trying to find out where paychecks went, it would be much quicker now for them to look at the system and find out exactly who was paid and how much they were paid and when the check was cut.

**Trustee Armacost:** It ends up being a better management tool in that you can quickly and in a transparent way evaluate things like overtime. So if overtime is stacking up for one person it is transparent to anyone who looks into the system. For that reason it is valuable, both for the supervisor as well as for the supervisor of the supervisors, the Village Manager.

**Trustee Quinlan:** I agree with everybody. It is apparent that it is a good idea.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I agree it is 2012, this is not exactly breaking the frontier of technology. It is about time, and for all the benefits, especially the time management, it makes sense. It is worth acknowledging it is a change and a change is always at least somewhat disruptive. But once you are on the other side of a change like this I think it is positive.

**Trustee Armacost:** It is so un-disruptive, once you have entered it in. It may be disruptive for the person who enters it in, but after that it is just amazing. Most people will not notice it. It is probably just the payroll clerk and maybe Raf who might notice the disruption.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Or they will enjoy the benefits.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I certainly have been anxious over it. I said we have been in this for a few months. It actually started a year ago, and we have involved all the employees that are supervisor level. We have been going very slow on this. I have been very hesitant to make the switchover. But if we are comfortable, we are ready to take that step. We will be running double payrolls for awhile. We have got a lot of training ahead of us to make sure that this works perfectly. But we are ready to begin.

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** I do have one concern. Payroll records are, in effect, permanent records. I just went downstairs to check the retention schedule. Year-end payroll, which has to have detailed information on gross pay, net pay, base pay, taxes and such for retirement and Social Security purposes, has to be available for 55 years. So in effect, that is permanent. How is that handled? Is there a printout at the end of the year?

**Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian:** You can print out anything you want, but I have been assured by ADP that if we were to leave they have to provide the information in an electronic format which could be used in another program. If we were to go to Paychex, we would get all that information and go to Paychex. It would always be accessible in some way.

**Trustee Armacost:** Paychex normally sends you a paper copy of the transactions each month. I do not know if they were planning to do that in this case, but you get it electronically and you get paper.

**Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian:** Yes. There are a number of ways we can work that out. Our hope was to do as much electronically and no paper as much as possible. Fran was even thinking about direct deposit for everybody and debit cards for kids who work at the pool who do not have checking accounts. It is one of the options we are looking at. It would mean that we would not have to use any paper in our payroll at all, except for printouts at the end, check stock and so forth. And it would mean that the employee would get the information as soon as the payroll was posted when they went to the Web site and put in their username and password. They could see exactly what their pay stub is. If they wanted to print it out, then they could print it out. But we could save on paper. Currently, each payroll has about 75 to 100 pieces of paper just in time sheets.

**Trustee Quinlan:** The other benefit is to the employee because they do not have to go to the bank. That saves time.

**Village Manager Frobel:** We have a high percentage of employees participating since we have gone direct deposit, but there are still a few holdouts. As Raf mentioned, a lot of employers are going mandatory no checks, where it is all direct deposit. Those that say they do not have a checking account, as Raf mentioned, can get a debit card. We cannot imagine someone not having a checking account, but if not, we can accommodate that.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS**

### **1. Capital Improvements Plan – Fire Department**

**Village Manager Frobel:** A few weeks ago I presented to the Board the capital improvement budget. I also spent some time talking about revenues and our debt, and we talked about the DPW. What is yet to occur is my opportunity to begin to blend those together and to show you what we are looking at in terms of our debt today and what is being proposed in this capital improvement plan, and giving you a five-year look-ahead as to how

we can begin to phase in some of these major capital investments that the department heads have identified. I have asked the fire chiefs to come here to talk about their plan. The community and the Board of Trustees have been very supportive of the fire department over the last several years. I talked about that at our meeting on the DPW, where it has come at somewhat of an expense to some of our other departments, particularly the DPW. You have addressed a lot of the capital investment in terms of firefighting apparatus, the ladder, the pumpers, ambulances, chiefs' cars. But there are still items in the capital budget that the fire department needs to address.

