

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 15, 2014

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 7:30 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. Fobel, and Village Attorney Linda Whitehead

CITIZENS: One (1).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 1, 2014 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 11-2014-15 \$324,814.10

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Gonder, 153 James Street: I got my water bill, and according to Meg Walker there was not going to be a tax increase. But just to let her know that in compliance with bill so-and-so that at the request of the Public Service Commission ordered United Water to charge a municipal public fire protection surcharge, MPFP surcharge to customers in this municipalities. That is us. A surcharge, according to Merriam-Webster dictionary, is an additional tax. So you have, now, \$250,000 that you are not using, apparently, for the fire hydrants. Why do you not use a little of that money for the veterans, give them that 7.5 percent.

I would like to bring up the preservation of Building 52. More and more people are against it. It seems to be slowing down the process: legal action, is it worthwhile saving and this and that, and no building permit. I do not know why the Board does not negotiate with BP, Atlantic Richfield and say we will give you a permit next week, but we want you to clean this up two years quicker and maybe give us two acres of land or whatnot. You have to make a decision because it seems six to eight more years. Maybe Jeremiah Quinlan can do some negotiations.

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: I met with Con Ed officials this week. The gas line installation, in their estimation, is going very well. There are only 10 service connections yet to be accomplished. By the end of next week they should be also complete with all the service connections. The goal remains to be finished probably by the first, second week in August.

The Warburton Bridge project likewise. The inspection of the steel underside of the bridge is complete and they have begun steel repairs on that. They have completed a saw cutting of the concrete deck on the east side of the bridge. That is complete, and the crews have now begun the removal of the deck panels. They have been saw-cut, so now they will be removed. On the east side, the parapet wall has been removed. So very good progress on that project, as well.

Mayor Swiderski: A question on the gas line repair. Once the repair is done, the re-paving will occur when the other streets are re-paved?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes. Main Street will be re-paved once Con Ed gives us an OK that it is settled enough. They want to wait until we get a clean bill of health from that.

Mayor Swiderski: How long does that take?

Village Manager Frobel: You usually like to let it settle for awhile.

Mayor Swiderski: What is "awhile?"

Village Manager Frobel: End of September, October maybe. Our goal is to have it done this year. But what you will see is a very good patch. As you can see already, once they have removed the steel plates that means they have completed that portion; their service connection is up. Then you will see the asphalt patch. They will compact that, roll it out, and it will stay like until they are convinced that it is settled and ready for final topcoat. So that is our goal this season.

Mayor Swiderski: On the bridge, if you could put that date out to the e-mail list so those people who care enough to register for that list hear about this that would be great.

Trustee Walker: I want to just compliment you, Fran, and DPW about the steps down to the station from the Steinschneider lot. It is significantly improved. It makes a huge difference.

Village Manager Frobel: I will pass the word on to the men.

Trustee Armacost: Yes, I would like to echo that. I specifically went there to see it. I do not go down that frequently, and it looked really lovely. And also to thank the DPW team for clearing the Village land between Cliff and Overlook. That cutting job, obviously there is more work that needs to be done there, but it is a huge improvement. And also for putting up a barrier against the wall where there is a big hole on Cliff Street.

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, he has made arrangements to have that repaired in combination with the contractor and our own men.

Trustee Armacost: Do we know why that is? It is a little bit peculiar that so much of the wall should have fallen down right there.

Village Manager Frobel: I think it is just aging. We have had to replace a lot of the walls in that neighborhood around Mt. Hope. Sections of concrete gives way and it just falls.

Trustee Armacost: Because it is quite far down. It is dangerous.

Village Manager Frobel: Oh, way down. They are going to have to break it up and carry it up by hand where it has come so far down.

Trustee Armacost: Right. But thank you for filling that hole so promptly because that is a dangerous area there.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Board of Trustees August 2014 Meeting Dates

Mayor Swiderski: August meeting dates. This is on the agenda, I suspect, because there is some skepticism about whether we will have a quorum on the 5th?

[Discussion of Dates]

Village Manager Frobel: That night could be very light, much like tonight. You get a lot of action items in the late spring and, quite frankly, it is quiet.

Trustee Apel: So the only other time we have a meeting in August is the 26th.

Mayor Swiderski: That is right. Then we leave it on the 5th in case we need it.

2. Update on the Downtown

Trustee Walker: I do not have anything about the downtown, per se. But I would like to ask if we can have an executive session to talk about the downtown applicant position, since we are receiving many resumes.

Village Manager Frobel: I can give you a report now, if you would like. The deadline is August 4 to accept resumes. So far, we have received 23. Seven are Hastings residents. In our estimation, it is very attractive. *The Enterprise* is doing a story on the position this Friday. They are going to run the ad for us another time because there was a slight error in the ad they ran in the paper the first time. So between the ad running again and *Enterprise* story, that may generate even more interest. The resumes are very impressive.

The error was in the e-mail address. They put a dash in. Instead of writing villagemanager, one word, they wrote village-manager.

Mayor Swiderski: Did we create an e-mail address with that name in it so we could handle that, or what happened?

Village Manager Frobel: No, they are just going to redo it. I think most people probably figured out it was the wrong address.

3. Update on the Waterfront

Mayor Swiderski: Fran, do you have anything?

Village Manager Frobel: I do not.

Mayor Swiderski: Briefly to the public comment, we have not received any indication out of BP on Building 52. However, we are in negotiations on the consent decree with both BP and Riverkeeper. This redoes a document that is now 11 years old to reflect the new realities on the site. The single biggest change is to move from a 5-foot cap to a performance standard of 11 feet above sea level so we survive global warming plus Sandy. That is the single biggest change to the consent decree, and we are working out the mechanics with BP. They are in accord with that change. Beyond that, there are some other issues. That is all, again, negotiations I would rather not get into more. But that is the key feature. Once we are close to accord, it will become a public document.

Trustee Walker: Regarding Building 52 we do not take any action until we have been asked for a demolition permit, right?

Mayor Swiderski: Right. And no indication out of BP that they are going to file said permit. There is an indication out of the preservationist group that they want the office that eliminated the National Register classification of the building to reconsider their decision. There has been some e-mail traffic between the DEC, that bureau, and us on that topic. But nothing substantive to report. Both the DEC and SHPO wanted to understand the reasoning behind bringing down 51, since that was part of the justification that the preservationists have used to say that it should not have been brought down, was brought down improperly and, as a result, this decision should be reconsidered.

Trustee Jennings: It was also part of the justification for the initial finding by SHPO that the other buildings were gone, the context was gone.

Mayor Swiderski: Right, and preservationists say the reason that happened was because 51 was taken down and it should not have been taken down in the way it was taken down. So there has been some e-mail traffic on that. But beyond that, nothing to report.

Trustee Jennings: The e-mails do not give any indication of a time frame about the reconsideration process?

Mayor Swiderski: No, they do not. We have inquired through environmental counsel, and that office has not given us a response.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost with a voice vote of all in favor, the Board scheduled an Executive Session immediately following the Regular Meeting to discuss personnel and the Village Downtown Advocate position hiring.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting.