

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2012**

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at 7:40 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Swiderski, Trustee Bruce Jennings, Trustee Marjorie Apel, Trustee Nicola Armacost, Village Manager Francis A. Frobel, Village Attorney Marianne Stecich, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

ABSENT: Trustee Meg Walker

CITIZENS: Two (2).

Mayor Swiderski: Trustee Walker is traveling on business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Apel with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Public Hearing of November 20, 2012 and the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2012 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Apel with a voice vote of all in favor, the following Warrant was approved:

Multi-Fund No. 30-2012-13 \$991,612.90

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Gonder, 153 James Street: I am wearing a flag of America. Sometimes I wonder if I am still living in the United States. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridge the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. The November 20 meeting, I was a little under the weather but I wanted to talk about Governor Cuomo coming down on a rabbi in Rockland County because of something he said about Sandy, the storm. He said it was the wrath of God that hit the three states because the politicians in those states voted on gay marriage. I do not agree with that. But this rabbi had the right to say it, freedom of speech and freedom of religion, and Cuomo came down on him like a brick.

He came down on Con Edison, he came down on Rockland County, Long Island Power & Light. Yet, the Brooklyn Tunnel just opened up after 3 ½ weeks, the PATH trains now are starting to run a little. And he blames Con Ed and other people, but he does not blame PATH. There should be a resolution passed by the Board denouncing him for saying these things to a rabbi. We have a Jewish community here, and I think they would be up in arms. I also say, Mr. Mayor, that a friend of mine, Mr. Downey, you stopped him from freedom of speech. He did not say anything slander or libel that I know of. He made a comment, and you got on top of him. I do not think that is right. I think you can mention people's names and do anything you want. This is America: freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Parkway: I was hoping Trustee Walker would be here because I wanted to pick up on our conversation on October 18 when she and I expressed some agreement that it would be nice to have a coming-together of villages to address our expensive green waste problem. I realized I was not clear on how I was agreeing. She was thinking we could have a joint location; I was thinking joint bidding. I went to the Dobbs Ferry parks department to answer any questions they may have regarding leaf mulching. I mentioned this idea of joint services and joint space to Jim Dunn. He said to forget it, we would need three times more space than we do not already have. We are barely hanging in Dobbs Ferry because they have taken away our site by the water. They are living on borrowed time using a parking lot which is going to be developed in the IBM area. Once they lose their situation there, then they are going to be up a creek. Ardsley has a problem because they have done it in wetlands. The DEC has been all over them. I want to speak to Trustee Walker about this. We have a facility that could be resurrected and done properly. After Sandy and other storms Zinsser Park is being used as a dump. The parking lot and the access to the park is not available because we are dumping our debris there; double, triple, quadruple handling it. The space remains cordoned off that we cannot use.

One concern was vehicle weight, and there are some conditions that would have to go into place to make that entrance temporarily viable. The idea came to me we have the money. We have two more installments of the bond issue that we use on the roads: 200k was used each year. I would like to use the 200k to do the engineering, build the access road, and do the preparation work. That would cover the work, and I can repay that 200k in under five years or less. I will give you back your principal. Versus the roads that we mill up that are 98 percent, 95 percent serviceable. If we were to handle our organic debris in a more efficient and effective manner, then this double, triple, quadruple handling is costing us double or better right now. If we use the system that I am suggesting, both in terms of equipment, assets and location, I could have had this village cleaned up by Thanksgiving. Dobbs Ferry is cleaned up, Irvington is cleaned up because they have space, location and equipment. We do not have a system in place. We are relying on backs and biceps, and we are not giving the men a chance to succeed and to shine.

