

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2016

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 7:47 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Swiderski, Trustee Meg Walker, Trustee Daniel Lemons, Village Manager Francis A. Frobel, Village Attorney Linda Whitehead, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

ABSENT: Trustee Marjorie Apel, Trustee Nicola Armacost.

CITIZENS: Twenty-five (25).

DISCUSSION – Riverview Park

Mayor Swiderski: Riverview Park is a topic of interest to both Trustee Armacost and Apel. They will watch the videotape of this session, and we will take that into account when they are preparing themselves for the discussion next meeting.

We are opening up the discussion and going to ask people to approach the mic. We do not want to enforce a time limit. We are asking for three minutes, if you can, since there is more than one or two of you and we would like the evening to be reasonable.

Emily Wardwell-Dodziuk, 357 Warburton Avenue: My kids are here and these are the kids that have not been able to use the park because of the previous state it was in. We moved in in 2012. We moved up here from Brooklyn and lived across the street in an apartment. After two years living there we really like Warburton a lot and ended up buying our house across the street. The park, while we could duck in there perhaps when dogs were not in there, we were not able to ride bikes or whatever because there was dog poop and it was dirty and not sanitary for kids.

I do have a dog, I do care about dogs. I do think dogs should have a place in Hastings. But I came to you in the fall when there was an accident and a child had been injured. As a dog lover and a parent, I prioritize my children over my dog. Primarily, the safety of my children is most important to me as a homeowner. It is about a place having a place where my kids can go, where I can throw a birthday party for them, where we could get together as a block because there are lots of kids there now, even more than when I moved here. But mostly, it is about a safe and sanitary place for everybody. I will still bring my dog there on a leash when my kids are there, so I am not saying my dog on a leash, under control, is not permitted there. But I definitely would use my best judgment in this situation.

Mark Osborne: I am representing a handful of kids that would love to see a skate park or an area where they could do some skateboarding. Nyack has built a nice compact skate park with the help of the Tony Hawk Foundation, which I have been in contact with. If we can get some support at the local level we would love to be able to build some ramps and some area for them to do some skateboarding. They have been skateboarding wherever they can find, and it would be great to be able to use some of the park for that purpose. It is a great outlet for kids, it is fun to watch. If I can get everybody to stand up who is here to support this idea. This is a small sampling of the kids that skate here in town, and it is a great outlet. What is amazing is the Tony Hawk Foundation will match funds and will support us in trying to create something here. Space is very limited so I was very excited when we heard about this because we have been trying to figure something out and this could be a great use for the spot. The one in Nyack is pretty interesting. Again, it is very small, it is not enormous. But they have dealt with the legal issues with signs that are posted so they do not have to hire monitors for safety. They have signs posted that say use at your own risk, and it seems to deal with it pretty effectively. The closest area we have, there is one in Ardsley, one in Yonkers and one in Nyack. It would be great to have something local the kids could access here in Hastings.

Bruno McCarthy: I am one of the skateboarders in Hastings. Me and a couple of my friends teach younger kids how to skateboard. We have been doing that every Friday in the fall and spring with afterschool programs. We thought besides this – we do this at Hillside Elementary School – instead of using just what they have there, to have a skate park and be able to kind of teach them the basics and make them able to use other materials besides just the flat ground would be good and valuable for us and the younger kids. It is a very good thing for kids to be doing instead of staying at home or with the television or watching something or doing whatever. They can be outside having fun and learning. It is a really good experience for them.

