

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARCH 19, 2013**

[The following comments are from the preceding Public Hearing:

**Mayor Swiderski:** Niki is in South Korea or maybe Cambodia. She is wired in and hearing this, but we are not going to take this as present for the meeting because we are working through the legal issues around her seeing people and you seeing her. But we are interested in trying out having Trustees be here even if they physically cannot. So if you heard a little voice say "Here," that was Niki. Niki, where are you now?

**Trustee Armacost:** I am in Cambodia.]

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 7:45 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

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

**ABSENT:** Trustee Nicola Armacost

**CITIZENS:** Eighty (80).

**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 of March 5, 2013 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 Warrant was approved:

Multi-Fund No. 48-2012-13	\$399,777.60
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**Mayor Swiderski:** I would like to rearrange the agenda so we can accommodate people here who are interested one particular issue.

**BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS**

**1. Parks and Recreation – Hastings-Dobbs Ferry Joint Superintendent Pilot**

**Mayor Swiderski:** I would like to lay out the pilot as it now stands. We had our superintendent of 27 years retire last spring or summer. This is a civil service position. We began the process to hire a new superintendent shortly thereafter. We went through the process, as we should, and selected a candidate who happened to be the superintendent in Dobbs Ferry. That selection was made in the fall, and we entered into negotiations with that individual. In late fall or early winter, the mayor in Dobbs Ferry reached out to us and said would we, instead, be interested in considering a joint supervisor between the two communities.

The Board had a number of executive sessions, which are closed meetings and went over the idea and decided it was worth pursuing. At that point, around late December, we put together two working groups, one out of Dobbs Ferry, composed of three people, and one out of our community. We started meeting to discuss this. We reached out to the Parks and Rec Commission at that point, in a closed meeting, and told them about the idea. This was in January. One of the members of the Parks and Rec Commission volunteered and was appointed to this working group, Joanne Baecher DiSalvo. The other two members from Hastings are myself and the Village Manager.

We began meeting with the working group from Dobbs Ferry, going through a dense agenda of how this would work. Over the course of several meetings, it became clear that there was a good dialogue going and that such an arrangement was worth exploring and pursuing actively. We worked through the details of how this would happen and what sort of things, in terms of supervision this person would be responsible for and how he would be supervised. What you have here is a presentation that goes over this pilot in some detail. It was presented last Thursday, before the Parks and Rec Committee and an audience in attendance at the time. It does not vary from that presentation. It comes out of an increasing tradition, if that is the right word, of looking for opportunities to share costs where we can.

This Thursday, for example, I will be, along with Fran, in what is now a monthly meeting with all the mayors from the Rivertowns. We meet to look for areas of cooperation and review issues of mutual concern. A number of initiatives have come out of those meetings. We do a single joint re-paving project across all the river towns. It used to be each river town would do its own bidding process. There were better economies of scale if we do it together. A large number of bilateral relationships have been established between villages for sharing contracts for maintenance, cleaning, heat and air conditioning repair. This is an ongoing effort, where we are constantly bringing up ideas to share the easy stuff. And there is quite a bit of it. For example, we did an installation of LED bulbs in this village on the back of a contract that Dobbs Ferry initially negotiated and we enjoyed their prices.

It is a series of meetings over, now, five years. And this is the natural evolution of that, a building of that set of relationships between these villages where we do more and more both cost and program-sharing, ultimately to save money and to continue to provide the same level of services we now do at a relatively similar price. The idea is not complicated. We are going to share the superintendent with Dobbs Ferry. This is a pilot program, a one-year effort, and the superintendent will be in charge of both departments.

Why are we doing this? We are operating under a two percent tax levy cap, known as a tax cap though it is not literally true. But there is a state law that requires us to try to abide by limitations on our spending and we, in turn, have been doing so. Small problem with that:

our revenues go up two percent, pensions, health care, energy costs can go up much faster than that. So we have been living in an environment where the cost pressures have been squeezing out excesses in our budget, and there have not been many, to the point where we are maximally stretched in our DPW, police, and parks and rec. There is not fat left to cut, not that it was especially fatty beforehand.

This department has qualified and experienced staff that run good programs, and to some degree, the programs run themselves. So a full-time superintendent in each community seems redundant. We also have, by joining the two communities together, a much bigger pool of potential residents to pitch programs to. Something that may be only partially subscribed in one community, if it is offered across both can be more fully subscribed. We also have a window. A superintendent position has been vacated. Nobody has lost their job. And there is a general direction we are moving, not just in Hastings, but in the state, for looking for opportunities to share and find places to cut costs. We have been handed one here that allows us to run an experiment with a neighboring community whose superintendent we tried to hire but who, despite that, is interested in doing this with us and wants to run this experiment for a year.

It is, in many ways, a gift, an opportunity to run an experiment where we all try something out. It is not the first step. The asphalt contracts and other sharing contracts we have done have been the first steps. This is an ongoing step in a process that I believe is inevitable. Either we learn to share and control our costs, or we are going to face further cuts down the road which will damage our services to the public. This is a point in time where we can try something out that tells us whether we have the trust within the community and between communities to do this, to build that trust. It is, I think, worth pursuing.

How will we benefit? Up front, there is a savings. The fully-loaded cost of a superintendent, including benefits, which are health and pension and Social Security and everything, is \$120,000 to \$130,000. In sharing a superintendent, we would only be paying half of that. By reducing that expense now and into the future, it reduces pressure on the budget and allows us to forestall cuts in other programs or personnel to that tune, \$65,000. That figure, in terms of what that means to the budget, is about two-thirds of one percent in your taxes. So by saving that amount of money we are saving two-thirds of one percent. Given that we can raise taxes around two percent, it is not insignificant. It provides an opportunity for greater programming, and also where there is existing programming, extra capacity, sharing that across the two communities. It provides a chance for the youth, especially teens, to mix it up a bit. And finally, and I am going to be returning to this because in many ways it is a core reason we are pursuing this, it is a chance to build trust with Dobbs and within this community that these things can work and will not hurt us.

