

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2014**

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 7:35 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Swiderski, Trustee Bruce Jennings, Trustee Marjorie Apel, Trustee Nicola Armacost, Village Manager Francis A. Frobel, Village Attorney Linda Whitehead, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

ABSENT: Trustee Meg Walker

CITIZENS: Eighteen (18).

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 41-2014-15	\$256,300.88
Multi-Fund No. 42-2014-15	\$ 13,547.11

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Gonder, 153 James Street: I want to thank all the people that do a lot of work for the Village: the Board, members of the Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Public Works, all the commissions. They try to make this place a better place to live in. I wish everybody a Happy Hanukkah, among my Jewish friends. And Mr. Bell, a neighbor of mine that lives down on Prince Street, I hope he gets his aluminum Festivus pole. And Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the rest of the people in Hastings, and a peaceful and Happy New Year.

Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Parkway: In one of the e-mails that you sent out there was a brief mention about a surprise that hit the Village regarding pension funding or something coming down from the state. We should never expect surprises as long as we have the same people in positions of power. We missed an opportunity with two other candidates to replace our current governor. Not that he does a horrible job, but the other two candidates may be able to do a better job. One of the issues talked about prior to the election was the Tappan Zee Bridge tolls going up quite a bit more from where they are now. It was knocked down, saying it would not happen. And yet we hear on the news two days ago that, in fact, it may be the case. As long as we keep the people in positions of power that are creating some of our problems, then we are going to continue having problems. So it is no surprise.

t I would like to know if there is any update regarding the DPW merger conversation and what has happened with the monies that was paid to the consultant and what has he come back with to the public. Also there was a discussion for capital purchases, one being a garbage truck. We ought to examine how we do our processes. I have stated in the past I think we are using 1970s, 1980s practices for 2014 needs. Greenburgh, in the fall, went to an automated truck in a trial effort. We should keep an eye on it and see how that works. The morale would be higher, the level of work would be different if they were given machines that made it less physically difficult. Hopping on and off, on and off a truck is wear and tear on the body, exposes us to workers' comp issues and those costs that go along with that. We need to advance the conversation how we go about this. It is occurring in many communities through the country. We should be on board with looking at upgrading how we do our collection process to make it easier for the men and get more efficiency.

Jim Metzger, 427 Warburton Avenue: I want to wish everybody a happy holiday. On a positive note, about six, seven years ago we formed a Comprehensive Plan Committee. We spent many years discussing issues of the Village. Tonight, before this meeting started, we got to celebrate one of the really great things to come out of the Comprehensive Plan. When the Board asked us to put together an implementation committee and said give us the top three or four items, one of the things we talked about was a Downtown Advocate. It involved spending Village money on a position that nobody was really quite sure how it was going to work out. The Village took a leap of faith, and dedicated a pretty substantial amount of money and hired Barb Prisament, who happens to be here. Anybody who was at Destination Hastings the Village Crawl two weeks ago would tell you it was a wild success. It was not only a success for the store owners and for the people that got to participate, but for the people in the Village that could not participate, they got to benefit from that, as well, because the Food Pantry benefited from everybody in the Village that decided to participate in this very festive evening. It took six years. Out of the gate, it was a home run. I hope we can keep this going.

Patrick Randolph Bell, Prince Street: Happy Hanukkah to everybody and Merry Christmas and Joyful Festivus. I would like to thank the Board for approving my holiday display this year. It took awhile, but it was perfect. I liked how we got to work out all the details. Hopefully, next year we could make the process go a little smoother. We are going to have a Festivus party on Friday, 7 o'clock in the VFW park. I invite everybody to come down. Everybody will get a free one foot desktop Festivus pole. I would like second the comments that Mr. Gonder made. Thank you everybody in the Village for all their service and all the time they take out of their lives, for everything they have done for us. I understand everybody loves this village. I can see it in all of you, in your service. I wish you the best of luck and a Happy New Year and happy holidays.

Mayor Swiderski: The original idea of a Village Advocate was Meg's quite early on, Trustee Walker. We balked at the cost, over the years. When the Comprehensive Plan advocated for the position, and then the Implementation Committee put it number one, and Marge pushed for it, Trustee Apel, collectively we all took a deep breath and decided to give it a shot. It was not the low-hanging fruit because it cost money, unlike some of the other ideas in the Comprehensive Plan which are more costs we can bear up here without invoking a check written to anyone. But everybody was right, and we did the right thing.

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

Village Manager Frobel: It has long been the desire of the Trustees to establish a fund just as the auditors have outlined in this resolution. It will be a specially-dedicated account, reflective in your balance sheet, for future capital investment. The idea is to someday turn to a fund like this to avoid the need of having to borrow for those big ticket projects. The original resolution was modified by staff. We thought it should have been changed to reflect current operating practices here in the Village. As you know, the Village does not have a treasurer; it has a deputy treasurer. In the absence of a treasurer, all those responsibilities rest with the deputy. In conversation with the auditors, we believe it should go back to having it be a treasurer. What we have set up here is bookkeeping and accountability issues. There is no executive authority resting with the treasurer in this resolution or in this fund. It is keeping with the status quo. So we would like to see it passed. It would allow us to set up the fund, begin to reserve money in that capacity and look forward to the future.

The Village Attorney did look into it further for you, and Ms. Whitehead has some comments she would like to share this evening, as well.

