

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2015**

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 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 Meg Walker, Trustee Nicola Armacost, Village Manager Francis A. Frobels, Village Attorney Joanna Feldman, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto

CITIZENS: Five (5).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Apel with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2015 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Multi-Fund No. 52-2014-15 | \$ 2,972.95 |
| Multi-Fund No. 53-2014-15 | \$ 4,750.00 |
| Multi-Fund No. 54-2014-15 | \$ 8,015.92 |
| Multi-Fund No. 55-2014-15 | \$74,919.52 |

Mayor Swiderski: I am going to move up the item under Update on Deer on Board Discussion. Dr. Rutberg is one of our partners on the immunocontraception program. The team arrived today and is staying in a house on Broadway and is about to commence work.

Dr. Allen Rutberg, Professor, Tufts University: We are very excited to be here. There will be a core team of four people: Kayla Grams, who was here last year; Dave Pauli, who is a long-term Humane Society employee and who has done work with every conceivable animal; Josh Irving, who has been doing darting with wild horses for the last two years, is new to deer; and Kali Pereira. She is a veterinarian technician and nurse who was a student of mine who just finished her masters at Tufts, is taking a couple of months and spending time with the deer team, and is the person who probably has the deepest experience in handling animals and medical issues with sedated animals.

We have had some feeders up for about two weeks now thanks to Dan Lemons and the high school students and the other folks who have been keeping it full. We have some cameras

set up and are trying to get a sense of where and when they are there. We saw five deer today. There were three at the feeder on Hillside Woods. We will spend a little time getting a sense of what the deer movements are, when they are coming to the feeders, and how accessible they are. We will start darting within the next 48 hours or so. To begin with, we will start with larger groups of us, three or four of us in the car, at once. When we have the protocol down and all feel confident about what we are doing we will break up into two teams of two. We will be in contact with each other all the time. Probably one group will be on the northern side and one on the southern side and be more efficient that way. We are not sure how many deer you have. It may be 60 females, it may be 80. But we are going to get as many of them as we can over the next two months. We will be here through the end of March. There will be a break of a week or two in the middle, but we will be around.

Trustee Walker: Is the snow hampering your access, or is it discouraging the deer?

Dr. Rutberg: It is hard to know because we just got here. It does not seem to be deep enough to hamper their movements much. I suspect they are probably sitting more than they might otherwise, but that is also good for the feeders because, hopefully, some of them will bed down near the feeders and stay there and use them regularly. But that is something we will find out. When we were here in the middle of January, there was no snow so their movements may change a little bit.

Mayor Swiderski: Your team is well-marked with orange vests, and your cars will have marking on the top indicating that it is the deer team, so if it stops in front of a feeding station and darts a deer people are not concerned about that event. We are all looking forward to a good season.

Trustee Jennings: I have given permission for you to come on my property. Do you know how many people have volunteered?

Mayor Swiderski: We have gotten about 350 permissions. A team of kids is making a project out of this. Melissa Shandroff and another teacher are making an exercise out of this in planning and sorting and keeping lists accurately. Most of the properties have been flagged. Unfortunately, they were flagged before the latest snow came down so we may have to re-flag. But they did flag, and they are going to start knocking on doors. We did get two requests not to dart. We cannot rely on last year's red flags because permission granted one year does not flow to the next. This years are lime green. We should tell people they can pull out the red flags.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Gonder, 153 James Street: I am glad the deer project is on its way, but I have some disappointments not on the deer project yet. It is about Mr. Jennings, who I call Mr. Greentree. He has done an excellent job over the last term, and the young girls in the Conservation Commission get things really rolling. I was interested in solar power. I got quotes from a couple and I contacted Susan Maggiotto in regard to increasing taxes. She gave me the phone number of our tax assessor. In Hastings, they reassess you and your taxes will go up, where the federal government will give you a nice discount, the state will give you a discount. I did not bother with the county or the town. But the Village is going to increase your taxes, we are going to go green. Especially a guy like me would think that maybe for five years or eight years your taxes would be the same, not increased. So maybe you can do something before your term is over.

Trustee Jennings: I will try. That is a very good point. Thank you for that.

Mr. Gonder: And the commercial district. You have the Advocate and we do not hear from Meg Walker as much as in the last eight years or so. But are we going to hear from the Advocate every meeting, or does she report to Mr. Frobel? An excellent job she is doing. But are we going to have anything on the veterans in regard to taxes? That is just as important to the community as the commercial district. Businesses are businesses. If you are a good businessperson you are going to succeed in Hastings. If you are poor and under things you are not going to succeed. I hope everybody in Hastings does succeed.