How will it work? Without getting too legalese here, we are not hiring Matt. Matt will remain full time on the payroll of Dobbs Ferry and we will pay Dobbs Ferry half of his expense via an intermunicipal agreement, an IMA, that we are in the process of discussing and negotiating with Dobbs that defines the terms of how we pay, how this contract can be severed, what is delivered for that contract. It is a one-term contract, renewable if this is working, and if not, severable without any impact on us legally or on Dobbs. The superintendent, in turn, will cover both villages. Does that mean 20 hours exactly in each village? Not from week to week, but overall we would expect that he perform his duties, which will be equivalent in both villages, equally across both villages. At the end of one year, we look at this. Is it working? We will consult with the Parks and Rec committees in each town. We are going to be hearing from the public during the year. The village manager in Dobbs is called an administrator. He will be key to this, as well. They are, ultimately, this gentleman's boss, and his ability to perform his responsibilities can be best evaluated by his boss. Then we will figure out if it is working. That statement is a little soft. However, I am going to say it is probably going to be pretty clear if it is not working, at which point it does not go forward in its current arrangement. If it is working and benefiting both communities, we will renew it at that time.

How will this work? Matt is going to report to both village managers. In the off chance that there is some disagreement on priorities or he feels he is being tugged, the mayors will step in and attempt to resolve that. He will be working with the Parks and Rec committees in each community. Those Parks and Rec committees will remain intact and undisturbed. He will be attending both meetings and looking to their support for any changes that are made. The staff in both towns will remain unchanged, and their reporting structure will change in only one way, which is that the senior person in each community will report to the new superintendent. But in all other respects, they will continue to do, for the most part, what they are doing now. There will be no consolidations or layoff of staff.

What does a superintendent do? Budgeting the recreational programming in both communities. With that, he will bring an eye to opportunities where we could be joint-ordering sand for the sandboxes sort of stuff or where he can bring that perspective to the budgeting process. He will be overseeing the staff and the programs in both communities. He is going to be responsible for long-term planning. We would like to look out further and see what other long-term opportunities there are for both programs to offer to the communities, and savings. He will be exploring opportunities for joint programs, both new programs that could appeal to both communities, as well as programs that may not be fully staffed, fully enrolled and might be interesting to open up to both. He is going to be responsible for the hiring and personnel matters to the recreational programs in both communities. What it will not involve is a reduction in staff. Facilities and fields will remain prioritized for each village, including use by the schools. If there is spare capacity,

and it can be swapped, mutually-beneficial, we will examine that. Right now, Dobbs is facing a building boom, with a number of facilities being added in both Masters School and Mercy College. Both those institutions are looking to open those facilities up to Dobbs. That could be spare capacity that could be swapped if we have something to offer.

The sports leagues are working just fine now. I do not see anything we gain from merging something that seems to be enjoyable and fully functional. The pools will continue to be run as local facilities. Hastings currently allows some nonresident memberships, but we do not plan to increase those numbers.

I would like to open it up to the public because we want to hear that. All I ask is for the crowd not to repeat itself. If there is something new to contribute, please do come forward. Since there may be quite a few people here who would like to speak, if there is the possibility of confining it to two or three minutes that would be appreciated.

**Valerie Harmon, 185 High Street:** I would like to start with some facts about the recreation department. Our village has approximately 90 programs available to our residents of all ages, and only the fees of a few programs do not cover the expenses. Our current staff, to meet the ongoing needs and desires of our people, has created most of these programs. An example of successful money management through creative programming is our pool. Our recreation supervisor who, during the summer months is the pool director, has designed and implemented programs that not only meet the needs of our residents, but the revenue obtained has given the pool the ability to operate on a profit margin for the past few years. This helps keep the cost of pool permits down, while maximizing the facility's use. I question how many programs Dobbs Ferry has, and if they are fiscally managed as well as our programs. Sharing programs between our town and Dobbs Ferry is already in existence. Residents of Dobbs often take part in programs that are not filled by Hastings residents.

I would like to propose an alternative plan. Our recreation staff has continued to work effectively under an acting superintendent for over eight months. Our recreation supervisor has taken on the responsibilities of the superintendent in addition to the duties and responsibilities of the supervisor's position. My plan is to continue this model, by offering our acting superintendent the position of superintendent. The responsibilities of the superintendent and supervisor can continue to be performed by this person, as it has successfully been done for the past eight months. Under this plan, our recreation department will have three full-time employees instead of four, thereby saving the Village the salary and benefits package of the fourth employee. Our village has not incurred the expense of this fourth employee since the retirement of our superintendent, whose combined salary and benefits package was quoted by the Mayor to be approximately \$140,000.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Just a small correction. That number is for the current proposed position. The former superintendent, fully loaded, would have been a bit more than that.

**Ms. Harmon:** The Mayor's plan is to spend \$65,000 to share with Dobbs Ferry a part-time superintendent. This person will oversee the recreation programs and personnel of our village and suggest areas where both villages can share programs. Do we need to spend \$65,000 for a person to oversee the personnel of our recreation department who have proven their capabilities to work under an acting superintendent for the past eight months? Do we need to spend \$65,000 for a person to point out areas where both villages can share programs, when this is already happening and can continue to be explored by the staff of both departments?

Based on a possible 48-week work year, due to vacation time and holidays, and a payment to Dobbs Ferry of \$65,000, the math shows that we would be contributing approximately \$1,350 per week towards the salary and benefits of a 20-hour per week employee. Do we need to spend this amount of money, when we can have a full-time superintendent for less? A concern of the Mayor's at the Recreation Commission meeting last Thursday was that as more responsibilities were added to the superintendent in my plan, the additional responsibilities, along with supervising programs under the duties of supervisor, would become overwhelming. A solution to this concern would be to hire a part-time person to supervise any programs that would take time away from the more important superintendent responsibilities. We have many part-time workers involved in our programs and, in most cases, the program fees cover the salaries of the part-time employees. Along this line of concern, my question to the Board is how these additional responsibilities would affect a part-time superintendent. As more responsibilities are added, would we have to pay money to have him work more hours for our village?

I see this alternative plan to be a win-win for our village. We will have a full-time superintendent who knows the residents of our village and whose talents and creativity have led to many of our current programs. Our superintendent will be available to our residents on a full-time basis, and will continue to be actively involved with the people through her active supervision of programs. It is through this type of active involvement that our superintendent can keep abreast of what new programs should be offered and how new and old programs are working.

Why are we in such a hurry to share a superintendent on a part-time basis when we can successfully have a full-time superintendent, who knows our village, if we promote within? Why can we not continue this successful model for a year and then reevaluate it? Evaluating my plan is simple. All we have to answer is the question of whether or not our recreation staff is continuing to successfully operate the programs with fiscal responsibility and meet

the ongoing needs of our Village residents, as they have been for the past eight months. Evaluating a part-time superintendent who is new to the Village would prove to be more difficult. After a year's time, if our recreation staff continues to successfully provide us with the programs and services we have now is it because of our new part-time superintendent or because of our talented and dedicated staff? I see no benefit in sharing a part-time superintendent with Dobbs Ferry when we can accomplish the goal of saving money by promoting within. I challenge the Mayor and the committee to show the people of our community how paying \$65,000 for a part-time superintendent will have a greater savings than having a full-time superintendent, as proposed under my alternative plan.

**Gene Calamari, 6 Cedar Street:** Many of you know me already, and that is the nice thing about living in a small town. I am the president of the Little League. I am a nearly 20 year resident of Hastings. I am on the rec commission. I want to share with you what I know about this. As presented here this seems very benign. The way that I am involved is that last December I received a phone call at home from Matt Arone, who is the superintendent in Dobbs, who said you will be getting a call from the chairperson of our recreation commission about combining programs in Hastings and Dobbs. This was the first I heard of it. I sent an e-mail out around December 20 to Fran and the Mayor saying what is this? Their response was that we kind of left you out of the loop type of thing. This has kind of been going on for some time now. It is in negotiations right now.

Sure enough, the next week I got a phone call from their chairperson about combining the programs of the two departments. I expressed my dissatisfaction with that idea that nobody from my own village had even told me about that. I was hearing it first from Dobbs and not from Hastings. My feeling was that there was some level of trust that had been breached. I became concerned that a monumental moment was progressing without the public's involvement. Subsequently, the Mayor and Village Manager came to a Recreation Commission meeting and described the plan to us in a closed door meeting. Kendra was not present. Several other members of the commission were there. In that same conversation, there was discussion about the future and the combining of DPW. I came away from that meeting feeling that these were part of one larger plan to slowly bring municipal services together in the villages, and that this was an opportunity, because Ray Gomes had retired, that they were starting with this.

Now, we want for nothing at the Recreation Department. We have a tremendous facility and we have a great staff. Kendra does a fantastic job for the amount of money that we would be paying the Dobbs fellow. I could see why Dobbs would want in on this. Maybe I could see why we would want in on something they have, I do not know. I do not know what they have, but I know what we have, and what we have is pretty good.

The bit about sharing fields when they are not being used. The Little League spends 50 cents on every dollar to upkeep those fields for Hastings residents, not for Dobbs. That should continue. To me, the bigger picture on this is that this is a slow but steady erosion of what it means to live in Hastings. Forget the *New York Times* articles that tell you how quaint and charming the Village is because that is going to be no more. We are embarking on a course that is going to remove our identity as a village. I do not want to go down that road and I am sure you, because you are here tonight, do not want to go down that road either.

The whole matter has been discussed in a manner that should be more open. It feels like this should be a referendum to the whole Village that we can decide on as a whole to go forward in this direction or not. This is no small item. This is a change of course. Some people will say that we are looking down the barrel of a financial gun. I look down that barrel every day, and I am sure you people, too. But we persevere, we go forward, and the Village can go forward, too. What we need here is not to focus on the expense side of an equation. We need to focus on the revenue side of the equation. That is where the genius is. Anybody can do the expense side of the equation: cutting jobs, cuttings costs. Try to bring in money, that is where the genius is. I do not know that we have had enough creative thinking in that regard. Until we explore that fully we should not move forward with this. What we should do is demand a referendum to the Village to decide this matter. Do we do this, or not? And it is not about the director. That is peanuts here. The money that we are saving here, I spend more than that at Amjo's for lunch. It is less than \$12 a year per resident. Spread \$68,000 over 8,000 residents annually. It is nothing. But the road we are going down is big, and that is not the road that is going to preserve the specialness of Hastings. We should fight that battle to the end. To me, this road is assisted suicide if we go down it, and I do not think we should go down that road.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Just a clarification. Mr. Calamari is indeed correct. Matt jumped the gun and called, based on preliminary discussions. However, after that point we proceeded with a process like we described, which is reaching out to the Parks and Recs, starting discussions with Dobbs, to make sure that there was something here worth pursuing, and once it was clear something was worth pursuing, we brought it to the public. To be clear, nothing is being voted on tonight. The IMA is at least a month away from a final state where it could be signed, and we have talked about this starting June, which is the fiscal year. So we are not signing anything tonight. But the involvement of the community began with our first discussion with Parks and Rec in January and has proceeded in what I would argue is a correct way since then.

**Jodie Meyer, 15 Forest Avenue:** I am on the Board of Ed and I also run the Hastings rec basketball program with my husband. I organized it what I want to say as the three C's. The first one would be change. Peter, you have been the first to say that change is always really



difficult and sometimes we have to work hard to come up with creative ways to make change that can better everybody, change that can be cost-saving and effective and benefits all parties involved. I certainly know that in terms of the schools. It is not an easy road to go down, and it is not easy for any of us to change.

My next C would be communication. I cannot underscore enough the importance of good communication and the problem with bad or miscommunication. Unfortunately, the way that this came along and took place led to a situation where there were a lot of rumors, there were e-mails flying. The Mayor had to put out a lot of fires. However things go forward, should you decide to adopt this proposal, the importance of communicating with everybody involved, being open, being honest, being transparent. I do not think, organizationally, it will be easy to have a superintendent from another village supervising people here. If you want to get buy-in and continue to have the excellent programs that we have and people feeling valued and appreciated which, in a small village, matters a lot, we have to do a better job of communicating.

My third C would be about community. We all choose to live in Hastings for different reasons, but there are certain things. We live here because of the community and because of the Village, however similar or different we may be from each other. It takes a village to raise children and it takes a village to fight every day to live in a world that we want to live in. It is an amazing thing to have a village that you can look out your door and you can see New York City or you can drive there. I drive to my office in the city when I leave here at 6:20 in the morning. I can be at my office at 6:45. That is pretty amazing that I can walk around New York City and then get in the car. It takes a little longer than 25 minutes to get home, but then I can be here, and there is no place that I would rather be.

People come here to raise their children, and that has to do with the schools and with the kind of village and community that this is. So much of that is because of what the Community Center, what the Rec Department provides. Programs that we do not even all know about go on. For my own kids the programs they participated in were very meaningful in their development. I think it has helped form the kind of places they would like to work, the kind of communities they want to participate in, the way they would like to raise their own children.

In this moment in history it is so important to provide children with a place that feels safe. The rec center and their programs provide a place where kids can feel safe and connected, and a place where parents can feel like our children are known. We chose to live here, we did not choose to live somewhere else, for whatever reasons. I think there are benefits to combining certain programs, perhaps, and that we need to give it careful thought to how we go about doing it.

I want to read to you something that my husband, Steve Tuber, asked me to read since he could not be here tonight.