This idea of coming through the Aqueduct was just temporary. If, in fact, there is not the merger of facilities, as has been suggested – recently the Mayor sent out some good news about a grant had come through but in the *Rivertowns Daily*, there was a very different tone, in a presentation of the idea from the Dobbs Ferry mayor. Dobbs Ferry has a different view than we do. We need them, they do not need us. If it gives them an advantage, they would consider it. If that does not come through, what are we going to do, as I have always said? Let me tie it in with MacEachron Park. We saw how it flooded, and the damage that occurred with Sandy. That is not the last time that is going to happen. It has been inundated before. If we cut the road off of Washington, as I suggested, we have materials right there. We have soil to raise the park, as I have suggested, five feet. We have the stone. We could riprap an arm of the shoreline and we could preserve that. Right now, any long-term or expensive investment there is vulnerable to any future storm damage. You are going to have to think twice about putting money in there. That is a big topic of conversation with the waterfront. We need to raise that. Really inexpensive ways to take the material, cut a road in off of Washington and reuse that site. If we do not have a facility with Dobbs Ferry we are going to have to find a home, so we need to think about that space as our home, because there is no other land space that is easy to access, centralized in town. You are not going into Hillside Woods and chopping forests down. It is the ideal spot.

I wish this board would come together. I gave you the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan presented at the county center last week. They made a big deal of the LELE, the Love 'Em and Leave 'Em program. That idea was born right here in this room in December, 2008, January, 2009. No one listened except for Village Manager Frobel. He came along, liked the idea, took the time with Jen, recorded material at the DPW and in the field, and made it available. But the Trustees, no one got behind him on it. Irvington got hold of the idea after I chirped in somebody's ear there for two years. They ran with it. It is a multimillion dollar idea that is going big, county-wide. I wish you would look at it because they love the Love 'Em and Leave 'Em idea here in the Sustainability. They talked about keeping materials in place versus long hauls and the other problems associated with that.

This idea deserves a serious conversation. There was a little interest in it this summer, and it died. We see what happened with Sandy, and the costs. Irvington, Greenburgh and Dobbs Ferry all had problems with Sandy, initially, getting to their facilities, and they were only a mile away, Taxter road, or Sunnyside Lane. Dobbs Ferry, those roads were blocked. If we got to start hauling it a couple villages over, how are we going to get rid of material in a quick hurry? The sooner we can clean up, the sooner we can get the utility companies in here to do the work. We need to have a local site at low cost. I can cut your cost in half if we will consider this idea of making that space, which was once a dump, into a materials staging site, and not turning a park, in Zinsser, into a dump. Thank you for the time tonight.

70:12 APPROVAL OF LOCAL LAW NO. 5 OF 2012 WITH RESPECT TO RIGHT TURN INTERSECTIONS AND HANDICAPPED PARKING

Village Manager Frobel: We have had our work sessions, our public hearing. You have heard from the Chief of Police. We are ready to adopt this. It brings our Code into compliance with our practice, and it relocates a handicapped parking space to an area that will be of far more value to the community than where it now rests.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees hereby adopt Local Law No. 5 of 2012 amending the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, Chapter 282, Vehicles and Traffic with respect to right turn intersections and handicapped parking.

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson as follows:

- Section 1: Section 282-15 (Prohibition of right turns on red light signal) of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is hereby amended by deleting subsections F (Northeast corner of Washington Avenue at its intersection with Warburton Avenue) and G (Southwest corner of Washington Avenue at its intersection with Warburton Avenue).
- Section 2: Section 282-27 (Handicapped parking) is hereby amended by deleting subsection F and replacing it with the following:
- F. On School Street, opposite 66 Hillside Avenue.
- Section 3: All ordinances, local laws, and parts thereof inconsistent with this local law are hereby repealed.
- Section 4: This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York Secretary of State.

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

71:12 FREE HOLIDAY PARKING

Village Manager Frobel: Traditionally the Board considers granting free two-hour holiday parking for shoppers at those designated areas. We are recommending that that continue.

Trustee Armacost: Does this cover the Jewish holidays? That came up last year.

Village Attorney Stecich: Hanukkah starts on the 9th.

Mayor Swiderski: Indeed. And we usually do two weeks?

Village Manager Frobel: Ordinarily, 13 days, 12 days, it ranges in there. Years ago, it was even longer. But two weeks seems to be what we have agreed upon recently.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve free two-hour holiday parking from Monday, Dec. 10 through Monday, Dec. 24, 2012 at the following locations: Boulanger Plaza, Steinschneider Lot, Post Office Lot, Warburton Avenue (North Street to Bridge), Main Street, Whitman Street, Spring Street, Southside Avenue, and Maple Avenue (Spring Street to Municipal Building Driveway).

