

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 19, 2012**

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 7:35 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

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

ABSENT: Trustee Marjorie Apel, Trustee Nicola Armacost

CITIZENS: Three (3).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Jennings, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of June 6, 2012 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 2-2012-13	\$	340.22
Multi-Fund No. 4-2012-13	\$	514,353.94

PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Gonder, 153 James Street: I read in the paper that 35 percent of all calls to Hastings police in the last fiscal year are from Graham. I am wondering if the Board can do anything, or the Mayor. Can you write the administration a letter, or their chief executive office, or the Board, or get the judge to work harder that maybe we can penalize the supervision, or lack of. Or like parents, we can be negligent and get called into court. We have to do something about that. Maybe you could ask them to get more security of their own to take care of problems. Maybe we could ask our legal department to check if there are some loopholes that you can get. But 35 percent, that is why we need more police if they are spending all their time in Graham School. I see new signs out there. They look very nice. I was wondering why, like Irvington, Dobbs Ferry and Ardsley, we cannot have some signs in the crosswalks. I know they cost \$800, but you may be able to get a cheaper one for a pole. We have too many violations in the crosswalks.

Mayor Swiderski: The Chief and the Village government are exploring ways to extract some extra funding out of the state, since Graham School is ultimately paid by the state. We are not optimistic.

Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Parkway: Last meeting, I raised the question based upon a document I had handed in at the prior meeting. I am going to revisit that. Last meeting, we spent half an hour talking about the Village vehicles and reimbursements. I am glad we spent the time, but one of the responses was we have to look at things differently now; we are in a two percent tax cap, we cannot have the same old things come forward. That has been my position on the quarry. It was started in 2005, but we are now in 2012 and we are in a whole different set of circumstances, financially and otherwise. With that context, I am wondering why we would not examine, as I wrote in that document, the process. We talked about the problems at the DPW facility: it is not lockable, it is vulnerable to all kinds of shenanigans. We could build a state of the art, clean, lockable, camera'd, green facility in the quarry, coming up Washington Avenue. We missed a golden opportunity recently. We had the big building being built on Broadway, and we have this wonderful amenity down at the river, MacEachron Park, which has evolved over the last 10, 12 years to become a very nice park. If we had focused, as I have said in many meetings, on enhancing what we have already, we could have taken that soil, which they were dying to get rid of. Raise the elevation of MacEachron Park and get it out of the sea swells. Redo the riprap like Dobbs Ferry is doing. Even if we had to cut the trees down in order to do it and replant new trees, we could have it laid out by design instead of what came with the land at the time we acquired it.

Dobbs Ferry is putting in an outdoor stage. I can think of nothing better than to have an outdoor stage by the river. I do not know how many of you were here when Neil Hess was here and we had the fireworks display, the one and only fireworks display that I can recall in Hastings. It was a big event here. It drew a lot of ooohs and aaahs. I can think of nothing better down at the waterfront than concerts like we used to have at the Burke Estate. We used to have the Westchester Philharmonic come in. The river background, fireworks, what a great spot to work on enhancing.

The new park that we are discussing in the land to be rebuilt is going to be a different caliber, a different scale. So why do we not enhance the one we have already versus again diluting our resources? What could we do if we had the quarry facility? We could, first of all, manage our disposal. We could cut our cost down by \$10,000, \$15,000, \$20,000. That was the magic number you brought up in the discussion last week about the cars. We are looking to save \$10,000 to \$15,000 any way we can. I have handed you the blueprint how we could do it, but there seems to be this reluctance to let go of the old thing, which you said we have to, let go of the old thing because we have a two percent cap. How can we have the liberty, at times, to pull out of our bag of tools the words "two percent" and "tax caps" and change of priorities when it is convenient for us, but other times we disregard it because there is a small group of people who are intent in having their little private park. That park will have a personality that will attract a

certain type of people, unlike the waterfront park, which anyone can use for any purpose but it is just too small. We can have something down there that would accommodate everybody, not just a small, immediate group of people.

So we use that green space, for the time being, to generate money, save on our disposal expenses. We have a place for storm debris to go. In the winter when the windows are closed, we can grind it up and dispose of it. We can create soil for the future park, homegrown. We can save on trucking to dumps. We can work with the Tree Commission, create mulch for our Village parks. There's a whole plethora of things that we could do with that area if we were a little creative, where we could use an asset to make money. I have heard Trustee Armacost talking about where we hope to make money. The calculator I work with does not have a "hope" button. It has plus and minus, division, that is it. It does not have hope. If there was any hope, if we had surplus out of the quarry material that we build up, we could sell that in a heartbeat in the springtime.

I am wondering why we have an opportunity like that but we are ignoring it. We are proceeding full speed ahead, like the Titanic through the iceberg field, with this park that we do not need. We are diluting our resources. I am giving you something which I do not think any of you are as qualified on as I am: organic waste disposals. How come this idea is not being looked at? It is just being shelved. I feel often, when I am speaking up here, I am getting a dismissive look that we are trying to marginalize him, keep him quiet, send him to the side. I know what comes across. I look for your eyes when I am speaking. So I was wondering if you would respond to it.

Mayor Swiderski: Fair enough. We have had not just one group of people look at that park. The Comprehensive Plan Committee did, as well, and that property was designated for greenspace. Whether it will be turned into a formal park this or next year, it has been set aside for that purpose. More than just a single individual, in this case you, looking at that. The Comprehensive Plan Committee did, and seconded the opinion of the Quarry Park Committee. The one thing the Village will not gain more of is greenspace. We are indeed rich in parks, but it is not something given up lightly for other uses. If two independent groups, one of which may represent that neighborhood and one of which is ostensibly representative of the community, came to the same conclusion, we are not likely to override that lightly. The money-saving and conservation aspects are great. I do not know, because that is set aside for park land, whether it should or can happen there, especially if we are going to try to clean it up, cover it with fill, and declare it remediated.

An operation like what you describe will introduce access issues, neighbors who may not be thrilled with trucks trundling through their neighborhood weekly, and there is care and feeding of a compost heap. If it is not done right I can tell you I have vermin issues with the two compost bins I have on my property. So it is not something you do lightly, especially given that two community-based organizations designated that area as ultimately to be used as a park. Rerolling it for another use is not something we are going to trivially consider.

If we can do the composting facility elsewhere, ultimately at the Dobbs Ferry site, I would rather do it there. But until we determine whether that is a viable site, planning at the quarry flies in the face of what we have been told by two different community groups is a desire for that property. The Board to date has been comfortable with that decision. I have said this in the past, but I am reiterating it. I am speaking at this moment for the Board. There may be other opinions. There are only three of us here tonight; maybe if there were five there might be some interest in reopening that issue. But there has not, at least to date, and you do not lightly go against a decision by a committee charged with the purpose of identifying land use and community planning objectives.

Mr. Downey: I got involved in 2005 and was dismissed out of that group and did not hold my ground. The neighborhood immediate to the quarry, it is clear there is a bias so they are not looking at it objectively. The other group, I do not think there is anyone in the group that knows how to do in a moneymaking, safe, environmentally careful way that I do. Elisa, who we give great accolades to, recognizes my skill in this area. I have not been brought forward to have discussion in that area. I would like it to be reopened. The Village seems more interested in being an entertainment committee. We are not Disney entertainment, we are not Bellagio. Our key responsibility is our fiscal responsibility and basic services. When we are \$13 million to \$14 million in the hole we have to step back and reprioritize. When we start throwing out the vermin and so forth, that is the fear card. It may happen with the way you do things. Everyone will say there will be rats and problems, and that is nonsense.

I can bring the best person, who lives up in Somers, probably in the country down here and have a conversation: John Crockett, who knows composting better than anyone in this country. If you Google "composting," he will be the first seven out of 10 references in there. He will set the record straight on how this can be done and done effectively, and how it could be a money-generator, and how we can walk our talk. How can a village leadership talk to the residents and say do composting, but yet we do not walk our own talk. It is simple to make money on this if it is done well. In there past, there has been negligence, no question about it. I would be angry because I am an adamant environmentalist. I would be angrier than the people up there because of the slop that happened in the past. This is a new discussion. So that old context, that old fear should be relaxed and set aside.

Mayor Swiderski: The fear, it is not fair to put it number one. It is fourth or fifth down the list of what a community process determined for that spot; traffic issues and access issues in that area; remediation of that site. It was used not as a compost heap, but as a dumping ground for yard waste. That, combined with other junk, is what we have there and have to partly remediate. So the fear issue will arise, but it is not the justification I am using here. The primary justification is two different groups have looked at that site and designated it, ultimately, as parkland. In fairness, you have brought it up; when we have more than three people, I will raise

it if the Board wants to have a discussion t. You have raised it. It has fiscal implications. It deserves a conversation up here, and I am willing to do that.

Mr. Downey: You have been more than fair with the extra time tonight. I thank you for it.

Village Manager Frobel: Tim and I have had discussions on this, and I have offered to sit down with you. We could begin the discussion, prior to getting to the Trustees, perhaps with the Conservation Commission. We have a host of mechanisms where we could begin to flesh this out. I wish we had that opportunity, to present a more comprehensive approach to the Board.

Mayor Swiderski: Physically at that site, or in general?

Village Manager Frobel: In general. I have quite a bit of experience in running compost facilities. Tim and I have had the discussion about some of the pitfalls that you can encounter, which Hastings did over the years and which makes me hesitant to get back into that business. But there is a right way to do it, and part of it will come down to a location. I believe in coming up with a comprehensive approach, rather than one man here trying to advocate for this. We would be better served if we got together and came up with a more comprehensive approach to the Trustees by using some other resources besides yourself and me to decide.

Mayor Swiderski: Has anyone discussed alternate sites to Draper? If we could safely compost it is a lovely thing. But where?

Village Manager Frobel: The preferred standard is to have it on an impermeable surface, a paved area, that has some control of drainage and does not leach into the ground. My goal was to use, perhaps, some of the waterfront property prior to the cleanup, for even a two or three year period, to prove we know what we are doing. But we do not have a location in mind. The 9-A site is another one that has a paved area. The state has promulgated standards we would need to adhere to. It is not just an open meadow with windrows of leaves and debris chipped up and turned over. It has gotten pretty sophisticated. I would like to take that approach if we could. I think we would be better served because I do think it has some value.

Mayor Swiderski: Bruce, is this something you could help shepherd through the Conservation Commission?

Trustee Jennings: I am very interested and would be happy to be a part of it. The Conservation Commission is extremely interested in encouraging composting on people's own property and also to have a municipal facility. So I do not think that is going to be a problem in terms of the support of our volunteers, as well as the community broadly. The question is where and how and how much can we support it. Mr. Frobel is suggesting finding something that does not pit composting against the use of the quarry. Whether there is another place needs to be investigated. But I would be willing to help absolutely. I support composting, and Mr.

Downey's notions about how it can be beneficial and perhaps even a revenue-generating mechanism for the Village. These are extremely important ideas for us right now and should be looked at with a great deal of seriousness, and pursued if we can figure out a way to do it. I am behind that 100 percent. I would hate to see it turn into a battle of Quarry Park people versus compost people. I do not think it has to be either/or. I think it can be a both/and.

Trustee Walker: I appreciate you coming and proposing the composting idea and a more secure DPW area. I've talked about how I would love to see it not on Southside, right next to the train tracks as you come into town, because it is not pleasant to see, the gateway into Hastings with overflowing recycling containers and stuff. It would be nice if it could be behind a fence. Finding an alternative location, or working with Dobbs Ferry, is a great idea. Composting is a great idea. We should mention that the quarry is on a state park that is on the National Register of Historic Places. We abused that proximity, the quarry being close to the Aqueduct, for a long time. It is an important location historically. The marble industry was the first industry in Hastings. The Quarry Trail we have got money for and hope to get more money to continue it all the way down to the waterfront. That is reusing an important historic element from Hastings and making an important connection between the Aqueduct and the waterfront. Eventually all of these things are going to be tied together. Once we have a waterfront, these connections are going to be critical. Quarry Park once was a beautiful garden, and was used by a lot of people over the years for recreational purposes. I am still for trying to make it into a park. We do not have a lot of space in Hastings to relocate a DPW or even locate a composting facility. But I do not think it should be going there. I appreciate all the thought you have put into it, though.