"Thank you for being willing to hear this note. I would be making these points in person, but I am presently refereeing a semifinal playoff game for the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls of Hastings. I feel I am qualified to be writing out of three aspects of my history that are relevant to the issues of tonight's meeting. One is as a 21 year and counting resident of Hastings, a village I consider my home for the rest of my life. Two, as a child psychologist long interested in promoting the mental health of children through sports. And three, as the co-director of the Hastings rec basketball program for 11 years and counting.

I cannot speak expertly as to the microeconomic issues involved in the proposed merger of the recreational programs of the two villages. Though I am well acquainted with the concept of the economies of scale, I will leave to others whether this truly does save money in the long haul. What I do know is that it is very often the intimacy of a small village that matters most in raising the quality of life of its residents and their extended families.

In the basketball program, I am always struck by the way a timid, sometime non-athletic but often times just shy youngster, is willing to compete because they know all the players on the team and the teams they play against. Often, their coach is their parent or the parent of the friend. Here, familiarity does not breed contempt. It breeds safety, warmth and therefore the willingness to try one's best at something they may not, at least initially, be very good at.

Is that not exactly what we most want to embolden in our children? A sense of competence and curiosity, a willingness to take a good risk, a desire to authentically improve one's self in the context of friendly, mutually-enhancing competition with others? Should the day come that you might decide to increase the size of the program by merging it with one from Dobbs Ferry, which I know you have said that you are not planning to do, the intimacy would be spoiled. It would provide a much harsher, all-or-nothing sense of competition, and thus heighten the stress of our children for no good reason.

While there certainly may be other programs that the two towns might consider that might not press upon this issue of intimacy, I feel strongly that merging programs would simply be a bad idea. Running this basketball program as a volunteer, with my wife Jodie, these past 11 years has been one of the very

highest points of my adult life. I love being able to give something back to this wonderful village, and hope to be able to do it for many years to come. However, I would not be willing to run such a combined program, and thus would rue the day that such a decision was made.

**Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Parkway:** One detail in your presentation jumped out at me and I would like to maybe ask for clarification. We saw last year in *The Enterprise* the article when Parks and Rec director Ray Gomes retired. There was all the press and the fanfare, and the party. There was never a mention from that point forward about the interest of looking for a new Parks and Rec super. I and others I spoke with felt that was one of those positions they were going to try and squeeze by without, similar to the way we have lost a few positions at DPW and a few years ago, through attrition, we eliminated the person in charge of Village planning. Never did I know until you mentioned it this evening that the Village was actively seeking somebody. I am missing something here. Dobbs already had an active person in place. Was there a simultaneous opening of positions both in Dobbs and in Hastings? How did we hire that person before them?

**Mayor Swiderski:** No. We tried to poach him. He was on the civil service list, and as part of the civil service process you work your way down the list. He was one of the candidates. As part of the process of searching for candidates, the committee responsible for it interviewed a number of people. He was the candidate. No, they did not have an opening.

**Mr. Downey:** So if we are able to survive, and the Village is looking to watch revenues, I am not sure why. If we are running OK now, similar to the DPW although they are strained, is there some criteria that forces us to have to hire somebody? The idea of future strains for demands of the waterfront, I do not think we can use that. That is way too far off. I am wondering why we need to go into a position unless, in the back of my mind, I have this odd feeling. Is this a bit of a lever that Dobbs Ferry is working on us? It has been expressed that we need them for DPW. They have a brand-new facility, we have a situation now at the waterfront where that land might be better used for other purposes. Is Dobbs Ferry saying outwardly, or with a wink, we will try this? Come split this cost with us, and we will see how it works out? It feels to me there has got to be some kind of tie-in there for this larger plan. It was expressed on Thursday that, in fact, it is not. But I do not know why else we would do it if we are running OK.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I would like to address both a question there and an implied statement from Mr. Calamari about a joint effort. The fact that we pursued a grant from the state, which we won, for \$50,000 to examine a consolidation of the DPW has been front page of *The Enterprise*. It has been in the news for over a year now. We won that, and we have not even finished signing the documents. Setting up an RFP to select a consultant, hiring the

consultant and getting that study going, will be probably the better part of this year before that is well underway. That effort is entirely separate. The overlap here is sharing services in Dobbs Ferry. But they are not bound in any winked, nod or informal agreement. It is a fortunate happenstance that we have an opening in Parks and Rec where we can try this. But that is independent of the DPW effort. Issues of personnel are awfully awkward. You are asking questions about why people are selected or not selected and how it should unfold, which is very difficult to talk about. Typically, those decisions are made privately for a reason. IT is difficult to talk about these things. I want to be clear that I agree that the department is being well run now, that is not the only quality you look for when we are seeking a superintendent. It is not just backward-looking, it was forward-looking. This process ran its full course and came up with a candidate we want to hire, and that person happened to have been in Dobbs. And, again, the coincidence that that community then proposed this joint effort comes out of six years of working on smaller things with Dobbs and the other communities. It is, again, a step in a process where we are all looking to save money and we are all operating under the same budget constraints. It is not nefarious or evil, it is money. I do not think Dobbs expects a quid pro quo here, nor do we. This is a pilot, and it is an indication of whether communities can work together at this level. If we have trouble we are going to have a lot more trouble doing so on something more ambitious.

If you want to have a discussion about whether, long-term, something more ambitious is needed, I am happy to have that discussion. But when you look at the numbers over time, they are not pretty. We can talk all we want about Village sovereignty and what we gain from not sharing this or other expenses with neighboring communities or a larger regional whole. But my revenues are going like this: two percent. My expenses are going like this. That is not coming together. They are only separating. Jodie should know this, especially in relation to the schools. The schools are going to face a beastly time over the next couple of years. I do not know how they are going to address it. We can address it in a couple ways. We have done the easy cuts. We can either do uneasy cuts, or we can look to opportunities like this. It is that long-term economic perspective, much more so than \$65,000 in savings right now, that drives a desire to this and to look for opportunities where we can save money.

**Dave Bloomer, 445 Broadway:** I am here as a resident, although I am also the police chief. You are right, this is awkward, and your presentation was impressive. But I take exception to a couple of your points. You said that rec programs, some of them, run themselves. I can tell you as a department head, programs do not run themselves. The people do. Kendra, Lisa, Ann, Bryan, the workers here. The second point is, one of your benefits here was to have teen programs. These were the words you used, mix it up. You have hit on an appropriate term. The school, several years ago when gas prices went up, changed scheduling on sports programs. Instead of playing Nanuet and Pearl River, we play more games against Irvington and Ardsley and Dobbs Ferry. That did not always work out. It

worked out as far as a bus gas bill, but from the police department standpoint it took us a lot of time and it took a principal's office a lot of time to overcome brawls in the parking lot and different fights. Do I think that would happen every week? No, I do not. I do not know that enough time has been invested in looking into it to see if mixing it up with the kids in Dobbs Ferry is worthwhile.

