

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 4, 2014**

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 7:35 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 Margaret Walker

CITIZENS: Nine (9).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2014 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 57-2013-14 \$143,278.64

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Gonder, 153 James Street: There are going to be two trustees in a couple of weeks for an election, and no opponents. Maybe there should be some method that we can eliminate getting machines in, getting the people that check the voters. Maybe the Mayor can make some proclamation and determine that in five years the average voting people coming out for trustee or mayor is only 216 or something around there, average it out. And if anybody wanted to write in somebody, they write in and would have to have at least 220 votes. That is the left hand. The right hand says there is not much choice for people like me. There are only two candidates. There are 20 meetings scheduled this year. You probably put a couple more in for budgets. But sometimes we have trustees or mayors cannot make the meetings because of business or other things. You are paid elected officials and you are getting paid maybe, if it is a business trip, by your businesses and you are getting paid here. I would like to see that the Board tries to make every meeting. Around November, you did not have a quorum. That is the first time it probably ever happened. It was pretty decent

weather. I understand if people are ill, or deaths or their children are seriously ill you cannot make a meeting. But businesses and vacations, I do not think you should get double pay.

Mayor Swiderski: Thank you. The pay is nominal. It is largely a volunteer position. These are all people who work full-time and occasionally are on business trips. I have no trouble with the absences. It is understandable, given the commitment already made by the Board.

17:14 FARMERS' MARKET – APPROVAL OF USE OF MUNICIPAL BUILDING PARKING LOT

Village Manager Frobel: It is time for your annual consideration to grant permission to the Farmers' Market to use our parking lot at Village Hall for every Saturday beginning in early June through late autumn. As noted in Sue Smith's memo, this is their 17th year. We certainly support their being here and look forward to them being here over the summer months.

Sue Smith, Farmers' Market: I cannot believe it is 17 years. I do not know what that says about the ages of some of us. But again, we have got more customers than ever, and I think people are keener on the market than ever. I made the point in this memo that the location is really part of that. It is integrated into the whole: it is being close to the library, it is seeing that fantastic view, it is having a safe place for kids to run around, with grass and trees. Just a wonderful combination. Some people want us to be in a bigger spot sometimes. Some of the customers say you could be larger. But we are a small community and we have to be more selective about who is there.

We try hard to keep a variety of price points so there are things that are competitive with the grocery stores as well as those esoteric things that you find at markets. At this point we have a huge range of merchandise. One of our goals is to have as much variety of choice. We are very pleased that we have been able to accomplish what we have.

The average this year, because we count once a month, was 1,863. That is not counting dogs and kids. But three of the days were around 2,000, which is amazing. I can remember when we got excited when it was 700. That says something about what it means to people, both as a social event as well as feeding their families.

I do want to make a point that we offer redemption for food stamps, and we have vendors for whom the price is very competitive for fresh vegetables and fruits with the grocery stores. Also, in an attempt to encourage them and make contact with those people, we have worked with the Youth Advocate's food pantry, and also offer what we call "market bucks," which is

our own dollars which we are using out of our own coffers to enhance the food stamps. Part of that is a reaction to the cutback in food stamps by the government, but it was something we wanted to do to make it even more attractive to come to the market.

We do glean at the end of the market with products that are left over that are not something as a baked thing that could be sold the next day. A lot of the bread is that day and that is it, but also the vegetable and food people are very generous with what they have. We had a month in which we encouraged our customers to shop for us so we could give the food to the food pantry. Grace Church also takes turns gleaning afterwards. And we have begun to provide, particularly in the winter. Since there is not much of a range of vegetables available, something we could offer that is not as fresh-sensitive in terms of refrigeration is apples and eggs. That has been very successful. We have just had our second week of doing that for the food pantry. We buy them at cost from one of our vendors. We are trying to encourage people's use of the food pantry, but also the use of the market, and to make it a more inclusive kind of event. We are really pleased with that. We need more people there who do food stamps, and there are some barriers to that for people shopping locally. But we are working on it and feel good about that.

New people in town tell us that one of the reasons they have come to Hastings is the Farmers' Market. They were up here to look at a house or to visit, something like that, and that just said to them this is a special place. That is pretty amazing and that has not just happened this year, it has happened before. Also, we have to give our appreciation publicly to the police department and to the library staff, both of whom are very helpful to us often during the season, and their support is really important for this being a successful, cooperative effort.

Trustee Armacost: Do you turn vendors away? The space, as you were mentioning, is small. How often do you do that and what are the criteria that you use?

Ms. Smith: We have gotten to be well enough known. Not just us, but people think we are the best one in Westchester County. The vendors have found out about that, and the vendors talk to other vendors. There are a lot of calls we get of people who want to be in our market. Sometimes they are people who have had experience with markets before, but some are business that just want to get started and they do not always know you have to have a licensed kitchen for any prepared food, that there is insurance, there is a lot of licensing they have to go through with the Department of Agriculture if it is that kind of product. So it is a learning curve for them, and we cannot take them. We can point them in the right direction to prepare themselves to try again.

If we have somebody who is already offering that kind of product, there are some niches. Like, we have somebody who sells brownies, wonderful brownies. But how many brownies

do you need at the market? Sometimes we say we already have somebody, we are looking for different kinds of products. We have also had vendors who have been here for a while and, for some reason or another, we are not satisfied with them and have asked them to leave. We try to do that courteously at the end of a season, but there are some market vendors that just do not cut it for one reason or another: either their attitude, or their product, or they have not been fully transparent about what goes into their product, where it comes from.

Trustee Armacost: The other question I had was about the currency you were talking about. Is it specifically for food stamps, or does the currency have other purposes?

Ms. Smith: It says "Hastings market bucks" on it, and it is like a dollar bill. We give them to Donnie Waterous at the Youth Advocate's office to use as he wishes. He knows the people who have extra need. Some of those people have food stamps, some do not. We are also inclined, when a food stamp person comes to the market who does not have market bucks from him, to give them to them. We have set aside a certain amount of money that we are willing to spend for that, and we have not reached that at this point. We are trying to turn back. The vendors pay to be at the market and that is what pays our expenses, and we are turning some of that money back into the field.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the use of the Municipal Building parking lot for the 2014 Farmers' Market on Saturdays beginning June 7, 2014.

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	

Mayor Swiderski: With gratitude for what the market does for the Village, a request, at some point this year, to sit down. When we reviewed the application from the Flea Market, we talked what fee we would charge. I think it is useful for the public to understand simply what is charged, what the Village is covering, and surface all that so it is clear that the market is not costing the Village anything.

Ms. Smith: Glad to do it. We discussed that last year. It is pretty much the same, but I will be happy to put that in a memo to you.

Mayor Swiderski: Yes, it is useful to have that. It is also useful to discuss what is the typical market experience in other villages. Do they charge their markets? Are we typical, or different? And, if so, are we in line with others or not in line?

Trustee Armacost: And if the fee has stayed the same for a very long time and you look at what others are charging, maybe it is time to think about whether that fee should go up to the vendors. Your advice may be no, it is fine, after having done the analysis.

Ms. Smith: We try to keep track of what others are doing and not be too out of line. My personal effort is to try to keep it down because I want to help the people who are starting a business, the farmers particularly. We want to keep it as low as possible. When, over the years, we have raised it a bit nobody has complained, which is interesting. You would think there would be a little bit of pushback, but not so. Which means they are doing well enough that it is well worth it for them. Fine, I will glad to do that.

Mayor Swiderski: Thank you for the countless hours put in on it. It is a social high point.

18:14 APPROVAL OF INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH WESTCHESTER COUNTY FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT VIDEO RECORDING GRANT

Village Manager Frobel: The Westchester County district attorney's office received a grant from New York State to install, in the local police departments, video recording equipment. In our case, they will be installed in the area where the detectives conduct interviews. The idea is, they have this video available in their prosecution, and it is something that is certainly being encouraged. They received a grant of about \$33,000. The Hastings equipment will be installed, and is just over \$4,000. We welcome this addition and we look forward to having it installed and available to the district attorney's office.

Trustee Armacost: Who was responsible for the grant writing in this case?

Village Manager Frobel: Someone in the Westchester County district attorney's office.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to sign the Intermunicipal Agreement with Westchester

County as attached to receive video recording equipment for the use of the Police Department, such equipment provided at no cost to the Village through a grant awarded to Westchester County by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice.

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	

19:14 BOND RESOLUTION – EMERGENCY GENERATOR

Village Manager Frobel: I apologize for having to come back before the Board again on this same issue. I was remiss in not remembering that this borrowing resolution requires four members in attendance and all voting to pass it. Because it is eligible for the permissive referendum, that standard is required. Nothing has changed; it is for the purchase and installation of that design build emergency power generator. At the next meeting you are going to hear our recommendation for the award.

Mr. Gonder: Is it a diesel, it is gasoline?

Village Manager Frobel: It will be diesel.

Trustee Armacost: Fran, did you look into other fuels?

Village Manager Frobel: We did.

Trustee Armacost: Elisa had talked about having a backup solar system, which cannot generate enough power, probably.

Village Manager Frobel: It cannot. We looked at it thoroughly from the very beginning, and right up to the last time when we got your authority to bid the product. We researched it again, and there is just not enough power that can be generated from either solar, which has to power up batteries, or from gas, which is in the street. You will hear at the next meeting that we have done a thorough examination and this piece of equipment that we are going to be recommending will do the job.

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 adopt the resolution as attached to authorize the issuance of \$125,000 serial bonds of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, to pay the cost of the purchase and installation of an emergency generator for said Village.

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	

20:14 STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Village Manager Frobel: This is also in the category of I apologize for having to come back again on the same topic. The Village has been the subject of a very thorough examination that began last September, by the New York State controllers office on the pension plan and how we administer it locally. I now have a draft copy of that report which I will be giving you this week. We had our exit conference last week with the staff. It was a three hour conference. If it took almost five months, it certainly deserved three hours of review. Having said that, the matter that is before you tonight is the passage of a resolution that we thought was taken care of last September. This breaks out the two positions held by Raf Zaratzian both as deputy treasurer, because his term runs with the Mayor's office, and the director of technology because his term corresponds to my contract. So although we passed one for Raf a few months ago, we now need to pass this one which breaks out his two positions.

Mayor Swiderski: So my nervousness about the fact that there were slots under the elected officials?

Village Manager Frobel: No, Susan has been handling this for us. You have already passed a number of resolutions setting the standard work day for, all the employees, both for positions that are filled and positions that are simply authorized but unfilled. This is the one

remaining one, we think, for the position that is split between half appointed by me and half appointed by the Mayor.

Trustee Armacost: But is there a difference in the working day?

Village Manager Frobel: No, there is not. The first one you passed had him in one combined position. It was deputy treasurer/director of technology. They now want it broken out. The change is under the term "begins and ends" because the Mayor's term is to 2015 and mine is to July 2014.

Trustee Armacost: But is specifying that a particular number of days has to be worked in one position versus the other, or nothing to do with that?

Village Manager Frobel: No, it is just the standard work that is 7 hours. They need to make certain that that person in that position works 7 hours in those jobs.

Trustee Apel: But if he is down for two positions, that would make it 14 hours.

Village Manager Frobel: That was the question that I was going to ask. How can he possibly do that. But this is exactly the way the staff wants it to appear.

Trustee Apel: That is how they want it to appear?

Trustee Armacost: So it is as if it is two people, then. If this is being used to calculate pensions, then have we not just added another person?

Village Manager Frobel: No, they want it broken out for the term. As you can see, it is from 4-'13 to 6-'15, and then from 7-'11 through 7-'14. So it is more the column the term begins and ends is my understanding.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: There were other positions that you did previously that they broke out the same way. Mine was one, Christopher Janniello because he is not only the court clerk but the director of the traffic violations bureau. That was on the previous resolution that you did. And Gail Hoffman, who is also the assistant director of the traffic violations bureau. It just has to list out these functions for whatever reason, but it does not change anything about how we work or how we are reported.

Trustee Armacost: But there is a redundancy, at least for Raf. I do not know about the others, but there is a period of time where this is an overlap.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: That is true for everybody.

Trustee Armacost: I am talking about the terms, your term versus the Mayor's term. There is an overlap of about a year in there. I mean, it just concerns me that if this is being used to calculate pensions how can it be used in a way that is coherent?