I have asked the Chief to focus principally on our communication aspect. That is a real concern, and one that is staring us straight in the face in terms of FCC guidelines as to what is going to happen in January, 2013. Also, I want to talk about the switch at the Andrus Nursing Home, where we are going to be required to move our repeater and make a real investment up there.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** In our capital budget request we identified costs associated with the Federal Communications Commission mandate with which we have to comply by January 1, 2013. This is called a narrowbanding mandate. It encompasses radio communications for the fire department, police, DPW and any type of public service agencies. The FCC is seeking to create more frequencies and more bandwidth. Because there is so much radio traffic with cell phones and other devices, they are running out of frequencies. They are seeking to shrink the frequencies which agencies transmit on every time a radio transmission is made. That should clear up some of the communications problem nationwide with emergency services and other public agencies. The equipment that we have is not narrowband compliant. We need to upgrade the equipment. That includes the receiving and transmission equipment at the Andrus Home, our radio pagers, the pagers that the members carry to hear calls and respond to calls, as well as our portable radios.

The radio equipment in the Andrus Home is located in the elevator room at the top floor. That is the highest area in the Village that gives us the clearest transmissions. That equipment has to be relocated due to the fact that the Andrus Home will be upgrading their elevators by September of this year. The equipment that they are installing is digital-based, and the radio equipment that we have is digitally-based. So there are problems in operation. Technically, what could happen is, if somebody pushes a button to summon the elevator it could transmit a radio call, and vice versa. When we get radio calls, it could send the elevators up and down. So we need to relocate that equipment. The Andrus Home has identified a location for us on the sixth floor. That is going to involve some renovation work, some core drilling through the floors, in order to accommodate the cables and the antenna wires.



The cost for the fire department radio equipment, and this does not include the police department or the DPW, to replace all the existing radio equipment, the receiving equipment as well as the transmitters, is estimated to be \$16,875. That does not include the construction costs. That is the equipment, the electrical components as well as a storage cabinet for that equipment. For the pagers that would be needed that would be narrowband compliant, that would receive the fire calls, the cost would be about \$30,720, and the cost for radios and auxiliary equipment in the area of \$20,000. In terms of the fire department costs for the narrowband compliance, the estimated is \$75,000. In our capital request, we have identified a figure of \$330,000. I am assuming that would encompass all the other agencies that utilize the radio equipment. The existing radios purchased a number of years ago have been identified as obsolete in terms of the narrowband compliance. We use six different models of radio pagers. The older models, it is ironic that these are the most durable but not narrowband compliant.

**Mayor Swiderski:** What happens if we are not compliant? And if this is a mandate, all other communities are forced into this wholesale hardware change because the bandwidths are narrowing?

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** That is correct.

**Mayor Swiderski:** That is crazy.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Some departments are better off than us. Some of the radios in the police department should be OK. Because our police radios were newer, they can be reprogrammed to handle the narrow band. A lot of our fire department radios and pagers are older and could not be reprogrammed. But I agree with you, it is a problem for everyone. If you try to transmit on a wider band once this goes into effect, there can be penalties because you will be interfering with other agencies. That is a real concern because you will be faced with fines. Plus, you will not be able to talk among yourselves. You could be crowded out with your communication between the firemen at the scene or the police and fire at the scene. So two things could happen. Fines, and inoperability.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** We have been through a number of seminars on this issue, and they will be monitoring compliance. They are very serious about this.

**Trustee Armacost:** I cannot remember if it was last year or the year before, but was there not a fire at Andrus where the room with all the equipment burned. Did we not have to replace all the equipment then?

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** No. That was one of the concerns. We have been talking about replacing this equipment for awhile. And it has been off, quite frankly. This has also been a concern. That elevator room is open to the elements. There are pigeons up there, there are workmen up there. That equipment is vital to public safety so we need it in an isolated, enclosed cabinet. We have been talking about this for awhile, but with this narrowbanding it has come to the fore.