Village Attorney Whitehead: In the absence of a treasurer, the duties are carried out by the deputy treasurer. There are provisions in the Village law that suggest you have to have a treasurer. But if you do not have the right person at that time or have not appointed one at that time, the deputy treasurer does act in that position. But it is something we should look into for the future because the law does suggest that you should have a treasurer. Fran and I spoke this afternoon about the duties that are outlined in the New York State village law to be carried out by the treasurer and who is doing those things now. They are split between the Village Clerk, the Manager and your Deputy Treasurer. It is something we can look at going forward. It is not urgent. This is fine the way it is, because if something is delegated to be done by the treasurer, in the absence of a treasurer it is done by the deputy. I hope that addresses the question that was raised.

Mayor Swiderski: It does for me.

Trustee Armacost: Yes, it does. But we should address the issue of having a kind of lacuna in terms of responsibilities, a gap, a hole. I do not know what is the best word for that.

Village Attorney Whitehead: Given to one person. By having it spread, there is a concern.

Trustee Armacost: Absolutely, where it is unclear who has responsibility. So can we put that on a timeline to address soon?

Village Manager Frobel: We can. If you are looking to create another position, our philosophy has been to try to reduce our staff and not expand it. That is why the community, since I have been here nearly 10 years, has been having this responsibility as Ms. Whitehead described shared between three people, although legally, technically, the deputy treasurer signs bond anticipation notes, serial bonds, takes on all those responsibilities for the Village.

Trustee Armacost: The highest-ranking person should have responsibility, and if that person delegates certain powers to other people, that is that person's responsibility. But if you abdicated responsibility without articulating that you have done that, that is what creates that gap. To me, the person who is ultimately responsible is you, Fran, as Village Manager. We need to say in the absence of having a separate paid position, which we are not prepared to create at this point, that the responsibility lies with you. But you cannot pass on the responsibility to another person who is lower down in the totem pole. That is not fair to that person.

Mayor Swiderski: So formally modify the designation of the position to be Village Manager and Treasurer.

Trustee Armacost: Village Manager and Treasurer, and that any responsibilities delegated are actually the responsibility of the Village Manager for which he takes responsibility, or she in the event there is a woman in that position, for this.

Mayor Swiderski: I have got no issue with that.

Village Manager Frobel: We can look at that, certainly.

Mayor Swiderski: That was the fact under Neil Hess at one point, that he was the treasurer. Susan, was that accurate?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: Yes. He was appointed Treasurer.

Village Manager Frobel: So we will have that as an action at a future meeting.

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Apel the following Resolution was duly adopted 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.

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

69:14 PURCHASING POLICY CHANGES

Village Manager Frobel: The second item comes out of our discussion with our auditor. Part of his concern is that our current practices have very low thresholds requiring both the issuance of purchase orders and the bidding process that we go through by purchasing operating supplies. We are looking to modify that. Years ago, when the state audited our purchasing procedures, they too pointed out that the thresholds designated in our policy were low and needed some modification. We are not going to see any change in how we go about purchasing. It will still originate with the department head. They will still complete a purchase order form. That will be signed by me, electronically. It will then be signed by me physically, as I review it. The department head will also review the requisition for payment and sign that, as will I. The process will not change. What we are looking to do is raise that threshold to require a mandatory issuance of purchase orders.

Trustee Armacost: The new threshold that you have established, where does that come from? What is it based on?

Village Manager Frobel: Recommendation from the auditors. They felt our practice was too low, and that for the industry standard it was better to be a little higher.

Trustee Armacost: The \$1,500 and the \$2,500 are recommended by the industry? Is that your suggestion?

Village Manager Frobel: That is the suggestion. That they were too low, and they are closer to what the industry standards are for best management practices.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees change the Purchasing Policy of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Section B Purchasing Procedures, as follows:

2. Where the unit cost of any item is less than (\$10) \$2,500, no purchase order will be required, but delivery tickets should be secured and must be signed and attached to the vouchers for payment.
3. Where the unit cost of any item is less than (\$25) \$1,500, more than one price quotation should be obtained for competitive price reasons.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYE

NAY

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

70:14 AUTHORIZATION TO RECEIVE BIDS – GARBAGE TRUCK

Village Manager Frobel: We have had a series of work sessions, culminating last week when we had an evening dedicated to discussing our capital improvement needs. Out of that came some consensus that we should seek authorization to proceed with developmental specifications and going out to bid for a number of items. That first resolution reflects the garbage truck. You heard from myself and Mike Gunther that we are replacing an aging truck that currently is our spare moving up the fleet. We need something that is reliable. We also discussed at length the fact that even if we do pursue a merger or a combination of services with our neighbor we are still going to need a truck for the foreseeable future to pick up garbage on a daily basis. This is not the first step, but only a series of steps. We will now come back to the Board, provided we get authorization to bid these items, with our recommendation for purchase. So that is what we are looking for this evening: approval to go ahead and specify and bid that item.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to receive bids on a garbage truck.

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

71:14 AUTHORIZATION TO RECEIVE BIDS – DUMP TRUCK

Village Manager Frobel: Likewise, last week you heard from Mike Gunther and Kendra Garrison talking about the aging dump truck assigned to Parks and Rec, which is also a very important part of our snow removal operations. We are looking to replace that with a medium-sized dump truck similar to the last two trucks we have bought in DPW.

