

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 18, 2014**

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:35 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Peter Swiderski, Trustee Marjorie Apel, Trustee Meg Walker, Trustee Nicola Armacost, Village Manager Francis A. Frobels, Village Attorney Linda Whitehead, and Village Clerk Susan Maggionto

**ABSENT:** Trustee Bruce Jennings

**CITIZENS:** Nine (9).

**Mayor Swiderski:** As is our tradition when there is a new store owner in town, we invite them to present about their business. Please, Mr. Scala of D. Thomas Fine Miniatures.

**Darren Scala:** I am opening on Thursday. The name of the establishment is D. Thomas Fine Miniatures. I am an artist and also a proprietor, and always had a passion for miniature, which is anything that is a replica of a full-size item. In my case, my passion is 1/12<sup>th</sup> scale, one foot to one inch. If you have a five foot cabinet, my thrill is seeing that in five inches. My business will be a combination of sales of commercial products and artisan pieces, but also I am going to be doing DIY workshops in the back. I will have artisans come in and teach crafts and classes. I will have a gallery cabinet part of my shop that will cater to artisan pieces. I will invite artisans to exhibit their work as a way to get people to come in, to see what miniatures are all about, and to get people to be as excited as I am about these things.

I am excited to be here, I am excited to open this week, excited to participate within the community. I know there is a Village Crawl coming up December 5. I cannot wait to participate in that. My market is generally women, and mostly mature women. You would think that miniatures would be catered more towards children. Although I will have product for children, my general market will be women. I hope to attract a new audience into the discipline, and take them away from thinking about what these are all about. Ultimately, my objective is to have people see miniatures as a decorator art form. My concept in my business is showcasing these things in an art form to drive interest, awareness and, ultimately, passion that I have for it.

It is at 579 Warburton in the Movie House Mews. I occupy the back space where the movie screen used to be, so the ceilings are high, the space is beautiful. I will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays 10 to 5, and then on Sundays 12 to 5. Closed on Mondays which most stores in town are. But I will be available for evenings by appointment.

**Trustee Walker:** We are so happy to have you. Welcome to Hastings. That is so exciting. I guess you have met our Downtown Advocate. Do you sell your products online?

**Mr. Scala:** I am planning to launch the physical retail space first, and I am doing an e-commerce site for launch in the first quarter of 2015. I am using the physical space as a driver for the online business. I believe in the concept of having that whole, full spectrum experience for a consumer. But absolutely I am going online in 2015.

**Trustee Walker:** How do you advertise?

**Mr. Scala:** I want to do some local advertising just to have people be aware that I am there. But my primary focus is going to be through social media.

### **APPOINTMENT**

**Mayor Swiderski:** We have an appointment to the Architectural Review Board, Douglas Emilio, an alternate, for a term expiring in 2016. We thank him for the services that he will be rendering to us, and wish him good luck.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mayor Swiderski:** Are there any modifications to the minutes?

**Trustee Apel:** Only as I sent to Sue.

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 4, 2014 were approved as amended.

### **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. 35-2014-15	\$1,139,362.96
Multi-Fund No. 37-2014-15	\$ 117,565.10
Multi-Fund No. 38-2014-15	\$ 14,194.99

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**John Gonder, 153 James Street:** Back in 1791, I believe it was December 15, Congress passed ten amendments to the Constitution. Everybody knows the first one, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press. But there is a second thing it said, and I am going to read that. “Or the right of the people to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for redress of grievances.” I come here peacefully, have no weapons. I know I said some words that upset you, Mr. Mayor, but that is the ball game. Trustee Armacost, you hit the thing last week on the head when you used the word “transparency” when you were talking with the auditor. To me, transparency, you can see through. But it also reminded me of the Florida sunshine law: do everything in the open. That is what I thought you meant. Transparent also means free from pretense or deceit. We passed a water surcharge, you took it off your budget and put it on the water company. I was told it was depending on the amount we used rather than the size of the pipe and the number of hydrants. That may have been an error, bad information. The budget was zero increase. Everybody thought that was so terrific. But yet, you took \$250,000 out and put it someplace else as a surtax, and we are paying it. So that was a little flim-flam unless you said the budget is zero increase but we took \$250,000 out and put it over here and you are going to pay that amount to the water company, then I would say there was no deception, no hanky-panky or flim-flam. That is why I am going to say you did not like the words. Those words came from my brain, my heart, my soul that God gave me. Those ten amendments are probably the next best thing that we have from the ten Commandments.

**Veronica Mas Casullo, 78 Donald Drive:** I represent the families living there. Ravensdale and 9-A is a very busy intersection. There is no pedestrian crossing and our kids cannot cross. Some kids are doing it but my kids are not allowed to cross that intersection. We live close to the school and we can walk to school. The only impediment is that intersection. We think it is not that complicated to fix it. Just do a small sidewalk on the Ravensdale side because the Jackson side does have a very good sidewalk. The crossing should include some pedestrian timing. I am here for advice how to proceed. I know this request has been there for three years or even more, and it still is not resolved. We have spoken with Paul Feiner and Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, and are planning to get together on-site. This is the recommendation Paul Feiner gave us, to get together on-site with the senator and with the chief of police and the school people as well, some representative, and try to see if we can move the issue farther. But we do not want to keep waiting because the kids are getting old. The idea is to solve it as soon as possible so the kids can start walking to school.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I can only add you are on the right track. Ms. Shimsky should also be invited to that meeting. She has been very involved. I was part of the committee that redesigned that intersection. I think we made some wonderful improvements.

**Ms. Mas Casullo:** Yes, she has.

**Village Manager Frobel:** There was an effort to have a crosswalk there, and I think it came down to funding and some other needs as to whether or not there was sufficient count for pedestrians crossing that area. But they can revisit the issue and see what they can accomplish.

**Trustee Armacost:** Is there anything that we can do to be helpful?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Some county work is anticipated to occur at that intersection: some improvements to the bridge and the creation of a parking lot for the bikeway. It is part of an overall plan to improve that entire intersection further, but I am not sure what we can do short-term.

**Trustee Armacost:** Can we advocate that we are in favor, write a letter?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Very definitely. We have got the Chief of Police involved in this. There is going to be staff presence but, certainly, we can take a lead in trying to promote it. We have often felt it was a good idea to have a pedestrian crossing there with lighting and signalization.

**Barbara Prisament, 50 Clarewood Drive:** I looked into this a few years ago. I also live on the other side of 9-A. What I was hoping for was a crossing guard. My feeling was that that intersection was easily as dangerous as the Five Corners or other intersections, or Olinda and Broadway. We have school district children there who are not able to walk, I do not let mine walk either. Some people do. The school system told me it was Greenburgh's responsibility to put a crossing guard, and Greenburgh told me it was our school district's responsibility. I never got further along with it. I do not know if you are interested in having a crossing guard, but I would be, for the morning and after school.

**Ms. Mas Casullo:** The crossing guard is ideal, but it is more expensive. At least to have a pedestrian light and a sidewalk, and to have on top of that a crossing guard.

**Trustee Armacost:** At the very least, having painted lines with Yield to Pedestrians, as a sign, put up.

**Ms. Mas Casullo:** And the timing.

**Trustee Armacost:** Yes, and the timing. Exactly. But these should not be wildly complicated things to do. The issue is identifying it. If it is a Greenburgh road, then maybe it is a Greenburgh responsibility where we can be a supporting voice.

**Trustee Walker:** 9-A is a state road. We have to work as a team with Greenburgh and approach the New York State DOT. Also, what is the timetable for the bridge replacement?

**Village Manager Frobel:** I think that has been pushed off almost indefinitely. They have been talking about it a long time. In fact, it rated poorly, and then there was a revision to the rating and it got pushed into the future, as did the creation of that parking lot that we worked on.

**Trustee Walker:** Yes, that got pushed into the future, too. Well, that is something we could keep bringing up with the county, that piece of it. But the state was going to replace the bridge, was it not? So we have to talk to all the different stakeholders.

**Trustee Armacost:** Getting a lobby group of people who live there and are affected in the area is very smart because it creates a feeling of solidarity rather than just having an individual person. But I know exactly the situation you are talking about, and I know the kids who are trying to cross the road. It would be great if they could walk to school.

**Trustee Apel:** You could call a meeting of the state congressperson, invite them to where you live, with other people, along with Paul Feiner. Tell him you want to have a meeting.

**Trustee Armacost:** They are doing that.

**Trustee Apel:** And Tom Abinanti. You could decide to have a meeting at the corner. That would certainly get them all to come. They will all show up then.

**Trustee Armacost:** And call the media, maybe.

**Trustee Walker:** We have a new transportation committee, and although this is outside of Hastings' jurisdiction they might be interested in getting involved in some way.

**Ms. Mas Casullo:** Can I get those names?

**Trustee Walker:** You can get it from the Village Manager.

**Ms. Mas Casullo:** Thank you. We are planning on Thursday for the Safety Council, as well.

**Patrick Randolph Bell, Hastings-on-Hudson:** About that plastic bag lawsuit, I wanted to figure out if you had a roll call vote behind closed doors on pursuing the fight rather than just stopping.

**Mayor Swiderski:** It is executive session, we do not talk about that in public.

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** There was no formal vote. They do not need a formal vote.

**Mr. Bell:** Do we have a certain amount of money allocated to fighting this, or have we spent a certain amount so far?

**Mayor Swiderski:** We have a budget line for litigation, and it would draw down against that. We have not received a bill yet, though we have informally requested a cap for it.

**Mr. Bell:** If you reach that cap you just drop the case?

**Mayor Swiderski:** No, we do not expect to reach that cap. And if the litigation drags on we go to external entities like NRDC or other groups to help us out.

**Mr. Bell:** Ms. Whitehead, if Greenburgh passes a law to ban these bags does that affect us?

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** We have to see what the law provides.

**Mr. Bell:** If the county passes a law to ban plastic bag would that cover us?

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** Again, it depends what the law says. You would have to see. Neither one of them, I do not think, are doing anything immediately.

**Mr. Bell:** Let us get back to my First Amendment issues. I talked about the no male or female impersonators law. This Friday I had the pleasure of attending our high school play. It was amazing, the collective works of Shakespeare annotated. Everybody in this play played roles of the opposite sex throughout. They mentioned LGBT issues. One person goes, Shouldn't there be a "Q? How about a "Z?" It a part of this village and something that we are teaching our kids with these plays: a positive attitude toward acceptance of people who may be different than them. I would like you to address this law that says no male or female impersonators allowed. The law sends the wrong statement to these LGBT people in town and people who support those groups.

Let us go on to separation of church and state issues. I have been wondering about a couple of our e-mail blasts from Hastings. I am not sure who is in charge of these, of sending them out finally and being the final person who checks them out. There was one from our head library lady, which mentioned that she won an award, the Westchester library system trustee award. But then she titled that in this e-mail The Gift of the Magi, like it was a blessing from God, these three people showed up and gave her this. I called and asked why. She said it's from a book about Christmas. And there was also a reference to King Solomon within that same e-mail. Just unnecessary. I am not sure why these religions endorsements keep getting through.

We are advertising now. We sent out an e-mail blast to the Village about the Grace Episcopal Church for a lunch gathering which is going to be held at the church. We have also advertised that we will be busing people there through the Hastings recreation department. It seems strange to me that we are using Village resources to bring people to a church event which is advertised on their church calendar. I wish you would not waste our taxpayer money on these church events and trying to proselytize these people to bring more people into these places. Maybe that is not your intention, but I would like you to pay more attention to that. If you are going to start advertising for them where is it going to end? If I have my Festivus policy celebration, if I sent you an e-mail requesting you to blast that out, are you going to do it? Probably not.

I was looking at the Freedom from Religion website. There is a place somewhere where there was a question about Good Friday and how this little town was having Good Friday off. It is not a federal or state holiday. Some people have that day off, possibly, from work and they would like to go to the Village and get some stuff done. But we have Good Friday off, as I guess it is a tradition. But it is also something that is another religious endorsement. We are only having it off solely because it is a Christian religious holiday. It seems like we are getting too involved with the Christian religion and not involved enough in the business of running our village. I keep seeing it, and I am sensitive to it. The more I see it, it is like again and again, it is happening again. How do they not get it? I know it is not just you, and this is a long-running thing, but perhaps in the future we could all take a look at that and try to make it equal for everybody and not keep pressing one agenda. If the church wants to advertise, let them advertise. Let us stop using Village resources to promote religion.

**Richard Ryan, Hastings-on-Hudson:** I spoke to you four weeks ago about the possibility of an alternative solution to the suicide barrier on the Warburton Bridge. Since that time, I have had a fairly detailed correspondence with David Bradley of Officium, the design firm for the Golden Gate Bridge and for the suicide barriers in Ithaca, New York. They have an American office, they are a European-based company that works closely with a number of

design firms that specialize in those kind of partitions. We have a quote. Mr. Mayor, you were included on some of this correspondence that is robust in the numbers that are associated with it. I have continued to talk with Mr. Bradley and have information about what we might do to contain costs and to make the possibility of a non-obstructive suicide barrier economically viable for the Village. If there is a possibility of this happening, we need very soon to engage the county, to engage the contractor on the Warburton Bridge project. As a citizen who has volunteered a lot of time and done a lot of intensive resource and investigation on this matter, I would like to hear a public commitment from the Trustees to explore this. If there is an interest in pursuing this option it is not going to happen without the Trustees' active engagement and support of it.

**Mayor Swiderski:** That is something we should at least briefly discuss. There was interest as a Board in pursuing the idea of netting. It certainly seemed to be a majority of the Board. My Ryan did do some research and came back with some plans and a robust quote, as you would call it. In terms of sequencing, I hesitate to ask the Board to weigh in on the quote and to vote without a commitment from the county whether they are interested. The next step is to forward your specific idea, not asking the county to pay for it, but simply asking the county can this be considered in your current unfolding construction planning process, and the Village would like it to be considered.

**Mr. Ryan:** Rather than simply forwarding any raw correspondence that we now have from David Bradley, I would like to ask him to craft and to make available to us as a village a proposal that might facilitate a slightly more efficient or economically reasonable proposal, one that does not include both sides of the bridge; the quote from Officium was for unobstructed netting on both sides of the bridge which more or less doubled the cost. He said his estimate included the original Cambridge, Massachusetts-based contractor for the Cornell University barriers. If he were working directly with the Westchester-based contractor, that might conserve costs considerably. The other thing that he has pointed out, which is something that research seems to indicate is correct, is that since the barrier would be the last part of the bridge construction to be completed, you could leave a temporary barrier for safety purposes up until there was the adequate time and planning to construct the netting. So there is nothing that would impede the current construction on the bridge, there is nothing that would interfere with completing everything except the river side barrier from being erected. You would be on the same schedule, whatever that might be now, and looking at the same budget that you are looking at. And then you would have an additional cost and whatever additional time was required to install the unobstructed suicide prevention netting on the river side of the bridge. I think what we should do is allow David the chance to put that proposal in motion.



**Mayor Swiderski:** I think we are all quite open to that. My only concern is that what you are proposing not take too long, is because while what you say regarding construction may be so, I do not know if it is so regarding ordering of fencing or materials. And I do not know if they have done that or where that is in their cycle, but if they are ordering the proposed fencing that we authorized, and it is cut or whatever they do to form, that is not something that can be undone. If he can manage that so we can submit this to the county as quickly as possible.

**Trustee Armacost:** Is it possible for us to establish whether that has been purchased yet?

**Village Manager Frobel:** I can tell you that the fence we wanted has been awarded to the contractor, is being fabricated and they are looking to install it ultimately.

**Mayor Swiderski:** On both sides or one side?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Their plan is to do one-half at a time, but it is a contract for both halves.

**Mayor Swiderski:** How recent is your information? When was the last time you spoke to them?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Before every Board meeting I ask for an update on the project. I spoke to the planner today and he sent me back an e-mail. They are proceeding.

**Mayor Swiderski:** If you could do us a favor of verifying whether it has literally been cut or if there is a chance.

**Trustee Armacost:** Otherwise, I think we made clear that we had reservations. So that seems preemptive on their part.

**Mr. Ryan:** David Bradley has reputedly expressed both his sensitivity to local infrastructure management concerns and his desire to work with whatever local resource would be available to make sure that this project could happen. He does not have any predeterminations.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Specifically the request is, we understand that the fencing on the museum side is as ordered, but is it possible to inject review of this proposal at this point in time and halt the fabrication for the other side, which is still at least nine months out, right?

**Village Manager Frobel:** For installation.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Right. But it may be that it is fabricated in sections.

**Trustee Armacost:** We need to know the cost of that specific part of the contract.

**Village Manager Frobels:** We know what the cost of the fencing is. It was \$104,000 or \$110,000 as our expense.

**Trustee Armacost:** For both sides.

**Village Manager Frobels:** Yes.

**Trustee Walker:** You mean the Village's cost because we asked them to change the design.

**Village Manager Frobels:** Yes.

**Trustee Armacost:** So they are paying a portion in addition?

**Village Manager Frobels:** It is a portion of what they had budgeted for the fence that they intended.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Chain link.

**Village Manager Frobels:** Right. Their designed fence, and then with your modification that is the additional cost.

**Trustee Armacost:** Do we not need to know what the total would be, their portion that they are going to pay and our portion, in order to see whether there is a budget that matches that?

**Village Manager Frobels:** I can only tell you what they have shared with me, and that is what they are telling me our share is.