Wendy Naidich, 80 Circle Drive: I am a dog owner who used to use the dog park until the horrible event that led to the taking off of the gates of the park. We have to do everything we can to make sure that does not happen again. There have been discussions about separating the park into one area that would be dog park and one area that would be playground and a cleaner space where there would not be dog poop and dogs peeing all around. One of the things about even bringing a dog into our parks where the kids roll around on the grass and stuff, it is still not that sanitary. I think there is need for kind of a master plan of the parks. I would love to see a dog park back in Hastings, but it may not necessarily be the Riverview Park that could be converted, in part, to a dog park. It may make some sense to do that since it is already a known space and could be more easily reopened than moving a dog park elsewhere in our parks. But it should be part of a park master plan that takes into account the various constituents who would be using the park and the range of activities park users might

want to have there, like skateboarding. I would like to see that happen before more money is put into Riverview Park. Last year there was a small amount that was put into the park. I do not know that it was a wise expenditure without it being a part of a bigger plan.

I would love to have the park back at that spot just because I think it is easiest, where the dogs and owners would be on the lower level, the upper part of the park could be for kids and block parties and general play over there. For a long time it has not particularly been used by residents because there were not that many kids in the neighborhood. But now there is an increasing number so it makes sense to split the park or at least find another place for the dogs to play. ?

Resident, 353 Warburton Avenue: I have a toddler that is 2 ½ and a seven year old. We are using the park right now when the dogs are not there, which is lovely. I would be happy if the blacktop is kept. I do not know if the skateboard facility can be there. My son would enjoy it. My little daughter, I hope she will be safe around it. But still, using it for kids and for adults I know neighbors that would love to walk there and just watch birds. The best view for the river from all the parks in town, this is lovely. When the last good snow arrived, going from the upper level to the lower level this slope can be used for the kids to slide. It is a small, safe sliding area. I would love if this park can be transferred quickly for safer and more enjoyable place for the kids and adults.

Vanessa Merton, 111 Pinecrest Drive: This park is quite dear to me and my neighbors because it is the only Village park that is anywhere near the south end of town. I like the idea of a master plan for the parks that would distribute various opportunities in appropriate places so everyone would not be fighting over something but could feel that his or her interests would be accommodated somewhere. In Riverview Park is I would like to see the Village take a more proactive role to open up the views to a much greater extent. It is the one park that has the view, the same view that people are so concerned about from Warburton Bridge. We all seem to be very concerned about that, and it has high value. I would like to see us make the most of that. I would like to see that park not the province of any particular subgroup or sub-interest. Much as I love the idea of the skateboarding because I always liked the skateboarding when it was there before, I am not sure it belongs there with that beautiful view. I do not think you need to skateboard with that view. I also do not think you need to run the dogs with that view. I would like to see it be a park where people could go and sit, look out at the view and relax. It is not very big, but it could be a little island of peace in that area that otherwise does not have something like that.

Danielle Goodman, 445 Warburton Avenue: Taking on Vanessa's lead with the view, Donna Gutkin has met with neighbors over the span of many years to develop a plan for Riverview Park. Her latest iteration did sculptural frames to frame the view. So thank you,

Vanessa. Riverview Park is unique in that way, its views. I support this to be a people park, leashed dogs being welcome. Dog parks are not usually situated in such close proximity to homes, both single-family and multi-family. It poses a liability issue for the Village, and a noise and public health problem for the immediate neighborhood. I do not think the immediate neighborhood should bear the brunt of the dogs. I would urge you to take a hard look at Donna's plans. She did them for free, and they are a creative and low-cost impact. They serve the needs of the new families in town that we would like more to come. I am in favor of a dog park. I could be wrong and you will correct me, on 9-A Ginsburg was giving us five acres of new parkland.

Mayor Swiderski: He is giving us a couple of acres, as in more than one.

Ms. Goodman: Perhaps that is the best spot for the skate park and a dog park. As for the dogs, you could have people register, make it Village residents only. They could pay a fee like they do at the pool or the tennis courts. It would help you with insurance and upkeep and the fencing you will need. They do it in other places, and there need to be rules. I have a dog. My dog does not run with the big dogs, she will not go to the dog park. Not all dog owners are courteous so they need rules. I am in favor of a dog park, but perhaps on 9-A. And a master plan is an excellent idea.

Steve Otardo, 400 Warburton Avenue: My wife and I are here to support a mixed-use park for Riverview. We are all on the same page in terms of what we want that park to be used for, which is to utilize the view, for it to be safe, for it to be clean. I do not think I am convinced that a dog park there would inhibit that if it is the appropriate steps. The way it is laid out right now it is already divided in two so it would not be much of a task to put the dog park in one area. There are lot of dog parks out there that are a lot smaller than the designated area that is there now. We would not be talking about taking up too much space. If you take the appropriate measures, fence it in properly, have the double gate which may be even slightly higher fences than you have at a normal park or at least the fence that is there right now, you might help ensure some security. A pass is a great idea. The dog park in Ossining, you have to register, your dog has to have all its shots and vaccines, and it has to be on record. It is very formal. In case there is an incident there is always a way of finding the lead to make sure the appropriate actions are taken. In this case, the appropriate action unfortunately was taken, which was to put the dog down. It is a terrible tragedy what happened, but we would like to avoid that. We can have a solution for both.

In terms of it being at that specific location, the very fact that we are talking about this right now shows you it was a much-utilized park for dogs. We moved here to our specific location because, of course, we love Hastings. But the fact that a dog park was within walking distance in a very walkable town where a lot of people are walking to the train, a lot of

people are walking their dogs in the morning. They only have 20 minutes, such as us. It is valuable to be in such a neighborhood and area. I do appreciate the noise concerns. I wish there was a better solution to that other than maybe the noise would be dampened if you put it down on the lower level. But the fact that we are sitting here talking about putting a dog park there goes to show the amount of use that it did get when were bringing their dogs there. I think, for sure, it could be a lot safer, it could absolutely be a lot cleaner, and it could definitely be utilized for the people with a wonderful view. Everybody can enjoy it, and I hope that is still under consideration because I am not convinced that it should not be there.

Mairead Daly-Diep, 385 Warburton Avenue: I have to disagree with the last speaker. I agree that there should be a dog park in Hastings. It would be a wonderful thing to have a properly organized dog park as everyone is talking about this evening. But for many reasons I believe it should not be at Riverview Park, one of the reasons being, as Vanessa mentioned, it should be a park where there are no special interests. It should be a park for everyone who lives in that area to feel safe and be able to go to and enjoy the entire park. It is not that big. There are other areas where we could have a dog park in it Village. Let us not squander this park which has this amazing view by putting a dog park there, when there are so many other places we could have one which would be much more appropriate.

If we were to use the lower level of Riverview Park as a dog park my understanding is that this is a change of use because the so-called dog park that was there for a long time was not an official dog park but was just a case of professional dog walkers and dog owners taking over and shutting everybody else out of the park. In order for the change of use it has to be made ADA-compliant. Because of the slope that will be extremely expensive. We could have a dog park somewhere else in the Village where it is not necessary to spend that much money just making the space ADA-compliant. There are spaces that would already be ADA-compliant to begin with.

Secondly, the safety issue. It is not only the people I am concerned about for the safety issue, it is also not a very safe place for dogs or drivers. Dogs have gotten loose and run out onto Warburton Avenue, dogs have been killed. We were very lucky that no drivers have been killed because of dogs running in front of them or children walking past the park being hit by a driver who is trying to swerve away from an escaped dog. That is another reason it is not a good place for a dog park. It is on a very busy road, and if a dog does get loose there is an issue. And it is a very busy road where people drive very fast.

Going back also to this idea of it not being a park for special interests, there are a lot of young children now living on Warburton Avenue in close proximity to the park. There are also quite a few seniors. Those are a demographic that cannot go to another part of the Village to enjoy a park. People who are seniors who maybe walk very slowly, cannot walk

across the Village, no longer feel comfortable driving, what a wonderful place for them to be able to so, sit, enjoy the view, and watch children playing. That would be a wonderful use of the park, and it would not get in the way of anybody else's use of the park for passive uses and children playing if seniors are allowed to enjoy the park. Also, young children cannot just up and go across town. A teenager can travel with their skateboard to another park. I think a skateboard park is a great idea, but I do not think it is a great idea in Riverview Park. A lot of people living on Warburton Avenue live in apartments. That is quite different to a lot of other areas in the Village. If you live in an apartment most likely you do not have an outdoor space. To be able to walk to a nearby park, for parents to be able to allow their children to walk to a park that is nearby and socialize with their friends, have some creative play instead of sitting in front of the TV or playing computer games, that is a wonderful thing. It is something that should be available to the children in the neighborhood. It is fairly basic to have a park that you can walk to and play in safely and not be concerned about dogs and to have enough space to be able to run around.

Right now, there is blacktop on the upper level. My suggestion would be to leave a lot of that blacktop. We could do some nice landscape where we remove some of it. It would be a great place for little kids to ride tricycles, play ball games. Then down below could be a wonderful area for picnicking, for kids to rough and tumble roll in the grass, dig for bugs, whatever they want to do. Sorry I spoke long, but I have given this a lot of thought and feel it is very important. I spoke to Nancy DeNatale before I came out this evening. She was one of the neighbors who spearheaded this whole movement to clean up the park initially. She cannot be here tonight because her father, who recently had surgery, is having some setbacks. She is with him this evening. One of the things she said to me was how wonderful if, when my dad is better, he can walk across the street and sit in the park and meet the neighbors. He is going to live with her now, and that struck me when she said that this evening. I thought, that is what this should be; a real neighborhood park.

Donna Erez-Navot, 328 Warburton Avenue: I was here the last time right after the incident. My son was the one that was bitten by the dog. Just recently we were at the pool. We love the Hastings rec pool program you have at Children's Village on Sundays, we go there all the time. I noticed that it is still scarred where everything happened so it reminded me again of the incident that happened. I wanted to thank all of you. I think in the park the dogs have not returned and for me, personally, you dealt with it very nicely. I know some people do bring their dogs. I see some people in the morning since I live across the street, and I want to support a lot of what other people were saying. We have two small children, three and one, and the park we have to go to is Zinsser because Reynolds is not functioning. We have to walk all the way to Zinsser and, for us, that is a 25 or 30minute walk, which I cannot do with both children. So having a place to take the kids together, that would be easy.

We live with Nancy DeNatale and I am planning to visit her father with my son on Friday mornings. It does sound nice to be able to walk across the street and have a place we can go. I do not know about the skate park. That sounds cool, I do not have any strong feelings about it. But I do agree that a safe place where everyone can enjoy would be the best thing.

Tanya Rynders, 29 Fraser Place: I do not want to redirect or hijack the conversation because they all have a very valid point. I have a question that Reynolds is under construction. Only one of the things we requested be updated about Zinsser has been done over the past nine months. There is talk about something in Uniontown potentially. Can the Village undertake kind of half redoing a park again before these other parks are done? Someone spoke about a master plan. That would be advisable to take the entire thing into mind and getting those other two done before we embark on a new venture.

Donna Gutkin, 349 Warburton Avenue: It is good timing, and I appreciate the Village is doing a lot of parks work right now. But I would like to think they could do something at Riverview in an expedited fashion, regardless of what is going on at other parks. It is a beautiful space that has been underutilized for a very long time. As a landscape architect I see a huge amount of potential there, and I would be happy to help see some of that potential come to fruition.

Mayor Swiderski: Do you have an opinion on the use?

Ms. Gutkin: I do not think it is a great place for dogs for all the reasons this wonderful group of people has already mentioned. But first and foremost, it is a huge safety issue and there are so many other places. I would be happy to find another place for a dog park. Big dog lover.