Mayor Swiderski: This was the one where a light shined through it.

Village Manager Frobel: That was the photograph she had, yes.

Mayor Swiderski: That was very effective.

Trustee Jennings: So a new meaning of "transparency?"

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to receive bids on a dump truck.

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

72:14 AUTHORIZATION TO RECEIVE BIDS – POLICE CAR

Village Manager Frobel: Likewise with the cruiser. We have talked about the need to continue to keep our patrol cars up to snuff. We need to replace vehicles periodically. The Chief has been able to collect money through assessment of private contractors when they rent a car on a road job. That kind of money, we feel, should be appropriately used to replace the same vehicles that suffer the wear and tear on those projects. So we are looking to get authorization to bid a car.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to receive bids on a police car.

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

Mayor Swiderski: Trustee Jennings made the point that these sort of monies set aside are only set aside notionally for a particular item, that while they are collected with this in mind, in fact they do go into the general fund and that does not commit us to buying something that the money was "set aside" for. It is general fund money. While we appreciate the symbolism, Trustee Jennings' point was that if you become too literal about that is a slippery slope.

Trustee Jennings: T point is that we need to consider the public interest in all our decisions and appropriations. We appropriate for a new police vehicle, we appropriate for all of this sort of equipment that the Village requires on that basis.

Trustee Armacost: The Police Department has actually been generating quite a lot of funding, including the boot money. So one way or another, I would say that the vehicle has been paid for through the efforts of the Police Department itself.

Mayor Swiderski: I would give the boot money and credit to Chris Janiello. That was his bright idea. But without a doubt, it is extra money that we have.

73:14 AUTHORIZATION TO RECEIVE BIDS – FIRE PUMPER TRUCK

Village Manager Frobel: At the last meeting we heard from the Fire Department. The gentlemen spent quite a bit of time going over their needs to replace Engine 44. We also heard, perhaps four weeks prior to that, a detailed discussion about the needs for that fire pumper replacement. Although it is not on the agenda we have prepared a resolution authorizing the Fire Department to receive bids for that fire pumper truck, provided the Trustees feel comfortable with it. We did provide you with some information about what the experience has been in terms of repair parts and downtime and replacement of some of the equipment on the vehicle. We also need to keep in mind that the specifications for the vehicle have changed, as the Chiefs pointed out, and certainly occupant safety is of much importance to us. I thought perhaps the conversation could continue, and see if there was an interest this evening for the Board to consider amending your agenda tonight, to provide the authorization for the department to seek bids.

Mayor Swiderski: The request for information was around the maintenance costs being incurred on the truck by Trustee Armacost. We received the information. Did that address your concerns?

Trustee Armacost: I found the information difficult to understand. It would be useful to have somebody explain it and explain what costs are related specifically to equipment versus costs relating to the mechanic who we employ anyway.

Assistant Chief Bannon: The Village mechanic can only do certain repairs. He can do oil changes and such. But we are mandated to have an emergency vehicle technician do service on the pump, service on anything that pertains to firematics.

Mayor Swiderski: Could you define the term?

Assistant Chief Bannon: Firematics, anything to do with the fire truck. It is a truck, but it is a fire apparatus. It has pumps, it has 500 gallons worth of water, it has got probably 18-hundred feet of hose, nozzles and such. So anything to do with the firefighting end of it is firematics. The transfer switch that changes it from road to pump, all that kind of stuff, that has to be done by an emergency vehicle technician. We send it over to Ruscon, which is across the river in Congers, New York. Their hourly rate is over \$200 an hour. Sometimes we are lucky, we can get them to come down. Russ has been very good with us. We have called him and he has come pretty quickly to address issues that we have had. But in order to keep this piece of equipment running, Jerry can do the oil changes and such but anything to do firematics we have to send it to Ruscon.

One of our biggest problems is, we have an air leak. There are over two miles of hose and fittings underneath that piece of equipment. Jerry does not have the time. He has searched it a little. He found one, he tightened it, something popped up in another spot. It is like if you have a little air leak in your tire of your bicycle, and eventually it is going to go flat. The good part about it is, when we start up our apparatus it will fill up with air again. But once we stop it, the air leaks out. In order for them to trace it, they have to spend countless hours chasing the hoses. Again, it is 25 years old. So if you tighten something over here, something else is going to come loose over on the other side and thus leak some air. Air controls the brakes, it controls the PTO, which is the power takeoff that changes it from road to pump. So that is a major problem with it.

We also found out just recently, we did an upgrade of our air packs. Those are the breathing apparatus we wear in fires. We have to adhere to a new standard with what they call a Pak-Tracker. Every pack will have a device in it that we can tell where that pack is so we do not lose a fireman in a fire. Those packs y are built a little wider. They do not fit in the brackets in what we call our "jump seat," which is directly behind the cab. That is where the firemen sit and put on their stuff. In order to retrofit those Pak-Track air packs it is going to be approximately \$550 for the seat and then labor. There are four seats plus an officer's seat. There is another \$4,000. That is before labor.