**John Gonder, 153 James Street:** One or two meetings ago I said why did you not hire Ms. Garrison as superintendent because we usually promote within. She has been doing an excellent job. Ms. Harmon did an excellent job. I am almost 79, and I had good recreation when I was a youngster, my three children had, thanks to Mr. Harmon. We had a tornado in Hawthorne and a lot of trees came down in Hastings and in several storms since then. The one that happened the day or two before Halloween a tree from Pulvers Woods came down in my yard. They took care of the portion of the tree in my yard. But the trees up on the woods, nothing. We used to call, eight, 10 years ago, a tree came down, they sent someone with a chainsaw and they would cut it. I see what Tim Downey has done with Dan Rile Park. Tremendous job. The Recreation Commission does a great job. They can oversee what is done by the acting superintendent. Maybe in seven years or so we may need somebody. But what you do need is someone like Tim Downey that he has been doing now in Pulvers Woods. Clearing out this debris over 10, 15 years, and he is going to get rid of it. I could not go up there chasing deer because of tops of trees hitting me. I go out at night with half-mile beams and whatnot to chase them out of my yard. I try to drive them over to that sergeant, I forget his name right now. His dog has no name, either. But I try to chase a deer down there, and he used to like it because his kids liked it. Now, you can hire someone to go in all these woods instead of a volunteer doing it all the time. I know it is costing a lot of money with saws, blades, everything else, equipment breaking down. We have to hire someone to cut these trees so our parks are usable. The money that you would save without hiring someone, you could get a lot more done by a union person doing work in the parks.

**Jim Metzger, 427 Warburton Avenue:** What are we missing without a superintendent? For the last eight months we have been operating without Ray's guidance, but there does not seem to have been a lot of change, except that in my dealings with Parks and Rec and everybody I speak to, including the people in Parks and Rec, say the department has probably never functioned better. So if personnel may not have a level of experience that you are looking for, we could take part of that \$60,000 and invest it in training people already on staff. I would love to see the people promoted from within. Part of the joy of living in this village is meeting people that are first, second, third, fourth-generation Hastings families. They talk about what it was like to play sports in the village 30 or 40 years ago. That is what makes me want to live here. I would suggest that we answer the question what are we missing without a new superintendent before we ask who will be our new superintendent.

**Angela Reeve, 1 Amherst Drive:** I have been a Hastings resident for over 20 years. Thank you for the presentation to help clarify a lot of areas I was not clear on. I know what is driving this move is a \$65,000 savings. Yet I have, all along, could not help but think of this as a \$65,000 expense, to pay someone to come in and tell us you guys got a pretty good program going on here. I am currently a volunteer for Parks and Rec. I have been involved with Parks and Rec for over 20 years. I tried to approach Ray on a number of occasions to do youth programs in the community and was always met with resistance on why we could not do it. The past three years, to cite the pool specifically because that is my passion and what I am most familiar with, we had to fight for instructional swim lessons that he never approved or supported. We have gone from 57k 2010 to 87k 2011, \$117,000 net revenues in 2012. And now he is retired. I definitely see this as a window of opportunity. Rather than spend \$65,000 to have somebody else come in and highlight what we do really well, we need to give our current, very talented, staff the opportunity to soar without being held back.

**Anne Marie Ross, 24 Maple Avenue:** I applaud the efforts of looking at cost containment and far-reaching goals. But I see there are two design flaws in this pilot. The first is the time frame. We are bringing in a new person that is unfamiliar with Hastings; in the short term, their goal is to learn about the town and to assess programs. That is going to take the first year of their involvement in this town. You remarked on the fact that part of the difficulty is assessing success. I do not think that is possible with this kind of pilot project.

Some of the successes that you noted were sharing of short-term projects on a contractual basis. This is sharing a senior person. The only result that can be accomplished by sharing a senior person whose goal is to look at programming, to make recommendations and assessments on programming, and to plan for the long term, if you have two common departments that share that much in common and you are supervising both you are naturally going to look at how they can intermingle and combine. So to suggest that this does not represent merging more so than what has been discussed is inaccurate. That is a much broader discussion than what you are willing to have right now. So as it is presented, I do not think this would be a successful program for our two villages.

**Adrienne Forman, 117 Euclid Avenue:** I have lived here just short of three years. I am going to give you my perspective as a newbie of sorts. I do not plan on leaving. Now I say I will leave Hastings feet first in a pine box. I have not been here long, but I am involved. I am on the Little League board, I am very involved with the Hastings Education Foundation and the book fairs and so forth. So I am not showing up in a one-off to give my opinion. I have cared deeply about the community. When my husband and I looked to move here, we have two young sons, we looked at Dobbs, we looked at a lot of Westchester, crunched a lot of numbers. Now that we are in Hastings, I want to give you my perspective on Dobbs

versus Hastings. We are members of the Greenburgh Hebrew Center, so I do have involvement with Dobbs Ferry as a community. My perception of Dobbs versus Hastings is the following. There is a lot of unhappiness in Dobbs with the development on the Saw Mill. There is a lot of discontent over what they call the "gateway area" of Dobbs where they are putting in the Walgreens by the Mobil station. There is a more acute problem with loss of business in Dobbs Ferry than in Hastings, though I understand the concern for loss of business in Hastings during this economy. There is a new facility for the DPW in Dobbs. If my understanding of the situation is correct, it has cost Dobbs Ferry an enormous amount of money, and they are cash strapped. I look at what I know about Dobbs, I talk to my friends who live in Dobbs, and I understand why they want to be involved with Hastings. I do not understand why we want to be involved with the problems in Dobbs. What I am speaking to is outside Parks and Rec, but what I am trying to point to is a larger pattern, a disorganization and goal-setting, that does not match the goal-setting of Hastings.

**Donald Pavone, Maple Avenue:** I have been a resident here for 32 years. I am also a police officer in town. I worked closely with the Parks and Rec years ago under Ray Gomes, and with Jimmy Piazza. It is a well-oiled machine. It is always run very well. Being a police officer, I have seen that every department in the Village has a hierarchy. Every hierarchy has a head in that department. As a police officer downstairs, people come to me with problems that I have to help them solve. If there is a problem that I cannot help them solve, then I look to my superiors, my chief, my lieutenant. The Village has a Village Clerk. If the Village Clerk cannot solve the problem, I am sure she refers matters to the Village Manager, Mr. Frobel. The DPW has a boss, a superintendent. If somebody has a problem that cannot be answered by one of the line personnel there, they go to their superintendent. People move here so they can have these personal relationships. Fast, prompt, courteous service from people that know this town better than anybody else. I believe Hastings should have its own Parks and Rec superintendent, and if it should be with promoting from within.