**Trustee Armacost:** I have the budget from last year with the previous sets of years' expenditures. It looks like we jacked it up for radios last year compared to the previous years. I want to know what that money was spent on if it was, in fact, spent, and how that relates to these expenditures this year.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** We have been doing some pager replacement, and there have been some issues with the vehicles themselves, some of the radios that are carried on the apparatus. We have done some upgrading with those, so those are all compliant at this point. It is the portable radios, the ones that are carried by the members.

**Village Manager Frobel:** But you are right. We knew this day was coming so we had been setting aside money under capital outlay for this purchase. The budget you are going to get also includes another \$10,000 or \$15,000 to go towards this. My goal was to reduce having to borrow money to address the radio situation and try to do it that way. I kept hoping something was going to happen that we were not going to have to relocate all the equipment. For example, this summer we were able to talk to Andrus and, I think, Verizon and Sprint to move the antennas for us at no charge. So we have been trying different approaches to get the work done for us at a minimum impact to our budget.

**Trustee Armacost:** thought we had to move it anyway because of the fire, or was it not moved because of the fire?

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** It was not moved because of the fire.

**Trustee Armacost:** So we just kept it in the same place, even though there had been a fire.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** Correct.

**Trustee Quinlan:** Fran, have we held back any money that we have in hand to spend for this project?

**Village Manager Frobel:** About \$10,000.

**Trustee Quinlan:** You say it is going to cost about \$75,000. Is that with or without construction costs?

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** That is without construction costs.

**Trustee Quinlan:** Are the police and DPW going to be located in the same area, on the sixth floor?

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** Yes.

**Trustee Quinlan:** So they can share in the construction costs in their budgets?

**Village Manager Frobel:** No, not that kind of number. We are looking at some major expenditures. We do not know what they are right now.

**Trustee Quinlan:** Are you going to divide them three ways, police, DPW and fire department? I am not saying you should. I am just asking a question.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Probably not. It will be one unit cost and one borrowing issue for the expense.

**Trustee Quinlan:** And that is going to be charged against one department?

**Village Manager Frobel:** No, it would be in your debt service. It would be a line item called repeater communication upgrade, and it would be generic in that sense.

**Trustee Quinlan:** We heard about the police department equipment being more compliant on the whole.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes.

**Trustee Quinlan:** Although it is not totally compliant, is it?

**Village Manager Frobel:** I talked to the sergeant last week after he attended a seminar on it, and we are in pretty good shape in terms of our portable radios. They are reprogrammable.

**Trustee Quinlan:** But are they going to need separate equipment for this public safety communication? It is going to be a unit, right?

**Village Manager Frobels:** Yes.

**Trustee Quinlan:** Now is that unit going to be shared by DPW, police and fire?

**Village Manager Frobels:** Yes.

**Trustee Quinlan:** So they are not going to be three separate units.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** I believe they both have separate units.

**Village Manager Frobels:** In this cabinet, which is about the size of a soda machine.

**Trustee Quinlan:** So there will be separate units. One will be fire, one will be police, and one will be DPW?

**Village Manager Frobels:** DPW does not rely so much on radios anymore. It is mostly the telephone and Nextel.

**Trustee Quinlan:** That was my next question. How does the DPW's communications match up? Are they old and non-compliant, or are they more compliant like the police department?

**Village Manager Frobels:** They would be noncompliant, more like the fire department. Again, we rely mostly on radios and the Nextel rather than a portable radio or a base unit.

**Trustee Walker:** Do they even need to have problem radios?

**Village Manager Frobels:** No, they do not.

**Trustee Armacost:** So why is there an expense?

**Village Manager Frobels:** When we finally get down to determining exactly what we need you will see a lower cost than what we have for the raw estimate right now, because we just do not know. As the Chief mentioned, there is drilling through concrete floors, bringing it over to a portion of the building that is quite a distance from where it is now physically located.

