

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 1, 2014

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 7:40 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

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

CITIZENS: Three (3).

Mayor Swiderski: We are going to approve the warrants, but not the minutes since not everybody had a chance to receive and review them. The approval of the minutes will be put off until the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 61-2013-14	\$212,662.57
Multi-Fund No. 62-2013-14	\$ 15,723.73
Multi-Fund No. 63-2013-14	\$ 61,856.31

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Parkway: The governor, in signing the new budget, there were changes to the use of firearms, weaponry, for the purpose of deer hunting. Should the current process not work out in time, there is an option open now where they have reduced the distance down to 150 from dwellings. They also instituted using crossbows.

Mayor Swiderski: I had not seen that. And that is for firearms, 150 feet? That seems unlikely.

Mr. Downey: Saying firearms, I misspoke. Bow and arrow 150 feet, and crossbows. Some of this ties in with the big to-do that happened in Long Island this winter, where the FDA, the federal government, came up Long Island to do deer reduction with snipers at night.

Mayor Swiderski: This was East Hampton, was it not?

Mr. Downey: I think there were two locations they brought them in.

John Gonder, 153 James Street: I was reading one of the articles in the local paper. Happens to be signed by Susan Maggiotto, our Village Clerk, and it is fine print but it has a lot to say about the budget in 2014-15. It states senior citizens 65 years or older will be given a 5 percent tax break on the 2014-15 budget. And it says there is zero increase for 2014 and '15. Then somebody put April Fool, and I was really disgusted. I thought maybe Faith Evans could move back here.

Mayor Swiderski: Which paper was that in?

Mr. Gonder: That is the fine print. April Fool.

Now it does say this, though. Said budget provides that the maximum compensation proposed shall be \$2,000 per year Trustee and \$4,000 per year to the Mayor. I am against that. We used to be a unique village, and now we are just another village like Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley or Irvington. We are not unique. We are going to be merging more and more with everybody. Trustees should not get paid. The school board trustees do not get paid, and they work as hard as you or maybe even harder. In fact, they worked around the clock for the last two years to get some budget through. And the people can vote on that budget. The first one went down, the second one went flying through. But my tax money and everybody else's goes for when you are on vacations or when you are on business trips, whether it is in this country or other countries. I do not think that is right. That is like double-dipping. I would like you to save \$12,000 a year and eliminate your compensation. Thank you very much.

Mayor Swiderski: Mr. Gonder, the compensation is nothing new. It has always been there.

Mr. Gonder: Always? A hundred years?

Mayor Swiderski: It used to be higher. We took a 20 percent cut. And it also applies in most of the other villages.

Mr. Gonder: Then we are doing things like other villages. We used to be unique.

Mayor Swiderski: No, all villages have compensated their board and mayor nominally. For me, it comes to substantially under minimum wage, but I appreciate the sentiment.

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: We had our out-of-Village pool seasonal passes sold today. As expected, they sold out very quickly. So we are on our way to beginning our summer season.

Mayor Swiderski: I was told people queued up at 6 a.m.?

Village Manager Frobel: It was very early and they were sold out by 9. We have a few names on a wait list, so if there are any cancellations those people will be accommodated.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Winter Parking Restrictions

Village Manager Frobel: At our last meeting you heard from former Chief Bloomer and Mike Gunther with recommendations to make our winter storm operations a little easier both for us and for the residents. Marianne took the Chief's and Mike's thoughts and put it into legal format. We gave the Board a copy. If everyone has had a chance to look it over we can respond to your questions, but the staff needs some more time to go over it. We just did not have the time, over the last few days, to devote to fine tuning it. Some of the suggestions in there, even now the staff is having second thoughts as to whether or not they are appropriate. So for now, if we could hold off any further discussion.

2. Update on the Downtown – Downtown Improvements

Trustee Walker: I would like to have a discussion about the list of improvements that the Downtown Collaborative came up with.

Mayor Swiderski: Meg, one minute on who the Collaborative is. And is this something you are asking the Board to consider funding, or is this what they are seeking and they are going to do it via private fund-raising?

Trustee Walker: I have not gotten that far yet. The Downtown Collaborative is an ad hoc committee of local residents, primarily, who are concerned about the downtown. We have been meeting for about a year and a half to discuss a number of issues. We have been focusing on filling empty storefronts and looking for new businesses, working with some of the landlords who are interested in finding tenants. It has worked out well in one particular instance, because we were able to get Upstream Gallery into the space on Main Street. The Downtown Collaborative can take a lot of the credit for that because we made that connection. That is the kind of thing we are looking to do in other cases, in other empty

storefronts, but it is not always as easy as that one where the rent was right and the landlord was definitely willing. That one worked out very well.

One of things we just got started on was to discuss things we think need improving in the downtown. There are about 15 to 20 people who are members of this group, but only about five came up with ideas at our February meeting. They came with ideas and photos, but as we talked a lot of other ideas came up. None of this is particularly new; you have heard it before. We want to engage merchants in discussing this. I wanted to point out the things people were most concerned with getting done right away. I am not sure if they are budget items or things we could ask the Village to take care of. Some of them are things the merchants need to take care of or landlords need to take care of.

There a few critical things we know the Village needs to take care of. I would be interested in hearing your response. How to improve the cleanliness of the downtown, both from picking up litter, cleaning of streets and the general condition of the sidewalk. This is something that merchants frequently point out to us. My usual response up until recently has been this sidewalks are always the landlord's responsibility, in terms of cleaning, at least, in the downtown. It is in our ordinance that says landlords are supposed to take care of it. Landlords usually ask their tenants to take care of it.

But it continues to be a problem, particularly in vacant buildings like the Hastings House corner building. There are lot of bird droppings that do not get cleaned up. That happens a lot in front of vacant stores, too. This has been continuously pointed out as being unsightly. I now have changed my mind about constantly putting it on the landlord's shoulders. We need to come up with a strategy, if that means part-time labor from DPW to do it. Dobbs has one of these mini cleaners they use up and down the sidewalks. I think they use it for snowplowing on sidewalks, as well. I think that now the Village needs to take some responsibility for it. We have asked the landlords time and time again, and it is not happening. Unless we can come up with a way of enforcing that regulation it may on the Village's shoulders.

Trustee Armacost: Is your idea that we would charge the landlords, put money into a kitty, and then the Village would take care of it.

Trustee Walker: I did not say that but it is a good solution.

Mayor Swiderski: That is a bid, though, is it not? That is a business improvement district.

Trustee Walker: Not really. A bid is a tax assessment district, where you formally ask the landlords to vote on creating a district that they then pay into. So some of their property tax

goes to support a new entity. But there are lots of examples where landlords have voluntarily formed organizations to help support things like cleaning or improvements to security. You do not have to have a bid to have an organization that collects money from property owners. But they have to do it.