Mayor Swiderski: That is an interesting point on solar. One of our initiatives over the next year will be to look at our code and try to eliminate any impediments in putting up solar.

Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Parkway: I want to address something that I hear regarding the deer. I have heard where last year there were some errant dartings. There was a suggestion where someone told me that a buck had been hit or darts were lost in the woods. I would like to get that rumor cleared.

Regarding the mail situation, I want to thank the Board. Someone mentioned to me that the post office received a letter regarding the concerns of the litter and the conditions, the way the federal employees are treating our town. It was read to the employees, discussed. Oddly enough, though, the supervisor remarked that he did not see what the problem was. These mail boxes are not in front of people's homes. So the word has been gotten out there, and let us see if we have a change, especially when the snow melts. Thank you for taking the time to send that letter out.

Saturday there was a very good meeting in Bedford. Trustee Jennings, you attended it as well. There was tremendous opportunity to see some of the technology that is out there in terms of vehicle types, collection bin systems. I posed a question to the supervisor for Bedford t about these blue bins we use for our recyclables. He said it is absolutely obsolete, no one in their right mind would be doing that. So I hope, as we are thinking about doing our purchases going forward, we do not wait and put it off to another year and another year and another year. Suppose we spent the extra \$15,000 more to get the right system, the right truck, and start moving towards that direction. When I think of the employees over a number of years who have hurt themselves, the workers' comp issues, falling off trucks, heart attacks, hips and so forth, that \$15,000 is cheap money compared to loss of an employee. We are down manpower as it is. Employee costs are \$100,000 a year per man perhaps, give or take. So \$15,000 is nothing compared to that.

The DPW did an outstanding job, and testament to the fact of what I have been pounding at for years here. Give the men the right equipment, given the beefy equipment, you can see the difference out there. Plus the e-mails talking about getting the cars off the road. I have never seen so clearly plowed particular against the conditions they had. Numerous storms, icy curb to curb in many situations. So it goes to show. You give the men the right equipment, bolster their morale, they will produce the results. And they did a darn good job the last couple snows.

Mayor Swiderski: Thank you. We agree. Dr. Rutberg, do you want to answer on errant darts and bucks darted?

Dr. Rutberg: There were no bucks darted. In the first week, there were three does that were darted, only one of whom was recovered. So there might be two darts out there somewhere, but no darts were fired either at bucks or that missed.

Trustee Armacost: Are you saying that there were two doe that were darted where you were not able to retrieve the darts?

Dr. Rutberg: Right.

Trustee Armacost: So you know they were hit, but you just did not ever get the darts out of them.

Dr. Rutberg: Right. Because the does ran off and who knows where they went.

Mayor Swiderski: We should probably put out a reminder that if that is ever recovered just turn it over.

Dr. Rutberg: They are not dangerous, no more dangerous than the nail would be.

Trustee Armacost: Do we know where that happened?

Dr. Rutberg: It would have been around Hillside Park. They would have disappeared into the woods. We do not expect to have that problem again.

Mayor Swiderski: They were still working with the proper dosage, and the deer ran much further than expected. We upped the dosage and they stopped a quarter of a mile.

Trustee Armacost: If I could make a point that supports the point Mr. Downey was making, first of all to thank the DPW which I am sure you are going to do in detail for all the amazing work they did during the big storm and the ice storm. They did a fantastic job. I would like to reiterate the point about removing the cars from the street. You made, I would say, a gentle plea in your e-mail to the Village. But people can share driveways. There are a lot of ways to get cars off the street. With a little creativity and a little calling your neighbor, it benefits other neighbors even to have their driveways with multiple cars in because there is less shoveling. But it is a very important point you made and it made a huge difference. The roads were really clear. So thank you for making that point. And maybe we can be a tiny bit stronger because it makes their job a lot easier.

Mayor Swiderski: I could make the point that if your car gets nicked by a plow you do not get reimbursed.

Trustee Armacost: That is an important point, but that was not exactly where I was going. It is a question of civility.

Mayor Swiderski: You are right. There are more cars than there are garages and driveways, but you should be able to park far more cars away.

Patrick Randolph Bell: What kind of liability are homeowners signing away or taking on when they sign up for this program? You get a missing dart, you miss a deer, you hit a kid. Who pays for it? You lose a dart, some kid picks it up, sticks himself. Who pays for it? Somebody trips and falls, one of these volunteers. Who pays for it?