**Trustee Quinlan:** But I assume when you bore through the concrete floors you can put all three cables through the same hole, right?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Oh, sure.

**Trustee Quinlan:** OK. I am just trying to see how we are going to share the cost here. It is more important to me to know that there is going to be a shared cost through three departments than have the fire department come here and present this thing we are going to have bore through, and do this and do that. I am trying to see how we can share.

**Village Manager Frobel:** No, it is all in the category of public safety. It is not specific to any one department.

**Trustee Quinlan:** So the radios, each member of the fire department needs a radio, right?

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** Well, each rig carries eight radios. Obviously, the cost would be prohibitive to have every member carry a radio. Usually it is senior officers, the pump operators and other key personnel who have radios.

**Trustee Quinlan:** So there are eight radios on each apparatus, and we have, what, four working now?

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** Correct. Our apparatus, plus the two ambulances, the chiefs, the deputy chiefs, the fire inspector and the fire police. Fifty-three, something like that.

**Trustee Jennings:** You are figuring that the aggregate expense is about \$330,000. That is the number that is on this sheet. Then, Fran, you indicated a minute ago that when we start looking at it more carefully and so forth, it might come in lower than that.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I am certain it will. That was the estimate we had generated several months ago.

**Trustee Jennings:** I understand the \$70,000 the Chief was just enumerating, but does that \$330,000 figure, estimate though it is, include your estimate of what it is going to take to do the construction at Andrus?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes.

**Trustee Armacost:** Is there a way to break down that \$330,000 figure into absolutely have to have and would be nice to have, or is it a nonnegotiable figure?

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** It is a high estimate, but it is relatively nonnegotiable.

**Trustee Armacost:** So what would be a more accurate estimate?

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** Again, we have to factor in to police equipment and the construction costs. Those are the key numbers that would figure in. The fire department is pretty much set on our numbers.

**Trustee Armacost:** So your number is \$75,000 just for the equipment.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** Correct.

**Trustee Armacost:** And then the construction cost would be?

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** We would have to obtain another estimate in it.

**Trustee Armacost:** I think we need more accurate numbers.

**Village Manager Frobel:** And you would certainly get it. Right now, this is just the capital improvement plan. We are trying to give you a look-ahead as to what might be presented to you in six or eight months.

**Trustee Armacost:** But if the high end is \$330,000 and the low end is \$100,000, I would like to know is the low end \$300,000, is the low end \$200,000, is the low end \$100,000? It would be sort of useful to have a min-max scenario on some of these. Because you add them all up, it creates a very different capital plan over a few years.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Not really. What we are trying to stress this evening is simply to be aware there are some communication needs that we are going to address. They involve police, fire, DPW. They involve a private landlord, they involve moving equipment, they involve purchasing new base radios, and a host of things. And that you need to know that we are going to be preparing this over the next several months. We have not even developed specifications yet. We may even need a consultant to help us in some of these things because it is such a major investment. And then presenting something to you, looking for your authorization to bid it and see what the real prices are.

**Trustee Quinlan:** It seems to me if you take the \$75,000 from the \$330,000, you are talking about a \$250,000 construction cost. You can almost build a small house for that.

**Village Manager Frobel:** That is not the construction cost. That also includes the base radios that we have to place in there.

**Trustee Quinlan:** No, I understand that.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** The radio equipment cost on the fire department is the \$75,000. The two numbers that we are looking for, and maybe three with the DPW, is their costs, the police department costs, and the construction costs.

**Trustee Quinlan:** But the \$75,000 includes your base radios.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** That is equipment.

**Trustee Quinlan:** All the equipment that is going to be on the sixth floor. Do we need a separate radio unit for the DPW?

**Village Manager Frobel:** I do not know. I went in with the assumption that they would. That we would continue with our existing arrangement. When we talk to a consultant, and we have someone who has been advising us at no cost, he will tell us whether or not you can do away with it, you are relying more on telephone, you are relying more on your Nextel, Mike is able to communicate with the men in the field that way, and you can eliminate that need at the base

**Trustee Armacost:** That is why I do not think you are responding to my question.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Well, I tried to.