Lucy Mondello, 2 High Street: I have grown up in Hastings my whole life and skated here for about 10 years. About five years ago there was a program called YAP. It was a skateboarding program through the school which allowed skateboarders to go every Friday night and skate. That had such a large following with skaters. Once that was taken away, there are so many few skaters going through this town. Me and my friend have tried to explore every inch of Hastings. The three main parts in Hastings where you can skate are probably Hillside, the high school and the A&P, which only involve flat ground or a curb. This park would be amazing for a skate park. These skaters deserve this view just as much as anyone else. As for a dog park, there are so many other options in this town to walk your dog, whether it is the Aqueduct or Zinsser or the Burke Estate or Hillside. This is the only place it would be appropriate for a skate park in Hastings. There are not many other options. As for the view, there is an amazing view at the waterfront with a front row seat, and at the library. So I do not think that is the only option for you there. As for a neighborhood park,

skateboarding is something that incorporates all age groups. These guys are obviously willing to teach the younger kids. Their parents can come, so it incorporates every age group from little kids to adults. A skate park would be the best option there as an outdoor activity and something to do. Everyone is always complaining there is nothing to do in this town, and I think it would be something to incorporate the whole town in.

Mayor Swiderski: Going, going, gone? OK, we are going to close the discussion on Riverview Park. For those of you who are shy about walking out of here because you are not interested in the rest of it, do not be. You are under no obligation to sit through the Chief's scintillating presentation on police vehicles.

Trustee Lemons: I want to thank you for coming. It is great to hear from all of you, and I hope you will come back.

Trustee Walker: Yes, thank you. That was really helpful to hear from everybody. Lots of different views.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Lemons with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Feb. 2, 2016 and the Public Hearing of Feb. 3, 2016 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 57-2015-16	\$272,973.09
Multi-Fund No. 58-2015-16	\$10,504.08

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Gonder, 153 James Street: I want to publicly thank Mr. Frobel in regard to the LED lights, especially on the dead end side of James Street. I was one, and my neighbor, who complained because they were not bright enough. Eventually they increased the wattage a little, and it still did not help. So I talked to Mr. Frobel again and they came up with a solution. Mr. Gunther and the bucket truck driver pitched the light slightly and now I can see on the dead end side of the street. I wanted to thank him and Mr. Gunther and the bucket truck guy.

Mr. Mayor, you did a great job on the consent decree last Wednesday. It was one of the better hearings you had, and everybody had a fair shake. Some people spoke two, three or four times, and you ended the meeting, as you said, about five after 10. I thought it was a very good job you did.

Trustee Lemons introduced a resolution that was passed 5-0 on the Algonquin gas pipeline expansion from the Village Environmental Committee. Three Hastings residents were arrested January 15 blocking employees' cars from entering the Spectra Energy construction yard in Montrose. I do not know if people arrested from Hastings are on the Environmental Committee.

Mayor Swiderski: They are not.

Mr. Gonder: I am glad to hear that. FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, approved this whole thing on the Algonquin gas pipeline over a year ago, and you approved this resolution two weeks ago. It does not make sense. Why did you not have this resolution a year and a half or two years ago and present it? It would have made much more sense. I think you were not using wisdom. You are smart people, but sometimes I think you lack that wisdom.

I have a great resolution for the Mayor and the Board to adopt tonight: the Mayor and Board of Trustees would like to change the New York State Constitution to say any elected official in New York State will lose all pension money if convicted of a felony. Eighty percent of the voters of New York agree with a poll the was taken at Marist College. I hate paying taxes where some of the monies are going to pay elected officials that have been convicted of a sex crime, a corruption crime, or any other felony.