Village Manager Frobel: I cannot explain that.

Trustee Armacost: Or what is it being used for if it is not being used for that? Like what has it been used for?

Village Manager Frobel: It has been used to designate that the deputy treasurer, with a name associated with it, has a term that began on 4-11-'13, the current term, before 6-'15. And then as director of technology, the same individual in this case, has a term from 7-18-'11 through 7-17-'14.

Trustee Armacost: It is fine if it is just about the day he was appointed and the day he finishes with that appointment. But if it is being used for any other purpose than that it is problematic.

Mayor Swiderski: Yes, it seems to result in two positions.

Trustee Jennings: But it is also incoherent or illogical. If the same person holds two positions, then the hours should reflect the proportion of the time.

Village Manager Frobel: So 3 ½ and 3 ½.

Trustee Jennings: To reflect the proportion of the time. If two different people hold these positions, and they are both full-time jobs 7 hours a day, then it should say that. But if the same person holds two full-time jobs that is 14 hours a day. So logically, it does not make any sense. This must be some kind of a technical record-keeping thing that we do not understand.

Mayor Swiderski: Do they provide an audit statement indicating what the positions are that we are being billed for? Is there any way, after we submit this?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: We were told to do it this way by them. This is how the three auditors wanted this reported.

Trustee Apel: If you read the back of the form it says under "standard workday," minimum number of hours that can be established for a standard workday is 6, while the maximum is 8. The standard workday is the denominator to be used for the day's work calculation. It is not necessarily always the number of hours a person works. For example, if a board member is only required to attend one three hour board meeting a month he still establish a standard workday between 6 and 8 hours as the denominator for their day's work calculation.

Trustee Armacost: But that does not help you in terms of what it is used for. All it tells you is how they calculated this. In terms of all the things we get taxed for, it is not very helpful and makes one quite worried about what is going on.

Mayor Swiderski: Let us pass this, but I would love to understand whether we get an audit statement indicating how many positions we are being billed for and to make sure these are not somehow resulting in a double count.

Village Manager Frobel: I will make certain. As I mentioned, starting in September I was incredulous when they first told me they would be here, on average, three days a week all day, three auditors. There were times there were four people working on this from September through just last week. It was the most intense audit we have ever gone through.

Mayor Swiderski: Now, this was the first of its kind in the state, right?

Village Manager Frobel: First of its kind. It is something that is going to be ongoing. I do not know how many municipalities they expect to audit per year, but it is the first and they are going to be going through it with a fine-tooth comb. You will see from the report that some of their findings were every bit as esoteric as this. It is difficult to understand and try to get your arms around as to what can be done differently. A very thorough examination.

Trustee Armacost: Well, wonderful that it was thorough. But not so great that it was esoteric and not understandable.

Village Manager Frobel: They speak an entirely different language than us. I cannot tell you how many hours were spent on the phone with the women there, just trying to understand how to fill out this standard workday resolution. And again, I am back here again passing a resolution that we thought was taken care of to their specifications late last year.

Trustee Armacost: Can we make a formal request asking them to explain in as plain English as they are able to how this document is used, whether it is used for pensions or whether it is used for anything else? That is the thing that concerns me the most.

Mayor Swiderski: I agree.

Village Manager Frobel: Well, it is used for pensions. That is the whole idea.

Trustee Armacost: How can it be used for pensions in any way that is coherent?

Village Manager Frobel: They want you to certify that this gentleman by this position spends a 7-hour workday. That is his standard workday.

Trustee Armacost: But that is not what he does. We know that already.

Village Manager Frobel: What do you mean?

Trustee Armacost: We know he spends, at maximum, 3.5 days in each of those positions.

Village Manager Frobel: It may even be less. Some days he does not do any treasury functions; it is more director of technology.

Trustee Jennings: That, seemingly, is what the thing on the back said. That this has no necessary relationship to the actual hours worked. And at the risk of spending seven hours on this I think we should just approve it and let Fran and Sue clear it up in back channels.

Mayor Swiderski: It is odd, and not encouraging this is the way they choose to get villages to comply with stuff that seven adults here cannot sort out.

Trustee Armacost: I am not wildly in favor of voting for this.

Mayor Swiderski: You can vote against, and we can explain we had somebody vote down because they were uncomfortable. We do not need four votes here, right?

Village Manager Frobel: No.

Trustee Armacost: So I am abstaining then.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: You cannot abstain. You have to vote against it.

Trustee Armacost: OK, I will vote no.

Mayor Swiderski: We have no issue with that. I understand your hesitation. It makes it easier to explain. It was so perplexing that one Boardmember was unhappy.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for elected and appointed officials as attached.

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: At your next meeting you are going to hear from the organizers of the Hastings Flea Market. Staff met with them last week. We worked out an agreement that we think will be acceptable to the Board. They are looking to start in April, so they will be gearing up for that, and they will be running the second Sunday from April through October. They would have been here tonight, but they had a conflict.

This week, Thursday, I have got a preconstruction conference with the county on the Warburton Bridge project. It has been delayed for several weeks. How long a delay it will be I don't know. We have prepared a parking map. At the last meeting we talked about having a map of the downtown area depicting, for motorists, where parking areas will be and what changes we have made to that. That will appear on the Web site. First, I want to hear from the county as to exactly what their plans are and where we stand in that process.

Trustee Apel: Do you remember hearing that they were thinking of not having the mailbox on Southside?

Village Manager Frobel: No. Initially there was some talk early about parking on both sides of the island. But no, it was just on the one side. But even that is on hold until we can sort some things out.

Village Manager Frobel: Staff prepared a comprehensive request for a proposal for legal services. Last Friday they were due in. I am pleased to report we attracted eight very qualified firms in response. Please look over the proposals, and we will set up an evening

where we can interview those firms that you would like to meet.

Mayor Swiderski: Let us go over scheduling now. Let us start with the sergeant interview. This Friday our Police Chief steps down and is replaced by Sergeant Vasali, which opens up his sergeant slot. That is regulated by civil service, like the Chief's position was. The process is selecting the top three off the current civil service list for sergeant. Those three candidates are interviewed, and then the one considered best by the interview board, which consists of the Board of Trustees as well as members of the Police Commission and a couple of members of Village government, then determine which of the three candidates were best. We are scheduling a date for those interviews.

[Discussion of dates]

Village Manager Frobel: Monday, March 10, 6:00 p.m. for the sergeant interviews. The second night we will need is for the Village attorneys, legal services.

[Discussion of dates]

Village Manager Frobel: Attorney interviews on Wednesday, Mar. 19 starting at 6:00 p.m.

Trustee Apel: Are we going to schedule the budget meetings?

Trustee Armacost: It would be good to schedule at least one. The week that is a complicated week is the week of Apr. 14, vacation week? But we need it much before that anyway, do we not, Fran?

Village Manager Frobel: You have the public hearing on Apr. 8. The thought was that same evening we would have a work session on the budget to start.

Trustee Armacost: But do we not need more than that? In the past we have needed more.

Mayor Swiderski: We have always had at least three or four. Do we want to schedule those now?

Trustee Armacost: I think we do. The next week is vacation week, and the budget has to be decided Apr. 29. So the week of Apr. 21 is the only week unless we do another meeting on, say, Apr. 10, which I would suggest is wise.

Trustee Apel: I will not be here.

[Discussion of Dates]

Village Manager Frobel: So Wednesday, Apr. 2, 7:00 p.m. for a budget work session.

Trustee Armacost: Do we want to put another date in?

Mayor Swiderski: I would like to, at least one more.

Trustee Armacost: The other normal time would be Tuesday, Apr. 22, if we cannot do it that day that is my birthday. Can we do it earlier, like Mar. 27?

Village Manager Frobel: We have our DPW kickoff meeting that night.

Trustee Jennings: I have written down that Tuesday, Mar. 25 for a budget work session.

Mayor Swiderski: Tuesday, Mar. 25 then.

Trustee Apel: We have Mar. 10 for the police, Mar. 19 is the legal, Mar. 25 is the budget, Apr. 2 is the budget. You also have Apr. 8, which I am not going to be here for.

Trustee Armacost: Will we have a quorum for Apr. 15? I might not be here that week.

Trustee Apel: I am not going to be here.

Mayor Swiderski: I am here that week. Bruce?

Trustee Jennings: I probably will not be here.

Trustee Apel: The first night of Passover is the 14th, and the second night of Passover is the 15th, so I would respectfully ask if that could be changed to another date.

Trustee Armacost: Are we passing the budget on Apr. 29?

Village Manager Frobel: That is the latest date. I was hoping on Apr. 22.

Trustee Armacost: I would rather it not be that day.

Mayor Swiderski: Let us make it for Apr. 29 and have our meeting then instead of Apr. 15.

Trustee Armacost: But if we have any issues we cannot have another discussion if it is Apr. 29. Are people around on Apr. 23 as possibly the meeting for approving? Otherwise we have left it very late. I am holding Apr. 29. I am not allowing anything else to happen in that time. But if we can solve it on Apr. 23.

[discussion of dates to reschedule Apr. 15 meeting]

Mayor Swiderski: Let us make the regular Board meeting on Apr. 23 and hopefully pass the budget that night.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Proposed Ban on Plastic Bags – Conservation Commission

Jean Hamerman, 32 Frasier Place: Thank you for taking up the legislation proposal to ban the use of plastic bags. The Conservation Commission, along with interested residents and members of Transition Hastings, have been working on the issue for about a year. It is taking a two-prong approach, one around education to reduce voluntarily the use of plastic bags through education activities. We have shown *Bag It* at the Community Center, and we have had tables at the Farmers' Market, and we have talked to merchants and a number of other items. We have also worked with, and participated with, forums with other communities in Westchester.

As the Conservation Commission we did want to propose a ban that would eliminate single-use plastic bag usage in retail stores. There are hundreds of towns and villages, whole countries, that have already banned the bag. We are not on the forefront of this, but it is still an upward curve. We would be the first river town to enact such legislation. The towns of Rye, and the villages of Larchmont in Mamaroneck have passed such bans using similar language to what we have proposed. The Town of Mamaroneck was considering legislation, and got a letter from the Food Industry Alliance believing that the law is unconstitutional and arbitrary and was threatening to sue them. So they have not moved forward, and I did want to bring that to your attention so we would review that language with the Village Attorney to make sure, if we needed to add any additional language to protect ourselves from any adverse eventualities. In the instance of the Village of Mamaroneck, it was the Stop & Shop that was the primary instigator. They do have an A&P in Mamaroneck, and they appeared to be supportive and have complied with the ban.

In preparing the language, we looked at language from a dozen municipalities: Westport, Connecticut, Portland, Oregon, Rye. They are all very short and fairly straightforward. So we have a lot of examples of towns that have enacted using such language. The proposal before you the Conservation Commission approved unanimously. There are a couple of terms that define what a plastic bag is. This would not eliminate laundry bags, produce bags, newspaper bags. It is what we are calling "single-use" bags. The proposal that we have does charge 10 cents for the use of even a recyclable bag like paper, so that we want to incentivize people to start using reusable bags. There would be no charge if someone was buying food

through a government assistance program. The law would not go into effect for six months. And we put in very minimal penalties. In some other legislation there is criminal and jail time. We have minimal fines.

We did add a whole section on expanded polystyrene, also known as Styrofoam. New York City has recently enacted such legislation banning the use of Styrofoam from food establishments and the like. So we thought it would be opportune to add that in at this time, too. There is currently a Hastings ban on municipal use of Styrofoam. This would extend to stores and limit food establishments from selling food or coffee, or packaging material in Styrofoam. Obviously, we would work more closely with the Village lawyer on specific language.

Coco is going to talk about the environmental impact of plastic bags and some of the educational efforts we envision going forward.

Costanza Zordan, Conservation Commission: I think everybody is aware of the toxicity of plastic. Plastic bags are a problem for the environment and for the society because they are not recyclable. Two percent, three percent of the entire amount of plastic bags, the carryout bags, are recycled in the entire world. They are very difficult to recycle because they are very light. If they get mixed with the waste, the normal garbage, they get entangled in the machines and damage the machines, and prevent the normal activity of the facility.