**Trustee Armacost:** I thought you were saying there is a portion that they are paying themselves.

**Village Manager Frobels:** There was a budget line item they anticipated to spend on the fencing.

**Trustee Armacost:** Do you remember that part?

**Village Manager Frobel:** I do not.

**Trustee Armacost:** We need to just add those two figures together, and that is what needs to be matched.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Divide it by two. Not if we are talking about just one side, if it was \$40,000, around that number, it would be half of that. That would be \$70,000, and that would be half a bridge.

**Trustee Armacost:** You mean \$20,000. Half of \$40,000.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Half of \$100,000-plus.

**Trustee Armacost:** Oh, I see what you are saying. Half of \$140,000.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Right, \$70,000. That may be impossible, but then the ask becomes are we willing to cover the additional expense above and beyond that.

**Mr. Ryan:** Indeed. I do think the numbers will exceed that. But I do not think, with a little bit of ingenuity, they would exceed that outrageously. I will convey all this to Officium and to David Bradley, who has expressed avid interest in this project and the desire to do whatever he can to make it happen. All I would request is that the Trustees remain actively engaged and put Mr. Bradley in contact with the appropriate people at the county level as quickly as possible to facilitate coming up with a reasonable request.

**Mayor Swiderski:** We can do that, as well.

**Village Manager Frobel:** And who is David Bradley?

**Mr. Ryan:** David Bradley is the head of the American branch of Officium. Officium is the European-based company with Jacob Fence, which is the designer of the netting on the Golden Gate Bridge and in Ithaca, New York. Also the fencing for the High Line in New York. They are a famous materials production company. They have been engaged in numerous projects like this. They are considered a very environmentally conscious and design-sensitive architectural firm. And they are also used to working on large public works projects. So they understand that there are local political sensitivities that they want to do everything they can to respect. They would be happy to have a conversation with the contractor to see what they could do to make this project economically viable.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I do not see an issue with having them speak directly.

**Village Manager Frobel:** No, that would be my preference. My concern is, again, a contract has been let out. They are designing and fabricating the fence now.

**Mayor Swiderski:** They may kick it into the lap of the county. The contractor, I am sure, will. But at least we can get an initial read.

**Trustee Armacost:** And Mary Jane may be helpful. She cares about that view, as well. Before you have the conversation it is important to get as close as we can get to real numbers so there is not a cross purposes conversation that ends up happening on Fran's side. So if you get the numbers that are as close to real from Fran before calling that might be sensible.

**Mr. Ryan:** Mr. Mayor or Ms. Armacost, if one of you could convey that to me just as soon as possible I will get back to David with those numbers.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I will tell you informally that the number I threw out, 70 plus 40, is not outrageously off. I remember having this conversation. That is 70 plus 20, sorry. One-hundred, the whole thing, that was our portion plus I believe it was 40. But it is not going to be 300 or something. It is in that range: We will verify it.

**Mr. Ryan:** Mr. Bradley and I have kicked around numbers like that just as a raw guesstimate. Their estimate is obviously considerably higher than that, but not outrageously higher. For a single side, with all costs in like design, engineering and materials, we could get to a figure of about \$200,000. That is the number I am looking for. The value of preserving that iconic view would be easily worth that and we should strive for that.

**Mr. Gonder:** You had two local architects come up with the stainless steel. You approved the stainless steel and went back to the county. It was all timed to get it in. I thought you took action that you were going to use this stainless steel. Is that not true?

**Mayor Swiderski:** It is true, but the alternate provided here is of interest and we believe, as a board, worth pursuing. So we are pursuing it.

**Mr. Gonder:** I understand that. OK, there are no orders then and, as he said, the contracts. I thought there was such a time limit, and that was about six or eight months ago.

**Mayor Swiderski:** It was, and there is a time limit and the project is underway. So we are fighting uphill.

**Trustee Armacost:** It may not be possible to do what is being proposed.

**Mr. Gonder:** And it sounds like it is almost double what the stainless steel is going to be.

**Trustee Armacost:** If it is then it is not affordable.

**59: 14 ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO FINANCE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OR EQUIPMENT**

**Village Manager Frobel:** The resolution sounds a little complicated, but technical in detail. It was prepared by our auditors, and my office and the Village Attorney. The idea is to establish this dedicated fund, with the goal of having money set aside, hopefully each year, that would be reserved for capital projects. The goal is to build that up to a significant amount of money so the day may come when the Village would not have to turn to borrowing for a project or at least have a reserve of money to partially offset the cost of a major project. It is something this board has talked about for awhile. I am pleased we are finally at a point in our fiscal health to talk about it and establish one. What we will be doing, when we develop the budget, is make a recommendation that certain monies begin to be placed in the fund to begin its growth. I hope we are ready to adopt the resolution.

**Trustee Armacost:** I think it is strange to have the deputy treasurer referenced. It should be the treasurer who has this responsibility.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Technically in our organizational chart we do not have one.

**Trustee Armacost:** But I thought you were treasurer.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I serve in that capacity, but officially there is just a deputy treasurer. I have never been formally appointed as treasurer.

**Trustee Armacost:** This is not the responsibility of a deputy person to me. It should be the responsibility of a treasurer.

**Mayor Swiderski:** But we do not have one. Not a formal position, as designated.

**Trustee Armacost:** Well, we should.

**Village Manager Frobel:** We can easily do that. That can be accomplished at your next Board meeting. I am open to that. And Susan, is there any objection to having the Manager appointed as treasurer. Did not Mr. Hess have that title, as well?

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** He did carry both titles.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I serve as the finance director. I do all the financial advising. Not the investments, but I do the work. That would not be a problem. It just has always been set up that way since I arrived here almost 10 years ago.

**Trustee Armacost:** Yes, but that is not the reason to do things, just because they always were that way.

**Village Manager Frobel:** No, I hear you. I mean, we can certainly make that change at the next meeting. And we can hold on this resolution until we can consider appointing me as treasurer.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Or we can change the word to “treasurer” it is not going to be established and funded until the next budget cycle.

**Trustee Walker:** We could change it now.

**Trustee Apel:** IF you want to change it let us change it to treasurer. No deputy.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Before we say we are going to do that, is there any reporting obligation? Does this create any problems for us, organizationally, in doing so?

**Trustee Armacost:** Meaning conflict of interest.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Not necessarily that. Does a reporting obligation suddenly open something up. I do not know what the obligations are on a treasurer automatically as a result of the designation of an individual as treasurer.

**Trustee Armacost:** That begs the question that you should have a treasurer. You cannot avoid the obligations of a treasurer by having a deputy treasurer. So if someone has those obligations, whether it is treasurer or deputy treasurer, to me the only issue would be whether there is a conflict between having the managing director also be the treasurer. That is the only question. But I do not think we can avoid the obligations of a treasurer by having a deputy treasurer and not having a treasurer. In fact, that is a problem to me if that exists. Why do we not hold off on passing this?

**Mayor Swiderski:** We operate in a world of limited resources, and I do not want to just willy-nilly pass it and then realize whoops, that suddenly means that some 10 hours a week that something that Raf was doing is suddenly something that Fran is doing because he has to

under the obligation of the law and cannot avoid it. I do not want to impose that automatically as a result of simply making this work.

**Trustee Armacost:** But we also need to understand what is the responsibility of a deputy treasurer versus a treasurer. And if there are responsibilities that a treasurer should be fulfilling that are not being fulfilled, we also need to know that.

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** We can work with Fran and look at the titles.

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** Are you tabling this?

**Mayor Swiderski:** We are tabling it.

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** Because if you table it, you need to act on at the next meeting.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Do you think we will have the result of whatever research you do by then?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes, I do not see why not. Sure, we will have answer for you by the next meeting.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Then tabled.

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Walker the following Resolution was TABLED upon roll call vote:

**RESOLVED:** that pursuant to Section 6-c of the General Municipal Law, as amended, there is hereby established a capital reserve fund to be known as the "Capital Reserve Fund" (hereafter "Reserve Fund"). The purpose of this Reserve Fund is to accumulate moneys to finance the cost of a type of capital improvement and/or equipment. The type of capital improvement and/or equipment to be financed from the Reserve Fund is the construction, reconstruction, acquisition or capital improvement; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** that the Treasurer is hereby directed to deposit and secure the moneys of this Reserve Fund in the manner provided by Section 10 of the General Municipal Law. The Board of Trustees may invest the moneys in the Reserve Fund in the manner provided by

Section 11 of the General Municipal Law, and consistent with the investment policy of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson. Any interest earned or capital gains realized on the moneys so deposited or invested shall accrue to and become part of the Reserve Fund. The Treasurer shall account for the Reserve Fund in a manner which maintains the separate identity of the Reserve Fund and shows the date and amount of each sum paid into the fund, interest earned by the fund, capital gains or losses resulting from the sale of investments of the fund, the amount and date of each withdrawal from the fund and the total assets of the fund showing cash balance and a schedule of investments, and shall, at the end of each fiscal year, render to the Board a detailed report of the operation and condition of the Reserve Fund, and be it further

**RESOLVED:** except as otherwise provided by law, expenditures from this Reserve Fund shall be made only for the purpose for which the Reserve Fund is established. No expenditure shall be made from this Reserve Fund without the approval of this governing board and such additional actions or proceedings as may be required by Section 6-c of the General Municipal Law or any other law, including a permissive referendum if required by subdivision 4 of Section 6-c.