**Trustee Armacost:** How can I say this? Clearly, if you have a state mandate with the fire department, that is a nonnegotiable. But the DPW seems to be hugely negotiable, particularly if we are planning to consolidate those services with Dobbs Ferry. Why would we do a major capital expenditure? Say it is \$75,000 for them, plus their portion of the cost of construction. Say it is \$120,000 or \$150,000. Why would we do that if it was going to go away, and if it was not all that necessary at the end of the day? I think we should perhaps incorporate that into our analysis of the \$330,000.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I do not want you to get preoccupied with the \$330,000. That was the budget estimate keeping the existing scenario with state of the art equipment. If we consolidate with Dobbs, there will still be a need to communicate from some base unit to the men driving trucks in the field. Whether they are dispatched from Dobbs, they are going to be working in Hastings. So I imagine some kind of relay system is going to be necessary. I do not know what that will be.

**Trustee Armacost:** I am preoccupied with the \$300,000 because that is three percentage points in terms of taxes.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Agreed.

**Trustee Armacost:** So I am preoccupied and will continue to be preoccupied until we have a better estimate.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I am not trying to minimize that. What I am trying to say is that you need to give us an opportunity to fine tune that estimate.

**Trustee Armacost:** I would love you to. I think it would be fantastic.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** The thing is we have to. Because right now, the equipment is 40 feet from the antennas. Now, going down two floors plus into another wing, you are going to run all that extra antenna line plus an uninterruptible power source. If the power goes down, we need to have a backup. So those figures would all be included in the construction costs. Radio equipment, I am not sure, and that is what we will find out, whether they can just splice into the antenna line, for instance, or they have to run all new antenna cables into the transmitters and receivers. Obviously, when this is done we have to maintain uninterruptible service. But they need to have all that hardware in place before you can make the switch.

**Trustee Jennings:** I just wanted to make sure I understand correctly. We have to replace equipment because of the narrowband requirement that is coming down the pike that we have to comply with. We have to move the equipment not because of that, but because of the conflict with the new elevator technology in Andrus.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** That is right.

**Trustee Jennings:** So there are two things we have to do. They are going to be expensive, we do not know exactly how much. But the two things we are doing for different reasons. If it were not for the conflict with Andrus elevators the bandwidth change in and of itself would not necessitate the move of the equipment.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** That is correct. This has come to the forefront for two reasons: the narrowbanding mandate, as well as the fact that they are renovating their elevators and they want that equipment out of there. It actually needs to be out of there.

**Trustee Walker:** Apart from running the wires, which could be a considerable amount, it could be a big project if you are taking it to another wing. But apart from that, is there other construction that is going to go in this closet? We are talking about a room that is already there, correct?



**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** It is going to be located in a separate room on the sixth floor. The cabinetry involved that will house the radio equipment is an FCC-compliant cabinet. It is like a large storage box. There will probably be some sheet rock partition work.

**Trustee Walker:** Do you have to increase the fire rating of the room?

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** Yes. And there would be a locked door, obviously, because we would not want people wandering in there.

**Village Manager Frobel:** The cabinet is environmentally-enclosed, chilled, and kept temperature-regulated.

**Trustee Walker:** And you have to bring in new power, as well.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** Correct.

**Village Manager Frobel:** We have met with Andrus. The Chief of Police and I have met with the director. We are trying to see what support the foundation could offer in terms of this, since they are one of our customers, the nursing home. They do have a charitable foundation that is a possibility to help offset some of the expense. There are grants the feds offer, whether or not they are attuned to this. Is it SAFER? What is that program?

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** No, SAFER is an improvement-type grant structure. It is not going to be relevant to this project.