That is probably the biggest problem right now. And, ironically, Saturday morning while one of our apparatus was fighting the Ardsley County Club fire we had another call in Hastings. I was the Chief in charge, and Engine 44 did not start. When it finally did start, it came on with a check engine light. It is not major. There is a check engine and a stop engine. Check engine means you can keep running, you can keep doing what you have to do, but you have to just do that; you have to check the engine. We did, we reset the computer. We think it might be the computer module again, which this will be the third one. In my opinion, that engine protects the highest populated area in town. In order for that not to respond right away is, in my mind, very dangerous for life and safety.

Trustee Armacost: But was there a total cost over each year in terms of the cost for Russ contractors or Russ whoever?

Assistant Chief Bannon: Everything is different. You do not know what you are going to get into.

Trustee Armacost: But more or less for this past year, the year before, the year before that.

Assistant Chief Bannon: The First Lieutenant takes care of the maintenance on the apparatus. I do not know what kind of number he came up with. But like I said, every year

is different. You are talking a piece of equipment that is 25 years old. You do not know what is going to happen tomorrow to it.

Trustee Armacost: Yes, but I think what we were trying to ask the last time is what the average cost is. It sounded from the conversation last week that the average cost per year was around \$10,000. But I may have misunderstood what was being said. The cost-benefit analysis of even replacing something completely versus spending \$600,000, we have to be responsible in terms of the way in which money gets spent here. So just trying to understand. If it is an astronomical cost per year versus a tiny cost per year, where that cost shows up in the budget.

Assistant Chief Bannon: Tires have to be replaced every 5 years. I believe we replaced them two years ago, so in three years you got \$8,000 or \$6,000 worth of tires. So it is an ongoing cost and it is a black hole. It is getting old, and we do not know what is going to go next. I cannot give you an exact number because we have replaced that module three times, we have traced the air leak twice. So we do not know what is going to happen tomorrow.

Trustee Armacost: But you should be able to tell me what has happened each year, going back for the last three years.

Assistant Chief Bannon: I believe we gave you ...

Trustee Armacost: That is what I was saying. I could not really understand.

Trustee Apel: You did not give us any numbers. There are no numbers on it.

Trustee Armacost: There was a separate document we were given which had some numbers. To me they were not clear what they were. The typed document only had \$1,800 as a number in two places.

Assistant Chief Bannon: I will turn it over to the Lieutenant because he takes care of the maintenance.

First Lieutenant Schnibbe: The issue with the cost was, it is hard to figure out the exact numbers. When Jerry does the work it is not so much the numbers because we are just paying his hourly rate. When he is chasing an air leak, he spends the majority of the day doing that. I cannot put a number on what his hourly rate is or how much that costs. When it goes to Ruscon or when Ruscon comes to us, I reached out to Russ to try and get an idea of expenses. I spoke to the Fire Department Secretary, and tracking the exact expense for each truck was not that easy for me to get together in a day or two. So the total cost is what Chief

Russak had said, around \$10,000 this past year; \$1,800 for the computer one year, then the next year another \$1,800 plus the labor. And then the code that is on the check engine light now, it is another \$1,800. I spoke to Jerry about it because I also work for the DPW. He said the tranny could go tomorrow, and they are not going to fix it. They are just going to take it out and put a new one in. That is maybe a day or two at Ruscon, maybe longer, and it is \$4,000 or \$5,000 for a transmission. Same with the power steering box down below where the steering column turns and lubricates the steering. That is leaking now, too. It is not a major issue. It is only going to get worse as it gets older. But that is not even something they can reseal. At this point, it is just take off and replace. When you start unbolting stuff, Jerry said it is a black hole just waiting to open up even more and become a bigger and bigger expense.

Trustee Armacost: I suppose the challenge for me is, even if we were to replace a bunch of these items, even if it came to \$20,000, say, so double the amount it was last year, give or take, that is still so much less than \$675,000. That is the part that is difficult for me to understand. I do not know the point at which we become irresponsible for authorizing that kind of an expense. Even if all those seats are replaced so the right kind of equipment can be in those seats, or whatever. You were explaining it very eloquently. But that cost is \$5,000. So \$10,000 plus \$5,000, and let us throw in another \$5,000; \$20,000 is really a lot less than \$670,000. What I would rather do is not make a decision today, but see if we can drill down a little more to understand the cost-benefit analysis. I do not want us to decide no, but I also do not want us to decide yes on the basis of not enough information.

Trustee Apel: The other thing that would be good to know, if you were to trade in this pumper does it have scrap value that could cut the cost for us?

Fire Chief Russak: That type of information I could not do because I do not have the knowledge of what the scrap goes for now. It would have value. It would have some value.

Trustee Apel: Would we get \$50,000?

Fire Chief Russak: You would not get that much. You would maybe get \$10,000 or \$15,000, somewhere in that ball park. But the bottom line on our part is the dependability of this vehicle. This is an engine that is the first responder to the most populated area in the Village. Also, more important than that, from a firematic perspective it is the most dangerous area in the Village for us because of the construction and the age of the buildings around here. Everything on Warburton Avenue, Southside, Washington Avenue, they are old balloon frame construction. I might also remind the Board that in the last 20 years we have had five civilian deaths from fire for whatever cause, lack of smoke detectors or whatever. And every one of them was in the area that this pumper was the primary

responder, first threw water on the scene. If this pumper fails I have more deaths than I can handle. More of them could have occurred if this pumper was not in operating order at that time. We are getting to a point now that the dependability of this vehicle is becoming questionable. Just like you have a car at home. How long do you keep that car? When things start going wrong, do you keep pumping money into it or do you get something new? We are putting here a truck that is going to last for 25 years. If you break that down, as the Mayor said last time, that is about \$30,000 a year.

I am not prepared to jeopardize the safety of the public or my people for a vehicle that may or may not operate at a moment's notice. That pump is old, it could go at any time. The transmission could go at any time. We do not know, and I cannot give you those numbers, to say yes, I expect to spend \$10,000 this year or \$20,000 or \$30,000. We do not know until the thing breaks down. I, as the Chief of this department with the responsibility to my men and women and this village, I do not want to take the responsibility to say I'm sorry, my pumper broke down, I couldn't get you water on the scene until the other units came in.

It has been the history of this department and this village for as long as I can remember, and I have been in this department near 40 years, that these pieces of apparatus were replaced on a regular basis. Used to be 20 up until the '90s. We stretched to 25 years in an attempt to help the Village because of the large cost involved. I do not think it is asking too much to have an apparatus that we will not have to come back to you again until 2040. Once this fleet is changed over I do not expect to have to come back for a new apparatus other than maybe an ambulance in a year or two until at least the year 2024. So you are looking at least 10 years down the road before you have to incur this type of expense again. We will then have upgraded our fleet, we will be in full compliance with NFPA, we will be in full compliance with OSHA regulations and we will not have to come back to you.

Again, it is the safety and the welfare of the men and women in my department as well as the Village. We have given you as much information as we can give you, based on the information that we have. I cannot project what is going to go wrong next. We were operating out of town the other day at that fire at the Ardsley Country Club. That apparatus did not start. Fortunately for us, it was a very minor call. Had it been a serious call the consequences could have been dire. Again, I am not prepared to stand here before you and say I will take that chance that this thing is not going to crap out on me at a crucial time. If I could be so bold as to request an up or down vote tonight as to whether we are going to go with this or not, I am starting to plan my budget for next year. If you are going to give me a no vote, then I am going to have to adjust numbers and cost to anticipate repairs that I do not even know if I am going to need or I may need them tomorrow. So the bottom line is, we have had a history. It has always been this way. And we are doing the best we can to maintain this equipment for as long as we possibly can and not have to keep coming to you

every couple of years saying, I need \$10,000 to build this up, I need a new truck next year. That is why we space it out as best we can.

Third Assistant Chief Lindner: We have talked about the mechanical issues, it did not start. But the one thing we have to remember, too, is when it does get to a fire scene there are people inside the fire depending on the water that that engine pumps. If it fails then, you have dead firefighters. The cost-benefit analysis to that is immeasurable. That engine cannot fail when it is at a fire scene. We are running a 25-year-old engine. We are depending on that 25-year-old engine while we are inside these buildings, when we do have working fires. If anything happens to that pumper, the transmission which you have heard is a problem, the engine, any of the air lines that work the power takeoff it can have fire consequences. At some point, this equipment needs to be replaced. Twenty-five years is an old piece of apparatus. They look nice and shiny because we take care of them. But under the skin, it is like somebody who goes to the gym every day, as they get older, in the beauty salon or whatever, we may look good on the outside but fall apart on the inside. It is time to replace that piece of equipment. Lives depend on it, property depends on it.

Trustee Apel: I hope that you are going to budget for the repairs because if we give you this apparatus, it is going to take a long time. Does it take about a year to get this?

Assistant Chief Bannon: It would take about nine months or so. And yes, we would budget our normal repair budget.

Robert Licht, Protection Engine Co. 1: I have been a member of this department. I held a lot of positions except chief, and officer of the Ambulance Corps. In my 50 years, when I started, Protection Engine Company had a 1955 Mack pumper. We had that engine for 23 years. When we purchased that rig, it was \$13,900. Big cost difference from today. We sold that apparatus to Yonkers for the exact same price we paid for it, and they used it for a couple of years. How does that happen? From the members' hard work and dedication to keep that apparatus functioning like that. We kept it in perfect order. You come to our firehouse, you will see many trophies around the walls. That is from us keeping that apparatus like that.

The next engine we purchased was a '76 Mack. In 1990, they had some problems with it. Instead of going to 20 years, they purchased the apparatus earlier. The Village Manager and the Chief decided it would be cost-effective to purchase that rig at that time, not wait 20 or 25 years. It saved the Village a tremendous amount of money. Then they bought the '91 Pierce that we have in our firehouse now. You go in the firehouse, we have three pictures on the wall. These apparatus look like they are brand-new. How does that happen? Because we take care of these apparatus. We saved the Village thousands of dollars just on our own

time. We work on the apparatus ourselves. You say you have a financial responsibility to the residents of Hastings. We have a life responsibility. We have more responsibility than you because we are going to protect you and your family and every other resident of this village. That is what you should consider as well as the money. If you turn down an apparatus or any piece of emergency equipment, and have someone die because of that fact, I do not think you would sleep very well knowing that because you did not want to spend the money on that. It would be terrible.

Trustee Armacost: I have another question. You raised an interesting point about the budget. What is the repair budget per year for the entire Fire Department?

Fire Chief Russak: That would be in the budget line. I do not have that in front of me.

Trustee Armacost: Like more or less, how much money is it?

Fire Chief Russak: I do not have that number in front of me. That budget has got a lot of items to it. I cannot memorize all of them. But the comment was passed earlier, when the police were coming up for their car. They were saying they were getting money from the boot money. Well, we also provide you with a substantial amount of our budget, too, through the Greenburgh money. I believe last year we provided the Village a little over \$300,000 that we bring to this village by the contract we do in the Town of Greenburgh. Every time we go over that border line you get money for it, and we are working off our backs. We are providing income to the Village also in addition to the Police Department.

Mayor Swiderski: Is a retrofit necessary to the current truck for the breathing apparatus?

Fire Chief Russak: Yes.

Mayor Swiderski: If we are replacing it in a year's time, can it be held off?

Fire Chief Russak: We could probably hold off. It creates kind of a problem for us because now those breathing apparatus are in the back end of the truck. So when the guys are in getting their gear on, when they get to the scene they are going to lose a couple of seconds having to go back to the back of the truck. We can live with that for awhile, but I would rather have up to date soon.

Mayor Swiderski: It would seem a waste to spend such money if ...

Fire Chief Russak: If this were to be passed and you were to give us a new rig, we would makeshift something or we would jerry-rig something so we would not have that particular

expense. But again, the expense of the air lines, the pumps, the transmission, everything like that, that we have to have in order to try to keep this thing running.

Trustee Apel: Is anything transferable from the current pumper to a new pumper?

Fire Chief Russak: It would be the hoses, the nozzles, the air packs, all the basic tools. But in terms of the mechanical parts of the vehicle, no, not at all.

Trustee Apel: That would be all modern, up to date, computerized and all that good stuff.

Fire Chief Russak: Right. And again, a new engine would be up to the OSHA and NFPA standards, which currently we are not. As I mentioned in the previous meeting about our ISO rating, that will also come into play the next time down the road. If this, again, does an upgrade this could be a penalty on that part, too.

Trustee Apel: What is the deal with the computer, the ECM computer, that every year you have to do something to it? What is this guy doing or not doing?

Fire Chief Russak: Because of the age of the thing it is putting strain on the system and keeps blowing out the computer board. I am not a computer person. I will let Brian handle that.

Trustee Apel: I would certainly question why every year he comes back. What is going on with this guy?

First Lieutenant Schnibbe: I could speculate that in '91 it was state of the art electronically. As the OSHA and NFPA mandates, we need new lights that are safe to open up and turn on when there is a gas leak. They have to be in a certain charging dock. New radios, extra radios for a county dispatch, all this other stuff is more drain on the electronics and it is frying out these computers that are designed for a '91 truck.

Mayor Swiderski: That is a good answer.

Trustee Apel: Thank you.

Trustee Armacost: There is a line item under "fire department projects" called "maintenance of auto equipment," where the amount spent each year is between \$16,900 and \$17,217. So it seems like it is right around \$17,000, which, I am assuming, is on all of the trucks.

First Lieutenant Schnibbe: That is department-wide. But the bulk of that money has been spent on 44 Engine.

Trustee Armacost: Right. But even if all the \$17,000 was spent on that engine, it is a relatively small amount of money.

Mayor Swiderski: If the annual expenditure is \$25,000, it is \$17,000 over \$25,000. It is not a relatively small amount. It is a large way toward the \$25,000 that would pay a year for the new equipment.

Trustee Armacost: If it lasted 25 years. We heard that one of them lasted 19 years, just now. They bought it early.

Fire Chief Russak: That was a number of years ago. Because the Mayor and the Board and the Village Manager at the time deemed it to be more cost-effective because of the pricing at that time. Again, we are making every effort, as you can see from the last several units that were bought over the last 8 to 10 years, that we are getting the full 20, 25 years out of these things. We are really pushing it to the limit. I know you are looking at cost. I am looking at lives. I am not prepared to stand before this board and say we will postpone it and then take the chance of having that thing die on me in the middle of an operation. I cannot take that responsibility.

Trustee Armacost: I understand that you care about lives. But we do have three other firehouses that are fully equipped in the Village. One of the other questions that would be really useful is, what, in your opinion, as the Fire Department do you think is the appropriate number of engines for a village of our size. The four firehouses were set up when we had a major industrial plant which had many fires.

Fire Chief Russak: Considering the fire load and the workload that we have in this department, the three engines are an appropriate number of engines. The fourth is the ladder truck, which has no water commitment at all. I believe I explained that at the last meeting. When we have an operation like that, the first engine is the one that is closest to the scene. He hits the hydrant. Second engine comes in, then the third. Each one of them has a particular job. If we are down an engine that puts my people in jeopardy. First engine arrives at the scene, he gets first water on the fire. The second engine comes in, he comes in with a backup line on the fire. Third engine comes in with a safety line. God forbid something happens, I have safety line to protect my people. I am down an engine. I am running with two engines, I am jeopardizing my people in the event of a major operation. If you could have seen the stuff we just dealt up in the Ardsley Country Club or the Dobbs Ferry fire last Tuesday where most of my guys were not here you would see where it is

absolutely necessary to have that type of equipment available immediately. The firefighters in the Dobbs Ferry fire were in jeopardy when they lost the water supply because some fool ran over the line and busted the line. So these engines are absolutely critical. That is the standard we use, that is the procedure we use.