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

#### **64:14 FREE HOLIDAY PARKING**

**Village Manager Frobel:** It is that time of year where we make a recommendation to the Trustees to consider extending free holiday parking for shoppers. This year, we are looking to have a longer period of time than we had last year. We are looking to recommend 17 days of the 2-hour parking. It comes at an expense to the community. We budget for on-street parking and we anticipate what we will collect in revenue. But in an effort to promote shopping and visitors to the downtown it is something that the staff has traditionally



recommended. It is a few days longer than last year. We view it as covering the period of shopping prior to the holiday, and then up to the Friday after Christmas.

**Mayor Swiderski:** We have a request from the Downtown Advocate to further modify the range of the free holiday parking proposed.

**Downtown Advocate Prisant:** My calculation was that it was five days more this year than last year. Last year was the 14<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>. I count 19 days this year, so it is five more. Thank you for that.

At the behest of many merchants and business owners that I have spoken with, the request is to extend it to December 1 through 31, which is an addition of seven days to what you proposed, though many of them have felt the entire month would be something that they could use this year. The second request is for a three hour lot, either at Steinschneider or Boulanger. Michelle, the owner of Visual Difference, said that many of her clients are in the middle of their services, and unlike when we have meters and they can drop in more coins, they have to move their car, and that is difficult for them; they are in a compromised position to do that. Many of them have mentioned that they would shop and potentially dine in our village if they did not have to move their car. But just the idea of moving their car, they would just as soon leave. We could market it as a shop-and-dine lot; one lot in which we sticker the bags for three hours instead of two and we put the signal out to consumers that they are welcome to linger and shop here.

**Mayor Swiderski:** On the number of days you are asking for extra I count three days after the 27<sup>th</sup>, and before the 8<sup>th</sup>, I am coming up with six days. I think you were telling me three. I do not know how you came up with that.

**Downtown Advocate Prisant:** Because I originally read it as the 5<sup>th</sup>. That was my error. So it is nine total that they are requesting.

**Trustee Walker:** I am interested in doing this if it can be tied to a measurable increase in shoppers in the downtown, in visitors and in revenues. We may not be able to ask all businesses. Maybe all businesses would not be interested in providing their actual numbers. But a percentage increase over last year. If they have their sales receipts from last December, from the period of time, we could look at that maybe for the entire month of December to see what the increase would be.

**Downtown Advocate Prisant:** I agree that we cannot ask the merchants for sales figures, but we can ask them for percentage increases. I asked a few of them if they would be willing to share that information. They said certainly, but they asked us to consider that it

is not an easy apples-to-apples comparison. Weather can play a part. We can certainly ask them to notice qualitative factors. If we light the town more elegantly, if we make it more exciting and bright, we can ask them if they have noticed an increase in nighttime foot traffic. We can ask them, with the parking extended two more weeks, if they notice foot traffic increase in general. They are pretty in touch with their businesses. We can look at a cross-section of merchants and look at their percentage increases, and we take a look at some of the larger variables like weather and the economy in general, I think we could get an idea of how much this helped. It will not be perfectly quantitative, but qualitative matters, too.

**Trustee Walker:** But they are asking us to sacrifice two weeks' worth of Village revenues.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Up to \$900 a day is the maximum exposure.

**Village Manager Frobel:** It is 225 parking spaces.

**Trustee Walker:** This is a significant amount of Village revenue.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** It is significant, but I ask us to consider that it is in a year in which they have had a loss of revenue due to bridge construction, they have had a loss of revenue due to Con Ed work. There has been increased concern about the frequency and stringency of the ticketing in the Village. All of them things combined has affected revenue and it has sent a less welcoming friendly signal to residents and consumers. That has had a quantitative effect on the businesses, but has a real qualitative effect on how people feel about shopping the Village. And one thing is very tied to the other. So if there was a year in which to consider making an extra accommodation, and then trying to quantify it, this is a good year to do that if we are trying to increase the vitality.

**Trustee Apel:** Is there an analysis on the return on the sales tax that we get?

**Mayor Swiderski:** No, it goes into a pot at the county level, and then prorated to us based on population.

**Trustee Walker:** We want them to have a healthier holiday season, but we want to understand the relationship between the revenue that we are giving up.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Which ultimately comes back out of our fund. It is a loop.

**Trustee Walker:** In a lot of communities there are organizations in the downtown, Chambers of Commerce, that look at these kinds of figures and do these kinds of calculations to find a metric we can use to measure the benefits of this type of measure that is going to

come out of the taxpayers' pockets. We want the businesses to benefit from this, but we want a clear indication that it is actually helping them.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** To the best of their ability they are willing to share their information to that end.

**Trustee Armacost:** We need a commitment on that. I am in favor of extending the days through New Year's. That seems reasonable.

**Trustee Armacost:** That is quite a lot of extra days. There needs to be a quid pro quo. If on our side we are extending the days, then there needs to be a commitment to provide the data back that allows us to justify that. I have been up here a few years now and it has all been hearsay. That is not a good way for me to make decisions, moving forward.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** Many of them are willing to share percentage increases. But there is no way to know for sure that that is going to be the reason their business went up. However, we have to value their expertise about their business and conversations with their customers. People may make smaller purchases, but there may be more people in the store which therefore compensated partially for making their numbers, which might not have happened if the foot traffic was not there. So it is really hard to say. But I think yes, we have their cooperation.

**Trustee Armacost:** If we cannot draw a correlation, then we should not extend the days. They need to come halfway.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Yes, but that is her request.

**Trustee Apel:** I just want to understand, are you talking about information in the future or information they have from the past?

**Trustee Armacost:** No, it is for this year in order to justify the difference.

**Trustee Apel:** Say this again. We are asking them to give us information. Last year was their base year, and what happens this year?

**Mayor Swiderski:** Right. Let us just say for today, as a board we are comfortable in extending it through the end of the year, right?

**Trustee Armacost:** Yes.

**Trustee Apel:** Yes.

**Trustee Walker:** We are having this big kickoff to the holiday season on December 5. One could make an argument that we could start it that Friday.

**Trustee Apel:** So you want to give them the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup>?

**Trustee Walker:** That is what I was proposing.

**Mayor Swiderski:** That is a total of five additional days, between the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Up to \$4,500 in foregone revenue. It is significantly more than last year.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** But now we have almost two more weeks to look at in terms of comparing. And we are doing a social media push around this event on the 5<sup>th</sup>. So there is a way to put out expanded holiday parking starts this weekend with all the press and social media that we will be doing for it.

**Trustee Walker:** Free parking on the night of Friday Night Live.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** From the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> is more than a compromise. It is generous, but I think it would meet our needs and we should still compare percentages wherever with can.

The three hour lot sends another signal we could broadcast at the same time.

**Mayor Swiderski:** The three hour lot does not cost the same. It simply diminishes available parking by some small percentage.

**Trustee Walker:** I like the idea. How well we do enforce the two hours? We still need to encourage turnover. We cannot have people sitting there all day long parked in the same parking spot because that is going to discourage shoppers. We have to enforce that. And I do not mind extending it to three hours.

**Mayor Swiderski:** For one lot.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** Which lot do you think?

**Mayor Swiderski:** I think Boulanger.

**Mayor Swiderski:** To resolve what we are doing here, from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>, with an understanding that the merchants are going to provide...

**Downtown Advocate Prisant:** I cannot speak on their behalf without asking them all first.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Get back to the merchants that we are looking for this, and that seems reasonable.

**Trustee Walker:** And they are going to ask us in the future. We need to show some evidence that this is a cost-effective thing to do.

**Trustee Armacost:** If there is not a quid pro quo and we do not get that data, then the request next year will not be looked upon favorably, by me at least.

**Elizabeth Plaushin, Maple Avenue:** Parking is tight already on Maple Avenue. Sometimes my husband comes home at 6 o'clock at night and he has to park up by the Chase Bank. How will that affect residential parking? A lot of residents have to park on the street. There are meters along Maple Avenue, but they are full. Are they going to be fuller now with what you are proposing? Are they going to be more busy?

**Trustee Walker:** I do not know why they would be more busy, necessarily. They are not going to be covered.

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** They are only covered from Spring Street to the driveway.

**Trustee Walker:** And the two hour enforcement will only go until 6 o'clock. I do not think it is going to impact residents who need to park overnight.