They cost a lot of money, they cost a lot of health to the environment, and we find plastic everywhere: in the oceans, in the landfills, in our water, in the air. So at least plastic bags, which are the item most used in this material, should be reduced. We tried also to educate the community. We talked to the schools, especially the high schools. The teacher, Melissa Chandroff, was very cooperative. She organized screenings and exhibitions on the subject. They had an exhibition recently, on Saturday at the Greenburgh Nature Center, called *I Camera, 2 Hours*. The students were asked to provide pictures or any proof of plastic bags they found in their environment. The results were appalling and interesting. My daughter participated. These are pictures of plastic bags found just around A&P. I checked today. There are even more than a few months ago. Other pictures were taken on the Aqueduct.

We get used to seeing them so we do not realize how much plastic we are piling up in our environment. We had a screening of *Bag It* at the Community Center in October, where we showed a movie about what happens to the plastic bags and how they can affect our health. I am in touch with the Greenburgh Nature Center, which is coordinating also countrywide legislation to at least try to get all the communities and municipalities willing to act in this direction. I know Pleasantville, White Plains, Yonkers and Chappaqua and other towns in Westchester are moving in this direction.

Mayor Swiderski: For the smaller stores, and I think of the stationery or the other stores, what do they swap in instead of plastic? Is it paper?

Ms. Zordan: Our proposal is to provide the paper bags, at least for the first six months. We are going to give a grace period to the merchants to use their storage. And to provide the customer with reusable bags for a charge. I just noticed that the A&P has increased the amount of bags, the reusable bags available, for just 99 cents. So I think people will be more motivated to buy them, instead of paying 10 cents for one single not-reusable bag.

Ms. Hamerman: We have encouraged the stores, in the legislation, to sell reusable bags at the store. That would be something the stationery store could also sell. But yes, it would also be part of the education of reminding people to bring them in.

Mayor Swiderski: Is there a comparison in cost between the paper bag that would be typically used at a stationery store or a delicatessen and a plastic bag?

Ms. Zordan: There are many kinds of paper bags and many kinds of carryout bags and plastic bags. It depends on the size and if they come with pockets, if they are fancy. Usually, paper bags are more expensive than plastic bags. But with the stationery or other stores, they sometimes do not even use the small ones. It depends on what they sell. If it is candy or a pencil or paper you do not need a bag, you just carry it out. There are other stores that do not give you any bags. Like Costco, Ikea the Source, they did not go out of business. They have to adapt. It is a question of changing your mentality which is hard, but it is feasible. In the future, if the legislation goes on, we have a plan to go to the merchants, especially A&P, and try to educate the customers and also educate the sellers, the people at the register. Maybe to set up a booth and prepare a box with free reusable bags. People may be using food coupons, they would be waived from paying if they do not have a bag.

Ms. Hamerman: We also can bring in people from Rye who have been very supportive of trying to expand this, speak about the experience they have had with their merchants, which has been fairly positive. There are a range of stores similar to the stationery store in Rye that have all adopted this.

Trustee Armacost: You are proposing that if paper bags are offered they are offered at a price of 10 cents. I am wondering whether you want to hold off on that requirement and phase that in later. It is not clear to me how you would enforce that. What if people are charging a dollar for the paper bag or are charging less? What is the point of the charging money part is my question.

Ms. Zordan: To force people to bring their own bags.

Trustee Armacost: But if it is paper, your problem is with the plastic bags.

Ms. Zordan: No, I am sorry. The problem is not with plastic bags only. It is with not reusable bags. Paper is also a problem for the environment, the way it is made, prepared with the chemicals. The only benefit about selling paper, it would be only for six months for a grace period. It would just give the people time to get used to bring their own bag. It would be because paper does not stay in the environment forever like plastic. Plastic dissolves, breaks down, but it stays in the environment forever. Instead, paper is biodegradable so at least it is not such a harm for our health.

Trustee Armacost: If the intention is to get rid of it completely, 10 cents is not enough to charge.

Ms. Zordan: So you think it should be more?

Trustee Armacost: I am trying to understand what is going on here, what you are trying to achieve. If what you are trying to achieve is elimination of plastic, then you do not want to be penalizing people for using paper because you want them to use paper. But if you do not want them to do either, then you need to make the penalty for paper severe, as well.

Ms. Zordan: I understand. But since we are giving the time to accommodate people and get used to it, if we compromise we are going to get rid of every single used bag from that point on. So I understand.

Ms. Hamerman: This will stay.

Mayor Swiderski: it does not have a time limit on it.

Ms. Hamerman: Right. No, I am saying we are not eliminating them.

Ms. Zordan: So maybe Niki has a good point.

Ms. Hamerman: Different towns have different options. Some do not even discuss a cost for the recyclable bag. But our goal is to try to encourage people not even to make use of the recyclable bag that is available at checkout.

Trustee Armacost: My feedback is that point is unclear, what your intention is there. I would revisit that, if I were you, and make it go either more one way or the other.

Ms. Hamerman: We do not want to penalize people too much by asking them to pay too much either.

Trustee Armacost: Then I would take out the 10 cents. That is way too hard to monitor. I do not think you want to be having fines for people who are charging too little or too much. It is not clear what you want to do.

Ms. Hamerman: The penalty is only if you use plastic. There is no penalty for using a recyclable bag.

Trustee Armacost: But then people can have the option of not paying 10 cents.

Ms. Zordan: No, the penalty is not on the customers; it would be on the merchants.

Ms. Hamerman: The merchant collects an extra 10 cents for allowing the customer to use one of their recyclable bags.

Trustee Armacost: OK, so it is unclear. My feedback is that that is unclear.

Ms. Hamerman: But the concept of allowing the A&P to charge 10 cents for the use of a recyclable bag, probably paper, you agree with that concept, to make that clear.

Mayor Swiderski: If they want to charge I have no issue with that.

Trustee Armacost: To me, it is irrelevant. I do not know that it needs to be here. That is a choice they make. If they want to charge 10 cents that is up to them. If they want to give it away for free, if they want to charge five dollars, that is their choice.

Ms. Hamerman: So we will scan again the other legislation and talk to some of the other towns, and we will revisit that point.

Trustee Armacost: The other one is the restrictions on Styrofoam containers. It seems as if you do not have a problem if the A&P is receiving food that is being put in those containers by someone else. Is this just about the deli section, where they are packing it themselves?

Ms. Hamerman: That is correct. It would be two things: one, for food establishments that they would not serve coffee or take-out food in Styrofoam, and they would not then repackage things. And they would not use it as loose-fill packaging. So if somebody here was shipping things they would not have that as an option to use those. But we are not going to make the A&P unload all its meat products and use a different method.

Ms. Zordan: Plastic bags will be allowed. They would still be provided and free. So if you need to put your meat and fish and produce in a plastic bag you would still be able to do it. But about the charge, I would put the charge because people would use a paper bag at that point and they would not be so motivated to buy a reusable bag. I read many legislations, and most of them they put the charge on the biodegradable bags. You can look at San Francisco, other towns in California. Portland, East Hampton, West Hampton and Westport, they all put a charge.

Trustee Armacost: My question was a very practical question. If you are in the meat section, that meat has been put in those little Styrofoam containers by the A&P, not by someone else. So how are you going to get your meat home from the A&P?

Ms. Zordan: In the past, they did not use Styrofoam. They used paper; waxed paper first, and then paper around. That is what they do in Whole Foods.

Trustee Armacost: I think you might have to make recommendations, then.

Ms. Zordan: But you are right. How can you detect if the Styrofoam is provided by A&P or by an external provider? I would ban Styrofoam because not only it is bad for the environment once you use it, but it is bad for your health when you eat the food contained in the Styrofoam. You can smell it. So I would be 100 percent for banning completely Styrofoam. But that, we copied from New York State. We can maybe go more radical

Trustee Apel: Are there medical studies that show that the Styrofoam has permeated the food?

Ms. Zordan: Not even plastic, you are not so sure. They are starting now to say if you put plastic in the microwave it can be toxic for you.

Trustee Apel: But that is not my question. My question is if there are actual studies. We are not scientists and doctors here, and we do not have proof. We cannot just say we think, we feel.

Ms. Hamerman: Those are excluded under where it says "Restriction on Styrofoam Containers, where A says that this subsection shall not apply to expended polystyrene containers used for prepackaged foods that have been filled and sealed prior to receipt in service, and also used to store raw, butchered meats." So those would be excluded.

Trustee Apel: I think you work on it at this point, and once we are successful this way then the people will come in and say I can't buy this because it's on there. That would put added pressure on. So you do this in steps.

Ms. Hamerman: The language on the polystyrene containers comes from the New York City council, which recently approved and passed this legislation for New York City. So they probably did the research both in terms of its impact on the environment and health.

Trustee Jennings: I would like to return to the checkout bags, and put the Styrofoam section aside for a moment. The way I read the draft, the paper bag option will be there always. And we are getting to the point where people can use paper bags that the A&P supplies, or they can purchase and bring their own reusable bags. We have two goals here. One is, we want to eliminate the plastic bags that are seen in those pictures. We want to tell the merchants not to offer those bags to their customers anymore, neither for free nor for a charge. We are banning them. We are allowing them to offer paper bags. We hope that people will change their behavior so they will use few, if any, paper bags and will use the reusable containers. I think that first, getting rid of the plastic bags is the proper role of legislation to prohibit them. That is a ban. Changing behavior in the second way is an educational process. I do not think it lends itself, at least not at this moment, to legislative prohibitions.

That brings us to Niki's practical point about what to do about the paper. If you do not want paper in the environment either, or plastic, then you have to ban the paper, too. That would be problematic. If you want to encourage people not to use the paper, putting in the law that the merchant shall charge no less than 10 cents for the paper option is a mistake. It will create unnecessary political opposition to this. The merchants, if they have to pay more to buy paper bags than they do now to buy plastic bags, they will simply pass the cost along to the customer.

I would favor allowing the paper option, not having a stipulation about how it should be paid for or how much it should cost, and using other educational means to try to get people to forego paper and use reusable containers instead, over time. It would serve the same purposes and it would be more logical. Paying a dime for bags that you used to get for free is just a nuisance. It is an irritant that is unnecessary. It does not help us achieve our environmental goals. We need to go back and look at paper, and say is this acceptable to us environmentally or not. IF it is not, we should ban it. Not charge for it, just ban it. But if that is not necessary or prudent, then we ought to allow the paper option.

Right now, I favor that. I am old enough to remember when there was not anything in the grocery stores except paper bags. I do not know where these little white plastic things came

from. I did not ask for them. They were generated by market forces. They were cheaper, somebody made them and they got them. So nowadays, you cannot find a paper bag. Even if you want one it is very difficult in the A&P to get a paper bag.

Ms. Zordan: They hide them, yes, because they are more expensive.

Trustee Jennings: I favor this kind of law because we as a community should say, nobody asked our permission to make this change, you guys just did it, and look at the results. Stop it. We have some say in the kind of containers that we are offered in our daily lives. I do not think my quality of life has been improved one iota in the last 10 or 15 years by having the paper bags disappear and these plastic bags appear in their place. My quality of life is worse, as evidenced by the environmental effects. We do not even need to get into debates about the health effects. The environmental effects alone are enough to warrant our community pushing back against this.

Therefore I favor this approach. I now want to tailor it so it is publicly acceptable, so we have a two-step process. We ban what needs to be banned now. You cannot do it even if you want to pay for it. That is what a ban means. And then we do a more gradual transformation of behavior through education and information so that eventually we would get rid of paper bags also, but that is a longer-term process.

Trustee Apel: The only other thing that is not on here are the plastic containers. They have tops and bottoms. That is not addressed.

Ms. Zordan: They would be still available.

Trustee Apel: I do remember Chinese restaurant take-outs, where you get those cardboard things with little handles on them. Now you get plastic bottoms and tops and snaps, which is supposedly to keep everything from dripping all over the place.

Ms. Zordan: We can add that to the ban if you want.

Ms. Hamerman: What you were saying is important, that at some point people will say I do not want to buy this product because of how it is packaged. That is what will tick this.

Mayor Swiderski: I am in accord with what Bruce said. A cost per bag is unnecessary at this point. Companies will either choose to eat it or oppose it. The big offender is the A&P, and I suspect they will try to move to recyclable bags. At this point, do we want to wait for modification and review it again, or schedule a public hearing? Our specific request is pretty straightforward.

Ms. Hamerman: I just have to change one or two other words and type it.

Trustee Armacost: Yes, I think we are all in agreement.

Trustee Apel: Yes, just take out that charge.