Trustee Armacost: The tricky thing is when they do not voluntarily do it. That is where it has to be a fine.

Village Attorney Stecich: You do have a code provision that says you can tell them to do it, and if they do not do it then the Village can do it and charge them. Then if they do not pay it can be assessed against their property. It can be a lien on their property.

Trustee Armacost: It sounds like we have a solution.

Village Attorney Stecich: There is a code provision under the section taking care of sidewalks. "If the owner or owners shall neglect or refuse," well wait a minute, this is to repair. Well, maintain, yes. The way it reads, it talks about keeping it in good repair and safe condition. So that is a little different.

Village Manager Frobel: I thought of invoking that on, in particular, the restaurant corner, the former restaurant, and snow removal. We read that section.

Village Attorney Stecich: You could probably do it for snow removal, because that is a safe condition. Bird poop, I do not know that makes things unsafe. I will look for another section. But if it is a safety thing you can do that. That is kind of lost in here. It is in the section under streets and sidewalks, called care of sidewalks. But let me look under the property maintenance, too.

Trustee Armacost: Another thing we could do is copy that section and send it to all of them to remind them it is in the code. The issue always with these things is enforcement. It is frustrating to people if we do have provisions that can cover it and it does not get enforced.

Trustee Walker: But could we, in fact, pass an ordinance that says landlords must keep their sidewalks clean, and if they do not do it, and the Village is compelled to do it, that they will be charged?

Trustee Apel: That is sort of what it says already. We just have to add that it has to be clean.

Trustee Armacost: Clean, and not just repaired.

Trustee Jennings: We could amend that, add in that word.

Village Attorney Stecich: Let me also see whether there could be something in the property maintenance section. .

Mayor Swiderski: Fran, was there not talk of laborers hired specifically for that?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, there was. I interviewed about five individuals. My thought is to hire one or two to assist us in keeping the downtown area clean.

Trustee Walker: Which means everything, not just public, Village-owned areas.

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, litter in the gutter that the street sweeper does not pick up. To that effect, it would be 15 hours a week, maybe 20. It would vary on the time of year. It looks like I am going to have another student from Children's Village. I have had good luck in using those people in the past. So I may have a couple of opportunities to address that. I had a laborer in the past who did it for me, did not do a very good job. Trying a different approach to that effort.

Trustee Walker: Even if we do expect landlords to do it, I do not believe it is going to happen. And if it happens, it is going to happen on episodic, hit-or-miss, and we need something consistent.

Village Attorney Stecich: There is, under property maintenance: "The owner shall keep all and every part of the premises which he owns, and the steps, walks, driveways and parking areas located in the front, rear or side of said premises, from the building line to the nearest public street in a clean, sanitary and safe condition and free from litter, debris, paper, dirt, garbage and junk, and in good repair." Then further on, there are enforcement provisions. Actions upon noncompliance, it is up to the Building Inspector. They can arrange to have it done, and then charge it back. Generally, the Building Inspector for that kind of stuff is the enforcement officer.

Trustee Apel: We have to let the Building Inspector know we want him to do this, and follow through on it. That notification should go out to all the store owners and property owners that we are going to be enforcing it. The Building Department needs to come up with how they plan to enforce it. Are they going to go out once a week? Maybe they should get the meter maid to tell them if they see something or they missed it. I do not like being negative, but if we at least approach the store owners. Maybe they are not aware of how it looks.

Mayor Swiderski: Oh, they are aware.

Trustee Walker: They are the ones who complain to us about it.

Trustee Apel: Well, then get out there and clean it up. We could do it. But then I think they would have to pay for it.

Trustee Walker: That is the interesting point. In order to have it consistently done we have to do it.

Trustee Apel: We could do it but they would be billed for it.

Mayor Swiderski: And you cannot just expect them to compensate unless they are fined based on specifics. It becomes almost a game of funding a regular cleanup.

Trustee Apel: No, I do not think so. I think what happens when you first start this out is that you get the Building Department to take pictures of each storefront and show the mess. Send them a notification with the law that this is no longer acceptable and you need to clean it up. And we are going to be coming out, obviously in the beginning, and every week we are going to be checking until you see there is some cleanup. And if they are not going to abide by it, the regulation is very clear that if we need to clean it up we are going to bill you.

Village Attorney Stecich: If it is not cleaned by a certain date we are going to clean it and bill you.

Mayor Swiderski: We can try that. I am not adverse to it.

Trustee Apel: It is a lot of work. I think if we talk to the Downtown Collaborative and say, listen, this is your responsibility, this is what we want to do, and if you would like to go and talk to all the store owners before we do, that is fine. Tell them they need to clean it up. But this is what we are going to be doing.

Trustee Jennings: What is the process of putting a lien on somebody's property? Is it offensive, does it incur fees?

Village Attorney Stecich: You are probably not going to get that far. What happens is, if they do not pay it you put it on their tax bill. It becomes part of their taxes. It would be like unpaid taxes.

Trustee Jennings: And then if they do not pay they are in arrears on their taxes, right?

Village Attorney Stecich: Yes.

Trustee Walker: I want to point out, though, that it is important for the Village to establish good relationships with the landlords and the business owners in the downtown. I am struggling. We have not fined anybody, and we are still struggling to establish a good relationship.

Village Manager Frobela: This has been my reluctance. I have identified four or five that are habitual problems, and I have called them in, met with them, issued summonses. My leverage was, the summons will go away if I see an improvement. You see improvement for the first two or three weeks. Then I find myself every Sunday afternoon going through to see if they have kept up their end of the bargain. Monday morning I go down and see the Building Inspector and tell him visit them, it is not working. So it is a continuous thing. I do not like sending letters to everyone because it is not everyone. If you let me try to target this to probably the five that are giving us the biggest problem I would rather take that approach for the reasons you have just outlined.

Village Attorney Stecich: And maybe if they got the threat of you are going to end up paying for it, we are going to do it and charge you for it, and it will be on your tax bill that might be enough to get them to do it.

Village Manager Frobela: Might be. I did not take it that far. I went with the summons route. They were physically issued a summons by the police department.

Mayor Swiderski: But the summons were issued to the store owners, not the landlords.

Village Manager Frobela: It is to the store owners. In dealing with the store owners, my leverage was I do not want to involve your landlord in this. They all agreed, please do not because of the relationship they have with the landlord. The threat was let me work with you as a businessman. I do not want to deal with the landlord.

Trustee Walker: But is that in our laws that it is the store owner's responsibility? I thought it was the landlord's responsibility and they just make it the store owner's responsibility. Can we fine the store owner?

Village Manager Frobela: My leverage was, the store owner did not want to get into a confrontation with the landlord.

Trustee Jennings: Yes, but that is a different question. The section that Marianne is reading refers to property owners, does it not?

Village Attorney Stecich: This is the owner.