**David Dosing, Hastings Police Lieutenant:** I would like to thank you for your job. You have tough decisions to make. We all understand the economic environment that we live in. But from our perspective, Hastings should remain Hastings. I think it is very important. I grew up here, I decided to raise my family here. I am one of the few lucky young, well I do not know about young anymore ... persons who can say that I succeeded enough where I can continue the family in Hastings. I remember Jim Harmon pitching to me with the rec. I remember working with Ray Gomes at parades. And it continues the Kendra, and should continue on in Hastings. I ask that you really consider what has been said here tonight before you make a decision.

**Kathy McSweeney, 6 Oxford Road:** Each one of these river towns has its own culture, and

we all moved here for this culture. The other short and sweet thing I want to say is that these people touch people's lives from cradle to grave. I have children, and I also participate on another level, a senior level. They do a wonderful job, and they are very important to this community. We need to keep our culture.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I do not know if it makes sense to have a discussion tonight. We have to all think about this and come back next meeting and talk about it. But I think it was useful.

**Trustee Walker:** I want to thank everybody for their really heartfelt and very articulate comments. This reminds me why I live in Hastings and why I love living here, and I really appreciate everybody's point of view tremendously. So thank you.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Dave Skolnik, 47 Hillside Avenue:** I am asking if you and the other Board members received the e-mail I sent with regard to Austin Avenue. Obviously, it is not on the agenda for discussion. However, my concern, if I am correct in terms of the deadline for public comment that has been decided by Yonkers, then there is virtually no time for you, as a board, to discuss and make a decision.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I received it but do not know if the rest of the Board did. Your earlier e-mail I forwarded to Jamie Cameron, because the expertise need to respond sits on that board.

**Mr. Skolnik:** I did send it to them, as well, because they have a meeting Thursday and I expect to be there. Is there any aspect of that issue you want to have as a board

**Mayor Swiderski:** I remain cognizant of the set of issues around that but I would look to the Planning Board for comment. I have got my concerns, mostly around traffic. I do not understand why the other developments there would want further development. I do not know how traffic will get to the new stores and housing on the narrow access roads that already back up during the holidays. And then there is the ongoing impact on our downtown.

**Trustee Apel:** There was a 9-A coalition group a long time ago that was made up of people from Hastings and Clarewood. I would suggest that you talk with Mary Jane Shimsky.

**Mr. Skolnik:** I would, and I did send it to Ellen Hendrickx, as well. But I understand certain sensitivities of getting involved in her current capacity, and also in her past involvement. I am going to try to follow it up. But I have been in touch with Tom Madden's office, the planner in Greenburgh. Paul Feiner's email sent out a couple of weeks ago about this meeting in Yonkers was the first I had been aware of it. Madden was there. You got his



comments, and I thought they were pretty thorough so I am hoping they will stay on it.

The other question is directed to counsel. Is there is any legal proscription of the Village government cooperating with the school board in some of these measures with relation to working with Dobbs. The motivation for the question is that the school board now is looking at a significant overview of their facilities. In our village the same people pay taxes to the school and the Village, and the facilities tend to use overlap. Are there legal reasons why that would not be possible?

**Village Attorney Stecich:** I do not want to avoid the question, but I have to address a specific joint use. I cannot answer the question just in general.

**Mr. Skolnik:** Reynolds Field, for example.

**Village Attorney Stecich:** I cannot say that I know of any proscription legally. But sometimes if the park had been donated by somebody there could be restrictions on it. I need to know more than I could answer now.

**Mr. Metzger:** Is there any time frame involved with BP's presentation about Building 52 and any action that may or may not be taken by anybody?

**Mayor Swiderski:** Not that I am aware of. I have not heard from them since the meeting, other than the sending of the presentation which I posted on the Web site.

**Mr. Metzger:** The Comp Plan Implementation Committee had forwarded a list of priorities to you. I am hoping that they would be incorporated in discussions of the budget. We have not heard back.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Thank you very much for the submission. It is important work that was lost in the ruckus of everything that is going on. I have asked the Board to make sure they have read your submission ahead of the budget meetings, which start tomorrow night with a presentation for the biggest items in the budget. Niki has asked discussion of your items to be delayed until she returns.

**Trustee Walker:** Is there an opportunity for the committee to present the ideas so that the public hears them?

**Mayor Swiderski:** Why do we not put it at the beginning of the Board meeting on April 2.

**Mr. Gonder:** As far as I know, we have two attorneys on the Board, and we have a Village attorney, and we also have an environmentalist on the Board. I was wondering, as attorneys and also as an environmentalist, knowing that it is going to cost anywhere from \$2 million to \$6 million to board up Building, what would you say when BP says we are still going to be worried about the polychlorinated biphenyls on the western-southern side where they had diggings. Take the building down, get rid of the PCBs. I am pretty sure that is what the environmentalist would say, and also the attorneys. I think that is the way you should tell them. Also, you need a bridge on the south side. Even our mayor, Julie Chemka, said that many times. Try to salvage something. Ask them to take that old water tower down, sandblast it, repair it, fiberglass it, whatever they have to do so it lasts 100 years. You could tell them whatever you want to do with the building is fine with us, but save us the tower.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I certainly agree with the sentiment of saving history.

**Mr. Metzger:** I do not agree with Mr. Gonder on this particular issue. They have come across the possibility of using coatings that could remediate PCBs within the concrete slab similar to what is being done in the ground at the south end of the waterfront. There is technology available that does not necessarily preclude having to tear the building down. A group of citizens in the Village have been meeting privately to discuss other options that we feel are not being presented. We would welcome the opportunity, as we get our information together, to present that to the Board for an opposing viewpoint.

**Mr. Gonder:** The problem is, the DEC says whoever owns that building now has to take care of the PCBs when the building falls down, or 100 years from now they are still liable.

**Mr. Metzger:** It is not true.

### **18:13 APPROVAL OF INCREASE IN 2013 RECREATION FEES**

**Mayor Swiderski:** I will not re-read what I read earlier, a schedule of various increased fees. I think the sense was that if we do make any alternate fee schedule for the fire department, as requested, if we choose to do so it can be done independently of this resolution?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Very definitely. That was a topic that I was looking to bring up during our budget process. I have a proposal to somewhat expand upon that concept. This resolution is specific to those three action items that have been brought to our attention through the staff and the Parks and Rec Commission.