In the past I have offered to the Mayor and Board members I would gladly sit down with you and explain how we work and what we do so you can understand what this is all about and we could avoid this type of question, answer and conflict. In past administrations we have always had a liaison to the Fire Department, where one of the Trustees would come and sit down with us at our wardens meeting. They would understand where we are coming from, they could explain to us where you are coming from. It made life a whole lot easier for everybody. I wish you would consider doing that again in the future.

Mayor Swiderski: So when we boil it down to expense, Niki, the difference between the annual expense of the new engine, which is likely to have much lower maintenance costs, versus the maintenance costs we are incurring here is single-digit thousands, right? It is a mistake to leave it as simple costs-benefits that look at just the dollar numbers here. There are liability issues, there are public safety issues, and single-digit thousands of dollars is not enough to incur that. It is a rig considerably older than any car I have ever held onto, and it does not seem like an outrageous decision to move forward with this.

The bigger question of the number of firehouses is an interesting historical question. But it is not something we can or will address. These are private companies. Whether the particular configuration and the exact location necessarily matches the exact needs now are secondary; each house is staffed by volunteers dedicated to that house. Essentially, taking an engine away kills that house. That is a pool of volunteers who we do not just rely on to save our lives; if you want to bring it back to cost-benefit they are volunteers and we are lucky to have them. I am not going to essentially condemn a house because we do not keep their rig up. When that rig dies, that house is dead. And I am not prepared to do that. I think 23 to 24 years is long enough for an engine. They do stretch these things beyond their natural lifespans, the department does. I am inclined to fund the engine while money is cheap and while the budget cycle is where we are. They can do their planning for the next year and we can just finish this topic up. I am just stating outright where I am on this position, and I am ready to call a vote on it. I do not think we are going to get much better numbers than this. They would have been provided if there were more complete numbers. It is only in the department's interest to provide more numbers, and I am going to have to believe that given the time we gave them this is what they were able to do. The sheer number of the words "replace" here in a two-year period is astounding to me. It is worse than my 12-year-old Jeep Cherokee. I see the argument, I buy the argument, I do not think the annual extra expense over maintenance is worth this.

Trustee Armacost: I do not think we need to make the decision tonight. We can give them two or three more weeks, we can give them a month more to be able to come up with numbers where we can see what decisions we are making.

Mayor Swiderski: The overall budget item annually is clear enough. It is clearly mostly this particular engine. We are going to add some color, but I do not know if it is going to significantly change the metrics on this decision. Whether it is \$14,000 or \$18,000, that is only part of the equation.

Trustee Armacost: There is another challenge, which is that in going through all the documentation from last year the quote last year was \$770,000. This year, it is \$690,000 I am wondering if next year it is going to be \$560,000. That is obviously a direction which is more attractive.

Fire Chief Russak: The initial amount that was put into the capital plan, and I do not understand why this is such a big surprise, we were working with these numbers for the last couple of years. That also included the ambulance. Initially the amount budgeted was...

Trustee Armacost: But that was just for the engine.

Fire Chief Russak: Yes. That was a high number because when they first started going out to look for the cost of these engines these numbers were all over the place. The committee that did their homework on this, that came up with specifications, also were keeping in mind the cost to the Village. So they were able to work to get the best possible apparatus and get the price down to help the Village out. So instead of coming in at \$770,000, which was initially thought to be the approximate cost of it, they are coming in close to \$100,000 without sacrificing the efficiency for a new unit. We are getting the top-shelf pumps, up to date things. There are no bells and whistles to this. This is not a showpiece. It is a work truck so they are able to get that cost down. That is why it is less than what was initially projected.

Assistant Chief Bannon: We also had a light tower and a larger foam tank put on that one. A light tower is a big thing like twice the size of a TV that goes up and will light up the whole neighborhood. We also had a foam tank. I believe we were going to 50 to 80 gallons worth of foam. And we were going to have a different inductor, which means a sprayer, different spray, for the foam. These are high-ticket items. We sat down and we said do we really need this? One engine has a smaller foam tank. OK, maybe we can get away with a smaller foam tank. If I can come to you in 8 to 10 months and say this is not going to cost \$670,000, it is only going to cost \$600,000 I will ring it through the streets. But I do not

know that right now. And if we postpone it, you are talking 5, 8, 9 percent increase next year. You do not know.

Mayor Swiderski: We do not know.

Assistant Chief Bannon: Exactly. Just like the Pierce. You do not know what is going to happen to it.

Mayor Swiderski: Do any of the other Trustees have something to offer on this topic?

Trustee Jennings: I think it is time to get a new truck. I think on both the cost-effectiveness side and on the safety side we have reached a tipping point. To continue to repair the truck at the level that has been described versus what it would cost us amortized is too small of a difference to make economic sense. We are at the point where continuing to repair this truck, even assuming it could be done safely, would be throwing good money after bad.

Trustee Apel: I think it is time to get a new truck.

Mayor Swiderski: Trustee Armacost, I do not usually force a vote when a Trustee has strong opinion. I do not think there has been a moment I have done that in five years. I tend to respect requests for additional information. I also live in a world where I know where I have enough information. I do not think another month will bring us more here, and I would like to have a motion for a vote on this.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to receive bids on a fire pumper truck.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Marjorie Apel	X	
Trustee Meg Walker	Absent	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	Abstain	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: The Dobbs Ferry-Hastings DPW study is proceeding. It is taking a little longer than we had laid out in our original time frame.