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

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: The Village was successful in receiving the urban and community forestry grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. We made application last June. I received word two days ago, and Monday a packet was received to begin the paperwork which will lead into a contract. This was a \$5,000 grant, which will allow our work to continue in our tree inventory. We are very excited about this, and we are pleased that it was awarded.

Mayor Swiderski: The tree inventory took place prior to Sandy. Any discussion about updates to the inventory, based on damage from Sandy?

Village Manager Frobel: I talked to both Brent, the chair of the group, and Bill, but that has not come up in our discussion as to how they will proceed, whether that field work now has to be revisited, given the damage we experienced.

Mayor Swiderski: Some of the component of this grant, or at least the work, also includes, ultimately, tree planting. I assume, moving forward with tree planting, we plant trees that are desirable and reach heights that are not threatening?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes. The overall goal of this grant is to develop a management strategy for maintaining healthy trees throughout the Village. So these experts, once they complete their inventory, and I think a lot of the field work has been done, but once they begin to process that data they have collected and come up with their management strategy, I am certain that will include recommendations as to proper types of trees, locations, et cetera.

Trustee Armacost: Did we not already receive money from this grant?

Village Manager Frobel: No. The application was in June, and we just received word that we got it. We are probably, weeks away, if not months, from getting authorization to begin to spend the money.

Trustee Armacost: We will spend \$5,000 in gaining the \$5,000.

Trustee Jennings: I missed something, perhaps. Did the volunteers do the survey this summer? Has that been completed?

Village Manager Frobel: I am not sure if all the field work has been completed. But I know there was the training.

Trustee Armacost: There was a report, there were lots of photographs.

Village Manager Frobel: None of those expenses are eligible for either the reimbursement part of this grant or part of the grant. Nothing is eligible prior to execution of the contract. So that work was all done either through volunteer or paid by the Village.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

1. Outcome of Hurricane Sandy Postmortem

Mayor Swiderski: We had a postmortem on Sandy on Saturday for the public, well-attended; 52 people at the peak. They attended a postmortem on Sandy. Nike and Marge were there. There was a presentation for an hour, which involved a description of the Village's reaction and a postmortem, including actions will be taken to address deficiencies we identified. The Fire Department reported on their activities during the storm, and Westchester County reported on what their office does and what people can do to prepare. A member of the Fire Department went into detail about what households can do to prepare, followed by a useful presentation by a resident who spoke to insurance issues. All these things will be on the Web site and the videos will be bookmarked so you can see what you want. Highly useful if you want to plan ahead for the next storm.

Then we had a brainstorming session on three different topics. The surviving members of the audience, about 24 people, divided up into three groups. We went over resiliency of a neighborhood, how neighborhoods will help each other, and communications. The groups came up with ideas and recommendations. We took notes. Those, too, will be posted on the Web site. We had lots of handouts, all of which we posted on the Web. We are going to have an emergency preparedness page, and we will have a manual that was developed by the Citizens Corps five years ago, Doris Cooper and others, as well as Con Ed and other handouts on various topics. We have also collected during the storm a list of residents who are willing to volunteer their homes for shelter, as well as during the meeting residents who were willing to volunteer for a variety of possible jobs during a storm or emergency. Those are being collated into a database that will be stored both at the Village and in printed-out form so we can get at it regardless of our situation.

What the Citizens Corps sought to do was a standing organization. It is hard to remain engaged without the periodic disaster coming along. So instead, we are looking to set up the infrastructure so the information is there if you need it as we head into a situation. The suggestions that were offered will be put out to the community. As we go into and come out of emergencies there are a lot of good ideas about how households can help each other and communications can be done above and beyond what we did.