**Mayor Swiderski:** For the pool in the past, we have had a sliding scale based on ability to

afford. Does the same thing apply to the camps?

**Village Manager Frobel:** It does. We have a good program. We are not looking to change the scholarship. It is for all our programs.

**Trustee Walker:** The potential scholarships apply only to Hastings residents?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes. That is one of the reasons why we do not feel the need for an early bird incentive for out of village residents to join in our camp program. But thank you. That is a very good point.

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

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the increases in 2013 recreation fees as follows:

**Proposed Chemka Pool Non-Resident Fees**

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>
Family Membership	\$636	\$700
Individual	\$369	\$400

**Proposed Camp Fees**

	<u>Current Early Bird Fee</u>	<u>Increased Early Bird Fee</u>	<u>Current Regular Fee</u>	<u>Increased Regular Fee</u>
Early Learning Camp	\$350	\$450	\$375	\$475
Sports Camp	\$270	\$370	\$300	\$400
After Camp	N/A	N/A	\$330	\$400
Before Camp	N/A	N/A	\$330	\$400

**Proposed Non-Resident Camp Fees (New)**

**Regular Fee**

Early Learning Camp	\$570
Sports Camp	\$480
After Camp	\$480
Before Camp	\$480
Hillside Day Camp	\$678

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**AYE**

**NAY**

Trustee Bruce Jennings	X
Trustee Marjorie Apel	X
Trustee Meg Walker	X
Trustee Nicola Armacost	Absent
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X

**Trustee Walker:** Could we just thank the Parks and Rec staff for this. It was a very good recommendation, and I am very proud of the revenues that you have been creating over the last couple of years.

**VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Village Manager Frobel:** Today was our tax lien sale. Susan reports it was very successful, and I have asked her to go over the events of today.

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** We had 29 properties whose taxes remain unpaid, and we sold all but \$531 worth of taxes. The sale today netted the Village \$54,069.22. We have, clearly, almost 100 percent tax collection.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Anybody who was unable to pay their Village taxes has that converted into what is called a lien, which anyone can buy. We are selling that liability owed us off to an investor Who gets a return of one percent a month, certainly upon sale of the house, but not necessarily immediately.

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** That is right. We had an interesting circumstance today. We had competitive bidding. They bid the interest rate down, and some people's liens were sold for a quarter of a percent a year; it was more important for the investors to have their foot in the door with the property than for the payment of the monies back.

**BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS (continued)**

## **2. Update on the Downtown**

**Trustee Walker:** The ad hoc committee on the downtown is trying to come up with a new name. This committee wants to be an independent organization separate from the Village. The next meeting is March 27. We are talking about a meeting in April to which we would invite downtown businesses and property owners to talk about a variety of things, one of them being the Discover the Rivertowns Weekend that we are holding with the other two river towns in June, and another one in October. We would like them to participate in this weekend, and we would like it to be profitable for them. We want to drive business to them. We will not have an April Friday Night Live, but we are gearing up for a big event in, probably closing Boulanger Plaza and having another big dance and music event there. And then in June, along with the Discover the Rivertowns Weekend we will have a large Friday Night Live that will align with the Spring Thing we have done in the last few years.

## **3. Update on the Waterfront**

**Village Manager Frobel:** At the Uhlich Color-Chevron site the groundwater treatment system continues to operate. At the Exxon Mobil no activity because of the winter, although they have approached us. They are looking to improve their perimeter fencing, so I am working with the Building Inspector to work something out. They have had some trespassing on their property, and they are looking to strengthen their fencing.

**Trustee Walker:** Has there been any discussion about improving the riprap or shoreline stabilization at the Exxon site?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Not as part of this phase. My involvement has only been when they brought in the soil to stabilize the property to do the seeding. As I understand it, it is undetermined as to how you want that shoreline.

**Trustee Walker:** I think it is something that the Waterfront Infrastructure Committee should be looking at along with the ARCO site.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I think they have been. There has been discussion.

**Mayor Swiderski:** They are talking about the site as a whole.

**Trustee Walker:** Yes, but has there been input from Exxon Mobil about it, how the cleanup may impact the shoreline, how the shoreline may impact the cleanup?

**Village Manager Frobel:** I cannot answer that. I think the detail is to be worked out, the sloping shoreline of riprap, or the driven piles.

**Trustee Walker:** I don't think so. We have had discussions with BP/ARCO about the shorelines, but not with Exxon. It may be something we want to tackle.

**Trustee Jennings:** But they did come to an agreement with the DEC. We were not involved in it the way we were with BP. The state is overseeing their portion of the waterfront also. So is the state requiring them to do anything about the shoreline? It should not be that difficult for us to find out.

**Trustee Walker:** It is an interesting question. If there is erosion going on we would need to know about that for remediation purposes.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Let me call our consulting engineers. At the last meeting we left it that they were contacting BP for additional cost data regarding Building 52. I will ask what kind of progress they have made on that task and at the same time, ask them that they should advise us as to what is happening on the Exxon Mobil site.

**Mr. Metzger:** At the conference on sea level rise on the Hudson River Valley that Ed Weinstein and I attended, they spent quite a bit of time discussing shoreline. They found that the sheet pilings used similar to Irvington was incredibly ineffective. As the water would hit that vertical wall, the amount of energy released would carry the water up and over. That wall ended up acting like a bathtub, preventing the water from going back in. In areas where they used either natural rock riprap on a slope or they created a park out of concrete objects that were decorative in nature but that sloped and were very irregular, they diffused the energy in the water. Because they were porous, any water that did come over was able to drain right back into the river as the wave action subsided. So if we are going to be part of the discussion with our waterfront partners, somebody should be looking into the issues that were discovered and discussed during that meeting.