Mayor Swiderski: Master of understatement.

Village Manager Frobel: A variety of reasons. Part of it was difficulty in getting the kind of data we needed to make an informed decision or a recommendation to the Board. And also we modified the specs somewhat because we want to know what we can look at in terms of an adaptive reuse for our existing facility. So that becomes an annex to our study. That took a little longer than we thought. I expect to have a draft to our steering committee probably early next year, and then shortly thereafter we will schedule another public opportunity for comment on that report.

Mayor Swiderski: I saw the e-mail traffic today. It seemed to indicate it might be as early as late January that we will have a public hearing.

Village Manager Frobel: Yes.

Mayor Swiderski: It is probably five months over when we initially said, but better late than never.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Plastic Bag Implementation

Mayor Swiderski: The plastic and polystyrene ban was passed, and it is scheduled legally to take effect on January 1. Both hearing from the merchants, who are concerned about the timing of that implementation given that it comes right after a holiday season and does not give them time to prepare, or us to punch through the holiday noise and begin to educate the public, it was a relatively easy decision to move the implementation date out by a month. There is no reason to hurry into something that is going to confuse and concern the merchants and the public because we are unable to capture the attention necessary to just remind people of what is going to happen. It is not respectful to the merchants or the public.

It was a very straightforward decision. While the ban is legally in place on the January 1, we are not going to be pushing it out the public. We are going to set an informal launch of February 1, at which point we will be putting out a branded bag, we will be putting out posters, we will be doing the full nine yards. If there are merchants that want to comply

earlier they are certainly welcome to do so. We would invite it if they wanted to start today. But in terms of educating the public and kicking this off the date out to the world is February 1. The first few months after that will be a voluntary compliance, which means that we do not intend to come in heavy-handed, hitting with fines. We are going to be like when the seat belt laws kicked off or the smoking bans kicked off. Restaurants were not hit with fines, and people were not given tickets for the first few months after these bans kicked in. There is an education period where everybody gets used to remembering to bring their bag to the store and remembering the new policy in effect. It is a phase-in. It will take us a few months. It is going to be a decent public information campaign. And at the end of it, we will all be better off for it. We chose a logo a few months ago for the bag. We have an idea of what the company is that will be providing the bag. We will be selling those at a discount to the merchants, and asking the merchants to turn around and sell those to the public at the same price across the community. They are obviously not legally required to do so, but we encourage it simply so there is no confusion about what these bags cost from store to store. Not all stores are going to go for the bags. A number of them will want their own because they have specialty needs like the liquor stores who may want specialized bags. Others have their own self-branded merchandise or they have gotten something cheaper or already have it in stock. It is working with the merchants to figure out what makes sense for them in trying to make this least painful for them.

Trustee Jennings: I would just like to underscore one of the things you said. I think you said it very well. This is not a postponement of the law. This is a gradual phase-in which is in everybody's interest. This is not a law about fining people. This is a law about doing something better than we used to do it. We want it, therefore, to be something that people are prepared for, both the merchants and the consumers. Having said that, I encourage everyone, especially the merchants, not to consider this to be a waiting period hoping that the law will go away. It is time to start implementing, gradually, your plans for how you are going to conduct your business without the single-use plastic bags. So the time to begin doing something differently is now. It is not a matter of enforcement or fines, but it is a planning time that the merchants should use wisely. I thought it was obvious from the Mayor's comments, but I am hoping that we will not have any merchants who, in a few weeks or months, are stuck with a lot of plastic bags that they have purchased and now cannot use. If they are, you have had fair warning.

Downtown Advocate Prisant: In my initial conversations with the merchants, and I have not spoken to all of them yet, they do understand that we are moving forward. Many of them are wearing down their stores of plastic bags and consciously not reordering, and seem very open to this partnership. I want to thank the Board and the Conservation Commission for their very conscientious and thoughtful approach to this rollout which is going to allow us all to partner: the merchants, the community and the Village.

2.Update on the Downtown

Mayor Swiderski: We all know the success about the Crawl, the number of people it generated in the restaurants. Every one of them seemed to be crowded and happy. The donation today of over \$1,600 to the Food Pantry, could not have come at a better time. This is a time of great want for families, so the timing is lovely.

We have, this Thursday, 6 to 8, you drop your kid off to watch *Frozen*, \$5. You go shopping, and if you come back with a receipt from a store you get your \$5 back. So it is essentially free child care if you favor our merchants with your business. Barbara, do we know how many stores will be open on Thursday night?

Downtown Advocate Prisament: I do not know the exact number. But Thursday is typically a shop-late night during the holidays. The merchants have all been notified. Many of them are very excited about this and will be open late. Thank you for sending out a shopping guide to the whole Village via your e-mail, which lists the great array of merchants we have here, including a couple of new ones. That list is also on the website, at www.destinationhastings.org.

Mayor Swiderski: The Chabad lighting of the Hanukkah candle is that night at 7 o'clock. They typically run music and serve latkes. That might be a nice, happy coincidence.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: I want to thank the DPW and the team that has been out there hanging the wreaths and the lights. The town looks beautiful. As well as the merchants who have put up lights. Tonight's newest addition is, today Jim was out on the streets wrapping the base of some trees with lights. So thank you to the Board and to the DPW and the merchants.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:50 p.m.