Mayor Swiderski: Do we want to schedule it for next meeting?

Ms. Hamerman: We did have a table at the Farmers' Market for about 3 to 4 hours and collected about 150 signatures in favor, which we can submit to you as well.

Trustee Jennings: Is there enough time to change the language of the draft so we can get it out for a public hearing?

Mayor Swiderski: Can you do that by the end of the week?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: I think our own attorney has to do this.

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, Marianne has to do it.

Village Attorney Stecich: Yes, this has to be put into a local law format. When you call for the public hearing you are supposed to have the law in place.

Mayor Swiderski: Then maybe we do not need to jump ahead quite so far. Let us first see the legal language, take one last look at it, and then schedule the public hearing.

Village Attorney Stecich: So why do you not make the changes you want to make and then send it to me in a document and I will fix it up, although there were a couple of legal questions you wanted looked into.

Ms. Hamerman: I can go over those with you.

Village Attorney Stecich: You had raised the concern about the Town of Mamaroneck.

Ms. Hamerman: This is a copy of the letter, from the Food Industry Alliance if you want to take a look at their objections.

Mayor Swiderski: We will discuss it at the next meeting and schedule it for a public hearing.

2. Fire Department Capital Plan and Fire Alarm Local Law

Village Manager Frobel: I have asked the fire chiefs to be here tonight to talk about several topics, one of which is the alarm system, the amendment to the local law that has gone through a couple of drafts. Also, we thought we would talk about a proposed switch and how we go about dispatching calls for fire services, relying on Westchester County to perform that service for us. Also the capital improvement needs. The department is looking for a replacement fire truck for next fiscal year. That would not be contained in the operating budget. It would come to you late summer, early autumn when I generally propose capital improvement needs. And then if time allows a discussion on the proposed purchase of a hydraulic lift for the ambulance. .

Mayor Swiderski: Chief, before you start I want to acknowledge the loss of Captain Osborn and the service he performed for the community. It was almost 50 years in the department, right?

Fire Chief Russak: Forty-seven, I believe it was.

Mayor Swiderski: I want to extend our condolences to the department. That is a truly dedicated member.

Fire Chief Russak: Thank you.

What we would like to do, and we are in the process of working with Westchester County fire control, is having them do our dispatching of all fire calls. We think it is in the best interest of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, the Fire Department and the general safety of all. It will also help the Police Department. We have had discussions with them to advise them of the situation, and they seem to have a somewhat positive light on it.

The main reasons for it is, we are going to get a dedicated dispatcher. Right now, we are dispatched by Hastings police. They also have to take care of their own people, plus any calls coming in. There is usually one person on the desk. If he has got multiple things going on, sometimes there is a loss in communication. A good example of that was the Edmarth fire the other day. We were trying to dispatch an ambulance to the site, and there was a lot going on and it took quite a while to get it because they were busy and it was a loss of time. So we would have a dedicated dispatcher by county fire control.

Let me state that 49 of the 58 fire departments in Westchester County currently are dispatched by Westchester fire control. If you eliminate the four major cities of New

Rochelle, White Plains, Mount Vernon and Yonkers have their own systems, 49 of the 54 departments are dispatched from county fire control. Irvington is in the process of doing it as well as Tarrytown, and Dobbs Ferry is a little bit behind. The only one that does not have it is Ossining, and they have their own dispatching system. The majority of them work through the other departments. They say it is working very well.

Another reason is, we are going to get more complete information from the dispatch at county fire control. Police, again, could only give us so much. The dispatchers in Westchester County will have a multitude of information. They can give us cross streets, they can give us hydrant locations. They have a GPS map, they can give us specific areas. For example, if we are going up on the top of Mt. Hope Boulevard and you tell me I have a call on Lincoln Avenue, when I get up to Mt. Hope do I go right or left. This dispatcher with a GPS is going to know. They will also have information about current hazards, where there is a chemical hazard, where there is an animal hazard. This is information we would provide to them, which they would give us on dispatch.

Quicker response of additional resources. A good example of that, again, would be the Edmarth fire. Upon arrival, it was determined we needed a second alarm mutual aid. We used the county radio to call county. Within 30 seconds we had units being dispatched. If we did it the old way, we would have to call the police who would turn to county, who would call somebody else. This is done instantaneously. They have at their fingertips other resources, if necessary. If I have a hazmat incident or I need a high-tech or some specialized equipment, it is just two words away. I give them a certain code and it is already en route. The calls if they come into Hastings, either 911 or a fire call, would be at the switch. There would be a button down, a transfer switch which they currently have, and it would transfer it to the county for dispatch. This way it takes it off the police. They can do what they need to do. The lag time is 1.2 seconds from the time he hits that button until the county gets it.

Also, the dispatchers at county are EMD-trained. What that means is emergency medical dispatch. Each of the people up there that work dispatch they are trained 12 to 14 months before they even get near that radio. They get medical training. So if it is an ambulance call that is needed, they can make the determination by a series of questions whether it is advanced life support or basic life support call. As it stands now, we have an ambulance call, they contact Greenburgh police who sends a paramedic. If the ambulance crew gets en route and they decide they do not need it, they have to cancel it. This will eliminate that unnecessary run for the Greenburgh paramedic, who might be needed at another location. If there is a serious incident, through this EMD training they can walk the caller through some things like how to do CPR, how to do a Heimlich, until the emergency medical people get there. It will definitely be a cost savings for the Village. Currently we have what they call "e-dispatch." When an alarm is toned out it goes over people's cell phones. Not the

greatest system in the world, it works it does not work, but it is a cost to the Village. Also, each and every alarm that we go to I have to file a state report. Currently, we pay a licensing fee for the programming that we have now. At the end of the year I have to bundle it together and send it to the state. That is an adventure in itself.

Both of these services would be provided by Westchester County fire control at no cost to the Village. Their e-dispatch is much more effective. If you have a smartphone, not only will you get the dispatch, you will get a GPS signal and you will get all the vital information over your phone. Something that I think some of the neighbors here might like, there is going to be less horn activity. Currently we operate the fire horn between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. The county would take over the horn system, they could control it from up there. Their protocol calls for 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. So we are eliminating a couple extra hours. However, as an incident commander I do have the opportunity if I need to to ask them to put the horn in. It is our protocol that if there is a confirmed working fire or serious incident in the quiet hours I still have the authorization to order the alarm and order the horn in to make that dispatch. Again, times during Hurricane Sandy that came in very handy because we had electrical failures, the systems were down, and the horn worked.

Hastings police would not lose any of their capabilities. They would still be able to dispatch us if they need us for minor calls. They will monitor the calls with their radio and, once we are dispatched from county control, they in turn will contact HPD as a courtesy to let them know what we are doing and where we are going. So the PD is not going to be left out of it. They will be monitoring, they will be aware of what is going on, and they still have the capabilities to use the radios and/or contact us or page us out as they see fit.

So that is our transfer to 60 Control. We have started the process. The past protocol was if Westchester County received a 911 call they, in turn, would call Hastings police who in turn would dispatch us out. We have agreed with them as a training session to go direct dispatch. So if a 911 call or any type of call comes in to Westchester County involving the Village of Hastings they direct dispatch us and then notify PD. A good example of that was Saturday or Sunday, 406 Warburton, gas leak. We had to evacuate an eight-family apartment. That was a direct dispatch for country control. The whistles never went off, and we had a full response. .

Trustee Armacost: This is a fantastic consolidation-type effort. It seems like a smart way to be cooperating with another entity. I was very interested in whether you had been able to quantify the cost savings to the Village through the elimination of those two systems.

Fire Chief Russak: I believe it is going to be somewhere in the range of \$3,000 to \$5,000. I do not have an exact figure because e-dispatch changes. Each call we get a charge. So if

one day we have five calls, we get five charges. Also, we have, with the ESS dispatches, daily tests between 6:15 and 6:30 in the evening. Any call at that time is not charged. But because sometimes the PD gets busy or they forget or something happens, they are calling outside that range and we are getting hit with charges. So again, last year we had 930 calls. We are up to well over 200 right now, we are only in March.

Trustee Apel: It sounds great. I would be interested to know how many dispatchers they have in the county.

Fire Chief Russak: They have, at any one time, six dispatchers on duty. If they have a serious event coming, let us say a hurricane, they will bring in more people. They could have upwards of 12 people.

Trustee Apel: And that is 24/7.

Fire Chief Russak: Yes, 24/7.

Mayor Swiderski: So why is there less horn activity?

Fire Chief Russak: That is their protocol up there established through whatever jurisdictions they have been working with. I would prefer the 6 a.m. Actually, I would prefer 24 hours. The old days we had the coded numbers, but to try to appease some of the folks around here we have cut that back. But we would still have the option, after 7 or before 7, if it was deemed necessary by the incident commander.

Mayor Swiderski: I do not see a reasonable downside. What does the Hastings Police Department say about this?

Village Manager Frobel: They have been supportive. The Chief came to myself and the Chief in the fall and briefed us on this when they were beginning to research. The department has gone about it in a thorough, thoughtful way. They have not rushed into this. As indicated in the memorandum I gave the Board in December summarizing this change, we support it. It is something that will work, something that had been talked about years ago but for whatever reason had been shelved. We are glad to see it come back for all the right reasons. There is no action on the part of the Board. The Chief and I agreed that because this was a change not in policy but administration of the department, we wanted the Board to be fully informed. Again, there have been a couple of dry runs, as I recall.

Fire Chief Russak: Several.

Village Manager Frobel: Several, and it has worked out quite well.

Trustee Jennings: I agree. It sounds like an improvement, a very good idea. I hope you do it soon because I do not want us to be the last village in Westchester County to do it.

Fire Chief Russak: We will not. A lot of them are behind us. This process is going to take anywhere from four to six months to complete because of the volume of information we have to provide the county in terms of dispatching, where it goes, what side of town, if there is an ambulance call or an accident. We have to break down units, we have to give them information about the hazards in the area.

Mayor Swiderski: Regarding the ambulance calls, we have had a couple of times where it is hard to find a crew. Does this allow the county to more quickly reroute those calls elsewhere if need be?

Fire Chief Russak: Yes. They go by the New York State protocol. They have what they call a three minute response. They will put out the first tone, wait three minutes, put out a second tone and wait three more, put out a third tone. If that does not respond, then they will go immediately to mutual aid. They have used this protocol with several volunteer ambulances through the county. Hastings and Elmsford are the only fire departments in Westchester County that run an ambulance. All the other ambulance services in the county are private or separate entities. A lot of them in the northern county are dispatched through county fire control.

[HORN AND ALARM GO OFF DURING MEETING]

Mayor Swiderski: You planned that.

Fire Chief Russak: 422, that is one of our nuisance alarms, which we will be discussing shortly. Very appropriate, I guess we should go into the alarms now?

We were given a copy of the proposed new alarm code coming in. We greatly appreciate your efforts in this. However, there were several points we would like to make and you would really have to pay attention to them. I see, throughout, the word "system" has been struck from this. You are describing the word "device" instead. Based on what is put into this proposed code, you are looking for the registration of these alarms. If you leave in the system the word "device" instead of "systems," that means every battery-operated device in Hastings would have to be registered. Very impractical, does not make any sense. The word "system" must be put in there. At the end of it, we tacked on NFPA-72, which is the description of the alarms and what type of alarms. They specifically use the word "system." A system is defined as a monitored system, such as 422 Warburton or your own private

residence. A device is a part of the system. So therefore, the word "system" must be placed back into this proposal. Without it, it is a little crazy. Everybody has a battery.

Also, under the word "registration" it noted that the system, or device or whatever you want to put in there, has to be approved by either the police or the Fire Chief. That needs to be struck. The police or Fire Chief should not have any input as to what type of alarm system an individual chooses to put in their home. If you leave that in there you are opening the police and Fire Chief, as well as the Village, to some serious liability. If I approve an alarm as Fire Chief and it malfunctions or something happens and it goes bad, it comes after me because I approved it. Then they come after you because you put it in the law. Anything that has to do with the Police Chief or the Fire Chief having any decisions or inputs into alarm systems cannot be put in there. That opens up too much of a liability.

You have also section 86-6, where it says "false alarms prohibited." That entire section had been struck. I think that needs to be put back in. That particular wording in there gives the enforcement the meat it needs. Without that, this is not really an enforceable law from what we have been reading about it.