Mr. Downey: I do appreciate that Manager Frobel has offered this to me. I just have not had time, and I look forward to that. He has been open-minded and said when you get a chance, we will talk about it. I do appreciate that and want to acknowledge it publicly. Also people are getting caught up with the word "composting." We are not looking to put the DPW in the compost business. They cannot do it. I am thinking about companies like Tremson or Westwood. We put it in a pile according to the way they spec it. They come and grind it up. We are not up there trying to grow tomato plants. We just want to let nature, the microbes, do the job: gobble, gobble, gobble, we do not have to pay Workmans Comp or salaries; microbes do the work for us. It is minimal touch. We put time on our side. We are not trying to process it to move it out the door quickly. We are letting time be our employee for free. So it is not composting where it is labor intensive. They have got all they can do right now. I am not looking to give them any more. I am looking to cut down their road time and their fuel costs going into Yonkers.

Trustee Walker: Thanks for making that distinction. I know there are towns and cities around the country that are composting. This is not unusual.

Mayor Swiderski: We have given it a fair hearing, and we will give it a fair trial.

41:12 AWARD OF BID – DPW VEHICLES

Village Manager Frobel: I am pleased with the work our staff has done as they have gone about this process of picking the right equipment for the right job. Both Mike Gunther and Jerry Daley have spent a great deal of time, close to 24 months, in thoroughly researching the type of equipment we need. There are unique geographical features to our terrain: the hills, the narrowness of the streets, parked cars during winter storm operations, situations that made us fine tune our specification and how we address these needs. The recommendation is in keeping with our discussions with the capital improvement budget.

Mayor Swiderski: And keeping with the budget amount?

Village Manager Frobel: It is more than I originally estimated. When I presented the capital budget a few months ago, I was working under an assumption of a lower amount. But it is within range of what we expected. They are a major investment. Not having bought a truck for nearly seven years, it is long overdue. We made it through last winter with some equipment that was marginal. We are running out of options. I do not think we can chance it. You have got to get fire apparatus and the ambulance up these streets during snow storms. We are pushing our luck. As it is, it is going to be tough. These trucks are custom-made for our needs. If we can take delivery before Christmas, that would be our goal. But even at this time frame, we are in a tight situation in terms of assuring delivery for this early winter.

Mayor Swiderski: The resolution reads "to be paid from bond proceeds." Does that limit your flexibility if the Board requested that the bond proceeds equal what your plan is, and the rest come from fund balance?

Village Manager Frobel: No, that is simply how we expect we would pay. But when it comes time to borrow the money, we may be in a position to say we are only going to borrow half of that. We have been able to turn to our fund balance to pay the remaining amount. You are not handcuffed to that.

Trustee Jennings: If we did get an unusually early heavy snowfall would our current fleet be able to do the job? Or do we have contingency in terms of leasing, or bringing in, other vehicles if needed for safety reasons?

Village Manager Frobel: For last winter we had a plan. Dobbs was going to loan us their trucks. They have since disposed of that equipment so that is not available to us. Between Mike and Jerry, they are going to hit winter, with these trucks, in good condition. Let us hope we can get through it. December can be a lighter snowfall in terms of not heavy and wet. Jerry and Mike, what is your take on that?

Superintendent Gunther: Jerry has been working on them so that as a backup plan we will have these trucks for the early onset of winter. We will get through the first couple of storms. We will have to. We get into the months of January, February and March and you get the consecutive storms, weekend or three or four day storms.

Trustee Jennings: It might not be too early to scout around and see where, if worse comes to worst, we might be able to go. If Dobbs Ferry no longer has the equipment necessary and they cannot be our fallback, maybe we ought to try to line up an alternative fallback.

Superintendent Gunther: That is a good idea. Maybe we can pick up something not from Dobbs Ferry, but from another town. Jerry and I met a lot of superintendents, a lot of foremen. We start at the bottom and talked to mechanics. We have met a lot of people in the industry and made a lot of friends. We might have to go as far away as Dutchess to get a truck; we have got a good bond for the people we met out there in the field.

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

WHEREAS, a request for bids for three (3) medium duty trucks and equipment was advertised in the *Journal News* on June 9, 2012, and

WHEREAS, the bid opening was June 18, 2012 at the Municipal Building; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the purchase of the following from Gabrielli Truck Sales, Bronx, New York:

Two (2) 2013 single axel 4x4 dump truck chassis in stainless steel configuration with complete snowplow system in the amount of \$382,878.00
One (1) 2012 Ford F550 regular cab 4x4 plow, truck and equipment in the amount of \$85,585.00

to be paid from bond proceeds.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Marjorie Apel	Absent	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	Absent	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

42:12 AUTHORIZATION TO SELL EXCESS VEHICLES

Village Manager Frobel: Periodically we come before you looking for authority to dispose of equipment. We have got two pieces that the two gentlemen here believe should be disposed of.

Mayor Swiderski: We are now using a private company for the sweeping, right?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, we are. I had hoped to keep the old sweeper for emergencies, but Jerry has convinced me that it is t too costly to keep going. It is not reliable.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees declare the following as excess vehicles and authorize the Village Manager to sell same by public bid:

2000 Elgin Sweeper
2001 Dodge Durango

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Marjorie Apel	Absent	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	Absent	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

**43:12 APPROVAL OF TAX CERTIORARI – CGMT HALL REAL ESTATE, 545-549
WARBURTON AVENUE**

Village Manager Frobel: You have heard from the Village Attorney's office. This is a recommendation for settlement. It is a commercial building with some retail, storage and residential space. The settlement has been negotiated in coordination with the schools and the town. In our operating budget we have an account called judgments and claims, and that is where this money will be coming from.

Mayor Swiderski: We have committed to certioraris no longer bonded. We will suffer the pain in the years suffered unless it is truly extraordinary, and avoid piling on to our debt.

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

WHEREAS, petitions having been filed by the property owner, below challenging real property tax assessments on the Village's assessment roll with respect to the following parcels:

Property Owner	Address Description	Year(s)
CGMT Hall Real Estate (Estate of William Hall)	545-549 Warburton Avenue Sheet 9, Section 10, Block 621, Lot 5B	2006- 2012

WHEREAS, petitioner's court challenge is now pending in Supreme Court Westchester County; and

WHEREAS, the Village and the property owner have reached a mutually agreeable resolution with regard to the assessments at issue in the Court challenges; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, Counsel to the Village Attorney is authorized to execute a settlement on behalf of the Village for assessments for no less than the following:

Years	Current AV	Reduced AV	AV Reduction
2006	50,100	37,900	12,200
2007	50,100	35,500	14,600
2008	50,100	32,700	17,400
2009	50,100	33,600	16,500
2010	50,100	31,650	18,450
2011	50,100	34,300	15,800
2012	50,100	34,300	15,800

The refund of Village taxes amounts to \$23,998.17.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Marjorie Apel	Absent	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	Absent	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

**44:12 APPROVAL OF INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR RIVERTOWNS
TOURISM BOARD**

Trustee Walker: This is an ongoing effort. We are going to bring to you, probably at the next meeting, a grant proposal to the New York State tourism fund, an I Love New York fund. We want to use this IMA to apply for a grant to promote a weekend in October which we are going to call Discover the Rivertowns or Discover the Undiscovered. It would coincide with Aquafest and other activities. We would find ourselves partnering with other organizations in the three towns. We got money for our big effort a year ago on WFUV to drive tourists to the river towns, but we lost that money this year. So this would replace it and more. Could it cover signage, could it cover a spring event? We are discussing that among ourselves. I wanted to mention that because it would put this to use right away.