Some people asked me about different things to bring up. One that I have had a problem with myself is the one-lane traffic situation in front of the school. There is a sign that says one lane ahead. If we are stopping people for running that stop sign why can we not stop people for two at a time. People try to pass you at that stop sign and then cut you off. It

happens all day all the time, and you are going to have another accident there. Or some kid, which I have seen multiple people post at 10706, saying somebody comes around there and does not notice the kid because there is a car stopped. They pull up next to them and try to pass them, even though there is someone already in that crosswalk. We should enforce the law. Another person asked about keeping the sidewalks and the stairs clean in front of the Village building when you were open the other day. The handicapped ramp was blocked, it was all icy. The stairs were snowy and icy. When they asked, the Police Department said our DPW workers are doing other things. But we have to at least make sure that our Village buildings are safe to enter and exit. It should be a priority because it is our Village property. Somebody comes to do real Village business slips and falls, again we are in trouble.

I love what Paul Feiner is going to be doing in Greenburgh the next time it snows and you should do it: take a ride along when they are doing the plowing or maybe when they are picking up trash one morning. See what it is like. See what the problems are, see what kind of concerns they may have. It will help you make your own decision when you get to the DPW consolidation study, which I thought you said would be released soon. If you know when that is, please let me know. Four or five people would like one more plow on the south of Warburton before the next snowfall.

There are exemptions for use of the Community Center; if you are political party, other kinds of groups, organizations, Boy Scouts you get it for free. You do not have to pay the \$200 fee or the \$50 cleaning fee or the \$50 electricity fee. But I took a look at the Village budget for culture and recreation. It looks like we are paying, in the Community Center alone, \$6,000 for fuel and heat, \$20,000 for light and power, and \$2,000 for the water. We could be collecting some fees to offset that from these groups rather than giving them a free ride. A lot of people have nice houses, bigger family rooms. They could have some of these events right there and not have the Village keep the lights on all night.

I did hand in that thing about the male or female impersonator clause to Ms. Walker tonight. and cc'd everybody else on the Board. Thank you so much for considering it

Mayor Swiderski: The DPW consolidation study, Dobbs and Hastings are coordinating final comments and putting the copy out to the public. When two different municipalities are involved in something, we have learned it can go much longer. I do not even want to say when because I have been saying any day now for four months. But any day now.

10:15 APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

Mayor Swiderski: What is a captain versus an inspector?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: Well, the captain is the one who is responsible for running the mechanics of the election, for preparing the report that comes back. They usually choose among themselves.

Trustee Jennings: When we have multiple polling places, Andrus has been one of those places. Since it is not going to be for the Village election, have you been in contact with them? Is there some way we can facilitate getting absentee ballot forms available so people who cannot get out of the building?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: We have some people who are on a permanently disabled list that the county board of elections sends me, and some are people from Andrus who automatically get an absentee ballot. I could certainly make an overture to the director and remind her that they are available.

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 appoint the following Village Election Inspectors for General Village Election Day, Wednesday, March 18, 2015:

Democratic Inspectors:

Frank Brodhead, 1 Main Street, Hastings
Alex Cornwall, 537 Warburton Avenue, Hastings
John Russo, 10 Cedar Street, Dobbs Ferry
Peter Shafran, 47 Jefferson, Hastings
Elizabeth Waczek, 10 Main Street, Hastings

Republican Inspectors:

Roberta Bennett, 33 South Clinton, Hastings
Nat J. Federici, 2 Verne Place, Hartsdale
Timothy Hays, 59 Stratford Lane, Hastings
Linda Johnson, 21 Maple Avenue, Hastings
David Lew, 29 Major Appleby's, Ardsley;

and be it further

RESOLVED: that compensation shall be \$225.00 each for nine (9) inspectors and \$275.00 for one (1) captain.

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

11:15 RETURN OF ACCOUNT AND AFFIDAVIT

Village Manager Frobel: Largely administrative in nature. Susan has the documents you are going to sign before you leave this evening. It is the first list of those delinquent accounts that if not taken care of will be up on the tax sale later on.

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 certify and approve the Return of Account and Affidavit as attached for the Village 2014-15 tax roll.

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

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: Mayor, nothing to add besides my written report.

Mayor Swiderski: Is there anything in that report you want to share with the public?

Village Manager Frobel: I would reiterate to the Board that I am leading up to making the permanent appointment of Kendra Garrison as superintendent of recreation. It has been a long process we have gone through with civil service. Kendra, in my estimation, has done a very good job in serving in this interim capacity. She has been there since June of 2012 so she certainly has had a long time to be a probationary employee and let me have an

opportunity to see her in action. In accordance with the local law, I went to the Parks and Recreation Commission a few weeks ago to get their concurrence. I am now working with Westchester County Civil Service, and the next step is to call the list and begin the process of making the permanent appointment. It could be as early as mid-March.