Village Attorney Stecich: Should I explain this, this one in particular? I assume you have not talked to Chief Bloomer about this.

Fire Chief Russak: No, we have not. This was given to us from a fire perspective.

Village Attorney Stecich: Most of these changes came from Chief Bloomer. The problem they had with the law is that the way it is written now is, the prosecutor would have to prove that the alarm went off negligently; very difficult to prove. It is not a *res ipsa loquitur*, like you know it if you find it, like if there is a mouse in the Coke bottle it had to be done by the Coke company. The only way a false alarm could be penalized is by going through the court system. The point here was to try to come up with a system that if you got a false alarm you have to pay. It is not a violation that has to be prosecuted in court. If there is a false alarm, you have to pay. That was why that section came out, and then why the fees for false alarms were put in. It is a false alarm if it is a false alarm, and nobody has to prove whether it was negligent, intentional or anything else. It just happens. The Chief had proposed that you get two or three freebies.

Fire Chief Russak: A false alarm I believe would have to be proved in terms of negligence. For example, a fire alarm system is determined to set off a fire. If you set it off from the steam from your shower, then you are negligent because you did not fix the fan in your shower and you created steam which creates a false alarm. That is negligence.

Village Attorney Stecich: OK, but the point is the prosecutor would have to convince the court of that.

Fire Chief Russak: I will invite the prosecutor to roll with me at three in the morning then.

Village Attorney Stecich: You cannot. The point of this was to make it easier to go after false alarms.

Trustee Armacost: And also to shift it from prosecution to charging fees.

Village Attorney Stecich: From going to court, to recouping what is the real cost to the police department and the fire department having to go out.

Trustee Armacost: So the idea is that it creates a more effective deterrent by charging fees. If it is whatever, \$300 for the first offense, once it got to \$900 they are going to stop it.

Village Attorney Stecich: Whatever you decide on your fee structure. Then you would only end up going to court if you do not pay your fees.

Fire Chief Russak: From our perspective, we would like to see that put back in. You have your legal means, but from our understanding and our reading of this.

Village Attorney Stecich: It is really, frankly, not a legal means. It was a change I was asked to make because, practically, the way the law was written it was not working.

Fire Chief Russak: OK. The other point we would like to make is something you would definitely need to take out. Under section 86-5, the useful false alarm, disconnection of alarms/devices. Section A of that is fine, but section B, having the police or fire chief order the disconnect of a faulty alarm of more than six, you cannot do that. New York State fire code will not allow you to do that. You cannot force a person to disconnect an alarm. It opens up a tremendous liability. There are sections under New York State fire code called impairment procedures, which the fire chief on scene can order the person to do. You can put the alarm in trouble and call your alarm system. You can order a fire watch, which mean every 15 minutes that facility has to be patrolled and logged in every 15 minutes. Impairment procedures is terminology used by the New York State fire code. You cannot order a person to shut the alarm off. Again, if something happens afterward you are creating a tremendous liability.

Mayor Swiderski: I think that is probably right.

Village Attorney Stecich: That was put in there, but I think the Board had trouble with that the last time anyway.

Fire Chief Russak: Again, under "penalties," section 86-7, section B-1 under penalties, you have up to \$250. We broke it down, and \$250 seems like a very significant hit for the third time up. So we proposed a different fee system. I did not use the word "fine," I used the word "fee." One and two, you get your warning; third one \$100; fourth one \$125; and it doubles up after six, it is \$1,000 a shot. If a person is willing to pay \$1,000 a shot, then they have a big problem. It graduates up. This way, you are hitting them a little more each time and, hopefully, the message will get through. Also, under section 86-8, installation and maintenance. Again, you have the words "designated by the Police Chief or Fire Chief." Again, that must be struck. The Police and Fire Chief should not have any say whatsoever in what type of an alarm system, or the approval, or anything like that. There is too much government interference now. This again is creating a tremendous liability if you put the Police and Fire Chief involved with this. Those are the suggestions that we came up with from the fire service perspective. Police, I am sure, have a different look at it.

Village Attorney Stecich: Every one of these things just about, was addressed by Chief Bloomer and came down a different way for the incidence of registration.

Mayor Swiderski: Well, registration is one thing. But permitting one system over another, why would you want to do that?

Village Attorney Stecich: Where does it say that?

Mayor Swiderski: The wording of registration.

Village Attorney Stecich: It just says you should register it. Apparently, it is not being done now, but the Chief thought it was a good idea.

Trustee Armacost: I think it is just the form is approved, not the device. The way I read it, a registration on a form supplied by and approved by.

Mayor Swiderski: The format of the form, not the actual device.

Fire Chief Russak: OK, because that was not very clear in the copy I had.

Village Attorney Stecich: Registration of alarm device shall be filed with the Village Clerk on forms supplied by the Village Clerk. The form is supplied by the Village.

Fire Chief Russak: Yes, I agree with that. But having the Police or Fire Chief involved in that, we should not be involved in that.

Mayor Swiderski: It is the form that is being approved, not the application.

Fire Chief Russak: Again, in my copy that is not very clear. I was just going by what was given to me.

Village Attorney Stecich: On the registration you can just say a registration on a form supplied by the Village.

Trustee Armacost: It does not need to be approved by them.

Village Attorney Stecich: What is there now, and there is no reason that you could not have that right after Village Clerk.

Trustee Jennings: Developed with the input of the chiefs.

Village Attorney Stecich: I do not think there is a problem adding that.

Trustee Armacost: I am trying to understand what the problem in 86-8, the installation and maintenance of the alarm system or device permitted by this chapter, including the connections to locations designated by the Police Chief or Fire Chief. What does that even mean? You are objecting to the locations being designated?

Fire Chief Russak: I am not objecting to the designation. I am objecting to the fact that you are putting me and the Police Chief in a term of liability. We should not have any say as to how those alarms are put in. If you are hiring somebody to put in a system, you are assuming there is a professional unit coming in and placing it in appropriate areas.

Village Attorney Stecich: This is not where it is installed in your house, but where it connects to. Does the alarm connect to the police department?

Fire Chief Russak: The alarm is not connected to the police department. An alarm system is connected to a central station. That central station will call the dispatcher, whoever is designated as dispatcher, that there is a burglar, fire, smoke, whatever the situation is.

Village Attorney Stecich: Right. And who decides what the central location is?

Fire Chief Russak: The person putting in the alarm system. If you call ADT or you call Slomins they will work with you and tell you how and where it is going to work. I should not have any say in that whatsoever.

Village Attorney Stecich: That is currently in the law. I do not think anything is hurt by taking it out. The installation and maintenance of the alarm system permitted by this chapter shall be made at no cost to the Village.

Mayor Swiderski: Yes, I agree.

Fire Chief Russak: Anything that is in here that says "designated by the Police or Fire Chief" needs to be struck.

Village Attorney Stecich: Well, sometimes it cannot be.

Trustee Armacost: A little bit further down it also needs to be changed.

Village Attorney Stecich: Yes, it is necessary to change the location. But I would like to check with Chief Bloomer before we strike that. It may have a meaning, a purpose, that is not obvious. It has been in the law so I am a little uncomfortable about taking out things that have been in the law. I have to assume there was some purpose for it at some point.

Mayor Swiderski: I understand the Chief's desire to see that struck. I do not see why we would care if ADT changes a location. And, clearly, it should come at no cost to the Village.

Village Attorney Stecich: I do not know exactly how it works, but I could see that should ADT decide where it is going to ring maybe might not the police or the fire department want to know where it comes in.

Fire Chief Russak: We have a pretty good knowledge of it because we work a lot with these alarm companies. The way it works now is, when that alarm goes off in your house, it goes to central station. Central station will contact a dispatcher that you, as the homeowner, provide.

Village Attorney Stecich: Where is central station, and who runs it?

Fire Chief Russak: It could be anywhere.

Village Attorney Stecich: Who runs central station?

Fire Chief Russak: ADT runs their own, Slomins runs their own. So it automatically goes to a call center. They, in turn, get the address. The address indicates a dispatcher. They contact whether it police, fire, county, whatever the call is. They, in turn, contact them with the problem. From that point, either police, fire or EMS are dispatched.

Mayor Swiderski: I cannot imagine why we could not strike it, but check with the Police Chief.

Fire Chief Russak: And as far as moving alarms goes, again it is up to the individual and their alarm company. We have suggested to folks to move a smoke head because it is too close to a bathroom or too close to a kitchen.

Village Attorney Stecich: This is not focused on where it is in the house. This is focused on where the alarm rings into.

Fire Chief Russak: As I explained, when you have an alarm system in your house, and whatever the company is, whether it is ADT or Slomins or John Doe, when that triggers off it goes to their call center. And they, in turn, contact the appropriate agency. Very simple.

Trustee Jennings: It sounds like these systems are f unregulated in a Wild West kind of situation. Is there no building code or no electrical code or any code that pertain to this type of system so that substandard junk systems that do not work, they go off when they are not supposed to be going off, is there no quality control standard? Is it just I am going to buy a contract with ADT and hope their product is a good product?

Fire Chief Russak: There is none that we are aware of.

Trustee Jennings: So that may be a broader thing to think about in terms of this problem of false alarms, if we could improve the quality of these devices.

Mayor Swiderski: That is not ours to do.

Trustee Jennings: It is not ours to do, but there is a lot of interaction now between the state of New York and municipalities about all kinds of code things. I am interested in the environmental stuff. But it may be that if our problem is there is a lot of cheap and malfunctioning systems out there that are sending off too many false alarms, one way to get at it is to try give a fee to people. But another way to get at it is to try to regulate these industries more effectively.

Fire Chief Russak: That would probably have to be done on a state level. It could not be done here. It just would not work.

Trustee Jennings: Maybe the state association of fire departments could weigh in, because you guys bear the brunt of it at the ground level.

Fire Chief Russak: Our lobbyists in Albany have been talking about things like and many other things for years and, apparently, it is not a strong enough lobby. We do not donate enough, I guess.

Trustee Armacost: To that point, I think it also depends on whether you are getting repeat offenders. I think what you had said was that there were a few households and other establishments which were repeat offenders.

Fire Chief Russak: Yes, that is correct.

Trustee Armacost: And what we are trying to deal with here is finding a way to address the repeat offenders.

Assistant Fire Chief Lindner: We just came from 422 Warburton. That building has numerous alarms. The smoke detector system works the way it is designed to work. The building itself was designed with no ventilation, so when people cook even if they do not burn it but smoke comes from their food, it is not the smoke detectors or the alarm systems or the alarm company. It is the design of the building. There are no vent fans in any of the stoves. So we go there numerous times a week. Is it the homeowner, or is it the person who built the building? So it is not always the alarm. Sometimes it is the design of the building. All alarm installers in New York State are licensed by the state.

Fire Chief Russak: Thanks, John. John has got quite an expertise in alarm systems. He works with them every day. I do have a question which I would like to propose to legal. If and when this code is adopted, it covers the Village of Hastings. We are contracted by the Town of Greenburgh to cover the Donald Park fire district. A lot of our problem alarms are in that particular district. My question is, since the area that we cover under contract is designated by the Town of Greenburgh as the Donald Park fire district, is it possible for their legislators to adopt this code specifically for the Donald Park fire district?

Village Attorney Stecich: What would probably make more sense is, when you do that contract every couple of years, make it part of the contract with them that under the contract these same provisions would apply.

Fire Chief Russak: That is where we predominantly have a problem. We have most of our problem alarms over there: the golf course region, Donald Drive we have one person up there that they would be up to a thousand dollars if you followed by fee code already.

Mayor Swiderski: Assistant Chief Lindner brings up a very interesting point regarding 422. It is not a faulty alarm, and it is not an actual fire, so it is an artifact of the building design. What can the owner do after his first thousand dollars in fines to avoid what sounds like it will be a steady series of fines if the building is structured in a way that he does not vent. What can he do?

Assistant Fire Chief Lindner: In the case of 422 Warburton, the damage is already done. The building is built. The people in it did not build it. They are stuck with what they have, which is a lack of ventilation. Most private homes nowadays, and even apartments, have them. Even in that building you could install a standalone vent fan. They have them with filters, where they do not have an exhaust but they suck in the smoke and whatever is generated from your cooking. It goes through a filter and then kicks the air back in. There are no vents that go out of the building.

Mayor Swiderski: At least trap some of the particulates out.

Assistant Fire Chief Lindner: Correct, reduce it. If somebody really burns something it is still going to generate enough smoke to activate an alarm. But in this case, the people have nothing. They just have a room, the guy has to open his windows when he cooks. We go there I cannot say how many times a week. It is not the people who live there, it is not the alarm system. It is that they neglected this area. Whether there should have been vent fans that would then exhaust the smoke and whatever to the exterior of the building or even, at this point, installing one of the ones that have a filter. Moderate cooking, it would reduce the smoke load or anything that would activate a fire alarm and maybe reduce our calls.

Village Attorney Stecich: Is that not required by the fire code?

Assistant Fire Chief Lindner: I did not build that building.

Village Attorney Stecich: But it is a new building.

Assistant Fire Chief Lindner: But who built it? Is it the state, is it federal money, was it federal code, state code?

Trustee Armacost: Is it condominiums, or is it rental units?

Village Attorney Stecich: It is rentals.

Trustee Armacost: It is rentals so the landlord should be responsible then.

Assistant Fire Chief Lindner: That is the affordable housing building.

Trustee Jennings: A thousand dollars, at a certain point, for each occurrence would add up.

Trustee Armacost: Would create an incentive.

Trustee Jennings: To put in ventilation.

Trustee Apel: But the fine is going to go to the person who is renting. The apartment, not the landlord. Why would it go to the landlord?

Village Attorney Stecich: I would think, generally, it would go to the person where the alarm is.

Trustee Armacost: It should be to the owner of the building.

Village Attorney Stecich: Why? I mean, forget this building. Let us say it is another kind of rental building and the false alarm happens because the person is being sloppy. They leave the stove on and they go take a shower. Why is that the landlord's fault?

Trustee Jennings: You make a determination of what is causing the false alarms and then you assess the fee accordingly. This sounds like an owner's problem, not a renter's problem.

Fire Chief Russak: Any other questions for us, or we can move on to the next stage?

Trustee Armacost: I think if you have not had a chance to speak to Chief Bloomer or the new Chief, it may be that it is important to have a direct conversation just about differences of opinion to see whether they have a valid argument.

Fire Chief Russak: Yes, I will get hold of Chief Vasalli coming in. Again, they are looking at it from a burglar alarm point of view, and I am looking at it from the fire service. So our perspectives are going to be much different.

Mayor Swiderski: Either way, a false alarm is a problem.

Trustee Armacost: But it is fantastic that you are addressing this. How much do you think it will reduce the number of calls?

Fire Chief Russak: Again, it depends on the meat of the enforcement side. If you make it strong enough, it should, after a couple hits of the pocketbook, make a big difference. If there is no enforcement it is a waste of time even bringing it up anywhere. It depends on how this law is written and how much meat is involved in the enforcement. That is our concern.

Trustee Armacost: I like your graduated fee structure. I think you are a bit lenient on 4, 5 and 6. I think they should be higher numbers myself.

Fire Chief Russak: Again, it is up to your discretion. I have just made a suggestion.

Mayor Swiderski: The question is, who is the likely target of these things. If you think it is an office-apartment building owner I agree with you. If it is a private individual it is going to hurt after awhile.

Trustee Armacost: But that is the point. The point is that it hurts so they fix their problem.

Fire Chief Russak: Again, as Chief Lindner said, it is something you may want to discuss. Because if it is a design fault of the building, which this appears to be, then maybe it is the landlord that should take the hit, whereas if it is a private individual or a private home, then obviously it is going to be the homeowner.

Mayor Swiderski: The profile of the multiple false alarms, I know you do not have the stats in front of you. But can you characterize them in some fashion? That half are commercial establishments and half are private homes, or most are in apartment buildings? Can you give us a rough sense of who the repeat offenders are?

Fire Chief Russak: I would probably say it is 60-40 residential.

Mayor Swiderski: And of those residential, are they largely private homes or largely apartments, taking 422 out of the equation?

Fire Chief Russak: Even with 422 in the equation, it is private homes, private residences.

Mayor Swiderski: So private residences are really the repeat offenders.

Fire Chief Russak: Yes. And when we go in there a second or third time we do make suggestions to them. If you move your head over here, if you fix your fan here and make it work, you are not going to see us anymore. A lot of it is cooking. People just do not know how to cook in this town.

Mayor Swiderski: Well, I met you all for the first time when I burnt my steak. And you were on my front lawn in three minutes. So I understand that. It only happened once, though. It was embarrassing.

Fire Chief Russak: You made the proper remedy. I am proud of you.

The next thing now we will go into the capital plan, the new engine. I will turn that over to Chief Bannon, who has all the details. One comment I would like to make about that, and also a prelude to the upcoming budget where there is equipment money we will be asking for, keeping up to date and keeping modern up to date units here directly corresponds to everybody's insurance rates here. We have an ISO rating of three. The ISO is Insurance Service Organization. They rate the different fire districts throughout the country. Hastings is in the 97th percentile in the nation for a positive rating. A number three rating is the highest possible rating a volunteer fire department can get. That directly correlates to the type of equipment we have and a number of other things. But the equipment is a very important aspect, and that is why we try to keep everything up to date.

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: We are looking now to replace our 1991 Pierce pumper, which has served us very well. It was delivered in 1991 and has been in service 23 years, 8 months. It had a brand-new ECM, computer diagnostic system, put out by Detroit Diesel. What this was, if there was what they used to call an "idiot light" on the dashboard would go off, instead of bringing it to a service man you would be able to push a button in the computer module in the glove compartment. It would beep five times or four times, and you could correspond and say this is where the problem is with this engine: it needs antifreeze or it needs fluid of some sort.

That was brand-new in 1991. From 1991 to 1996 we really did not have any problems with it. In 2003, we had to replace one ECM oil pressure module. It is a little thing they put in there and it tells when the oil pressure is bad. That was under warranty. In 2005 we had to replace the radiator and the batteries. So we thought maybe there was something wrong with the batteries. You cannot just replace one, you have to replace all four. In 2009, we had to replace the alternator and the ECM. This is the whole computer unit. From 2009 to 2014 we replaced the ECM, the batteries, the radio module. We also have numerous air leaks, rear brake line leaks, air drying systems, secondary air tank, steering system leaks, oil leaks and pump primer gear oil leaks.

This truck has got so many little bends and elbows that, of course, something is going to leak. We have been very good having Jerry do as much maintenance as he possibly can on it. But in order to maintain the NFPA standards, we have to bring it to a certified dealer. That certified dealer is Ruscon. It is over across the river. They run approximately \$125 to \$130 an hour just to work on that piece of apparatus. After replacing that ECM, which was between \$3,000 and \$3,500, we brought it back. Everything was good. Within six months the ECM went again. This was covered under the ECM. What I am getting at is, in 1991 this was the state of the art piece of equipment. Now it has outlasted its use. We have tallied up the bills, and since 2009 we have spent between \$12,000 and \$15,000 on repairs. The pump continues to pass all NFPA standards for fire apparatus. It can still put out fires. The primary reason for replacement is noncompliance with NFPA, the governing board we have to go by. In order to comply with them we have to meet all kinds of standards. For instance the Pierce does not meet crash protection air bag standards. There are no air bags in that vehicle. And Spartan, which is the vehicle that we are looking at preliminarily, is number one in air bag safety. Restraints in the jump seats, they do not have it on the Pierce. The jump seats are wide open. All it is in an orange bar. So if the driver has to avoid a car and makes a sharp left, somebody sitting in this seat can go right out the side. They were called "man savers." They are not anymore, really. Seat belt warning devices. If Mr. Gonder does not have his setback on and he is sitting behind me, and I am ready to put the apparatus in drive, it beeps and tells me he does not have his seat belt on and it will not go in drive. Helmet storage compartments. NFPA came out with this idea that we, as firefighters, cannot wear our helmets in the fire truck going to a call, because if something happens, that helmet can fly off and hit somebody. We cannot put it on the ground, because, again, if something happens, that helmet comes and could damage somebody. If you are in a fire truck and you are bouncing up and down, and you have that helmet on, you are probably 6 inches taller and you could do severe damage to your neck. So that is one of NFPA's standards.

Trustee Apel: Where do you put them?

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: They have compartments under the seat, and they have hooks that hook the back and the front of the helmet so the helmet will not move until you are ready to unhook it.

Trustee Apel: That is on the new truck. What do you do with them in the Pierce?

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: Our gear is enclosed in a compartment right now, which means all of our equipment that is supposed to be in the compartment is in there with it, too. The men are not ready to get into the fire until they put their gear on. They are not supposed to get on the fire truck until they put their gear on. So if they do not get to the firehouse to

put their gear on, then get on the fire truck, they have to wait until they get to the fire, put their gear on, and it is time lost.

Trustee Apel: Would they not have to put their gear on even in the new? You are saying because it is underneath?

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: Yes, but that is all enclosed. Everything is enclosed, and the helmet does not come on until you come out of the jump seat, come out of the cab.

Trustee Apel: I am trying to understand the difference in time between having it in one place or having it on this new truck. What is the difference in timing?

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: You have five guys ready to go, with packs, ready to put the fire out, whereas now, they have to go to the back of the truck, open up a cabinet, take their gear out, put their gear on on the street, then get their equipment and go put the fire out.

Trustee Apel: So their gear is on in the new truck, except for the helmet which is underneath the seat, which you are not allowed to wear.

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: Right. The NFPA comes out with all these standards and they change very often.

Mayor Swiderski: What does it matter whether you put your gear on before you get on the truck or after you get on the truck?

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: NFPA says they do not want you riding without your gear on, but not your helmet. Again, the totally enclosed seating compartments. Backup warning devices other than a beeper. All this has is, like any other truck, a backup beeper. They have come out with cameras and speakers so the guy in the back can talk to the driver, tell him come on back, you got three feet, you got five feet. This Pierce does not have it. Communication between the jump seat and the cab: driver, officer, guy sitting behind them. All we have is like a taxi partition. So he has to lean back and let them know we are going to a house fire, we are going here, we are going there. This one, you could just talk and everybody can hear you.

One of the biggest things is the vehicle recording system, its black box. This will take all the information from any kind of accident that happens. You can go back and you can piece together what exactly happened: your speed, your brakes, your tire pressure, everything. That is what this Pierce does not have. This Pierce was a very good truck when it first came out. We have looked at probably 14 different manufacturers. We are leaning towards

Spartan, which is a chassis manufacturer out of North Dakota. They are willing to build us a Gladiator custom-built pumper. We need it custom-built because of the torque, the hills. Transmission, drive train, rear axle, front turning radius, all that has to be custom-built. One of our big things is overall height. It can only be 102 inches to fit into the firehouse. That is part of the problem in finding a piece of apparatus. Spartan is willing to do it. There were a few manufacturers that said to us sorry, we cannot do this. Spartan will meet and exceed all NFPA-1901 standards. They are number one in their safety measures. They have full curtains, air bag curtains, that come down inside the cab. It is a pretty neat video to see. And they were rated by NFPA and OSHA as number one in safety. Stainless steel body for longevity. And complete storage. All of our equipment could go in there, no problem. Spartan also has leasing and financing alternatives. The salesman has told me about that, and when the time comes we will let them sit down with Mr. Frobel and we can work something out if need be. Along with the apparatus, the supplemental equipment will be worked out as we get closer to the delivery date. It is about 10 to 12 months for delivery.

We do not know what EPA standards are going to come out with. The EPA can change anything, and everybody's hands are tied. The manufacturer's hands are tied, they have to adhere to it, which means we do. We think the cost increase can go anywhere between 10, 15, 20 percent over a year, depending on a lot of different things, depending on labor and whatever. When I was Chief in 2008 we asked to buy the hook and ladder. I requested \$620,000 for that. That was denied. In 2010, the Village paid \$950,000 for that. The estimated cost of the Spartan is going to be anywhere between \$575,000 and \$600,000.

We just in the preliminary stages. I have a very good relationship with this salesman, and we are working back and forth. He knows our problems, he knows the financial woes. We are moving forward, hopefully, to replace this piece of apparatus. And that piece of apparatus can be traded in. I do not know what we will get for it, but it is something to think about.

Mayor Swiderski: So we are not under NFPA standards now on that particular vehicle.

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: Right.

Mayor Swiderski: What impact does that have this ISO-3 standard? If we are already not under compliance, and yet we are at 97 percent, what is the incentive to fall into compliance if it does not seem to be penalizing us right now?

Fire Chief Russak: The ISO team comes up every 5 years. The last time they came up was approximately 2008. The NFPA standards that Jeff was talking about were not in place at that time. These are all recent standard upgrades. As of now, this vehicle is not in compliance with current standards. NFPA changes these things on a constant basis

Mayor Swiderski: I imagine many vehicles, if not a significant minority or maybe even majority, are not in compliance.

Fire Chief Russak: That is correct. Every other vehicle we have in our fleet, with the exception of this one, is currently in compliance with NFPA standards at this time. They could change tomorrow and we will be out. But as of today, this is the only vehicle that is out of standard. ISO is due to come visit us sometime within the next year or so. That would definitely knock something off, and may lower our rating. We have taken a lot of pride in keeping the top rating that we have had, and this apparatus changeover would definitely help.

I have been in this department near 40 years. It used to be that the changeover of apparatus was approximately every 20 years. Over time, because of the Village's fiscal plight and trying to help out, they have upped that to almost 25 years. I think we are pushing the limit. This apparatus is towards the end of its life cycle. Not only to keep in compliance but also to keep a modern piece of apparatus in for the safety of our people I believe you should give serious consideration for this replacement.

Village Manager Frobel: The occupant's safety is a concern, of course. What about some retrofitting in the meantime, rather than wait a year or longer?

Fire Chief Russak: Would not work. Based on the configuration of the current unit, to put a fully-enclosed cab in would not be practical. They would not meet the standards for the seat belts because of the seat belt alarms and those things. This is what they call a top mount pump, meaning that when the unit goes into pump the operator is now standing on top of the vehicle overseeing the situation. That is now out of the system. He has to be on a sideboard dealing with the radio. So, again, trying to retrofit it would not be practical at all.

Village Manager Frobel: Because even the mechanical repairs are within reason. I mean, if you are spending between \$12,000 and \$15,000 a year.

Trustee Armacost: That was total, right?

Mayor Swiderski: The last 5 years, \$3,000 a year.

Fire Chief Russak: But, again, you also have to realize as time goes on the parts are going to get more and more difficult to get and the cost figures are going to go up. Once this new apparatus is in place, and maybe an ambulance in the next year or two, then this fleet is going to be good for at least 10 to 12 years or better.

Trustee Armacost: Do you have a sense of when the when the next set of standards would be released so what you were purchasing would at least be current as of that time?

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: When we meet with Spartan they are up to date. They have somebody sitting with them so whatever they are giving us is going to be right up to date and looking forward. That is why with the EPA, that is the one you got to look out for. The EPA changed its emission standards, that is the one.

Trustee Armacost: But, for example, you sit with Spartan today and then they change it next week.

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: If we make a deal with Spartan it is upon receiving the apparatus it meets all NFPA standards. So if we make a deal today, they do not deliver it until next year. They have to make every change until it is delivered next year.

Trustee Armacost: And then if a change happens the day after they deliver it, no one can do anything about that.

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: No.

Village Manager Frobel: But the industry knows what changes are coming.

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: Yes. They have somebody right next to them all the time. They are on top of it.

Trustee Apel: You talked about the height of the firehouse as causing problems for you with other places. What is the cost differential if, let us say, you had the right size building? What would be the difference in the cost you are talking about?

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: You could probably order a stock piece of apparatus, other than the fact that we need one that can climb the hills. You can go to a dealer, go buy a freightliner like a regular over the road truck, and put a fire engine back on it.

Mayor Swiderski: We do not have that choice. You have been telling us for years that the hills do not work.

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: Exactly. The hills do not work. Nothing works because of the grade, the torque. You cannot go out and buy a Volvo.

Mayor Swiderski: So you cannot buy stock. What would be the difference if we could bid it out?

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: There is none because we cannot get it into the firehouse. If we had another firehouse.

Mayor Swiderski: That is not a choice.

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: That is what I mean. Believe me, we have looked at retrofitting the firehouse and it is not happening.

Mayor Swiderski: In addition to the cost of the apparatus, what does the equipment come in at?

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: We do not know because it depends on what happens from now until then. If we are going to need air packs now, then maybe we will not need as many air packs. It is going to have six riding spots, so it is going to need six air packs. The air packs are another NFPA standard. They are changing those things every 20 minutes, and we have to comply with it. So when we order the apparatus you order six new air packs at I do not know the cost right now, with the bottles. Now you are good because of as of that day you have 15 years until that bottle goes out of service.

Village Manager Frobel: But the apparatus is separate from that equipment. We put that in the operating budget, replacement of equipment.

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: Yes, that is what I mean.

Mayor Swiderski: Just dedicated it to the apparatus, what does it cost to kit it out, period, above and beyond what is already in our budget? The air packs are already in our budget. Is there stuff dedicated to that apparatus that is additional cost we should be thinking about when you throw out a number of \$575,000 to \$600,000? Is there another \$200,000 worth of hose and everything else?

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: No, I do not think it is that much. Some of the hose is just coming into service or will be coming into service that we can use for the next few years. But whatever goes out of service, obviously we have to buy new.

Trustee Armacost: We are trying to work it out. Are we looking at \$570,000 or are we looking more at \$900,000 when you add all the other stuff

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: I do not think you are looking at \$900,000, but I do not think you are looking at \$500,000 either.

Trustee Armacost: Well, you said \$570,000 to \$600,000. So like how much more?

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: I would think we are more towards \$625,000 or \$620,000, somewhere in there.

Village Manager Frobel: That is what I carry in the capital budget, \$625,000.

Trustee Jennings: Could we get any money out of the old one?

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: There is a market. What it is, I do not know. Maybe a collector. What we have done in the past is shipped it over to Ecuador or something like that where that would be like a Cadillac. But I do not know.

Trustee Armacost: But you have never been able to raise much more than \$40,000 when you sold them. When you are looking at \$600,000 it is minimal. One of our congressmen, I think Nita Lowey, was able to bring in fire trucks for a number of her constituencies. I wondered if you had looked at any of the congress people, because we have a congressman, Engel, whether you have had any conversations with him about whether this would be something he would be able to make a proposal for.

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: I know every chance we get we speak to them. Bobby has spoken to them about the grants and so forth. We are going to put in for every grant, obviously, we can. But a capital grant, a big grant like that, if they get if for us it would be tough to do. But yes, we definitely would look into that.

Trustee Armacost: I know she has been successful. I do not know how successful he has been. But in terms of supporting different communities, I do not think ours has been one that has been so supportive. So it might be the time to ask.

Assistant Fire Chief Bannon: Maybe it is time, yes. And we do speak to them every function we go to. They ask us, and we tell them we are in the market for a new piece of apparatus.

Fire Chief Russak: If you will notice, or if you paid attention to these so-called grants that you are talking about, over the last several years it has predominantly been the large paid departments that have been getting the grants. These smaller volunteer departments are usually left behind. Some of the feedback that I have gotten for some of the grants we were

rejected from is that we are considered an affluent community and we got knocked out. It is difficult. We are going in Battalion 14 and several other departments trying to get a grant as a group. Our lead is a paid chief, hoping the fact that it is a paid position we can get this lump sum grant. So we are trying everything we can, but to try to get a piece of apparatus through a grant like that is probably not going to happen, especially in a small department.

Village Manager Frobel: It is the National Firefighters Grant Program. Every year we have submitted something. Your local congressman can write a letter of support, but he is not the one to dole out the money. It is this national program they have.

Fire Chief Russak: This multi-department grant we have applied for we are really hoping to get, Senator Gillibrand was kind enough to write a letter, as was Mr. Frobel. We contacted Senator Schumer's office and we contacted Senator Engel's office through this group, and we have heard from neither one of them. They have not responded to our request, only Senator Gillibrand.

Village Manager Frobel: The competition is incredible.

Mayor Swiderski: Thank you very much for coming out again. I am really sorry about the loss.

Fire Chief Russak: One other quick thing. This Thursday evening we have a representative from the Stryker medical group coming down, and we would like to invite you Thursday evening to the ambulance building. There is a hydraulic stretcher system that we have been looking at and seriously considering. We are going to have a complete demonstration of it, and if any of you are available we would like to have you there to see what this is all about.

Trustee Armacost: Just to say thank you very much for a very thoughtful and well-researched presentation. It is very helpful to get all of that information.

3. Update on Deer

Mayor Swiderski: I am about done with deer today. But I will give the update.

Mr. Gonder: Yes, how many?

Mayor Swiderski: None, I think so far. But the team arrived on Saturday, started looking around the Village on Sunday, set up the first feeding station. Spent time on Sunday and Monday looking at the areas where deer have been reported, and encountered more deer this trip than all the others combined. It has been helpful in scoping out what is going on.

Trustee Armacost: Because of the feeding, or separately?

Mayor Swiderski: In fact, the feeding of this morning had not yet attracted any deer to that station. The woods have snow and the deer cannot dig down to the acorns. The houses, the snow has begun to melt off. So the deer have left the woods and are out in private property.

This is the week where we figure out a strategy. There are a couple of things going on. We are figuring out where the deer are and the deer's behavior. We are also working out our protocols; how do we work with the police, how do we call in volunteers, if we are going to work in people's backyards how is that going to work. So we have been working out a sense of where the deer are, at what time of day they are where they are, and what the protocols with the police and the volunteers will be.

Today was the first day where they went out to try to dart. I do not think they had success today, but it is the first day. It is a question of getting into it. On a typical day, they say they expect to get a couple, on a great day four, on a bad day none. Tomorrow they will be out again. We have got a list of over 50 volunteers who are willing to help, accompany them into the field. The volunteers have vests and letters indicating what they should be doing and not doing. A lot of effort has gone into the details of making sure we are covered. We have release forms, all of it. For the next three and a half weeks they go to work. There are various herds they are noticing, one up on, Dorchester, another on South Drive, one in the south on Oxford right behind Chief Russak's house that he has commented on. These are ones they are seeing visibly. They are going to get to work on those three herds first. There is another one up by Ferndale they are likely to start on. As they finish those herds they will try to move on to others.

They have a late start. They would prefer to start in early February, but we had issues with the permits coming in late and the new one we discovered. This is really the year where we learn how to do that in Hastings. We will be collecting and tagging deer for probably half the amount of time we would prefer to do it, but we still hope to get 20 to 30 does before the season is out. March 30 is a hard stop under the DEC license. We have a couple of successes. The animal specialty center, which is located almost across the street from where they are staying in a hotel, has agreed to work with us. They have passed their inspection so the license will be submitted for them tomorrow. That is good news because right now they have to go to Dr. Sills on White Plains Road, Eastchester, to pick up the vaccines and anesthetics every morning and deliver the unused ones at the end of the day. That is an hour out of the day lost right there lost. So moving it here to the animal specialty center will be three minutes away from the hotel. Nice cooperation out of Dr. Joseph, who heads that center, and we expect that license in hand by the end of the week.

All these pieces are falling into place, and they are out working. But we are sorting through how it all works. It is a hell of a way for Chief Vasali to start, to walk into a project like this unfolding around him. He has been with us out in the field, and getting into understanding what is involved very quickly. Right now, it looks like most of the darting will be happening in people's backyards. The trick will be to find places where everybody agrees to it, it is safe, it is a big enough area that there is no risk the dart will go anywhere, and that we know when the deer are there. The strategy has shifted from woods-centric now into mixed neighborhoods where the properties are a little bigger where this can happen. It is an interesting process to watch them sort through how this is going to work, and a challenge. ?

Trustee Jennings: Does this shift of location mean that they are not able to attract them with food so they are going to have to get them as they are browsing in their normal behavior?

Mayor Swiderski: Yes, they are not likely to run a feeding station in a backyard, partly because they do not want to habituate deer to coming to the house more than they are already getting. What they are considering doing is highly-concentrated, spray down at a coffee can, literally, some corn, step away for five minutes. Deer in the vicinity will head toward that location, and dart them at that point I was out with them on Sunday, and as everybody in this town knows you can be on your deck and be 20 feet away from the deer there. They are right there. So it is just a question of the right shot lining up, and then pursuing the deer. The volunteers, rather than securing the pathways in the woods will, rather, be standing on the street and making sure there are not dog walkers or whatever that might be surprised by a deer bolting out and suddenly darted.