**Ms. Plaushin:** We are new in town and I just wanted to ask.

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

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve free two-hour holiday parking from Friday, Dec. 5 through Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014 at the following locations: Steinschneider Lot, Post Office Lot, Warburton Avenue (North Street to Bridge), Main Street, Whitman Street, Spring Street, Southside Avenue, and Maple Avenue (Spring Street to Municipal Building Driveway).

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

**Mayor Swiderski:** I think we should have another resolution for Boulanger.

**66:14 FREE THREE HOUR HOLIDAY PARKING IN BOULANGER LOT**

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

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve free three-hour holiday parking in the Boulanger Lot from Friday, Dec. 5 through Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2015.

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

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** The other thought was lighting which seems to be a concern of everyone. This is an e-mail from the owner of Indigo, Carol, who has been the owner since 1979. She writes: "Earlier holiday lighting would be such a boon to increasing the feeling of friendliness and cheer in our village, such a great improvement from other years. Whenever I drive through the Village after dark at this time of year it feels gloomy and unwelcoming." I got the same feedback today from Maisonette and from Suburban Renewal and from Expressions. Everybody comments on how beautiful the Village looked during the film shooting one time when the trees were wrapped around the trunks. Fran and I had a discussion about that, and he raised a concern about safety, that maybe people would tamper with it. I was watching Jim hang some lights this week. Some of the branches are rather low and could be tampered with, as they are. And, of course, the lights on the tree could be tampered with. I do not want a safety situation. But could the plugs be at the top?

**Village Manager Frobel:** We are concerned about mischief, pulling them apart. They are closer to the ground. Rather than reaching into a tree, they would be right there at eye level.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Where do they plug them in?

**Village Manager Frobel:** There may be a few outlets on the ground, but most of them are from the top to the lamps. We have other concerns with the lighting capabilities of the wiring in the downtown besides that, but we will work on that.

**Trustee Walker:** But if these were LED, we are talking about a pretty low level.

**Village Manager Frobel:** The other thing is, too, we are going to have the ones already in the trees and the LEDs are going to be that much brighter.

**Trustee Walker:** There may be a difference, that is true.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** If they have not gone up maybe we could pick a certain number of trees to do with LEDs.

**Trustee Walker:** What if we did an experiment? You suggested every other tree, every third tree.

**Village Manager Frobel:** We are going to try. I talked to Mike today. He is going to try to find a place where he can buy these tree trunk wraps. They will be LED. It is not going to be every tree. We are going to do every third, fourth, fifth tree. Part of our problem is we have one part-time man. It takes a long time to get the lights up. He begins in October. He could not work today with the wind. e. The trees are getting taller so it takes him longer to do each tree now. There are a few operational concerns here.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** He said he is aiming to finish by December 5 when the tree gets lit. The merchants are saying two things: more lights and earlier. They spoke to you a year ago, Peter, and we were going to try to do this. It is not easy but I am wondering if we could get them up for Thanksgiving.

**Trustee Walker:** Is that what they are talking about? Thanksgiving?

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** They are saying as early as possible, and even keep them up through February if possible because the winter looks very dark downtown.

**Village Manager Frobel:** He is going to aim to do it as early as possible.

**Trustee Armacost:** This idea is correct, that a feeling of light and festivity in the darkest time of the year is something that would be welcome, and would be effective at brightening people's spirits during that time of year. I am in favor of it. It is a question of execution.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** He does like to turn them all on at once. But if, perhaps, we cluster around the center in front of the VFW, those off to the three sides, with those trees in time for Black Friday, perhaps, and then we work outwards every third tree. We do not want to necessarily do all 50 trees. It is just a matter of making an impact.

**Trustee Apel:** Phased in. Even if you were to wrap just the trees and leave the bottom wrapping on all the time, and take off the top during the rest of the year. But leave the lights on for when it is dark out, with little shimmering lights?

**Mayor Swiderski:** No, because it is powered from the top.

**Trustee Apel:** You would do two wraps. You would do a wrap that could be powered through the top of the base, which is always lit all year round. Any night you want to have twinkling lights we can have twinkling lights. Then for the holidays, you can have the second wrap where the guy comes and just does the top of the tree, which keeps growing anyway. The other wrap is a pole.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Right. But ultimately, it has to be plugged in. I do not know if there is a limit on plugs or if there is an issue.

**Trustee Apel:** We know where there are other communities that have such lighting that do it all the time.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** , I appreciate the openness to it and the willingness to make it happen.

**Trustee Walker:** I have been working in a couple of other cities where they are trying to upgrade their holiday activities. They try to raise the money to do it from to private sector so the city does not have to put the money in, particularly in bankrupt cities like Detroit. But I think we are happy to do this, again, if it really makes a difference. And if we can think about it in the future, this is something we need to talk about, Barb, as we go forward, to engage the merchants more in the paying for it and the doing of it. So, for example, covering the meters. If merchants can help to cover the meters. We have such limited staff.



**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** You mean literally to pull the covers over the meters.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Literally, or perhaps share on the cost of additional lights.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** I am happy to gather that.

**Trustee Walker:** Contributions.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** On the additional lights we do have about \$700 left in our Chamber of Commerce fund. I do not see why we could not take the money for the lights from that; I think everyone would be in support.

**Trustee Walker:** Again, we are talked quid pro quo and we are talking partnership here. We are willing to help them out if they are willing to help us out. This year, we are footing the bill, but perhaps in the future we can think about how this becomes a real partnership.

**Trustee Armacost:** We just heard that we do not need to foot the whole bill if there is \$700 in the kitty.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Whose kitty?

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** It is not my place to spend it.

**Mayor Swiderski:** It is not your place. You do not have the keys to the kitty.

**Trustee Armacost:** But the Chamber of Commerce does not exist.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Somebody owns the keys to that bank account.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** Right. So I am just saying it is a possibility. I am just throwing it out because I think it was money collected for merchant purposes. And the merchants are asking for this. It is not a big spend. It is just a thought.

#### **66:14 CHANGE OF MEETING DATE**

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

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees change the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees from Tuesday, Mar. 17 to Wednesday, Mar. 18, 2015.

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

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS**

### **1. Modification of Zoning Law for Set-Aside Affordable Units**

**Sue Smith, Affordable Housing Committee:** This is with regard to the set-aside law. The Affordable Housing Committee would like to clarify something in the law. Our concern is that there is no specific mechanism for the rounding of numbers. We say that after eight units it is 15 percent that is required to be affordable in any development. But we never indicated if that fraction was to be rounded up or down. It was presumed that it would be rounded up. But since it is not stated, that is not what people are necessarily thinking. We want to suggest that we go with a traditional method of rounding, which is after point-5 it rounds up. If the number came out to 2.1, it did not mean that they had to give three units. Hastings is not likely, except if the waterfront gets developed, to have large developments. We felt that it was also burdensome for developers to do, say, three units when they only had 15 or 16 units in total. We are looking for the cost to be carried by the market rate units, and that was excessive. The rule of thumb is that it takes about 10 units to support one affordable one. We have already exceeded that by asking for 15 percent, and after eight units, two. So we have already upped the expectation. We felt that the rounding up added to the burden.

It is not a huge difference in terms of how many units are going to be created. But, still, some developers respond to that by saying we will just have fewer units and we will have seven instead of eight. They still have the same amount of space to fill, so they build larger units to fill the space but they have fewer of them. We are interested in getting more affordable units, but also smaller units are quite adequate. It seemed like a small modification that would make sense and also clarify it for people.

**Trustee Armacost:** Do you have evidence, stories, specific people who have had a problem? Or is this more of a theoretical question?

**Ms. Smith:** The example I just gave happened. It has not been approved, as there have been other issues in that project, but the decision to go to seven units was based on that rationale.

**Trustee Armacost:** But we only had one example?

**Ms. Smith:** One, and a second one that was in discussion and has been of concern. So we have had two examples, developers who have had problems with it.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Rounding is an issue in these quantities and it should be explicit.

**Trustee Armacost:** This is completely reasonable rounding. The only issue is whether you round up at 1.5, or down.

**Trustee Walker:** I think you are making it much more fair than it probably was perceived.

**Ms. Smith:** In fact, most of the communities in Westchester have used the traditional rounding method rather than rounding up.

**Mayor Swiderski:** What do we need to do?

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** It is a local law to amend the code. And you should do it because it is ambiguous, and ambiguity will hurt you. A developer will come in and say an ambiguity is interpreted in favor of the property owner. You should be as clear as possible.

**Mayor Swiderski:** We will have the line up for discussion next week, then we will have a public hearing, assuming a compelling argument is not made against it. Agreed? Everybody is comfortable with that?

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** We will have the local law for Dec. 2.