Mayor Swiderski: That is great.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Update on the Downtown

Trustee Walker: Our Downtown Advocate is launching a couple of initiatives, a fund-raising initiative for Friday Night Live and other events. We are beginning to plan for the first Friday Night Live, which is in April this year, which is going to be a literary event. We are going to take her action items to the Downtown Collaborative and start to talk about how we can move some of these forward with the help of volunteers from the Downtown Collaborative and elsewhere. She has been monitoring the bag distribution and finding that so far she has seen a lot of cooperation, paper bags available, and selling the new Village bag. That seems to be moving ahead smoothly.

Village Manager Frobel: I would also point out that Barb has been helpful. She reports to me near daily. She has been working with me with those businesses that back up to the Steinschneider parking lot. That has been a continuing problem for me, and my conversations with the businessmen have not yielded the results I would have liked. I have let Barbara take the lead in trying to fashion a way in which we can eliminate the unsightliness that exists in the back of that parking lot. She has been very helpful to me in that regard.

Trustee Walker: One other item she is looking into and discussing with David Jackowe is a sign at Boulanger parking lot. David is the grandson of the Boulanger after whom the plaza was named. There may be some family involvement in creating a sign. Also some discussion about perhaps a sign for the other lots that are named after families. So coming up with some kind of standard, a way of marking these, and even explaining the historical aspect of them. She is working on that.

2. Other

Mr. Gonder: When you gave extra free parking, she was going to find out if the Village merchants made more money. I was wondering maybe that was something that would be coming up shortly.

Trustee Armacost: Ms. Prisant did note that she had recognized that request and said she would report on it. But she has not, as far as I know, yet. Hopefully, it will come up the next time she is present at a meeting. We will ask her because I am very curious also.

Mr. Downey: Regarding the off-street parking during snow events, this year the Town of Greenburgh stepped up their game a notch. Ardsley has been doing it for years. No parking in the streets, period. Given the topography of Hastings that is not easy. But simple things like my neighbor, when we have a snowstorm we park our cars on the lawn, clear the driveway and they come back out. I asked one of my neighbors to please park the car on the lawn. She did not understand why, for a snowstorm. Now I do not have to say anything. She sees the system works. But she never thought about it. That is not meant for every location, of course, but corner of Mt. Hope and Overlook, you have that paper road. People could pull off and stack there. If people just think a little differently, with a little bit of effort and applying some pressure, 30 percent more could come out. I was speaking with a member of the DPW over the weekend. He said if you could get those cars off the street we would go through like Patton's army. We would have it side-to-side. They would transform this village. But we need to lever on the people who either just do not get it or are selfish, and give the men the space to cut loose and do the job.

Trustee Armacost: Maybe in the next e-mail that goes out we give some of these suggestions to people.

Trustee Apel: As part of that, I think someone could go around now. There are cars on the street which were never moved that could have been moved. If notices were put on their cars to remind them that, in the future, it would be nice if you would park in your driveway might be one way of giving them a heads up.

Trustee Jennings: I also see cars that have been left there as the snow was falling, but then moved. Part of the street has been plowed, but there is a very large snow bank where a car used to be. I do not know if we have the right equipment, and whether it could be scheduled in terms of manpower, but if we had the capacity, the next day, to go back to some of these places where the cars are now gone and clean it up. People end up parking on top of a big pile, and then it gets icy and it becomes impossible. It is a time-sensitive thing. If you can get it before it gets so packed down it is impossible it could be clearer, too.

Mr. Bell: When I looked at that it was the 2011-2012 budget. The 2013-2014 budget is almost \$65,000. Maybe we can recoup some of that for these groups. Even \$3,000 of cleaning supplies, maybe we could have people chip in. Maybe we would have them pay the \$50 cleaning fee, at the least.

Mayor Swiderski: Repeating what Niki said earlier, the DPW really handles these storms well. The main roads were always clear, and the feeder roads became clear certainly within a matter of hours. I typically, after a storm, would have some small hail of complaints. I do not think I had one in either one of these, and that may be a record that I managed to get through two storms with one person was saying their driveway was plowed over.

Village Manager Frobel: I know we have not cleaned the Boulanger Plaza parking lot as quickly as they would like. But we allow people to park there now overnight because they have been inconvenienced with the bridge job. So there are some tradeoffs. The men will be working there early this morning clearing that lot, and Main Street. It was just a few hours ago the storm stopped, and I think they have done a very nice job.

Trustee Armacost: And we will be cleaning the main Zinsser lot on Friday morning

Village Manager Frobel: I believe that is his plan. I know we are renting some additional equipment to give them a hand.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:15 p.m.