Trustee Apel: And then in the landlord's lease with the tenant he tells the tenant he has to keep it clean.

Trustee Armacost: But if it is not working with the tenants, then you have to ratchet it up to the landlord. And what will happen is, the landlords get fined and then the landlords will levy the fine on the tenants.

Village Manager Frobel: Yes.

Trustee Armacost: If you are not catching people's attention, you have not caught their attention after years and years of asking nicely, you have to change the way you ask, right?

Village Manager Frobel: I understand. But as Meg mentioned, I've tried to keep a good rapport. I do not want to alienate anyone.

Trustee Jennings: But in terms of the relationships with the merchants, if it is the case that it is only a few violators and not every merchant in town, it would seem to me that we would improve our relationships with 90 percent of the merchants by giving the 10 percent that make the whole downtown look bad a hard time.

Village Manager Frobel: Truly. But I was just saying I wanted to hold off sending this letter to everyone because if I got one of these, I would say I do a pretty good job, why am I getting this letter?

Trustee Armacost: No, it should not go to everyone. You can notify everyone that it is going to be enforced so they can know we are serious about the ones that are a problem.

Trustee Apel: If you have spoken to those five, then at this point it is clear you have to say I am giving you a warning but the letter is now going to the landlord because it is the landlord's responsibility. It is like when you tell a kid if you do that one more time, but every time you say I am going to do that one more time they know they have got more leeway. Well, this time if you spent all this time talking with them I think it is OK to say it is now time that we need to talk to the landlord. And by the way, because I am a landlord and can tell you, this is an acceptable way to deal with this. This is exactly what happens. The landlord is expecting it, they know they are responsible, and they will deal with it.

Mayor Swiderski: I am not sure a lot of landlords know that. I am pretty sure they do not.

Trustee Apel: They will be surprised. What will happen is, they will probably say we did not know there was a problem because the tenant was not telling them. So the landlord did not know. Now the landlord knows they are responsible and they are going to get this bill, they are going to make sure their tenant does the right thing.

Mayor Swiderski: In the interest of dealing with the more positive improvements here, I want to move off this particular aspect of what Meg brought up. Do you have an idea?

Mr. Downey: This is something I have heard a lot in conversations with different business owners in the Village. What I see happening a lot is, business owners or people who may be helping the business will sweep it into the street and say I have done my sidewalk. So the street is a mess. Then they are upset because there is not regular sweeping. So they give up. They say if the street is a mess I am not going to do it. The Village is not doing their part. Then, there is some animosity with different businesses with the Farmers' Market and the Flea Market, and then some of the events on weekends where the businesses are congested or blocked off, where people cannot get to it. So there needs to be a strong dialogue saying let us air the grievances. What exactly is the responsibility of the Village, what is that of the businesses, and then what is the plan going forward. What can they count on from the Village. For example, I do not know why we have lost our sweeper. Yet we hire this company that goes around the Village. They hit several times a year, and they probably hit the Village more frequently. But I would think we could get a sweeper.

Mayor Swiderski: We have tightened up a bit.

Mr. Downey: A sweeper for just the immediate village. Small unit, put it in the budget, and buy that sweeper for just the streets in the Village and take care of the Village. In the summertime, have a power washing of the sidewalk to clean them up. Years ago we used to do that. We do not power wash the sidewalks anymore. It just seems like the whole plant has deteriorated, there are people pointing fingers at one another. Black and white, lay it out what it is, and then hold each other accountable.

Trustee Walker: I think you are right. We, the Village, should take responsibility for some aspects of this. If we show there is a partnership here, that we are going to do some things and they are going to do some things, they are going to feel better about it. If they understand we are going to sweeping better, we are going to be cleaning up the gutters, we are going to be cleaning the Village-owned properties more thoroughly and then we are going to hold the landlords accountable, we just clarify this. You are absolutely right.

Mr. Downey: Every Saturday there is a contractor in Ardsley. They go from one end to the other. It is a different format, a little more compact. They go from one edge to the other, it is entirely clean. Every area of pavement is clean, parking lots, sidewalks. So they have a very strict plan in place. We need to clarify our plan. What it is you are responsible for, we are responsible for, and then hold to that.

Trustee Walker: Do they use a mini street sweeper, or how do they do it in Ardsley?

Mr. Downey: A crew of four guys with back blowers, and everything is cleaned up.

Trustee Armacost: This comes back to the discussion the Chief of Police had with us with Superintendent Gunther, where they were saying that the amount of time was not enough for the street sweeper. , Fran, it would be helpful for us to publicly dig down into that more. There are not that many roads that are in that area of whatever it is, the 9 to 11 period. I spent quite a lot of time after that conversation thinking to myself, if it is terrible they cannot do it in that time. But how can it take two hours to do what I think are four roads that are in the 9 to 11 period for a street sweeper. I would like to just know. It would be wonderful if they can explain to us privately. But I think everyone would like to know and really understand what the problem is. Is it that there are parked cars that have to be towed? What is the deal that is making it so difficult in that period. It should not take that long to do it.

Village Manager Frobel: To do Washington, Warburton, Main, Southside and Maple.

Trustee Armacost: Yes, but that is not very many roads if you have got a street sweeper going straight up.

Village Manager Frobel: You have to continuously dump the machine, dump the sweepings. So it does take awhile.

Trustee Armacost: I would like to understand it in more detail.

Mayor Swiderski: It is also a window. You cannot expect them to start, necessarily, at 9 sharp. I think it is within a window. But let us hear it. All right, Meg?

Trustee Walker: I think there has also been a lot of discussion about the street sweeping contractor versus having our own street sweeper. I would love to revisit that. Are we at some disadvantage because we do not have our own street sweeper? We did this as a cost-cutting measure thinking we would get the equivalent service. Are we getting the equivalent service?

Trustee Armacost: And to that point, it comes back to a similar kind of discussion to understand exactly what we contracted for. How often, how many hours, the route.

Village Manager Frobel: Sure. We will go over all that tomorrow evening.

Trustee Walker: So that is a good thing to add to our budget discussion.

Mayor Swiderski: Now, it is also in the context of the DPW consolidation study. For the time being, I would hesitate to be running out and buying equipment.

Trustee Walker: I agree. Maybe they will be studying that, and that will be a response. But I would appreciate knowing because I am constantly being asked.

Village Manager Frobel: You had to know that by not having a sweeper here on demand there would be some change in the level of service. It was logic. We only have the man for 35 weeks out of the year we budget for. So obviously there was a change. We did all the specifications. We got the authority to bid, we had it ready to award. We had the money borrowed and ready to go. The decision was made at that time to try this approach, and it came to cost.

Trustee Walker: So we need to evaluate that approach.

Trustee Apel: It is either that or hiring a person.

Trustee Walker: And buying the sweeper.

The second biggest item was two things in the Steinschneider parking lot. We do know a lot about the stairway to Southside Avenue. We have gotten a lot of complaints about it, it came up as a top priority among the people at the Downtown Collaborative meeting. We know that is on Fran's list. I know on your list as well are the overflowing trash cans behind the businesses in Steinschneider. That came up as a top priority: figuring it out, and some ideas came up that may apply to other businesses in town, as well: fencing or screening the dumpsters and the trash cans so we do not have to look at them. Also, the question of are we picking up garbage frequently enough in those places. Are they recycling? Maybe they are throwing away all the recycling and that is causing a lot of the overflow. But it is consistently a mess, and we are trying to get to the bottom of that. Many towns have screening requirements whether you are a multi-family building or a commercial building. This would be a perfect example of where it could be useful. Maybe it is an ordinance we need to create. Marianne, have you ever confronted this?

Village Attorney Stecich: You see it a lot in site plans. In fact, we are going through that with Ginsburg now, on how they are going to screen their garbage. I do not see why you could not have an ordinance like that. There is always a problem, though, enforcing it for people who are already there. But I think it is reasonable. You could give a certain amount of time, within six months or a year or whatever, you could probably do it.

Trustee Walker: The tree pits. I was talking to Susan before the meeting about coming up with some consistent treatment for the tree pits. She was pointing out that it is hard to come up with a consistent treatment because, in some cases, there are roots that make it difficult to put gravel in the pit. There are different conditions you have to deal with. So how do you come up with something consistent when they are so different? Maybe we come up with two treatments, one for where the roots are overflowing and ones where we can do something like gravel or a granite block.

This is something that maybe should be the Village's responsibility and not the store owner's responsibility. Every single store has its own treatment. This is one of these maybe we will scratch your back, et cetera. We will do something if you do something; we will do the tree pits and make them attractive if you clean up in front of your properties

Trustee Jennings: Not too long ago a local architect contacted me and I passed the thing along, volunteering to help redesign some of the tree pits. The assumption was that this was Village trees. But it seemed clear this was an interesting model of cooperation between somebody who has expertise in the Village, who has the manpower and the money to implement it. He was not going to charge for the design advice, or something. I do not remember the details. But it sounded like a good thing. Maybe we could expand that to the inconsistency problem you are referring to now.

Village Manager Frobel: We have taken advantage of that, what you brought to our attention. Susan can bring you up to date on that.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: That was our meeting this morning with the landscape architect from Peter Gisolfi's firm. I met with him and Brett Schneiderman and Mike Gunther. We did a survey of Warburton of the tree pits and places that need trees, and talked a lot about how to deal with various issues. I have not had a chance to write up a report on it, but I will. He now looking into different models for the pits, so that is already happening.

Trustee Jennings: So maybe the conversation point you are reporting on now is being addressed.

Trustee Walker: Yes, and maybe come back to us with some proposals, we can discuss them. If we could do that, we could tell the landlords we are going to make this improvement, then asking them to clean becomes a little less onerous.

Village Manager Frobel: To go back Steinschneider, there has been a host of conversations. We are looking at having them have dumpsters, but off-site. We would have to lose a couple of parking spaces. I have been reluctant to do that. There is no room in their area for their dumpsters. The businesses are doing very well. They are very busy, and the trash is reflective of that. They need a dumpster but not on that site.

Trustee Walker: Can they do a shared situation?

Village Manager Frobel: It is going to have to be shared dumpster, and that is what we are negotiating now. Trying to get them to chip in. The problem then becomes that the bar does not generate the same amount of trash as the Japanese restaurant does so he does not want to pay more than his fair share. But it is all progress, and the idea is not to alienate anyone and try to keep them involved.

Trustee Walker: Another question, and maybe we address this in our downtown guidelines, is how to make that area attractive. It is horrendously unattractive right now, but let us say we do deal with the garbage cans. Can we take it a few steps further and make it attractive to look at? Whether it is through a fence around it, or if they remove the dumpsters could we do nice plantings back there?

Trustee Armacost: If we come back to the garbage again, one thing Mr. Downey said which I thought was interesting was that in Ardsley they use blowers. So they are not relying on the street sweeper. What is the rationale for not using blowers, for example, if the street sweeper cannot be there at a particular time. Particularly at the times when it is allowable. There are plenty of times of the year when it is allowable to use a blower in various places. It could be early in the morning.

Village Manager Frobel: It could be, but you have got residents around there and businesses, and you are generating dust. I thought our theme was to reduce or eliminate the use of blowers.

Mayor Swiderski: Yes. I am not eager to do that early in the morning.

Trustee Apel: The other thing is, is that the only thing is dirt? Did someone not say there was gum or stuff stuck on the sidewalks?

Trustee Walker: There is power washing.

Trustee Armacost: I am hearing we only have the street sweeper 35 weeks; that is pretty much every two weeks. There must be some other way of handling things in between, and there are other mechanisms. What we used to do in the olden days is use a broom. If it is going to be our team doing it, then it is our team with brooms. It does not have to only be reliant on heavy equipment.

Trustee Walker: And the power washer is a good question, too. We have discussed this before, and what was the upshot? We have power washed in the past.

Village Manager Frobel: We used it to clean the benches in the Boulanger Plaza parking lot, we have used it to clean the VFW patio. We do it periodically.

Trustee Walker: But not the sidewalks?

Village Manager Frobel: No, not sidewalks. The sidewalks, again for the reasons I was taught, it was the merchant's or the owner's responsibility in front of his business.

Trustee Walker: But they do not have power washers.

Village Manager Frobel: I do not understand exactly why the power washer is required.

Trustee Walker: Because there is so much gum and stuff stuck to the sidewalks.

Village Manager Frobel: There is no easy solution to remove gum from sidewalks. We tried it. But it is still a stickiness. Even though it is off, the next time someone walks on it you are going to see it. There is no permanent fix to get rid of gum off sidewalks.

Trustee Apel: I never see people chewing gum. It is amazing there is always this gum all over the place.

Trustee Jennings: Did Singapore not ban gum? Could we do that?

Trustee Walker: I would love to resolve that because you hear about it again and. Maybe the landlords can figure out some way to band together and do something about it.

Another high priority was coming up with a plan for VFW park, perhaps a long-term plan, but doing some things in the short term that could make it a more pleasant place, both usable for events, and also on a day-to-day basis to make it more attractive for people to sit there.

Some long-term ideas include making the plaza space bigger by pushing it into Warburton so we have a bigger area down on the street for events. So you could still have traffic going by, but you have gathering space. Getting rid of the Christmas tree so we can put a stage in that area. That could be a short-term. Rethinking the way the terracing works there so we get more usable space.

Trustee Armacost: That was proposed.

Trustee Walker: Terracing was not really proposed. Really redoing that whole plaza was not proposed.

Trustee Armacost: To put in a gazebo. We even had somebody who was willing to fund it, but they got disappointed.