The last thing is deer. They are going to be coming, the shooters and that whole entourage. They were here several weeks ago putting up feeders, and they happened to put a feeder in my yard. I gave them the permission. The deer are in, the bucks are coming in, and I have probably seen 200 deer in the last two or three weeks. But to be honest, it is probably 12 does and four different bucks. I was explaining to my daughter-in-law over this weekend, and showed her the feeder. There were a few deer out there. I explained what they do to shoot them, tag them. She says do they not do anything for the ticks? I said that is a good question. I do not think they do, but she said maybe they could spray them for the tick larvae and could put collars on them like a dog or something. So it is something you may want to consider.

Trustee Lemons: Since you mentioned the resolution, you are right that, on some counts, it was late. But there are other parts to that resolution which address, and assuming it goes in as they are doing now, the safety monitoring and so on. There are still some active pieces that are important. And thank you for having the feeder for the deer.

Dave Skolnik, 47 Hillside Avenue: I want to thank the DPW for their extremely effective clearing of the snow. I have never seen them quite as effective as they were today, so I want to congratulate them on that. I know the weather helped a little, but still.

Next, LEDs. I wanted to thank, as Mr. Gonder did, Village Manager Frobel and Mike Gunther for addressing the concern I had been bringing before the Board for a number of weeks. It was very effective. The impact has been dramatic by doing the same thing, readjusting the light away from the glare. I am very grateful for it. It has made a difference. To whatever extent the Board was instrumental in weighing on my behalf, I appreciate that as well. I mentioned to Mr. Frobel at the time that we were out there that I was going to continue to bring to his attention lights around the Village where the glare is obnoxious and poses a potential danger. I haven't yet brought any to his attention, but I am confident that when I do he will continue to address it, especially now that we have a certain amount of Village staff who are capable of dealing with this directly.

In regard to Floral Drive, admittedly it is not part of the public hearing record, but there were two aspects that caught my attention. One was the comment by Danielle Goodman with regard to her own situation and how a ruling in favor would tend to pose the potential for a lot more. It struck me that I do not know it is wrong that people who are in her situation, however many there are, should not have some recourse to be able to deal with their property. I think it is not simple. I am not in favor of your simply being gun shy about the precedent, though I do agree you need to be careful in the way you frame anything that would be creating a legislative change.

The other point I was going to make draws a parallel between my recent experience with the LEDs and Mr. Paradise's experience in light of the comment made by his neighbor. I was at the Safety Council meeting when Mr. Paradise originally brought this issue, and I know there were subsequent attempts. This may be one-sided and there may be things I do not know so I am trying to keep that in perspective. But from what I witnessed, there seemed to be an ongoing effort to address this that went nowhere. The fact that, from his point of view, this had to come to this, to where he has to present what is a personal issue before the Board, I found problematic. The fact that the neighbor, at this point, seemed to be begrudgingly willing to step back if you would then not take any action bothered me that it had gotten to that point. The only comparison is that the same thing should have happened with the LEDs. We should have been able to resolve that sooner.

14:16 APPROVAL OF PURCHASE – POLICE VEHICLES

Village Manager Frobel: This comes to you as a request from the police department to replace two aging cruisers. They have high mileage. We are being confronted with some increasingly costly repairs besides the fuel mileage that is very poor. And, of course, reliability which is paramount to the department vehicle to respond quickly to any call for assistance. What is also nice about this, besides being part of our capital improvement plan and something we need to address, we are able to come up with a funding source that minimizes the impact on the taxpayer. Over the past several years we have been charging a fee to those utilities and movie filming companies that need a cruiser for traffic control and safety, a very fair fee which reflects the depreciation of the vehicle besides its operating costs. We are able to replace our vehicles over a periodic basis on the monies we collect through that method. Also, we have been down one police officer for the better part of the year. Consequently, we have what we call "lag money," money that was not being spent for personnel. The Chief would like to see that reallocated to this equipment he finds critical to the operation.

Police Chief Visalli: The reason we are asking for a resolution this evening is that both the cars we would like to replace are six years old.

Mayor Swiderski: What is the mileage on them?