As we roll this out, we will reach out to the community and tell them where to find this material. We will, annually, ping the volunteers and make sure they remain interested. We reached out to all the volunteers who offered homes to see if they all were still interested, and only one person has, for understandable reasons, pulled their name back. As we come out of this emergency and think about the next one, we are addressing some of the deficiencies we identified. Some of the bigger-ticket items will come up as part of a budgeting process for capital improvements, for example, an emergency backup generator for the Community Center, and perhaps prioritizing a couple of the fire houses for emergency generators. There are other things we can do. We will be looking at those over the next few months, and rolling out this infrastructure so the next time around we are even better prepared.

Trustee Apel: Those that were there gave very thoughtful suggestions and ideas. Some of them we already were implementing, but it is good to see that everybody is on the same page and willing to work together. If people would now look at what is online, and see if there is anything else we need to add to that, by all means let us know.

Trustee Armacost: I agree with Marge. You did a great representation of what happened that day. Some of the ideas were very interesting. A group of people felt that it was important to think about being at the cutting edge of having solar so the generators are not just diesel generators but there is another form of generation which is more 21st century, and that our Village might be at the forefront of that. Bruce, you might be interested in that idea.

The other theme that came up a number of times was not something that one can pay for necessarily, but comes out of a feeling of community spirit. People talked about what individuals and clusters and neighborhoods can do, and actively creating informal block associations that can kick in in this kind of scenario. That is something that could theoretically be organized by the Village, but it is probably more effective if it happens spontaneously and people begin to formalize some of those informal networks that developed during the storm as people were keeping one another informed or taking care of one another. I would love us to keep tabs on that because that is not a thing we can pay for out of the capital plan. It is a thing that we need to build as a community. We need to have people identify themselves to be leaders of those groups. There was one very lovely story, where a woman who was in the group met her husband, and they had been married for 35 years, in the context of the block association. So there are all sorts of side benefits to block associations other than helping you in disasters. So I want to encourage people to formalize those arrangements.

Mayor Swiderski: To that end, a group of those people is going to be at the volunteer event this Saturday, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. We plan to have a table. The idea was a map of some size,

where people could pin themselves and look for others who are in that neighborhood who are interested in joining together. It is all part of this building networks, like you say. The informal contacts were very important. Where they were robust, they were amazing. They provide information and comfort and support to people within those neighborhoods.

Trustee Jennings: I regret that I was not in town and was not able to attend the session. It sounded like it was a great thing to do, and I am glad you organized it. It gives us ideas to go forward. I want to connect what Niki said with what you said, Mayor. You have interest in setting up infrastructure that will help us respond better the next time. But the enthusiasm wanes. A key lesson that has been learned by many communities in responding to different kinds of disasters is that the infrastructure you rely on in an emergency is mostly not an emergency infrastructure but an infrastructure that you have all the time on a day-to-day basis. I noticed, when I was talking with the Parks and Recreation Department and others who were checking on our seniors or people with special needs during the blackout, we were able to do that well partly because people did something unusual. They stepped up the plate and did it. But we were also able to do that well partly because we already had a connection with many of these people through ongoing, everyday programs that had nothing to do with emergencies. I would t like to reinforce what Niki said. The stronger our community is in normal times, the stronger our community will be in times of emergency.

Trustee Armacost: We have the Senior Council, we have the Youth Council, we have a entities that are interested in particular segments of the community that are already engaging in programs that can kick in, in this kind of a context.

To your point about the celebration which is happening, there is a box in the Community Center where you can write a letter almost like a letter to Father Christmas, saying who among the emergency services team you want to thank specifically. You can pop in a letter. It could be anonymous. It is a way of telling your story of why somebody was helpful to you as an individual member of the Village. That is a lovely thing that has been set up, probably by the Parks and Rec Department. Fran, I am sure you are responsible for it ultimately.

Village Manager Frobel: I did not know anything about it. I would say Lisa if I had to bet on something.

Trustee Armacost: Probably Lisa came up with it, exactly. It would be lovely if that box were filled.

Mayor Swiderski: A raft of issues still remain. One we will have to take a whack at is that the parks took a beating. We should touch base on that, and figure out how we can get people involved.