Trustee Walker: I know, because we did not remove the Christmas tree when the time came. It is time to revisit that, and think about if we could put a Christmas tree in another location in the Village, either at the Community Center or the library, and remove that tree and get a temporary stage there. We could try it for Friday Night Live in June. In addition, the ideas they came up with, putting more furniture out, comfortable tables and chairs with umbrellas. And then using it for a wine and cheese event or some kind of beyond Friday Night Live just entertainment. Having a food and beverage event there.

Trustee Armacost: Those Adirondack chairs that were donated by the same group, do we still own those? What happened to them?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: They were damaged. They were not sturdy enough. That is what Lisa told me.

Village Manager Frobel: I was unaware of that. I assumed they were picked up and stored.

Trustee Armacost: They were gorgeous.

Trustee Walker: Yes, they were nice. Maybe do that with a sturdier model. We had café tables there last summer, but they were not sturdy enough to be out all the time. They can survive in Bryant Park year in and year out, but they do not survive in our park.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: They get vandalized.

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, the kids jump on them. I go out for my walk and I see them jumping on them. I speak to them, and they look at you like what are you talking about.

Trustee Walker: There is movable seating in parks around the country that does not seem to get vandalized as much as the ones here in Hastings. I am not sure exactly what to do about that. But getting something out there to make it more comfortable on a short-term basis would be fun. People came up with the idea of putting chess tables out there, a giant chess set. Having more Saturday activities out there where we could use these amenities.

These are things I would like to talk to the merchants about, too. They often asked us about doing Saturday activities, maybe having a band play. But again, we need something in return. Or Friday Night Live cannot afford to constantly be raising money to put bands out there, not only on Fridays but then every Saturday throughout the summer. So how do we do that without some kind of quid pro quo, some active participation of the local businesses? It is all very well and good to talk about it. So thinking about what we can do in the short term and long term at VFW park.

Five Corners is a combination. A lot of it is on the A&P property. Some of these things are in our comp plan, doing something with the upper parking lot and the upper business at the upper level so it looks active.

Trustee Armacost: What is the business up there?

Village Attorney Stecich: They were accessory offices of the A&P.

Trustee Armacost: Is it still that?

Village Attorney Stecich: No, I do not think so. They were trying to rent it out as office space, and that was not permitted because the offices were supposed to be accessory to the A&P.

Trustee Walker: Is that something we should change so they can rent them out?

Village Attorney Stecich: I do not remember, but it was awhile ago the Building Department consulted with me about whether that was a requirement of the site plan approval. We did dig in, and they were supposed to be accessory to them. You had suggested using it for a café. The site plan is not approved for that, but restaurants are permitted as a special permit there. You do not have to change the zoning code. You could advise the Building Department. The best way to do it, the cleanest way, since it would be amended site plan approval, would be if the Planning Board got a request from you, you ask the Planning Board to revise the site plan to allow that space to be used for more things.

But you have to think about it. I do not know if there is parking for it. I think the thinking was there maybe was not enough parking. So you would have to look into that.

Trustee Walker: On a per square foot basis it might not?

Village Attorney Stecich: Yes. Let us say they were renting it out for offices, and some doctors come in that generate a lot of parking. It is not exactly that simple. First of all, find out what the A&P might want to do with it, and then it is A&P you would ask to come to the Planning Board and get a modification.

Trustee Walker: It is the gateway to our downtown, the gateway to our village. It is the most important corner in the whole Village. And to have it sitting there with an empty parking lot.

Mayor Swiderski: And a green peeling roof.

Trustee Apel: I do not think people are aware that it is empty. I think they just do not see it. They see the roof. I do not think they see the cars so much in the offices.

Trustee Walker: That is the maintenance, so that is a Building Inspector issue.

Trustee Jennings: Yes, that would be a good thing to do.

Village Attorney Stecich: There was a landscape plan that was part of the site plan approval. So if those trees were on the landscape plan they have to comply with it. They would have to put those trees back. The other things were probably maintenance issues or site plan.

Trustee Walker: So those are things we can take care of and try to enforce. And then working with the A&P perhaps to do something nice at the corner. We put banners up there, but maybe we can do something more permanent in terms of letting people what is going on in the Village, since the DOT is not letting us do the banner over Chauncey Lane anymore.

Trustee Armacost: Was there not a thought of having an information booth there?

Trustee Walker: Yes, not so much a booth. People are sitting at the intersection and see the events coming up.

Trustee Armacost: There are also a lot of people who walk past there so it is not just about the cars.

Trustee Walker: That is why the idea came up of putting big museum in the street sign up there where people walk by it, instead of having it outside Village Hall where nobody ever sees it. Thinking about where to put that because that is a nice amenity and it should serve a good function, especially with visitors coming into town.

I would also like to point out painting the crosswalks in the downtown. And could we, Fran, put those yellow signs in the middle of the road to alert drivers to stop for pedestrians, like we do now on others?

Village Manager Frobel: Sure, we have several.

Trustee Walker: Can we use them on Warburton right in the downtown? Like at Spring and Warburton, for example, and the street at Villard and Warburton.

Village Manager Frobel: The problem is cars would hit them. It is so narrow there that if a truck comes through it will certainly hit them. But the downtown painting, we will do it as soon as the weather breaks. The problems inherent with the product now is that it does not last with the heavy salt and plowing. It has to be done frequently. But as soon as the weather is good we will have them out there painting all the crosswalks, freshen them all up.

Trustee Walker: Those are the biggies. The big budget items we know, like the stair. And these others, tree pits, probably once we resolve it it is not going to be that big a number. It is just getting it done.

Mayor Swiderski: Maybe more than you think.

Trustee Walker: It may be more. It depends on the material we use. If we wanted to use really nice granite blocks that could be.

Mayor Swiderski: Maybe more than you think to do it right. We have suffered for not doing it right in the past.

Trustee Walker: Yes, that is for sure.

It may be two to three years down the road or more, but we need to start thinking about replacing the sidewalks in the downtown. The Bomanite is crumbling and a lot of the sidewalk is cracking. I do not know about repairs. They are going to be temporary Band-Aids. It is something to think about for the future. We should not wait until it is horrendous, dangerous and unsightly. We need to think about it before it gets to that point.

In terms of upcoming events, if we can get permission from the police we would like to do a Friday Night Live on April 25, close Boulanger Plaza, and do a spring happening around the River Arts studio tour and the grand opening of the Upstream Gallery, and have a community art project. So we are working on that. I should not be publicizing it until it has been approved, but I need to tell you.

Then there are a number of other Friday Night Lives that we are talking about. June 6 would be the Spring Thing, closing Warburton. July 11, the laser show sounds like it is going to happen this year. You are shaking your head.

Village Manager Frobel: I have not heard anything.

Trustee Walker: Because Lisa O'Reilly told me she thought it was going forward from what she had heard.