## **VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **1. Main Street –Warburton Avenue-Spring Street Project**

**Village Manager Frobel:** The Main Street-Warburton Avenue-Spring Street project, I have finally run out of a bit of luck. The weather has turned. We had hoped to begin this week the concrete stamping. Because of the rain yesterday and the cold weather today and tomorrow, this week is a lost week. The contractor was scheduled to begin Monday. I advised him that Monday is the week of Thanksgiving. We have got shoppers coming

downtown, and it is unacceptable. So we are looking to begin it on December 1. He believes it is a three-day project. It is very dependent upon the weather. Alternative is to wait until spring. The contractor is OK with that. He fully understands the pressure we have all been under here, what we have been living with for the last several months. Even though he is coming at the very end of it, he understands the tension and the needs. I told him I would discuss it this evening with the Board. My recommendation to him was to begin on Monday, December 1. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and be done. I would like to try to get it done. Con Ed is still convinced they can do the paving, the patchwork this year. Obviously, if the cold weather were to continue the plants will close, we will not have access to bituminous asphalt. That could be delayed until next spring, as well. The goal still is to pave those streets, but now we have got to be very sensitive, getting into the holiday season, for shopping.

**Mayor Swiderski:** The only way this can be possibly executed is if it is done by the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The last thing we need is equipment in the street for the event on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes. It is a quick pour, a stamp and you go. But it is a three-day project.

**Trustee Armacost:** But we have three days next week.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I, I do not want to do it next week. I did not think it would be advisable, given shopping for the Thanksgiving week.

**Trustee Armacost:** Is it a busy week?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes, it can be with the specialty food store, we have the health food business. It would be right in front of his business at some point during that week. He would be happy to wait until December 1 if that is our preference, and then do his level best to get it done within the three days. Again, it is very dependent upon the weather.

**Trustee Armacost:** But the longer we wait, the colder it gets and the more likely we are to have inclement weather.

**Trustee Walker:** But if we cannot do it December 1, 2, 3 that may be the end of the window for this fall and then we have to push it off to spring. But we can just wait and see what the weather looks like.

**Village Manager Frobel:** See how we do on December 1. We will wake up that morning and see how far he can get.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Right. And if it cannot be done, it is unsightly but it is not dangerous.

## **2. State Tax Cap**

**Village Manager Frobel:** I put this in your weekly report, but I wanted to have it tonight to talk from in case there were any questions.

**Mayor Swiderski:** The topic is the property tax freeze and how it is calculated. I have read this through and I read it through again. I am not getting it.

**Trustee Walker:** I am not getting it either.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I can tell you this is complicated, as I mentioned weeks ago. It came out of the governor's office. It was one of those pieces of legislation that was put together by several people so there were different hands in it that tried to make it work. It is complicated. It is voluntary, though. Municipalities do not have to participate in it.

**Trustee Apel:** And if we do not?

**Village Manager Frobel:** That is where the politics gets into it. If your community decides not to participate, and your residents do not get a rebate check, there may be questions asked as to why not.

**Mayor Swiderski:** That is the brilliance of this scheme of Mr. Cuomo's, to create a mechanism to apply pressure on the local communities. Does this apply to the schools, as well?

**Village Manager Frobel:** It does.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Separate rebate checks from each taxing authority?

**Village Manager Frobel:** No, you are going to get one check. There is going to be one check issued to the property owner, and the check will contain your rebate from, hopefully, the village, the school, the town and the county. And on the check it will indicate that your rebate from Hastings was \$50, the school was \$35, and the county was \$10.

**Trustee Armacost:** Hopefully it is more than \$35 from the school.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Here are our obligations to qualify. I have to put together an

efficiency plan and submit it to the state by June 1. Thankfully, we have joined with our neighbors to have a consultant help us begin to develop numbers as to what we have already accomplished. The law does have a look-back provision. We can go back to 2012 and claim credit for efficiencies that we have already done. The consultant, early December, will be meeting with all the department heads to brainstorm on what we can do to develop that efficiency plan. For the year beginning June 1, 2015, our only obligation is to continue to live under the tax levy cap, and not pass a resolution granting the authority to exceed that cap, and to submit that plan. That plan has to be approved very quickly. The state has given themselves 30 days to approve all these plans state-wide. We suspect it is going to be a rubber stamp type deal because there is no way they can spend the time to closely analyze everything that is in your plan. Your plan is supposed to demonstrate how you can realize efficiencies in the year beginning June 1, 2016, 2017 and 2018. So you have got to project as to how you can realize a savings of up to one percent of your tax levy that you impose this year. So that is where we get the \$102,404. Now, in joining with other communities the obligation might not be for Hastings alone to have to realize \$102,000. Ours might only be a \$50,000 savings. Dobbs may show they have been able to save \$200,000. We are going to be all in this together, which will make it a little easier for us that we do not have to shoulder the full responsibility if, say, Elmsford can do better than Dobbs or Hastings together. The law has been written to encourage that kind of participation. They realize you cannot, in all likelihood, do this alone. The idea is to come about with efficiencies that will result in savings not only for our taxpayers, but for our neighbors. We all benefit in this theory.

For a homeowner to qualify they have got to be enrolled in the STAR program, that school tax relief program. They have to have a gross income of less than \$500,000. The home has to be their primary residence. No commercial property is eligible for the rebate. And owners of co-ops will receive 60 of the credit. A mobile home owner would only get 25 percent. The state has been through all these calculations. Our obligation is going to be to submit our proposed budget and our adopted budget, and they are going to measure as whether or not we have met those standards and begin to issue those rebate checks.

In the handout I gave you, I tried to describe how that rebate is calculated. I took an average assessment. The number we always use is that \$16,907. Obviously, homeowners have to do their own so they know what their values are. And I said in 2013-14, on that home, their tax bill was \$4,138. There was no increase in taxes for the current year. Under this law, it is the greater of those two calculations. In that first scenario, with no increase, you would say, you would get no rebate because your taxes were frozen. You go to the alternative, and that is that it would be multiplied by the 1.48 because that was the cap. That was the number they had said you could not max. You take your tax bill times that factor and, in this case, the homeowner would have received a rebate of \$61 from us. I do not know the school, country, town. If this law was in place today that is what they would have gotten under that scenario.

Next to that, I just showed you what would have happened if we had imposed a one percent tax increase this year. I took that 2013 bill, and let us say one percent. You would see that there would be a \$41 tax increase. So you say, that should be the rebate. No, it is going to be the greater of. So even though in that first scenario taxes would have gone up one percent, they are going to give the homeowner the full 1.48 percent.

**Mayor Swiderski:** So that has the perverse incentive of having us raise taxes \$1 under the tax levy, because the homeowner is going to get the full amount back anyway.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Right, exactly. So then I took a year two. Right now, communities that are adopting budgets on January 1 have a factor of 1.62 percent. They have not set ours yet so we do not know what our ratio will be. But it will probably be around 1.62. I do not know if inflation is moving, in what direction. But it looks like, according to the state, it is moving up. So I took this year's tax bill and I factored in the 1.62 percent ratio. The rebate for next year would have been \$67. Under the law, it continues for that three-year period. The check in 2016 would be another check for \$61 for the first year and a second check of \$67 for the second year. So you are going to continue to get a rebate, even though you have already gotten one the first year. It accumulates, and grows.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Why?

**Village Manager Frobel:** I do not know. We cannot figure this out.

**Mayor Swiderski:** You are certain of this?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes, I am. We have asked that question. This was a room of about 50 public officials asking this question: why is that so?

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** It is an incentivizer.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes, I guess it is. It is to incentivize.

**Mayor Swiderski:** And I assume if we blow it in year two it ends a period. So the incentive increases. If we blow it in year one and exceed the cap, it stops, period.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I would assume so. That is a question that is not asked.

**Mayor Swiderski:** So it is a rolling incentive to provide more pressure over time.

**Trustee Walker:** Such a game.

**Trustee Apel:** The public is putting pressure on the government. Can we encourage people to re-gift this money back to the government?

**Village Manager Frobels:** That was talked about. Because some communities may say we still have expenses, we are not prepared to do without more hours at the library or another building inspector or more streets to be paved so we are just going to forego this. In fact, some communities in our group may forego that.

**Trustee Armacost:** They may not have a choice because they are so far away. Part of it is a back of the envelope calculation on whether you are going to be able to pull it off. In our case, we probably could because of the way we have been living up until now. But from what you have told us about the way some of the situations our neighboring municipalities are in, it will be very difficult for them to pull this off. So they may choose not to even try.

**Trustee Apel:** What are the assurances by the state government that they are not going to mandate any things we have to do that are going to cost us money?

**Mayor Swiderski:** Pensions.

**Village Manager Frobels:** That was the first thing that came out: why do you not help us on the pension, and then do not even worry about your rebate? And that way, there is a genuine tax savings for our homeowners.

**Trustee Apel:** They talk a lot. But this is all smoke and mirrors here.

**Trustee Armacost:** But on the pension it could be that the view is that the pension will fix itself with a stock market shift, so they may feel like they do not need to do anything there.