Trustee Armacost: Given this shift in strategy, would it be helpful if people were to say there is this congregation that is always there, or not really?

Mayor Swiderski: We want to get through it and make sure this new strategy works, and if that is so, work out a way of doing that that we are not flooded with 4,000 e-mails in two days. We want to sort out what makes sense, how this is working, and then figure out a protocol for handling self-reporting of herds in people's yards so we are not overwhelmed. But absolutely we are already talking about how we would roll that out.

Trustee Armacost: Will you be sending one of your letters? We have all received letters handed out by some of the volunteers explaining the process. But I do not remember reading about the shift that in those letters.

Mayor Swiderski: It is in the last 24 hours that we noticed that the deer are out in the yards and not in the woods. We are not encountering deer in the woods. Not in Hillside at least. It sounds kind of prosaic, but you go to where the deer are. And right now, they are hungry and out in people's yards. It is also a little warmer, and so it goes.

Mr. Gonder: Is there a number we can call when we see two or four deer in our yard?

Mayor Swiderski: Not yet. We do not want to quite start that because we are not equipped to handle a flood of phone calls. So we are first going to handle the locations we know we have deer, see how that goes, and then try to figure out a way to handle engaging the public to get the other reports like what you are talking about. Right now, we do not have a dedicated phone number. We do not want it coming in to the police. And we do not want it coming in to Rick because his phone will ring off the hook. This is the learning session for us, this particular year on how we work this stuff out.

Mr. Gonder: I see the point where if I could see five in my yard or just over a wall there is a good opportunity to get your six or ten.

Mayor Swiderski: I agree with you, and that is actually how we are doing it on these two groupings that we have. We are asking, in a time slot, that the homeowners who are home call in if they see deer. Fairly dynamic, Rick vectoring into one of three locations where considerable confirmed deer sightings have occurred in the last three days, and have him, with the volunteers, go to that site at that point and do it. It is going to be more dynamic than we expected. We thought it would be more passive showing up at the feeding station at three o'clock, two minutes after the feeding cycle went, and getting the deer. Now, it is looking like it is going to be something different. But that is today. It may turn out it takes the feeders a day or two longer to draw the deer, and we will revert that that strategy. They are learning what works. Rick is very cautious about traffic. He is not eager to put deer into well-traveled roads. Any road that he has noticed traffic on, like Farragut Parkway or James, he is more nervous about. He does not want to dart near those roads, and that is all being factored into where you do it and in which direction so the deer do not run into the road.

It is a learning process, and we are hugely helped by the fact that we can range freely in the Village. But we are still figuring out what works. He has indicated that the deer here, surprisingly, are a little more skittish than where he has worked previously where they are more habituated to people. Here, at least the ones he is encountering, he says that if they are used to you and the way you act every day you can get within 15 feet and they will ignore you. The second you turn around, or it is a stranger, they know people's faces, they know if you are holding something they do not recognize, they get nervous. On Fire Island all the deer got to know him so when he showed up they all tore off in different directions; they

knew it was the guy with the gun that causes the boo-boo and off they ran. They are not dumb. They recognize people. They are not afraid of you because they see you every day doing the exact same thing and they ignore you. The second you show up and you do something weird or move toward them, up they go and off they run. A lot more work on this. They will be communications out if the strategy changes and how people should be engaged. It is going to be a long month.

3. Update on the Downtown

Mayor Swiderski: I do want to bring up the DPW study. The public session is Mar. 27. There will be one in Dobbs that day at 6:00 p.m., and one here at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.. The consulting team will present the project. The project elements have already begun, and there will be interviews that will occur before that date because we do not want to hold up the effort any longer. But this will be the official kickoff to the public. There will be an e-mail going out describing the process. They are going to come up with a range of options: everything from just consolidate buildings but keep two separate departments, all the way to a full consolidation. That will be presented to the public and to the two boards, and we will, hopefully, agree on what of that range of options we want. They will do a deeper dive on that option and finish up with presenting that to both boards.

It is a complex project with a lot of interviews, a lot of information both communities have to provide. There is an analysis of the two union contracts, there is analysis of financials, there are surveys of the property at Dobbs to see what it can accommodate, who can fit what in there, the equipment needs of each community, all of it. It is a full, very detailed analysis of both communities. That is underway starting in March for several months, right?

Village Manager Frobel: Very definitely. We started in late fall pulling together the kind of data you talked about, especially the financials the manpower, equipment. A lot of stuff has already been supplied to consultant.

Mayor Swiderski: But it is not likely to be done until late spring, the whole process, early summer where we are all the way through the process.

5. Update on the Waterfront

Mayor Swiderski: Next week we begin a negotiation with BP, Riverkeeper and our attorney on redoing what is known as the consent decree, which was a legal agreement signed in 2002 or 2003, 12 years ago, which is what ended the lawsuit against BP. We agreed on the DEC proposal at that time as the baseline, enhanced by even more. The DEC says there only has to be 18 inches of cover. We have insisted on five feet. There were

modifications in the decree that went above and beyond what the consent order, which is what the state put out, mandated. That order has since been updated and a new one put down which covers the water. As a result, this original decree needs to be reworked.

There is a discussion that assumes the entire waterfront, for example, has bulkheads. The proposal now on the table is a slope into the water. The decree needs to be modified to reflect these different realities. BP has laid out what they are interested in discussing, which is, in large coincidence, what we are interested in discussing. So we are hoping the discussion will be fruitful. I have seen the first draft of the Infrastructure Committee's report and it is 74 pages long. It is the output you would expect from a consulting company, completely crazy in detail and professionalism. They cannot seem to let go of it. I am urging them to finish up in the next couple of weeks so we can get it presented to the public and begin to take a look at it ourselves.

Trustee Armacost: So when will we get a chance to look at it?

Mayor Swiderski: We will get a preview copy before the public, and then the public will see it. It will be presented to the public for their input.

Trustee Armacost: During a Trustees meeting?

Mayor Swiderski: No, dedicated just to that. The public's input will be factored in, and then it will come to us for input and approval. We can, of course, go to the public session. But the process they came up with seeks public input before they bring it to us for final approval. It is quite a piece of work, and it is still raw. There are sections where they need to finish it up. But it is quite a bit of work.

Trustee Jennings: The impression I got at the public meeting with the DEC the other evening was that they were not aware, or not aware in a detailed way, of the fact that we even had an Infrastructure Committee, that the Village was wanting to have input into this important question so it could be factored in to the remediation design. I am sure that ARCO knows all about the Infrastructure Committee, but the state did not seem to. That, to me, reinforces the fact that we need to get our ducks lined up and get our ideas on the table, even as the state and BP continue to do their engineering studies. Now it is time.

Mayor Swiderski: It is time. I was struck by that, as well. We have communicated with George Heitzman, who is the project engineer, on the Infrastructure Committee work. He is aware of it. He just has not communicated it to his boss that he is aware of it. That was a pretty big break in information not passed internally, but now they all know. They have asked for a copy, and BP knows they have asked for a copy. BP is waiting. They are not

resistant to this idea, they are inviting it. If it makes the final property more valuable I think they are all for the better.

Trustee Jennings: The consent decree involved the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and Riverkeeper. We are going to be negotiating various modifications of the consent decree that are sensible and make sense in terms of the engineering realities. Obviously, we have no interest in compromising the safety and thoroughness of the cleanup and the remediation. But I was just wondering how the sequence is going to be in terms of the conversation between the Village and ARCO, between Riverkeeper and the Village.

Mayor Swiderski: The Village is meeting with Riverkeeper prior to the Tuesday meeting. They have got the briefing documents we have used, and know what we are interested in and what BP is interested in. Phillip Musegaas, who now lives here in Hastings, how conveniently, and I will be sitting down to go over that before the Tuesday meeting. Riverkeeper has been entirely absorbed upstate so they have not paid any attention to this particular step. This is the first real reengagement we are seeing.

The meeting on Tuesday is not lawyers talking to lawyers. It is BP presenting the things they care about, when they have presented them already to us, and us reacting to that more formally and with our own ideas on to same topic. Riverkeeper is along for the ride. The items that Riverkeeper cared about in the original consent decree are not up for negotiation. They cared about the height of the buildings. They cared about the proximity of the building to the water's edge and the height of the building because they wanted a park, which is not in question. They wanted the buildings to be far enough away so they did not intrude on the river, and the height. The height of the fill and the other issues that both BP and the Village care about, at that time was of secondary interest to Riverkeeper. We do not anticipate they are going to have a strong opinion on those issues, but they might. We do not know, they have not been engaged to date. All three of us will be in that room on Tuesday. For Riverkeeper, I think it is going to more of an introduction back into those issues. And for him, a brand-new introduction.

Trustee Jennings: They may be interested in the new idea of building out into the river. A little bump. And what the public ought to understand is that the consent decree was only about the OU-1, only about the land portion. At that time, nobody was yet talking about the river portion, the OU-2. Riverkeeper's interest, obviously, is very strong in terms of what they are doing underwater.

Mayor Swiderski: So they may very well have something to bring in on that. But they joined the discussion on OU-2 in the last six months, and had some strong opinions that threatened to stop the process moving forward and, in the end, were almost entirely included

in the remediation. At that meeting was a reference to bringing down the levels to one part per million offshore. It was not that stiff before the engagement of Riverkeeper. Riverkeeper's demands were quite a bit stiffer than ours or the DEC's and was recalibrated by Riverkeeper. So they may have gotten, already, what they were looking for. We will find out next week. I cannot speak to that, but they did engage and they engaged energetically when they finally engaged, on the OU-2 discussions. We are hoping, by getting them early, it will not be so bad a surprise at the end. A lot of moving parts in March and April.

6. Other

Village Manager Frobel: I need some direction for the National Alliance on Mental Illness ribbon campaign. They had asked us again if we would participate. This is a series of ribbons placed on trees from late April through the end of May. They were white, rather dingy by the end of the four weeks. But if you would like to tell them one week or two weeks or some direction, or not at all, they just need an answer.

Trustee Armacost: I do not mind either way. It does not bother me particularly. It seems like a nice thing to support.

Trustee Jennings: I do not object to having the ribbons. They communicate and educate the public about mental health which is clearly important. I do not see a downside. I am not sure how long. I do not know what they are asking for or what the usual practice is.

Village Manager Frobel: It is four weeks.

Trustee Jennings: If we wanted to make it shorter that would be OK with me, too. But I do think we should do it.

Trustee Armacost: There has to be a campaign beyond just the ribbons. I do not think people know what the ribbons are. There needs to be something. It is a bit odd just to put up the ribbons without anything else.

Mayor Swiderski: That was my problem with it. I was not sure it was particularly effective last year. I got some questions about what they were about. I did not see anything out in the media, any particular overall campaign, that educated people. My concern is that I do not want to call it visual blight, but visually graffiti if you do not know what it is.

Trustee Armacost: We can put something on our Web site that month and you can put something in your newsletter to make it clear.

Trustee Jennings: It would be nice if we could coordinate it with some sort of event. I am not sure which committee would be relevant. But I would like to see a speaker invited to do an evening thing in the Community Center.

Mayor Swiderski: And for me it is just bandwidth. I do not know if they provide that, or make the effort. If a public relations campaign is us putting out all the notification about it and us putting up the ribbons, I do not know.

Village Manager Frobel: Well, that is what it was last year. That is where it began and ended. I received no correspondence from the group as to fliers to distribute or an excerpt to put on an e-mail or anything of that sort. I will call the woman tomorrow and convey to her these concerns. I am sure they will have some literature they can provide us to put up on the Web site.

Mayor Swiderski: Right. What is to stop any group from asking us to run their awareness campaign for them. I do not want to get into that business.

Trustee Jennings: But on the other hand, we are rich in so many ways in this village. And one of the ways we are rich is we have mental health professionals, we have experts on this topic right here. It would be so easy to get one of them to do something in conjunction with this.

Mayor Swiderski: Right, in conjunction. But we are not picking and choosing causes up here. That is not our business to do awareness for other organizations if it is not apparent that there is a national campaign they are doing. Otherwise, we can just have ribbon of the month causes. Again, I do not mean to sound as negative as I am on this idea. It is just if we are doing all the work.

Trustee Apel: Yes. If they are making this request, then they need to staff it and do the marketing.

Village Manager Frobel: I will convey that to her tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

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