Marianne made some helpful changes to this an agreement between Dobbs Ferry, Irvington and Hastings to promote our valuable resources, or scenic routes, our destinations in a coordinated fashion. It is about trying to bring tourist dollars to our downtowns by using our scenic resources such as the Aqueduct, eventually the waterfront, and other important resources like the Irvington Town Hall Theater and, we hope in the future, the Cropsey Museum. We changed the wording so that "members" is very clear now. It is always a municipality; it is not vague language anymore. And it requires three.

Mayor Swiderski: Is it a big deal to add another municipality if we decide to open it? Will it require another resolution to add another?

Village Attorney Stecich: Everybody would have to agree to it.

Trustee Walker: Right, we all have to agree to it. Somebody asked could this board vote to do something that Hastings does not want to do. We changed it so that it requires a vote of the three municipalities. Now, if we get a fourth it starts to be another question. But as of now, it requires all three municipalities.

Mayor Swiderski: I applaud you for the time spent. I know that Village resident Bruce Bolger remains deeply involved.

Trustee Walker: Yes, and we should thank Bruce because he has helped to put this together, not just the IMA, but the whole tourism effort. So we thank Bruce. Thanks, Marianne, for making the changes.

Trustee Jennings: We want cooperation and coordination of the three villages. But at the same time, we do not want the three villages competing with each other if we can help it. That is part of the point of this. But at the same time, we want to be able to do certain things here in Hastings. I am not clear from reading the document what falls under the bailiwick and what does

not. How do you draw the line between what has to come within the purview of this intermunicipal body and what can be decided upon and done simply by a particular village within its own boundaries at its own behest?

Village Attorney Stecich: If you go to number one, that probably gets to it, that we sign this with the intention of working collaboratively on projects of mutual benefit. There is nothing in there that would exclude you from going forward with a project. When you are working together this agreement makes it a body.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the Intermunicipal Agreement as attached with Dobbs Ferry and Irvington to organize and create the Rivertowns Tourism Board.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Marjorie Apel	Absent	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	Absent	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

45:12 APPROVAL OF ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

Village Manager Frobel: Two meetings ago I introduced for Board consideration an anti-harassment policy. I talked about the advisability of having a policy like this in place. Certainly, one intent is to stress to our employees the importance of protecting and respecting the rights of all persons, and to spell out a process to be followed if, in fact, anyone feels they are aggrieved under this policy. Since that time, we have provided you with two drafts with some suggestions. Marianne has taken the lead in helping it get to this point. Today, Trustee Jennings and I had further discussions about some suggestions he has had. We thought tonight e we would hold off adopting it until both our comfort levels go up as to how comprehensive this plan is. Our fear is that there may be some items that we have not included that should be. It will always need to be fine-tuned after we have some experience if, unfortunately, we have experience with it. But our thought is to at least limit the number of changes that would have to come out of from this point forward.

Mayor Swiderski: So you want to table it for now?

Village Manager Frobels: If we could discuss some of these areas are that you feel we need to fine-tune further it would save us some e-mails back and forth.

Trustee Jennings: Two things occurred to me. We need to more explicitly address whether or not elected officials are covered under this policy, and we should also include explicitly, and clarify, the volunteers on our boards and commissions. It is possible in interacting with the public that those individuals could be accused of a violation of the kinds of that we describe here. How would we handle it, and do we want them to be included?

I think the volunteers should absolutely be included in this policy. They acting under the auspices of the Village of Hastings and should exhibit the standards of conduct that we require of our paid employees.

My answer to the elected officials is I was not sure if we have an equivalent in our code of ethics or in New York State law that would deal with elected municipal officials. If we do include elected officials in the provisions of this policy, I think the standards should apply to elected officials, but the process should be different for elected. It would be awkward for the Village Manager to investigate the mayor or a trustee. We need to designate some other person who can have less of a conflict of interest, be more reasonably expected to be objective and impartial. It puts any village manager in a very awkward, if not an untenable, position if you are dealing with the people who hire and fire him.

Village Attorney Stecich: I thought about this after some emails with Bruce. Of course it is your choice whether you want to include elected officials. You say "volunteers," but there is a big range in committees between people who are on maybe a trailways committee and people who are on the Planning Board, who are in a very official position. But that could be fixed by adding to A the language "a Village officer or employee" and a village officer defined in the ethics code as including people on boards, and trustees. I think that would do that.

Trustee Jennings: And boards and commissions.

Village Attorney Stecich: I gave quite a bit of thought to the procedure. You had suggested the investigation should be done by the Village Justice. I spoke with Joe DiSalvo today because I remember there being some issue about his not being on the Ethics Board. I also spoke with Mark Davies, the head of the New York City Conflict of Interest Board, the ethics guru in the state, because I was thinking maybe we could have the Ethics Board look at it. But it kind of messes things up. My suggestion would be that if it were a complaint against the Mayor or Trustees that you appoint special counsel. I do not think you want to put the Justice in the middle of it. Besides, it would involve some time on his part. So I would say special counsel. I do not expect it would ever happen, but if it did it is a way out. That could just be added: if it is an employee the investigation is made by the Manager; if it is the Manager the investigation is done by the Village Attorney; if it is the Mayor or a Trustee it should be done by special counsel.

Trustee Jennings: Or the judge.

Village Attorney Stecich: Or if it is against the judge. If it is against the judge, he is regulated by the Uniform Justice Court Act. Generally, we do not have jurisdiction over the judges.

Trustee Jennings: D we need to say that? Is he not considered a village officer?

Village Attorney Stecich: I think under the ethics code he is not. I think it excludes the Justice.

Trustee Walker: What about the fire department and ambulance corps? Are they included?