**Trustee Apel:** And what is the state doing to lower their costs? While they are mandating all the local governments to do this, what are they doing?

**Mayor Swiderski:** That is none of your business.

[laughter]

**Trustee Apel:** So I am going to take the \$41 and send it to the state. It is just going to be the same money, we are just going around in circles here.

**Village Manager Frobels:** That number that we need to demonstrate, I mentioned it was a



look-back; what we have to show is efficiencies. That is not an amount that has to come off your levy. That is a cost you avoided and you have got to demonstrate that. You have got to continue that same number. It does not grow. It is the same number for those three years.

**Trustee Walker:** So you have to do that ahead of time. When we give them this report in June, that they are going to review in a month, we are showing going back to 2012, going forward three years, that these efficiencies are going to continue. What if they do not?

**Village Manager Frobel:** That question was asked, because they have already given this money out to people. The first reaction was, we will withhold state aid. And then they figured out we do not give you any state aid. So the question becomes, we do not know what the remedy would be and they do not know what they can do. They do not know what the punishment will be. And also, it is viewed as a plan and anything could happen in 2017 or 2018 to take your plan and go out the window.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Then you have to go find another one percent.

**Trustee Walker:** But they are not asking you to resubmit.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Not yet. It is to etch out a three-year plan as to how you are going to realize these savings.

**Trustee Walker:** And where are they coming up with all that is money for the rebate?

**Village Manager Frobel:** I have no idea.

**Mayor Swiderski:** So in 2015 and 2016 we do not have to have a one percent saving. But we have got to stay under the tax cap, and whatever amount we do increase, or the tax cap, whichever number is greater, the public is going to get back the rebate.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes.

**Mayor Swiderski:** So next year we go up 1.5 percent instead of 1.62 percent, the public is going to get back 1.62 percent.

**Village Manager Frobel:** If that is the cap, yes.

**Mayor Swiderski:** So that is 2015 to 2016. Now, 2016 and 2017, that one percent saving, if our costs go up one percent and we save another one percent that is the way it is, right? It is not that we have to be flat zero. We have to show that we saved one percent, but we still can go up another one percent, right?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes, but you have got to show that you have avoided certain expenses. You have saved money. That what you were going to buy anyway you saved on.

**Mayor Swiderski:** OK. But pensions whack us in two years' time and our costs go up the full amount of the tax cap, but we can also show we saved another one percent we are still good. As long as we do not exceed the tax cap.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Right, that is the key.

**Trustee Armacost:** But the pensions are always out of the tax cap anyway.

**Village Manager Frobel:** No, they are not.

**Trustee Armacost:** I thought they were under the tax cap.

**Village Manager Frobel:** You are right. They did the first year. The first year there was a factor, last year there was not. The first year, they gave us an allowance and it was in the formula where they took out a percentage of that radical increase. Last year, or the year-on-year today, they felt that was a normal increase.

**Trustee Armacost:** It is not a normal increase.

**Mayor Swiderski:** No, it was wacky.

**Village Manager Frobel:** You are exactly right. There was no factor in this year's budget to allow for the pension contribution.

**Mayor Swiderski:** So if we do what we have been doing for the next three years, which is to stay at or under the tax cap, and we can demonstrate a one percent saving in the out two years, people will get a rolling accumulation of rebates from us.

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** Not from you, from the state.

**Trustee Armacost:** Because of our actions.

**Mayor Swiderski:** If we can do that, that is worth shooting for, right?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes.

**Trustee Armacost:** I do think, for us, it is achievable. I am not suggesting it is easy, but given the way we have been behaving fiscally I think it is something that is possible. It is certainly something worth striving for.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Definitely. There are no two ways about it. We will strive for it, and I think we can achieve it.

**Trustee Armacost:** I do think it is going to be a tactical issue in terms of a plan which can create those kinds of efficiencies, though. It will be tactical.

**Village Manager Frobel:** It is going to be interesting. And the forms, we understand it is going to be a template that is going to be submitted, have not been developed yet. So we do not know the level of detail. But you have got to make valid assumptions that you can do realistically, and attest to. That is your commitment to reach that savings in those three years out into the future.

**Trustee Armacost:** And what if you reach the savings in a way that is not related to your plan?

**Mayor Swiderski:** You can modify the plan, right?

**Village Manager Frobel:** I am sure it would be acceptable.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Because we are always looking to save money. It is a constant search.

**Village Manager Frobel:** And it is a plan, just as we said. It can change. It has got to be subject to the change. So yes, we could achieve it in means other than we have demonstrated or planned on.

**Trustee Walker:** You said that revenues do not count. So if we came up with ways to increase revenues it does not count.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Nope. It has got to show efficiencies in actual savings or cost avoidance.

**Trustee Armacost:** If we increase revenue and we have done this, then our taxpayers will be very happy. They will be benefiting in multiple ways.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Plus, we have seen some growth in our assessed values.

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** The increased revenues helped you stay under the tax cap. There was that piece of it.

**Village Manager Frobel:** So it is complicated, but I feel better now.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Now we understand it. You had to talk me through it. Thank you.

**Trustee Armacost:** But when we get up to this stage, particularly if it kicks in now, if it goes retroactive, we need to make sure that people understand they need to be registered under STAR. I think many people are.

**Village Manager Frobel:** That was part of the pressure in the summer. Remember there was a big push and everyone was reminding everyone they have to re-register? That was part of the plan to make certain people were not surprised that that was a critical part of something. We did not know this was in the offing then.

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** Also, there were a lot of people who had STAR exemptions who did not necessarily qualify. They had stayed on over the years, and that is why they went through the re-registration process.

**Village Manager Frobel:** So the state will do all these calculations, as I indicated. The check will come directly from them. There is an appeal. If homeowners get the check and think it should have been greater, then there is going to be an appeal that the state is going to have to deal with. Their staff is going to do all the fine tuning and figure it out.

### **3. Sustainable Community**

**Village Manager Frobel:** Meg and I have prepared the letter of interest for that Sustainable Community application. We will send that off this week to the EPA. As Meg indicated earlier to me, there are other opportunities that we should be aware of and sensitive to as we begin to look at the waterfront and how it develops. And a program like this, with the EPA providing that kind of technical assistance at no cost, is very valuable to us and something that we are going to continue to pursue.

**Trustee Walker:** We are at the stage where we need to understand the sea level rise implications and the shoreline design implications. We are looking at flood resiliency, tidal surge impacts, the potential for flood absorption, attenuation of waves. We need to have an understanding of this. We know that BP is going to be building the shoreline, most of it, and they may not be taking all these things into account. It is up to us to bring it to their attention. That is why this kind of technical assistance right now, is critical. And if we

cannot get it from a grant we may need to consider hiring a consultant. I do not think this is a lot of money, but I think it is important. We have been talking about once the Waterfront Infrastructure Committee's report is out, then we can take that and perhaps have some meetings, do a workshop with some consultants who would probably come for free, do a half a day of discussions about it. We may find that we have to go further with it. I have talked to a number of people who have said you can get some free or very cheap engineering help and landscape architects. People would be happy to volunteer their time for a short period of time, like a half a day. Any more than that, we probably have to pay for it. But we should be really looking out for these opportunities.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS (continued)**

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

**Trustee Walker:** I asked our Downtown Advocate to stick around she could help me explain what is happening on December 5, which is our next Friday Night Live which coincides with the tree lighting and the arrival of the holiday guy. Barb has an amazing plan, with the merchants, an amazing evening. Can you tell us about it?

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** December 5 is also the holiday Friday Night Live. We combined forces, worked with Meg and Lisa O'Reilly and the Rec Department as well as Jennifer from Rivertowns Guide who does the marketing for Friday Night Live. We have expanded it. We are calling it Destination Hastings. That is a logo that is process for Destination Hastings so far, probably the working logo for this event. It is going to be called A Village Crawl.

I am so happy to share that we have 16 restaurant, bar, food establishments involved. We have 18 shops involved. Three services, meaning Riolo is having an open house that night, the Wellness Center is having an open house. And one venue is not lit that night, the Purple Crayon, but they are promoting their Saturday night event that evening in a cross-promotion that they are working out with The Mill. It will drive people back to The Mill Saturday, after the show.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to jump in with the merchants and create something for the residents not only of Hastings but, hopefully, we will be promoting this. We have an *Enterprise* article that is going to hit on the 28<sup>th</sup> and we are going to do social media through these Destination Hastings platforms that we are building right now: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We are going to get the word out and we are going to get people out. The idea is, it creates movement through the Village. How it works is this. We sell five "boarding passes," we are calling them, for \$20. And \$5 of every 20 is going back to the Hastings Food

Pantry. We worked this out with Joanne and Donny. They are thrilled. They will use that money to stock the shelves. So residents and consumers will be eating and dining and shopping to help other people at the same time. The rest of that \$15 will go back into the restaurants and the bars they are used at after the event. They will be collecting them, and we will reimburse. We will split out from what we take in.