Police Chief Visalli: Well over 100,000 on both of them, which is well past their useful life. It comes down to dependability at this point. The other issue is that in speaking to the company we would be purchasing the vehicles from, the delivery time is anywhere from 12 to 16 weeks so I would like to get them ordered as soon as possible. Then there is more delay in getting the siren and light packages and all the transfer of electronics from the computers to the plate readers, and all that takes quite a bit of time.

Mayor Swiderski: That is all within this price?

Police Chief Visalli: Yes.

Mayor Swiderski: What is the mileage per gallon on these things?

Police Chief Visalli: Probably in the 25 ball park. This is a scaled-down version of the Ford Explorer so they get a little better mileage. But it suits multiple purposes for us because we are getting two more 4-wheel drive vehicles.

Mayor Swiderski: They are always 4-wheel?

Police Chief Visalli: Yes.

Trustee Lemons: Is it possible to get them in a hybrid package?

Police Chief Visalli: I would have to look into that.

Trustee Lemons: I am sure it would cost a bit more, but I was thinking about the kind of driving. You have a real mix, but a lot of it might work well for a hybrid.

Police Chief Visalli: I have never seen the Fords in a hybrid.

Village Manager Frobel: It is the EcoBoost model, which is more expensive. But the improvement on mileage is not that dramatic. They are still around 16 to 23 on the highway.

Trustee Lemons: So it does not mean much.

Village Manager Frobel: It does not seem like a dramatic difference.

Mayor Swiderski: And what is the regular?

Village Manager Frobel: The utility would be 16 to 21 on the highway, but these are all-wheel drive, as I recall.

Police Chief Visalli: Yes, correct.

Mayor Swiderski: So you are gaining two miles on the highway driving.

Village Manager Frobel: And we do not do much highway driving. I do not see it, but I do not know. The city was buying something.

Police Chief Visalli: But they were buying regular patrol cars and they were much smaller, not much bigger than the Village vehicles that the Recreation Department uses. And as far as I know, the city has now gotten away from that.

Trustee Walker: There are Toyota 4-wheel drive hybrids. There is a Highlander and RAV4 now that is hybrid.

Police Chief Visalli: Right, but we have to purchase things off the state bid contract.

Village Manager Frobel: They have to have the police package.

Police Chief Visalli: Toyota is not.

Trustee Walker: They have a limited number of cars, then, that are available.

Police Chief Visalli: Correct.

Mayor Swiderski: Why Rockland County?

Police Chief Visalli: That is the nearest place. This is going to be off the county bid. The closest state bid dealer we could find that we had been using for several years is in East Syracuse, New York. We had difficulty last year when we purchased the car from them. The delivery time was delayed, then they made mistake; they did not put the cage inside the car and it took another month. This company already does our striping, does all the transfer of our electronics, purchases the car for us through them. They are drop shipped directly to him, he does all the work for us, and then we just pick them up.

Trustee Walker: That is the company in Mamaroneck?

Police Chief Visalli: Yes, Correct Cruisers.

Trustee Lemons: I do not know how that works. That is also acceptable? That is either way for purchasing into the state contract?

Police Chief Visalli: Yes, he is not marking the price up. We are just purchasing the vehicles through him, then he has them drop shipped. It is easier for him to just have the vehicles drop shipped directly to him, then he gets started on doing all the work for us.

Mayor Swiderski: I do appreciate the financing mechanism. You are not hitting our bond money or our capital reserves. There something right about the fact that it is coming out of the rental monies we charge and that you have had to do without an officer for a bit of time.

Police Chief Visalli: We had a very good year so far. Since March we took in almost \$57,000 in service fees so it is working out well.

Trustee Walker: I think we can all speak for Trustee Armacost in praising you effusively right now.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the purchase under Rockland County contract from The Cruisers Division, Mamaroneck, New York, of two (2) police vehicles as follows:

2016 Ford Interceptor Utility AWD \$43,262.75
2016 Ford Interceptor Utility AWD \$44,461.25

to be paid from Capital Fund Police Income and General Fund.