**Trustee Walker:** Yes. Ed is on the Waterfront Infrastructure Committee so I am pretty sure that point of view has been relayed to the rest of the committee

#### **4. Other**

**Trustee Jennings:** The Conservation Commission is making a recommendation concerning the closing of the DPW on Saturdays and determination of that program in favor of another approach to solid waste management. I was curious as to whether or not recommendations of that sort are management decisions within the purview of the Village Manager, or if the

Board of Trustees was going to have some role in that. Is that something we should put on an agenda and discuss? Is it something that we should take action on? Or is this a sounding board for the benefit of the Village Manager and the superintendent of DPW? I did not understand the procedural aspects of something like this.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I did respond to the questions that were raised. It is a change that both Mike Gunther and I support for a variety of reasons. I outlined them briefly in my response to the question that I think Meg asked for some amplification on. But in answer to your question, during the budget process I was going to talk about it. There was a line item for this Saturday service, and the recommendation would be to modify it. I have some suggestions as to how we begin to phase it out, or you could do it cold turkey if that is what you decide. But I was going to have a recommendation to the Board, and then have the Board make that decision, because it is that important of a service that we provide to the community. I would never presume to do that unilaterally. I would hear from the Board how you would like us to proceed operationally.

**Trustee Apel:** Do they know who utilizes it?

**Village Manager Frobel:** We do. We have good statistics on the volume of trash that we collect, the cost, and the convenience. We will have a report as to how we can begin to wean the community off that service: two Saturdays a month, one Saturday a month, four times a year. Some communities have it twice a year. We offer good service at curbside. When I am down there on Saturday I ask people why they are here. The answer is that I am cleaning the garage out today and I do not want to leave it at the curb, it is just as easy for me to bring it here, and I know you can pick up anything up at the curb for me. There has been some push-back. I have had a number of people remind me that the Saturday session came about when the community went from twice a week pickup to once a week. That was part of the process at that time to get down to just once a week. I assure them we are not going back to twice a week pickup for trash.

**Trustee Walker:** Is it primarily bulk items, or is there household trash as well?

**Village Manager Frobel:** It is principally bulk, but some is regular garbage, and some people come with recyclables. In my note to you and, again, I will elaborate on it, it is busy. There are lines of people. For the life of me, I do not know why you would spend 45 minutes in line with something that is just as easy for us to pick up. But people seem to enjoy it. And we have a lot of people that are picking through the trash, which worsens the situation because then we have traffic backed up. There have been times when I have had them jockey the cars around. It is something to see if you have not been there. I do not think it will be an easy sell for the community because it is popular. We have the tonnage figures,

and we often times do fill a truck.

**Trustee Jennings:** Can we figure out the impact if we went to curbside pickup only in terms of slowing down the progress through their route? Would we save money? Common sense says that the people lug this stuff down there for free, and we have to spend something in order to pick it up at their home. Maybe it is a small amount.

**Village Manager Frobel:** We will elaborate on that.

**Trustee Jennings:** There are creative ideas bubbling out of the Conservation Commission like a swapping place where you could bring stuff that could be reused by someone else. People can both leave and take. I went to a meeting where the Conservation Commission was brainstorming, about next year's activities and the kinds of things they wanted to look into. We will be getting recommendations from the Conservation Commission about solid waste management and other things, too. But I think the idea here is not just to pick up the same amount of trash at a different place, but to reduce the amount of trash that we generate in our lifestyle and how you encourage that. It is not at the bottom of your driveway versus bringing it down yourself on Saturday morning. It is how we get the left volume less. In the coming months we are going to have a number of interesting ideas about our solid waste management and our recycling in the Village. Like it or not, there is no such place as "away," as in "I am going to throw it away."

**Trustee Walker:** There are places that charge for additional waste by selling bags. There may be a certain amount that is picked up for free, and anything beyond that you have to pay a fee for. Sometimes it is by weight. There are number of ways that could help reduce the amount of trash we are throwing out.

**Village Manager Frobel:** That is something we will deal with. But as Bruce knows, I have several suggestions that have worked in other communities. The other trend that is happening is clear plastic bags. We know we have people that have recyclables in the black bag. The clear bag is a clear indication that there are recyclables in there, and then you can counsel the homeowner. There are a lot of things going on in that industry. In today's *Times* on the front page was a story about communities that have sponsored their own electronic pickup, something that we had here at one time, and the problems where they are finding huge warehouses full of these electronics stored improperly, which was my fear when we got into that with a private vendor. The county has since come out and said absolutely not, you are to participate in our program. We do not support, endorse or allow any kind of outside vendor coming in and picking up electronic devices for that very reason.

**Mr. Skolnik:** Given what you saw from the beginning of the meeting, the issue that you



want to keep in mind is communication. I wonder where in the process that the Manager described was any public input. There was nothing, as you described, that would be that. When would you get input from the group active with the Saturday procedure?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Once we receive from the Conservation Commission, as Mr. Jennings said, a host of suggestions for part of a work plan for the next year we will have a work session and begin to get feedback from the Board and from the staff as to how we will proceed. That will be the first step. None of these things would happen unilaterally. I am sure there is going to be input before we make changes in our procedures.

**Mr. Skolnik:** It sounded like it was going to be part of the budget process so it might not have as much visibility to people. If the decision process is part of the budgetary process, I am concerned that it might get overlooked.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I understand your comment.

**Trustee Jennings:** There is another dimension of communication here which is more educational and informational about the issue itself, not about a Village policy or Village practice. The Conservation Commission is also talking about working with many groups, having educational forums on a whole variety of topics including the ecological and polluting significance of solid waste disposal. If the public understands better why this is important, and they are better able to connect the dots between their current habits and practices and Village policies on the one hand, and the broader environmental problem on the other, the process will be better of. I like to think of open government and public hearings connected to an ongoing process of education and information. Otherwise, public hearings tend to be people articulating their fixed position and there is no learning, there is no dynamism about the process unless you have the other educational activities and forums.

I am thinking of the Comprehensive Plan. The comprehensive planning process produced a plan, and that was very important. But the process educated me and others about broader things that are way bigger than our Village Comprehensive Plan as a document, and that was very rich. Those meetings were a very rich experience to learn a lot about things. We had the professional planners there to help us, and other speakers. That is what I am talking about. We cannot ever stop that, and we should not.

### **19:13 CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS**

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

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees hereby accept the Election Results and that Peter Swiderski is declared Mayor for a term of two (2) official years and Bruce Jennings and Margaret Walker are declared Trustees for a term of two (2) official years each.

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

**Mayor Swiderski:** We have a total of 127 machine votes and five absentee votes, for a total of 132 votes. For Mayor, there were 93 machine and five absentee, for a total of 98. For Trustee, Bruce Jennings were 87 machine and five absentee, for a total of 92. For Trustee Meg Walker, 84 machine, five absentee, for a total of 89. We have write-ins. For Mayor, Eugene Calamari, six, and Patrick Randolph Bell, two. For Trustee, Michele Porter 20, Marvin Winn two, Ann Scholl one and Patrick Randolph Bell, one.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:50 p.m. in memory of two Village residents, William Bobenhausen and Bruce Dale.