**Mayor Swiderski:** What does each coupon get?

**Downtown Advocate Prisant:** You can use it a number of ways. And it is family-friendly. It is always good for a soft drink, it does not have to be alcohol. But at various places you can get tap beers. I will give you some examples. At Saint George you can get an oyster shooter in wine. At Maud's you could get dessert or you could get a tap beer. At The Mill you can get wings or a tap beer. At Sakura you can get a shrimp tempura roll. At Tony's you can get be escorted to their bar and you can get an appetizer-sized portion of Portuguese sausage or chicken. In case you have never had the pleasure, you can check it out that night and I think many people need to know about it. You can go to New China and get some dumplings. You can go to The Center Restaurant and get any dessert you want. You can go into Juniper and get a pumpkin spice latte and a cookie. You can go to By the Way Bakery and try her new pecan chewies. It is a new dessert that she is debuting that night. You can go to Forty North if you have not tried it yet and you can get a butternut squash soup and a Sam Adams Winter. I believe that Angelo, at Harvest, is coming up with something for the end of the evening, as well. At The Prime you can get a wine beer.

**Mayor Swiderski:** You have to use the coupon that night.

**Downtown Advocate Prisant:** You have to use it that night. And you can sit in one place and have food and multiple beverages or desserts. Slices and Pizza Grill are participating with a tartufo and a gelato and a special slice. The Diner is going to be an Internet café and game center. Lisa is going to make a sign for their window, and we are going to put the word out particularly to middle school and high schoolers, but adults as well and families that want to go in with their children. We will have some board games there, and we will have the ability for people to bring laptops and do group gaming or bring magic cards that will have the middle schoolers' play they are organizing already. So they will hopefully fill up with people on that night, which is not something that usually happens for them during a Friday Night Live. Slices is also sharing their Wi-Fi.

We have hired an ice carver to extend the activities in the center of town. There is the possibility of some surprise carolers, but I cannot say yet because they have not confirmed. The idea is people will be wandering from restaurant to restaurant and shop to shop because all of these shops are staying open. They are giving at least 10 percent off selected items,

with a matching 10 percent on those items to The Food Pantry. Some are giving higher discounts. We are going to advertise deep discounts. And some of them are having special merchants in their stores. At Maisonette, Laurie Slater will be there with her in2green company for the evening like a popup, a trunk show; we are calling it a pop-in.

There is a company called Pivot in Dobbs Ferry which makes beautiful furniture and these really interesting lamps made out of instruments, real instruments like a trumpet hanging down with a light bulb, really cool, will be at Suburban Renewal that night. They have a non-profit structure, where they give work to people. I do not know the whole story so I should not speak about it, but it is a beautiful thing. The idea is to encourage people to start, or continue, their holiday shopping in this festive atmosphere that the Village already creates with the tree lighting and the things that go on at the VFW. Keep the streets open, but keep them vibrant and keep people circulating. Someone who has never been to Saint George can go into the foyer part and have a drink and check out the menu. Some people might stay and dine at certain restaurants so the restaurants might benefit from people who have never been there or people who might stay longer. But the whole Village benefits from the activity and the excitement. People seem excited to do it.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Where will these be sold?

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** These will be on sale on Friday, if all goes well, at The Mill and The Prime and probably Maud's, the Roadhouse, Suburban Renewal, the Community Center, Yummy Yummie Goodness. They will be sold from my table at any of the coffee shops in town. I am going to carry one of the laminated signs with me.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Would you consider the Farmers' Market?

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** Yes. I wrote to Pascale about that. , I would love to do that. Just bundle up.

**Mayor Swiderski:** CC us on that request.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** Yes, I would love to be at the Farmers' Market. If any of you would like to sell tickets you are welcome, I will give you some. We are going to do a lot of different marketing things. We will be doing social media through all the ZIP Code Facebook pages in the other villages, as well as Rivertowns Guide. And I have a short list of area media. I am going to tell NewsChannel 12, and Talia from the Roadhouse also has a contact there and she is going to reach out. I am also going to reach out to the *Journal News*, *The Daily Voice*, *The Patch* and just try to generate interest. Barring e a tremendously bad storm it will be cozy and people will go out.

**Mayor Swiderski:** There should be a table that night at least in the first hour or two, to sell, as well.

**Trustee Armacost:** Yes, that is a good idea. I am happy to sell.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** You mean at the VFW, outside there? I think so, too. That be great. And all those restaurants and stores I mentioned will be selling that night.

**Mayor Swiderski:** How are you controlling the money?

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** The places that have agreed to do this have agreed to keep it. It is cash-only, and they have agreed to have an envelope. I will keep track of how many I gave them, and they will sign something that says how many envelopes I gave them, and they have to give me back the change. It has got to work out perfectly, and then they are going to have to manage security. We are giving them a manila envelope and asking them to lock it up at night, and crossing our fingers.

**Trustee Walker:** Is that not exciting?

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** It is kind of exciting. And, you know, Maud coined the term for this. I said, you know, it is not a pub crawl because there is food and shopping and many things. Just call it a village crawl. And I love that, and everyone seems to have embraced that. And we have these beautiful design elements that Howie has put together. Hopefully, you like them. You tell me your feedback.

**Trustee Walker:** It would be good to keep track of the amount that we are raising for The Food Pantry, and then make an announcement afterwards because people are participating also to make this contribution.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** You asked about quantifying what happens on the 5<sup>th</sup>. We are going to be going around and asking people for their donations based on how their sales were. So I am going to have an immediate list of feedback as to how every store did. And the stores were open to it. They know they may not get a lot of traffic, they might get more than usual, but they are willing to try because of the group effort that is being put in. And these things will only build in the future.

On the back of the pass, the last thing I want to share with you, for Destination Hastings we are going to set up a Facebook page, I am working with Jennifer, a Twitter and an Instagram. We are going to put on the pass and on the posters #destinationhasting, which will encourage



everyone that uses social media. We are going to say put a picture of yourself out on the crawl with this hashtag and be entered to win a \$25 gift certificate to a restaurant. A few of the restaurants have already offered gift certificates for that. People will be posting so that will be really fun. My chief technology officer, Noah, my 14-year-old, is making a QR code later this evening. We will have that on the poster, too, and on these cards. So anyone who wants to scan their card will get a list of everything that is happening. There will be more detail on the website. In addition, when they get these five passes there will be a sixth pass that tells them all the stores that are open late and any special things they might have going on that we can fit on there. And the rest will be on the website.

**Trustee Armacost:** And there will be a link from our website also, from the Village website.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** Yes. In the budget for this, I forgot to mention it but Jennifer would like to do a banner and put it up somewhere near the Five Corners wherever banners are going up now, with this logo. She will have the posters because it is Friday Night Live. Basically, we will have the on-sale by Friday and then we have two weeks to promote.

**Mayor Swiderski:** As a branding concept I do not guess you limit it to one night. Any such posters should be reusable.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** Yes, she is making so it says this Friday, no dates and nothing about the Village Crawl. So we could use it for any Destination Hastings night, which could be anything we do here. The whole idea of this social media page will be a fan page that people can like. It will be a tourism page in a way. It is not going to be a place for public discussion. It will not replace 10706, it will serve a different purpose. This page will be to promote all the reasons why Hastings is a destination. And that could be anything. It could be a program at the library or the Historical Society or something the Cub Scouts are doing. It could be our markets, our merchants. It can have profiles in depth, events. We can go from there. I expect to see you all out on the trail. Tell your friends and family.

**Trustee Walker:** I am so thrilled that so many businesses are agreeing to participate.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** And many of them have said these things have not always worked for them. Staying open late does not always work. But they are willing to give it a shot and be supportive.

**Trustee Walker:** I am not asking for a quantifiable measurement, but this will be part of the overall increase. Get businesses to ask them also how they did that night.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** Absolutely. And we will find out. We will know how many people participated and we will know how the stores did, roughly, based on staying open. Thank you for your support of it and enthusiasm.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Your relentless enthusiasm, in fact, is what has caused this to happen.

**Downtown Advocate Prisament:** Thank you. Small Business Saturday is November 27. Anyone can sign up with their Amex card. Make up to three purchases on that day at participating stores and you will get a \$10 credit on your Amex bill for each one. A good 20 of our local restaurants and stores were listed on the Amex website. I was looking to suggest, Peter, that when you send out this year's gift guide you could send out a notice about this. It might really boost business on that Saturday for the local merchants.

### **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.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Raf has informed me that today is the 135<sup>th</sup> birthday of Hastings.

I would like to adjourn in memory of Joe Rodriguez, who recently passed. He served on the Safety Council for so long; he was on it, I think, when I first moved here. So a moment of silence.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:40 p.m.