**Village Manager Frobel:** And whether there are any member grants anymore. In the past we have been fortunate and received some of those from the general assembly. We are going to be pursuing other opportunities to help reduce the expense of this. But it is one that we wanted you to be aware of.

**Mr. Gonder:** Is there any chance that since our fire department takes part of the Greenburgh area that you can pass a certain portion of these costs to Greenburgh?

**Village Manager Frobel:** They do share. We have an agreement with them to provide service to the Donald Park area. So Greenburgh does share, in a sense, towards this expense as they do with all our fire department expenses.

**Mr. Gonder:** I understand that, but it is a flat fee each year. Now you have an additional cost of \$300,000 or \$100,000. Can they not share whatever percentage our fire department gets?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Right. Their proportionate share would be factored into the agreement we have with them to provide that service. As does all the debt. They share in all our expenses.

**Mr. Metzger:** I had a question for the Chief. Is there any residual value for the equipment that is now outdated, where it could be sold to anybody else for any other purpose?

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** Yes, we probably could auction it off or sell it.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Outside of the country, I assume, because it is now noncompliant.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** Probably. This is a nationwide mandate. Similar to what we did with Engine 46. We sent it down to Ecuador.

**Mr. Metzger:** Andrus, I am assuming, is doing us a large favor by enabling us to put equipment in their building. They made a decision to move the equipment some distance away from where it is now. Is there any room for negotiation to possibly look at a closer location where we would cover some of the expense of doing that but it may be less expensive than having to move it down two floors and over to the other side of the building. Has anybody looked into what their plan is, and why that room is being offered?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes, we have had lengthy discussions with their engineers and they are recommending a location that best suits their needs and addresses our needs. They are exercising their right to use their entire building in a fashion that it was designed. So we are the guests, and we are trying to work around that. I should point out, they have already made modifications along the top of the tower. I indicated they moved the antennas for us, in cooperation with the telephone companies. So the home has done quite a bit to help us, so far, minimize the expenses.

**Mr. Metzger:** I did not mean to imply that Andrus was doing anything to cause us harm. I realize they are providing a valuable service to us in that location. I was just curious to know if anybody else had taken a look at that.

**Trustee Armacost:** Looking at this plan, there is a line item under police department called "communication dispatch," which is \$105,000 over a three-year period, which, I am assuming, is not related to this.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Right, it is not. That is internal modification to the police dispatch in this building.

**Trustee Armacost:** And the emergency generator is not related. It is a different generator. not related to the backup electrical supply that you were talking about.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** Correct.

**Mr. Ambrozek:** The cables at Andrus are going to be run through a number of walls. I am wondering if, in your discussions with Andrus, whether it could be possible to run it along the roofs of the buildings, and then as much along the outside before one has to penetrate through any walls to try to keep the costs of drilling brick or concrete to a minimum. And then secondly, has some other location other than Andrus been considered? I know the existing antennas are there, there would be an extra expense to move it, and there is always a concern people have about radiation from transmitters. But the Farragut School is a fairly high location that is much more central in the Village, and would provide a fairly good location to transmit from.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** It is the highest point in the Village and it gives us the maximum scope in terms of transmitting and receiving radio messages.

**Village Manager Frobel:** When we get down to specifications we will look at the best, most economical route to lay the cable to the location. Again, we have not gotten down to that kind of detail yet. And you would not until you are certain you have got a project and it has to happen. But we will be looking at ways to economize throughout the process.

**Fire Chief Sarfaty:** I think the core drilling would probably be the easiest. If you are going to run these cables on the exterior of the building it is going to involve scaffolding and waterproofing and things of that nature. All the scaffolding is down when they did all the repointing. Probably an interior run would be the most cost-effective. But again, that would be up to the engineers to make that determination, as well as Andrus. It is their building.

**Village Manager Frobel:** That is everything we wanted to cover. I do not want to minimize it. There are other items in there. The chiefs' command vehicles are aged, they need to be replaced. But we had luck purchasing a used one. We are going to keep our eye out for that. Turnout gear, protective equipment is paramount to the fire department's operation. I am trying to include some of that in the operating budget for the firemen.