Mayor Swiderski: I had heard that they were talking about it, but not anything firm.

Trustee Walker: We do not want to do anything in September because it is Take Me to the River and we do not like to compete with that. But we are planning a big event for October, which is this idea of a beer festival. It is like an Oktoberfest. The date we are looking at is October 11. I am going to be meeting with Fran about that, and David Pugh who is the organizer. The idea is that it would be a fund-raiser. We call it Hastings One, and it is a fund-raiser to raise money for a particular project the Village would like to accomplish with the help of its citizens.

Trustee Armacost: So unnamed, so far.

Trustee Walker: We might narrow it down to a few that we then put out to a vote.

Mayor Swiderski: Some sort of voting mechanism, where the public would select it.

Trustee Armacost: So it like Kickstarter, but in the Village.

Mayor Swiderski: Beer-driven kickstarter. It sounds like my sort of thing.

Trustee Walker: It has been very successful in other towns. You have probably seen them. I think Hunter, New York has one.

Mayor Swiderski: Peekskill does.

Trustee Walker: Have you been?

Mayor Swiderski: Oh, yeah.

Trustee Walker: Maybe you can tell us a lot about it.

Trustee Armacost: Is it tax deductible? That is something to think about. That would make a difference.

Trustee Walker: If we set up a non-profit it could become tax deductible in the future if we continue to do this.

Mayor Swiderski: Had to happen once. That is the point.

Trustee Walker: Yes, we have to try it out and see how it goes. We are thinking about doing it in the Zinsser commuter parking lot because we f have the most space down there.

Trustee Armacost: You should think about a flow-through, though, through a different 501(c)(3) because that is much more of an incentive for people to provide funding.

Mayor Swiderski: The model is you buy a ticket for whatever it is, \$40, enter the event, at which point you have not unlimited, but access to the beer.

Trustee Armacost: Then you are paying for a service. But this that crowd funded idea.

Mayor Swiderski: Yes, that is what it is. These will draw 1,000 people, these sort of events. Everybody puts in \$40, and half of it covers expense and the rest of it is \$20,000 funding your idea.

Trustee Armacost: I was thinking of a lot more than \$20,000.

Trustee Walker: We can tack on to it a kick starter thing that would help to raise even more money for those who do not want to go drink beer.

Trustee Jennings: But he is saying the charitable object, the topic, would be crowd source.

Mayor Swiderski: Yes.

Trustee Armacost: Because if you are paying \$40 for a beer you cannot write that off.

That is like if you go into an auction and you are paying for food or whatever, you cannot write that off as a tax expense. You can only write it off if it is going to a not-for-profit cause.

Trustee Walker: I have often thought about setting up some kind of kickstarter for community projects, something that the community wants to see happen. Either the Village does not want to do it or we cannot afford it, or it is something that is maybe not absolutely critical for us to fund. At any rate, I think it is a terrific idea. But we need a crew just to do that. Coming up with the volunteers is not always easy.

The Downtown Collaborative is going to meet next Thursday, April 10 at the Community Center. Anybody is invited to come. This is open to the public. Another question I had for all of you is, we were going to organize a merchants' meeting, and then the question came up maybe this should be a Village-sponsored merchants' meeting since it is a lot of Village-related issues we are going to be discussing, for example, the bridge and the plastic bag ordinance. Maybe it is a meeting where Fran talks about the bridge and we talk about the plastic bag ordinance, and give them some warning about the public hearing and so on. We can bring up some other topics.

Mayor Swiderski: So front-loaded as a public meeting, and then followed by an hour with the Collaborative? Hanging on afterwards and talking about its issues?

Trustee Walker: I would say it was going to be a merchants' meeting. You are saying a public meeting open to anybody? I mean, it could be. But we were going to have specifically a merchants' meeting because we wanted to bring up some other topics like this improvement list, and get some comments from them on that.

Mayor Swiderski: But I thought part of the idea was always that the Collaborative existed independently of the Village.

Trustee Walker: Yes, it does.

Mayor Swiderski: I am trying to see the divide here.

Trustee Walker: No, you are right. But the bridge and the plastic bags may be enough for a meeting. That is the other thing. Maybe that is sufficient, and we do it at the Community Center and address those issues and it is not a Collaborative meeting

Mayor Swiderski: That is probably a good idea.

Trustee Walker: Because these are Village issues.

Trustee Apel: Maybe you should discuss that at the Collaborative meeting on Thursday.

Trustee Walker: Well, no because we have to get the word out. I was proposing April 16.

Mayor Swiderski: I know for a fact that the Community Center is not available because the e-cad graduation is that night. It can happen in the Orr Room. Just do not pretend that we are going to get a huge turnout. The merchants, you will get 20. We will easily accommodate them there.

Trustee Walker: We will be lucky if we get 20.

Trustee Apel: What are we calling the meeting?

Mayor Swiderski: The meeting on the 16th will be the public meeting covering parking issues and plastic bags.

Trustee Walker: One thing we have noted is you get a better turnout from the merchants if you go door-to-door and hand them a flier and talk to them about coming to a meeting. You send them an e-mail, it is not going to be as successful.

Mayor Swiderski: On the other hand, both of these items, but especially the parking and the bridge, are of deep concern to them so I think they will show. And if they do not, they do not.

Trustee Walker: One more thing, associated with the bridge. I think this is something the Downtown Collaborative can discuss. Instead of looking at it as simply a huge burden, it is an opportunity to ramp up a lot of things in the downtown: promotions, events, maybe staying open late one night a week, doing more signage, promotional signage, wayfinding signage, helping people understand what is going on with the bridge. So there are a lot of things that could accompany this bridge that we may want to work together with merchants. The merchants need to pitch in, too. That is something we should talk about. I just facilitated a meeting in Great Barrington last night. They are going to be going through this huge streetscape rebuild of their streets and their sidewalks. It is going to take two years, and they wanted to brainstorm what they could be doing, the merchants, the Chamber and the town, to help them remain a destination, not lose their customers and enable people to get to the stores. And have the merchants do even better displays and better signage. So just ramp up everything so you be sure you keep your customers coming. We should be doing that, too.

3. Tax Cap – Exclusion of Capital Costs

Village Manager Frobel: This comes from the town of Newcastle, looking for support to amend the tax cap law to allow financing of capital projects as an exemption. Currently, as I understand it, schools are able to have an exception for capital investment, capital projects, capital costs. Susan attached a very short note that summarizes that. They are simply looking for some support from the Board of Trustees.

Mayor Swiderski: So, operationally, the proposal is whatever component of the budget is dedicated toward the payments for a bond that pays for a capital expense would not be included in the calculation for the inflation/2 percent cap.

Village Manager Frobel: Right. Right now, the exception typically, and this year it was not offered, is for an extraordinary payment through the pension plan. This would expand that definition to include capital investment. Again, I have not read the legislation. I do not know what is really proposed. But in Hastings, our capital projects have been the Community Center, the library expansion a few years ago, and pool renovations. Of late, our capital investments have been heavy equipment. I am not sure heavy equipment is considered part of this desire to have an exemption. I just do not know enough about it.

Trustee Armacost: So it is only geared at buildings?

Village Manager Frobel: I think that is true. But I honestly do not know.

Trustee Armacost: It certainly makes sense if you are going to do something like build a community center. There is no way you would be able to do it without levying, currently.

Mayor Swiderski: Or a major sidewalk renovation, or whatever it is.

Village Manager Frobel: Or a sewer project. Any utility would certainly exceed your capability of handling it in your operating budget without the exemption.

Trustee Walker: I think it particularly makes sense for infrastructure. Because this is what is deteriorating all over the country.

Mayor Swiderski: I cannot see we would object to it. Was there a piece of legislation attached to it that we are being asked to support?

Village Manager Frobel: All I got was a letter.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: I do not think there is legislation. I think it is *urging* legislation.

Trustee Armacost: Yes, exactly. They are asking for support in proposing that.

Mayor Swiderski: In principle, it is hard to argue with that.

Trustee Armacost: Certainly, it would be worth clarifying. In my view, there is a difference between buildings and vehicles, although some of the vehicles can get very expensive and big. But I am certainly 100 percent in favor of this for building and big infrastructure, sewers.

Mayor Swiderski: I agree.

Trustee Armacost: If we were doing things relating to the waterfront where we had to pay for it, that would rack up a lot of money. It would very difficult, impossible, under the tax cap. It means, the way it currently is stated, you cannot do any improvement.

Village Manager Frobel: You would have to exempt yourself from the cap, which a lot of communities do routinely.

Trustee Armacost: But that is also a problem. The way you should word our letter is that we do not want to exempt ourselves so we need this.

Mayor Swiderski: Right. We want to abide by the cap, but extraordinary circumstances.

Trustee Jennings: Just so I will understand, and I am not sure I do, if you incur bonded indebtedness and borrow big money so you can build a building and then pay for it over time, if that is counted in the payments, the debt service is counted in to the cap, you could still stay under the 2 percent cap. There is nothing that says you have to either borrow or you stay under the cap. Those are the two choices, right? But what else would you cut back on?

Trustee Armacost: That is the point.

Trustee Jennings: So if you exempt the bonded indebtedness you are basically able to do more under the cap. But you are still going to have to pay off that bonded indebtedness.

Trustee Armacost: Eventually, exactly. And pensions are exempted, right Fran?

Village Manager Frobel: Sometimes. This year it was not.

Trustee Armacost: How can it be sometimes?

Village Manager Frobel: I do not know. It is year to year. It is a formula, and it depends upon how dramatic the increase was. This year, the comptroller's office ruled that the increase was not as dramatic as last year. So they not only eliminated the exemption, they lowered the cap to 1.48%. But let me fashion a letter, Mayor, supporting this. I will write it to the Town of Newcastle, with those provisions.

Village Attorney Stecich: I think the thing is to write to your own legislator, assembly member and senate member. It would be addressed to Cuomo and Andrea Stewart and Tom Abinanti.

Trustee Walker: That is what they ask at the end.

Trustee Armacost: But they probably would like a copy of it.

Trustee Jennings: And we are free to tweak the letter to our own whatever, situation?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes. I will indicate that you want to abide by the tax cap, but you would like an exemption to be considered for the bond indebtedness.

Mayor Swiderski: As the schools have.

Trustee Armacost: That also seems to strange, that inconsistency.

Trustee Jennings: It should not seem strange if you think about the way "lobbying" works.

Mayor Swiderski: Any inconsistency, they have the inconsistency of requiring a 60 percent supermajority on the bond votes if they exceed, and we just have a vote here.

4. Update on Deer

Mayor Swiderski: A longer update will follow out to the community on the deer project, but on Friday it came to an end for the year. It definitely ended on an up note. It really was the learning curve month. The first week of the month we had no luck whatsoever, as we tried the approach in the woods. The second week we had limited luck, as we had a half a dozen or so homes where we had access to the backyards. The deer would either leave the backyards when they saw our guys, or would not be there when the crew came around. We took the third week off, blanketed the area around Hillside Woods for permission. Three-

hundred-fifty little survey flags were put on the properties of everybody who gave permission. In the five days that darting proceeded afterwards there were seven deer darted. If we had done seven deer every five days for the course of the month, we would have hit the numbers we had originally hoped for. It took us the better part of the month to learn the lessons to finally begin to deliver the sort of results we had hoped for from the beginning. We always knew this first month would be a learning curve experience. But we have come away with an understanding of the deer behavior, what's works. The Humane Society is going to come back with a proposal for next year which will have more time to plan for and a longer period. We will seek to hit the numbers they are seeking, which is closer to 60 deer.

A phenomenal effort on the part of quite a few volunteers. Really appreciate it, we will be putting all the photos up. The last deer expired under the anesthetics on Sue Maggiotto's lawn. So Susan had the pleasure of looking out her back window and observing our team in action on deer number eight as they went through their proceedings. I think you phoned it in. They were looking for it and you waved them over. So there are eight tagged deer out there and a lot of lessons learned. Next year we will know what we are doing more so, and we will see what happens. It is a learning curve.

Trustee Walker: Peter, we still had snow on the ground at the beginning of March. That kept them out of the woods, but do you think that would have also made it more difficult to tag them on private property? Snow, and especially the icy coating.

Mayor Swiderski: That was part of it, without a doubt. The snow forced the deer out of the woods and into people's backyards. But also we were learning what worked, what their schedules or where they were, how to approach them, when and where they could be darted. Apparently each population is different and they were learning the habits of our population. Again, they have always said one to two a day. If they could sustain that for a month we would have gotten the numbers we were looking for. They sustained that in the last week of activity so we know it can be done. It is not that our deer are entirely intractable. It is just a question of finding the secret sauce that worked.

In thinking about this for the next five years, there are two components. There is the study component, where we go through this exercise of bringing the deer down, tagging them, the whole nine yards. And then out beyond those five years, if the study is successful and we are satisfied with the results, an ongoing effort that cannot be a huge effort every year. There cannot be 350 flags on people's lawns and immobilization of 40 volunteers every year. No community has that energy level, and I certainly do not. So over the course of these next few years, example protocols that make this something a village can sustain reliably from year to year, that does not involve this borderline superhuman effort. So the study component will examine whether this technology brings the numbers down.

But the other half of the effort over the next five years will be to see what works that is minimally invasive in terms of effort. It cannot involve this sort of mobilization. It may be realistic here. We may have this special sort of people as crazy as myself or others who are willing to spend the time. But it is not a model that will carry other communities. So we have to figure out how to make this work, and that is the second challenge. First, let us run the study. But also in the back of our minds, what is working here and can we envision this as a model for the community.

Trustee Walker: What about doing it in September, as you mentioned to me?

Mayor Swiderski: We are going to examine that, before the snow. When I ran for mayor I never thought I would land up understanding as much as I do about deer biology and all of it. It is way more information than I bargained on. In September and October the acorns are coming down and they have a lot of food. We think they look skinny. The darting team said they were quite healthy for this time, they had plenty of fat still on their bodies. One of the questions he asked about halfway through is were there a lot of acorns this year. If you remember, it was ridiculous, mounds of them. And it showed. The deer were fat, and it may have also been a reason why they were not as attracted to the feeders. They were not starving enough to risk something new.

There are a number of factors here which all have to be weighed. September, indeed there is no snow on the ground. But there are leaves on the trees, it is more difficult to see them, it is more difficult to dart them. So it may be October or November, but all of it they will sort out. They are going to come back to us with a proposal. I have indicated that our financial tolerance is what it is. If there is more money, we have to find money elsewhere fund-raising. Our commitment in terms of volunteer resources is more than enough. They understand and agree, and think it is not a big deal to raise that sort of money.

So if their intent for the next year is to deploy more teams it is going to cost more money. I have said we are in for the sort of \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year that we committed to originally. We are not in for something much larger. They understand that. We do agree, however, it is a high profile project nationally, and exactly the sort of thing a private donor goes for

In the near term future, we are going to be rolling out in April a host a "hosta," as it is called, which is 40 pots distributed onto properties evenly spaced all over the Village. Volunteers are hosting pots. We will track which ones are eaten, year in, year and see if the numbers go down. That is one of several metrics we are going to be rolling out in the next few months. All volunteer-driven. The school is going to be doing exclosures in the woods, and that will be run this spring, as well.

So other pieces are happening. They are not going to be quite as intensive. And there are volunteers lined up to handle them, so I am blessedly excused from the sort of commitment it has been to date. That is phase one. Great learning curve, and I am profoundly relieved to end it on the upswing it did. It makes for an easier narrative and a more hopeful next season.

Mr. Gonder: Mr. Mayor, did I understand that you had eight that were tagged?

Mayor Swiderski: Yes.

Mr. Gonder: And one was phoned in? That is the way to go. People like myself saw 105 deer in March, which were 12. They can get over there. Now next year you are going to have riflemen doing this, right? Not the special people coming in.

Mayor Swiderski: No. The Humane Society will be doing it still.

Mr. Gonder: So you have to have a communication.

Mayor Swiderski: The problem with the phoning is that they tried that and more often than not, when they arrived, the deer had moved on to other property or ran when they saw the team approach. There are a lot of deer, and if everybody was supplied with one phone number to call that phone would be ringing all day long. Yes, the team saw over 100 deer and knows there are plenty of deer in town. The problem was not seeing the deer. The problem was being at the right point at the right time exactly when the deer were available for darting. Sounds easy, but I will tell you that if I hear again from anyone, including you, there were five deer on my front lawn this morning, I am going to scream. I know there were five deer on your front lawn at 8 a.m., but it is not nearly as actionable information as you think it is. It just was not.

Mr. Gonder: I disagree with you 100 percent.

Mayor Swiderski: And so do a lot of people.

Trustee Walker: But you tried. You did have those call-ins.

Mayor Swiderski: We did try to react to those calls, and the problem is it did not work.

Mr. Gonder: And you need more than one person.

Mayor Swiderski: Yes, we do. They need a couple.

Mr. Gonder: That is why I was hoping next year you have sharpshooters going out. That was the plan.

Mayor Swiderski: No, we are not yet ready for that. As long as you are dealing with anesthetics, which are controlled substances, it is not something we are going to be putting into the hands of volunteers. It will be done by professionals.

Mr. Gonder: So you need a veterinarian.

Mayor Swiderski: No, you need professionals who have handled controlled substances. It does not have to be a vet, but it has to be somebody with experience. It is not something you handle idly. It ends poorly if you do.

Trustee Jennings: Do these eight need a booster next year?

Mayor Swiderski: No, the ones that have been tagged will not.

Trustee Jennings: Then how often?

Mayor Swiderski: Two years.

Trustee Jennings: And that is going to be delivered, then, by an air thing.

Mayor Swiderski: Directly, that is correct.

Trustee Jennings: Has that still got the pharmacological issues, or are you going to be able to have volunteers?

Mayor Swiderski: No, it does not. The PCP can be delivered by anyone. It is crushed pig protein and there is nothing bad to it.

Trustee Armacost: One thing I wondered was whether our police force can be trained to be darters.

Mayor Swiderski: For the anesthetics?

Trustee Armacost: Yes, for the anesthetics.

Mayor Swiderski: Maybe, but I like the liability the way it rests now. We spent time

carving up the legal liability, and I like that right now being the Humane Society's responsibility. And they are talking about mobilizing more professionals to do this. There are grad students out there doing PhD projects that involve darting deer for whatever that can be pulled in. You can mobilize people who have darted hundreds of deer that are under their salary and legal umbrella. These are heavy duty anesthetics. You shoot yourself in the foot then it is a very bad day for you.

Trustee Jennings: Well, we were talking about the kickstarter kind of fund-raising before. I think if we had a proposition that we will get five more darters.

Mayor Swiderski: We are not going to have a problem raising that sort of money from private donors. The Humane Society is a network. I would rather save our money for something else. The Humane Society has a network of high-end donors. Maybe long term, moving forward. For the time being, for the next year, I think we are where we are.

Trustee Jennings: It also helps more and more people who live in Hastings feel that they are a part of this effort. The more buy-in we get the better.

Mayor Swiderski: The number of people who bought in, both in spite of active volunteers, I am going to be spending the next few weeks thanking a lot of people. A lot of people really knocked themselves out here, and I understand that.

Trustee Jennings: Maybe we could have an event where the whole community could thank them.

Mayor Swiderski: Next year, when it is more successful.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Swiderski: I would like to adjourn in memory of our former mayor, Julie Chemka, who passed away last night after an evening of socializing with friends at the Southside Athletic Club playing shuffleboard and being his own real true self engaged in the community and enjoying himself at the ripe age of 87. Always himself, always a kind word.

He served as mayor, starting in 1976, for six years, and left an imprint on the Village at the time and in people's hearts. His daughter, Patty, served on our Planning Board for years and survives him, as does his long-time good friend, Sue Smith. Their loss is our loss. He was always a gentleman and always a kind word. Served this village well and hard for many, many years, and we are definitely the worse for his loss.

I am going to ask that the Village flag be at half mast until his funeral, in memory of the service to the Village he gave, and close in a moment of silence in memory of Mayor Chemka.

With a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:10 p.m.