Village Attorney Stecich: I have got the definition right here, but I think the intention was it includes virtually anybody.

Mayor Swiderski: Are they not private companies?

Trustee Walker: Separate, or not?

Village Attorney Stecich: A village officer or employee: any officer or employee of the village, whether paid or unpaid, and includes, without limitation, Village Attorney and all members of any office, board, body, advisory board, council, commission, agency, department, district, administration, division, bureau, or committee of the village. Village officer or employee shall not include a Judge, Justice, officer or employee of the Unified Court System, because the law requires that, and a volunteer firefighter or civil defense volunteer, except the Fire Chief or Assistant Fire Chief.

Trustee Jennings: So the Chiefs would be included, but the rank and file is not.

Village Attorney Stecich: Right, but to clarify we could say an officer or employee as defined in the ethics code. That is a good definition.

Mayor Swiderski: I do not know if the chief referred to is a volunteer Chief or a paid chief of a uniformed fire force.

Village Attorney Stecich: This is not the state code; this is the Hastings ethics code so it is referring to your chiefs.

You raised two other issues and I think they were good. You were concerned because it seemed if you were in a union you had more rights the way the thing was written. I could see why. I would take out number five. Five reads now: Notice of the complaint shall be given to the accused at an appropriate time. The accused shall be afforded an opportunity to present his or

her version of the events in a presence of a union representative or attorney. And then it says: where required by law and/or a collective bargaining group. I would just take that out, required by law under a collective bargaining agreement. So it just says they are entitled to be represented by a union representative or attorney.

Village Manager Frobel: I agree.

Village Attorney Stecich: I suppose we should say union representative and/or attorney. And then that cleans that up. There was one other one, Bruce. Your concern was paragraph eight. It was left in here, but I had suggested that it be stricken and replaced with the following two, which says: An individual who is found to have committed an act of prohibited harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination. You had a question about can you just terminate them, or are there procedures you have to go through to terminate. Yes, there are. I do not think that paragraph should be in there. What should be in there is the new eight that reads: If it is determined that prohibited harassment has occurred, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable laws and/or collective bargaining agreements. I think that addresses that.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: I understand with employees you can terminate them, and with committee members if the finding is such you can get rid of them. But you do not have any authority over an elected official. Why would you investigate them? To what end?

Village Attorney Stecich: Maybe to say stop doing it. Let us say somebody made an accusation that Peter was harassing them. You might want to investigate just to find out whether it happened or not. You are right. The only way a trustee or a mayor can be removed from office is by a state supreme court judge. It has got to be done by a court, there is no other way. And also, if it were a Planning Board member or a Zoning Board member the state statute prescribes how you remove them from office, and that can only be done by the mayor after a public hearing with a showing of cause. So it says you have to do everything in accordance with law. But why might you? Well, it is for the Board to decide. They might decide we do not want trustees or the mayor to be subject to this. But I could imagine a situation where you might want to find out the truth, and if somebody was doing it maybe you are not removing them from office but you say you better knock it off, it is putting us in a bad light. But you would not want to do that if the investigation were not made. Otherwise, you are just taking somebody's word for it.

Trustee Jennings: I thought about that, too. I think the answer is the same as the answer for the ethics code. You have an ethics code. The ultimate penalty is essentially public censure. And that has political ramifications for elected officials. So even though one cannot remove an elected official from office, one can make a public statement about findings and misconduct. So I think the same logic that applies to an ethics code would apply to the harassment policy. To me that is a rationale for moving ahead, including elected officials. I am surprised, Marianne, and I

did not have a chance to go back and read the ethics code, that the kind of conduct described in the harassment policy is not also described in the ethics code as a violation of the ethics code.

Village Attorney Stecich: No, it is not. It is mostly conflict of interest and financial matters, although there is some language in the beginning that is an overall goal: that the purposes of the chapter are to establish high standards of ethical conduct. So you could say it fits under that. But then when you go through what is allowed and what is not allowed, that was the reason I called Mark Davies. He says it is interesting that he has never seen an ethics code that included harassment as an ethics violation.

Trustee Jennings: I was on the Greenburgh ethics committee and maybe the word "harassment" is not used, but the basic idea is that government ethics codes are to keep people from abusing their power and authority of office, whether for personal financial gain or for other forms of abuse and misuse of power. Certainly, sexual harassment and intimidation is a quintessential example of misusing one's power and position. So there is no logical reason why it does not fit under the term "ethics," in my opinion of the term ethics. But if we can handle it this way, we can handle it this way and that is just as good.

Village Attorney Stecich: I think you are right. What you are describing is probably a situation of generally sexual harassment is a quid pro quo. Then that would be getting something for giving something and that would certainly fit under an ethics code. But if it is harassment just like picking on somebody, just calling people names, that is where the difference is.

Mayor Swiderski: Bruce, are the changes suggested verbally sufficient for us to pass the law in its current form, with the understanding that the changes will be applied? Or do you want to see a new copy?

Trustee Jennings: No, I do not need to see a new copy. What was described is very responsive to my questions and my concerns. The only question is do we want to defer until Marge and Niki have had a chance to contemplate the question of including both the elected officials and the appointed volunteer officials. I do not know if we should give them that courtesy to weigh in on that inclusion, because we are including 100-plus people tonight that presumably we did not think of two weeks ago.

Mayor Swiderski: Niki will not be at the next meeting, so it would put this off for several weeks, and my suspicion is that a policy that condemns harassment and provides a mechanism for enforcement is going to be appealing broadly. I am inclined not to put off to tomorrow what we can vote on tonight. So if you are comfortable with the verbal changes made.

Trustee Jennings: I am.

Mayor Swiderski: I would ask for a motion.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the Hastings-on-Hudson Anti-Harassment Policy as attached.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Marjorie Apel	Absent	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	Absent	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: Last week, I had an opportunity to attend the Recreation Commission's monthly meeting. Kendra Garrison is serving in the capacity of supervisor to the department. Two items were discussed that I thought the Board might be interested in. Pool membership numbers are very strong. We are up 3.6 percent over a year ago in revenue. So far, we have realized in excess of \$276,000 on pool membership. Other revenue items for the pool come later: the aquatic programs and guest fees that are ongoing through the summer. But our membership numbers are critical since we realize 90 percent if not more of those monies in the first few weeks. So a very good sign. Kendra also reported to the group on the Sugar Pond project. I will distribute some sketches to the Board this week, but some very good work is occurring there as that committee works on a shoestring budget to come up with a redesign and a reuse of that entire Hillside Woods area as a nature center.