Village Manager Frobel: This morning I toured our parks with three claims adjusters from Travelers. The first step is to determine the extent of support we will receive from our insurance company. We have our FEMA kickoff with appropriate staff next week. That will be the second ring of fire we will go through. Let us determine what is not going to be paid for by our insurance company and the federal government, and then turn to volunteers.

Mayor Swiderski: What is the prognosis for the Kinnally Cove boardwalk?

Village Manager Frobel: It was one of six sites that I took them to. We provided them with a loss estimate. Some may be salvageable. With our existing crew we might be able to bring it back to a certain point. We have several plans in place as to how to address it. We are waiting for the appropriate agencies to make their determination as to the level of financial support that they are obligated, or willing, to commit. Even when all that shakes out, we would not tackle it until late winter, early spring.

2. Update on the Downtown

Mayor Swiderski: We have the tree lighting at 600 p.m. on Friday and there is some activity around that. There will be a small event on Tuesday next week, with the menorah lighting as part of what Chabad does every year. That is the only downtown update I have from Meg, who is not here.

3. Update on the Waterfront

Village Manager Frobel: At the Mobil Tappan Terminal, work continues. The engineer informs me that it is her estimation that they are about 60 percent complete. They expect to have all the material offloaded before the end of the month. By that time, they will be stabilizing the site for the winter months, coming back in the spring. To my estimation, for that kind of volume of material, it was a perfect idea to have it come in on barge and not have the wear and tear on our streets, or truck traffic. That worked out very well, in my estimation.

At the Uhlich Color/Chevron site, work continues to energize the wells. Most mechanical installation will be completed this week. They are waiting for a transformer delivery from Con Ed to be installed. Once that is complete and some electrical work, they expect to have it energized by the end of the month. They will do a test run, on December 21 is their estimate. They should have it pretty much operational by mid-January.

Trustee Apel: In relation to the waterfront committee, one of the things I am not sure they were charged with, because they have been charged with a lot of things, is when they are discussing the infrastructure are they considering power sources? The use of the water as a power source? And therefore, one would have to possibly install certain types of infrastructure. It is important to think of it. They talked about some sort of drainage and something about gray water, and then you need cisterns. There are other things. I am not sure how far they are going to be going with that. But if we are looking to be sustainable, and we want to be energy efficient and futuristic, then when they are considering how big those holes are or whatever they are doing down there they may have to be larger or smaller. On the East River they use the tidal power. That has already been done. I do not know what it took to do that, and if we are going to want to do it here. .

Mayor Swiderski: OK, that is a good idea.

Trustee Apel: But are we going to need bigger tunnels, are we going to need it from someplace else?

Mayor Swiderski: Do you run the electrical conduit to the edge so it can hook up to such a system? It is iterations of that.

Trustee Apel: I do not know. I do know that you can put wind turbines on the sides of buildings. But even though they are on the side of the building, and I understand they are smaller than they used to be, the question is what infrastructure do you have to have under the ground to make that happen on the side of the building.

Trustee Jennings: That could be very significant. The East River project works.

4. Other

Trustee Armacost: Where we are with the budget process? That kicks in sort of now, and I wondered how far along we are in that process. When will you let us know the timing so we can be prepared well in advance, and we have enough time between when we have the meetings with various people and the final budget discussion?

Village Manager Frobel: I will give you a tentative schedule that I gave to the department heads a few weeks ago with my budget memo. Nothing has started yet in terms of working on next year's budget. It is an ongoing process throughout the fiscal year, but there have been no formal meetings yet to begin to brainstorm, or even do pencil copy of the operating budget. But I will give you a copy of the schedule as to when budgets are due, when I anticipate work sessions will occur, and the public hearing leading up to adoption.

Trustee Armacost: I t want to make sure we have enough time beforehand so that we are not making the decision and we have just had the presentations; that we have got time ourselves, that there is time for us to deliberate at least once or twice. It would be great if you have suggested dates, because I would like to be at those meetings, and I would like to plan my schedule to attend.

Village Manager Frobel: I will give you a tentative schedule, with dates or at least target dates, as to when certain events must occur. A lot of these dates are prescribed by state regulation.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:25 p.m.