So we are trying different ways to minimize the impact on our debt and on our expenses. But in a nutshell, that is what we wanted to talk about tonight.

## **2. Update on the Waterfront.**

**Trustee Quinlan:** We sent in our comments to the DEC for the PRAP at the end of last week, prior to the deadline as we had agreed and discussed at the last Board meeting. The comment period is closed. We are hoping that there will not be too many changes to the PRAP, and that we will get a record of decision maybe before the end of the school year. But this is not the only project the DEC is working on. They are working on dozens and dozens of projects throughout New York State. So we will keep our fingers crossed.

**Mr. Metzger:** There was a question about whether the consent decree requirement for five feet of clean fill versus the DEC requirement for two feet of clean fill has been talked about, or resolved. Do we have an answer on that?

**Trustee Quinlan:** At our last meeting I had a full description of the consent decree and the five feet and the two feet. So instead of repeating myself, maybe you ought to look at the minutes. I did follow up, and it was a very good point you made. That is one reason I followed up because I did not know the answer. But I have a clearer understanding, although not perfect, of what is going on.

**Mr. Metzger:** I will watch it online, Jerry. Thank you.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I pushed again for the title search on the bridge on the south end of the property. There remains some ambiguity about who owns that. We need to resolve that now because the Exxon property is clean in a couple of years and, in talking about a transportation plan or an infrastructure plan, it would be helpful to understand ownership and begin to understand who is going to chase that and how that is going to fit in.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I have been in communication with Metro-North. They Mayor suggested I contact them. It goes over their property, and I thought for certain the railroad had done some research on it. Especially with the fire on the bridge a few weeks ago, it caused an interruption. I also know the railroad is interested in having it demolished for that very reason. And also, Susan reminded me that as part of their modification to the stations they were looking to raise these different bridges to allow more freight to be run through it. But then I thought about it. We know who owns the property on either side of the bridge. Is it a title search we are looking for? It is really ownership of the structure. I do not know.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Right, that is probably the wrong term.

We need to mail that in the next few months because we have to determine what the fate of that structure is and who is responsible for rebuilding it, if anyone.

**Trustee Quinlan:** The question to ask is who built it in the first place.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Right. That is going to be it. We suspect it goes back to the plant, when they allowed their workers to cross over that.

**Trustee Quinlan:** My initial question to the title company is who built it. There must be some record of that. And whoever built it, that would give us a lead on who may own it.

**Trustee Walker:** It was probably Zinsser Chemical.

**Village Manager Frobel:** That is who we suspect.

### 3. Other

**Trustee Walker:** Sonja Koljancic, the Bosnian planner who is visiting Hastings, has been working on the buffer recommendations. She is going to show them to me on Thursday, and the next step would be to present to the Board, correct?

**Mayor Swiderski:** That should be at the next meeting.

**Trustee Walker:** Unfortunately, I am not going to be here at the next meeting. I am not sure exactly when she is leaving. It was some time in April, so I will find out.

**Mayor Swiderski:** If you schedule an evening meeting, maybe I could join you and that way I can cover you if, indeed, there is an issue around her departure.

**Trustee Armacost:** The budget is coming to the Board of Trustees on the March 16, and it says here that the public hearing regarding the budget is on April 10, which is a vacation week. I am not going to be here. I think, Peter, you are not going to be here. I would like to be at the meeting in which the budget is discussed.

[Discussion of dates]

**Mayor Swiderski:** How about March 22? Let us start this process early.

**Village Attorney Stecich:** Except there would be a Zoning Board meeting in here.

**Village Manager Frobel:** The Community Center would be fine.

**Trustee Armacost:** I need to confirm.

**Mayor Swiderski:** We will leave it open informally for March 22. What sort of notification is necessary for that? You will know within a day or two, right?

**Trustee Armacost:** Yes, I will know as soon as I get home.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:40 p.m.