Trustee Walker: I do not think we have time to put together a grant proposal for the project to figure out where matching funds would come from, but it is something to consider in the future. I think it is a shoe-in for a state parks grant, especially with the green aspects of energy efficiency. I do not think there is any way we can pull the matching funds together, but it is something we should start to think about.

Village Manager Frobel: They are very actively working with the school district and they are a strong suit in terms of monies, I would think, for educational purposes. So there are some terrific elements here that I am convinced it is going to happen.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Building Department Fee Revisions

Mayor Swiderski: I thought we would be ready tonight, but I am going to ask you to hold off for t another meeting or two. Deven is preparing a narrative of some of the suggested changes to our building fees, so no action there.

2. New York Election Law and Voting Machines

Mayor Swiderski: I did have a sidebar question, Susan. Apparently, the assembly is at the point on voting on village election law that will do away with the lever machines, and there is some pressure on the villages to speak out in favor of the old technology. It turns out our assemblyman, Abinanti, is on the elections committee. What is your sentiment on that? And would you like me to speak to him and represent our sentiment?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: Yes, I would like to see that we would have the option to continue to use the lever machines. The county has not been very forthcoming about the scenarios if we use the electronics. We still do not have any idea what the costs are going to be. There is a lot of discussion about how problematic the machines are. I feel there are changes down the road. I like the lever machines and I never understood the objections to them. The objections came because they were not handicapped-accessible, but that could have been dealt with in another way. That is long gone, I understand, and I know we will not be able to use the lever machines indefinitely. Although in Hastings we never had an issue with them and they are practically tamper-proof and very reliable, they are not making them anymore, they are not making the parts. A technician is still available, but he is not going to be around forever. So this is not a forever thing, but while things in New York State are in such a state of flux, and especially Westchester County, if they gave us a few more years on the levers I would not object to that.

Mayor Swiderski: Does the Board have any objection to me relaying that sentiment to Assemblyman Abinanti?

Trustee Walker: No.

Trustee Jennings: No.

Mayor Swiderski: All right, then I will do so.

3. Grant Applications - Quarry Trail & Quarry Park

Village Manager Frobel: This is part our ongoing effort to continuously keep the Board apprised of our efforts to secure outside funding sources for this project. Meg met with our grant writer last week. Did you want to update the group as to the status?

Trustee Walker: We still have more information that we need to gather before we can put the grant before you. Margaret Moulton is working on the budget. The approach we are taking is incremental. We want to make sure that we have a match with previous grants and money spent, and in-kind services so we have a match for a grant to complete the Quarry Trail all the way down to Southside, the construction. Looking at this as one project, and then completing the construction documents for Quarry Park. And we have to make sure that the monies all match. So we do not have that yet for you. This year they require that the Board pass a resolution alienating the park. I guess that means dedicating it as parkland.

Village Attorney Stecich: No. Alienation is the opposite. Who is "they?"

Trustee Walker: The grant application, New York State Parks.

Village Manager Frobel: They want assurance that they are not going to spend their money on this project that only to have some day a municipality shelve it.

Village Attorney Stecich: Yes, but you cannot alienate parkland.

Trustee Walker: But this is not parkland yet. I will e-mail you the term because I do not have that in front of me. It was not in the application last year, so the terminology is odd. I was reading it as they want us to dedicate it as parkland because they do not want to give us money for something that is not going to be a park.

Village Attorney Stecich: Yes, let me see the whole thing.

Trustee Walker: So once we figure that point out, when we put the budget together then we will bring it to the next meeting.

4. Downtown Initiatives

Mayor Swiderski: An unannounced item on the agenda: ideas around the downtown. While the Village has tried a bunch of things: passing architectural guidelines, Friday Night Live, efforts to organize and cooperate with a Chamber of Commerce which got stronger and now is weak again, yet we now have a dozen storefronts roughly, for legitimate reasons, retirement and simply going out of business, that are empty, as well as a sense that there are other issues that need to be addressed. I asked Trustee Walker to take a look at these issues and come up with a

plan. Trustee Walker has, through the Friday Night Live and other efforts, been in contact with merchants and individuals concerned with the downtown, and visited some of those individuals in the last few weeks, touching on these issues. She also talked to people on the Economic Development Committee. We played with the idea of a downtown forum. But this is not untrod territory. There are thousands of downtowns across the country facing exactly the same issues. The toolbox of things you do to address these problems are understood, and each one of them will have its detractors and supporters, but in the end that toolbox is limited. We can have a forum and we would land up coalescing a half-dozen ideas anyway. Rather than spend a month organizing a forum, and meetings afterwards to sort through that, why do we not begin to focus on the ideas that we can agree make sense. Trustee Walker, from her experience as a planner who has worked on exactly these issues, can help us think this through. I have asked her for five practical ideas that we can do over the next few months that we think will make a visible difference.

Trustee Walker: What I have learned is that it needs to be both comprehensive and incremental: comprehensive meaning that you cannot just tackle one aspect, incremental being that small steps are OK. You need to build up. You cannot tackle everything at once. So you need to prioritize and figure out what to tackle first.

The other thing that I am very aware of, after having led the Friday Night Live effort for three years, is that we need more people involved. The Economic Development Committee is pleased that we are going to be focusing on the downtown, and they are interested in helping. A number of other people have told us they are interested in getting involved in the downtown. Once we complete the process of the Comp Plan Implementation Committee we can start to think about putting a committee together for the downtown.

So what would that committee do? There are four areas. This comes from 35 years of experience in National Trust for Historic Preservation, Main Street program, and other programs, the American Planning Association, Congress for New Urbanism; there is a lot of literature out there about reviving downtowns. The first area is organization, that is, how are you going to get all these people to work together, meaning merchants, other business owners, landlords, residents, government, working together in a partnership, in a concerted effort. And then how are you raising money. The organizational part is also about fund-raising.

The second piece is design aesthetics, physical improvements both public and private aspects. Third is promotion, which would include events, advertising, marketing, in a coordinated way as opposed to each individual business advertising for itself; looking for ways for them to band together. And the fourth area, which may be the most important for us right now, is called economic restructuring, or business development, or economic development. It is looking at the financial and business aspects, which is the area where I think we need to focus first.

I think a downtown forum is not a bad idea at all. But in further considering it and talking to other people, including the EDC and downtown merchants and people who have been involved in the downtown, we would be better served having a forum after we have some information. I am proposing is that we have a committee that pulls a lot of hard data together and presents it in a public forum, and then we talk about it.

So the five action items that I am proposing are, number one, something that we as a board can do toward regulatory changes, that is, looking at our ordinances and our regulations with the Building Inspector, with downtown businesses and landlords who have recently gone through approvals processes, and figure out ways that we can make it less an obstacle for new businesses and new landlords who are coming into town and may want do improvements to their buildings or their storefronts or their signage. What is getting in our way, what is getting in their way and delaying them from opening. We are not saying we are going to open the floodgates, but we want to find out which things are becoming obstacles and we can maybe smooth over a little. It is a priority to help businesses open quickly. When they have decided if they are going to buy a building or open a business you do not want to hold them up for a year. You want them to be able to get moving quickly. Otherwise, especially in this economy, they are going to lose a lot of money paying a mortgage or paying rent, over time, while waiting to get their approvals.

Number two is the market study. This would involve gathering data from a host of people: merchants and business owners, landlords, and residents. It is looking at supply and demand. What have we got? We need to have a good understanding of our inventory, our vacancy rate, kinds of businesses we have, what we have an undersupply or oversupply of, how they are doing and what the demand in this area, in Hastings. For some types of businesses, we might want to look at the larger region. This has been done over and over again. A lot of people hire consultants, but there are manuals for doing this. The Tree Committee got 100 volunteers. If we can get just a handful of volunteers to help do a downtown inventory and a market study, we would be on our way. We could probably get some students, some graduate students, to help if we need extra feet on the ground.

Number three, I have heard from a lot of downtown businesses that they would like to see another Shop Hastings First campaign. That was effective a few years ago. If we do it within Hastings, it will not cost much money. If we want to run some ads, we may need to look for some funds. But to start to market the downtown as a whole, and to our own residents, and remind them that if they want to keep the downtown they need to shop in the downtown.

Number four, clean streets and sidewalks, and dealing with the tree pits. This is something I have heard from merchants over and over again: can the Village help clean gum off the sidewalks, get the street sweeper back out again so the streets look better. There are complaints about the sidewalks: can we get them looking better, what can the Village do to help. If the Village starts to do something on a regular basis, later we can get landlords on board helping with this effort. We have talked about the tree pits for a long time. The Chamber was trying to

put together a strategy to put some kind of material, like stone or plantings, in the tree pits. If we can talk about how the Village could facilitate that, that would be helpful. If there is a way we can do that cheap, fast and elegant it would be very much appreciated. Finally, now we have our wayfinding signs up, or at least most of them. There are few yet to go.

Village Manager Frobel: Five to go. They are the most difficult five. The problem is, there are some in the downtown, the footing has to be three feet deep, and you are getting into utilities. Mike is trying, in consultation with the manufacturer, to use a bracket to affix to the Bomanite that will give it the same strength and stability rather than dig down into these utilities. The locations are Spring Street, Southside, and three of Warburton.

Trustee Walker: We had close to 20 signs so we did pretty good. They did a really nice job.

Village Manager Frobel: The guys have done a fantastic job. They saved us a lot of money because this would have been very costly to have this done by the manufacturer.

Trustee Walker: We have heard from a lot of organizations that they miss the banners over Five Corners. Residents complain they do not know what is going on because we have no banners anymore. Short of going back to the DOT and pleading with them to let us put them back up, we have to come up another solution. For a few events there have been banners in front of the A&P. I am proposing that we look at doing something more permanent that would be both a welcome to the downtown sign, and also small banners that are interchangeable so they can be made up locally and can be swapped out.

Mayor Swiderski: But visible from a car moving at 20 miles per hour.

Trustee Walker: Yes, visible from the car, especially when they are stopped there. It would have to be visible across the way on Farragut. It would have to be big enough to be seen.

Mayor Swiderski: Whose property is that?

Village Manager Frobel: That is the A&P's property.

Mayor Swiderski: But they would be amenable to that. I cannot imagine why not.

Village Manager Frobel: They seem fine. Sue Smith has been our contact there.

Trustee Walker: So those are the five. There are others that are longer term. We want to put the market study to work; once we have the market study we have got to do something with it, in working with landlords and local realtors and recruiting the right kinds of businesses and clustering businesses. You can do different things with a market study that could be very effective.

We have talked for awhile now on improvements to VFW Park. If we could find another place for the Christmas tree we could start to think about a gazebo there or a stage, and terracing to make it into a better public space. Then thinking about lunchtime concerts there on Saturdays. Thinking about parking and improving the metering. Looking at muni-meters in the future.

Mayor Swiderski: You are going way beyond your five now.

Trustee Walker: But these are future. I am just throwing these out. I am going to stop there because I have a long list. Yes, are going to start incrementally, we are going to start simply, but we have to be comprehensive and we have to think about all those areas. It is important to find volunteers with the skills in those areas.

Mayor Swiderski: On the first item, regulations, that is really important ahead of actively helping to recruit stores. Fairly or unfairly, there is some perception that you can head into a regulatory loop in some of our boards and commissions that can go on for many months. That is not friendly to a business that has rented a place and needs to begin to realize revenue quickly. It is not what we want as a reputation. We want to welcome with open arms and shepherd somebody through aesthetic regulations and other regulations which are entirely fair, we have labored over, but should not be hindrance. Whether those are enforced primarily by the Building Inspector and Village Manager or architects with a sign-off by a building inspector, I would like to have those discussions even before the next meeting so we can begin to flesh that out. If there are changes to be made, I want those in place in a matter of months, not a half a year or a year. So it is a question of changes to our procedures and, in some cases, the law, where you might have a sign-off by the Building Inspector.

I will give you an excellent example. We recently passed a change in the Steep Slopes Law that allows the Building Inspector to make a call on whether a particular change requires an approval by the Planning Board or whether it is clearly not a steep slopes issue. I was the beneficiary of that rule because I am replacing a retaining wall on my site, which is on a steep driveway, and my house is on a steep piece of property. That wall is replacing an existing structure, it does not affect drainage or anything. But under the old law, I would have to prepare documents for committee approval. Under the new law, the Building Inspector comes and makes a determination that this is not under the Steep Slopes Law.

That sort of discretion makes sense. And if it is backstopped by the Village Manager so there are four eyes on a project instead of just two I am fine with that. But it should avoid needless review. What can happen is, somebody misses a Planning Board by two days and wants to change their awning. So they have got to prepare a drawing four weeks hence that may be up for consideration, but only voted eight weeks hence. And suddenly, we have a three-month long project for something that should be the Building Inspector saying yes, this is in keeping with the

architectural guidelines for the downtown. Checkmark, go ahead, and the next week it is done. That is what should happen.

Trustee Walker: I will give you another recent example. Someone wanted to move a door in a storefront from where it is now to the corner. It is just a door, and they had to go for view preservation approvals to both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board, yet there was no view affected here. It is something that could have been determined by the Building Inspector and the Village Manager very easily.

Mayor Swiderski: I want to accelerate a review of what we can do to minimize the impacts on people, because now there are drawings and architectural things. The whole thing could add thousands, tens of thousands, of dollars conceivably to the cost of that project, and months, for a structure that has to be carried by the business owner, whether it is rent or mortgage, without realizing the benefits of commercial activity. That is crazy.

Village Attorney Stecich: I think all of the properties in the downtown are in the view preservation district.

Mayor Swiderski: That is crazy.

Village Attorney Stecich: I think it is everything west of Broadway. Deven has frequently said that it is not going to make a difference. But the code says you have to. If you do any alterations to a nonresidential building, you need site plan approval. Deven thinks he should have the discretion, and I understand that. But the code reads way the code reads.

Mayor Swiderski: I would like to focus on changes to allow that discretion. I understand why you may not want to give a building inspector superpowers, one individual.

Village Attorney Stecich: You do have to be careful because we have not always had a Deven Sharma as a Building Inspector.

Mayor Swiderski: I will just say it out loud. It is a classic venue of corruption in countless villages and towns, where you give one individual that power and the envelopes are passing. So you put four eyes on it, where you avoid one person wielding that authority. It could be the Village Manager, it could conceivably be a delegate from one of the boards.

Village Attorney Stecich: The chairperson or something like that.

Mayor Swiderski: Forty-eight hours, put a time limit. A 72-hour review instead of, conceivably, months. In fact, the case you bring up is now in process. It makes me desperate to think that there could be a three-month process here for a strategic corner in the Village we all want to see filled as soon as possible, we do not want to see empty and vacant. That is just

wrong. I would love to have the opportunity to sit down with Marianne, Meg, Deven, and Fran and sort through quick hits on what we could do, especially focused on the downtown, to shift that discretion. I will speak to the heads of the Planning Board, Zoning Board and ARB about our intent. I do not want to qualify this as an emergency situation, but this is not something we want to spend six months talking about. We want to get through this quickly.

Village Attorney Stecich: Once you come up with the changes it has to be run past the Planning Board and Zoning Board for their recommendation. The changes would not be hard to make once somebody comes up with the agreement. I can change statutory language quickly. You just have to come to some agreement on what you want. It is, in a way, a big change. I was not even thinking of the corruption part of it. It is the confidence part. In my service for the Board there have been a couple of Building Inspectors, and Meg probably remembers at least one of them, that you would not want making that decision. Hopefully, it is not going to happen. You are only have good Building Inspectors.

Trustee Jennings: We are talking about having to revisit the wording of our codes. But there ought to be a waiver mechanism where it was not simply the Building Inspector. You could go before a board and you could make a case for being granted a waiver from certain requirements that are time-consuming and expensive, but you would have a showing. It would not just be a showing to the Building Inspector, it would be a showing to the relevant authority in the first place. But it could speed up the process tremendously in some cases. So if you had both the workaround of the de minimis Building Inspector thing, and a provision for granting of waivers to simplify the process, that would be yet another way. We want to streamline processes that are not necessary to protect the best interests of the Village, but they are inadvertently hurting us, shooting us in the foot economically.

Mayor Swiderski: Absolutely. And the downtown is the primary point of this exercise for me, at least initially. Ultimately, there are impacts on homeowners. I gave you an example of where I benefitted. But there are other buildings and structures in view preservation districts. Right now, I am mostly concerned with the rules and regulations that cover the downtown, and that is the architectural guidelines we came up with and view preservation.

Village Manager Frobel: Let me brief Deven tomorrow and begin to sketch out some of these areas that he sees some possibility to talk. We will have Marianne involved, and we can begin to develop a list of areas that he sees have opportunities.

Trustee Walker: I would be happy to meet, but it is a good idea for him to prepare, because he has spoken to me a couple of times about wanting to go over these things.

Mayor Swiderski: And me as well. This does not have to fly through the process, but I want it to be a priority. When I hear the example about the door being moved, potentially holding up a project critical to the downtown for months, we do not want that.

Village Attorney Stecich: It did not hold anything up. The boards went out of their way with the process.

Trustee Walker: I think the other boards understand, as well, the critical nature of this.

Mayor Swiderski: For awhile we had a waterfront item on our Board discussion and comments as a permanent feature. I suggest that the downtown may become one of those for awhile; it merits pushing along now as we focus on these different initiatives.

5. Other

Mayor Swiderski: I did not acknowledge at the last meeting, which was closer to the retirement day, but last Thursday we had a party for Ray Gomes who retired after 26 years of service as Superintendent of the Parks and Recreation Department. I wanted to acknowledge his service and how much transpired and changed under his leadership in Hastings over those 26 years. It was a remarkable period of growth in greenspace added, in buildings and facilities and quality of programs. MacEachron Park, Kinnally Cove, much of Hillside are all additions. A community center, a new pool facility, it is a remarkable 26 years of service and the results we all benefit from. We acknowledge that, and wish the Acting Superintendent good luck filling those shoes for the time being, and thank Ray for his service rendered. We said all these things at the retirement party, but I wanted it in the record. After 26 years, you do not do that sort of time and yield as many results as he did for this village without some praise and acknowledgment.

Trustee Walker: Yes, big shoes to fill. We really appreciate him. I have worked with him on a lot of efforts over the years, and he has always been pleasant, efficient, effective, always applying common sense and a lot of experience to his decisions. I really appreciated his knowledge and experience.

Trustee Jennings: The Parks and Rec Department has a huge role to play in the quality of life in Hastings for adults and children alike. His accomplishments, his tenure as superintendent, I do not know what it was like before that because I have only barely lived here 26 years myself, but I cannot imagine it was better before Ray, and it certainly is excellent now. There are large shoes to fill, and let us hope that our next Superintendent can take us as far as Ray has taken us in his years.

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 9:25 p.m.