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

Mayor Swiderski: Thank you. Do we really have Capital fund Police Income? Is it an actual pot of monies?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, dedicated for just this. We are still lower than our neighbors so it is something they are looking at, as well. The Chief reminds me that neighboring communities charge more for the cruiser.

Mayor Swiderski: You know my opinion on that, then.

15:16 SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED 2016-17 VILLAGE BUDGET

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees schedule a Public Hearing for Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter at the James Harmon Community Center to consider the proposed 2016 – 2017 Village Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYE

NAY

Trustee Marjorie Apel	Absent	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	Absent	
Trustee Daniel Lemons	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: I want to highlight an enclosure to my agenda comments regarding the correspondence we received from Assemblyman Abinanti that he was inclined to submit on behalf of the nearby villages special legislation which would help us in acquiring capital equipment. This comes on the heels of a previous correspondence in which he had asked the members of the VOC to join together and come up with a list of projects in which we could purchase heavy equipment and share the equipment. One suggestion we had was a small excavator or Bobcat, something that Tarrytown could share with us. There was a larger pool of money, and we would see how we fared. He clarified by saying we are going to change that approach. He contacted the various villages, indicating that he would like to hear what we would like to see submitted for a special grant. About \$150,000 is available to us to submit, obviously no guarantees. I am not sure how much money is available state-wide or for his consideration, but we have been asked to complete an application and submit for their consideration a capital equipment item we think would make good sense.

One thing we have talked about is a street sweeper. Despite four years of experiment, there has been a certain level of dissatisfaction with the frequency of having your own piece of equipment, and the fact that we would be doing our streets more frequently if we had our own equipment. That was my suggestion. Even though \$150,000 would not get us the machinery we would like, it would certainly get you very close to that. The only drawback is that from start to finish this whole process could take more than a year. So even if we submitted a street sweeper for consideration of the general assembly we would not know for upwards of 12 months whether or not it would be funded. I am not sure if the Board would be willing to wait that long on the hope that we would see funding.

I just toss that out. I have got some time to submit for consideration. Meg came up with a suggestion of the smaller piece of equipment we might be able to use. We need to come up with something, but certainly we are going to take advantage of this and have an item for their consideration. I do not know if it would be a street sweeper or something less than that. The piece of equipment we are looking at is probably closer to \$225,000 to \$250,000.

Trustee Lemons: How do you judge the odds of getting funded?

Village Manager Frobel: I do not know. A member of staff called and said get something together, here are the rules. He did not indicate whether he has \$500,000 to distribute or \$150,000 to distribute.

Trustee Walker: So there is a possibility we could wait for a year and not get the funding.

Mayor Swiderski: It is something we need versus trying to scratch up a need.

Village Manager Frobel: That was my thought.

Mayor Swiderski: Are there other capital expense vehicles we were scheduled to purchase anyway in the next year or two?

Village Manager Frobel: They are all expensive. We are looking to replace the front end loader, that is aging. Mike Gunther has talked about the value of a small Bobcat excavator, something he can use during the summer months on small drainage projects. Apparently, we could lease one for a four-week period. That would have been ideal because Tarrytown wanted to share it with us.

Trustee Walker: How much are they?

Village Manager Frobel: The front end loader is very expensive, at least \$250,000. But the Bobcat was around \$80,000, maybe \$85,000.

Trustee Walker: Can the Bobcat be used for plowing sidewalk?

Village Manager Frobel: I can look into that but, yes, I have seen it done. It is used to certainly take snow off sidewalks into the street to be picked up with the larger piece of equipment.

Trustee Walker: I saw a small piece of equipment barreling down Warburton yesterday. I do not think it belongs to the Village, but it was a small Bobcat-like vehicle right in the middle of the downtown. I think that was private-owned. We do not borrow one.

Village Manager Frobel: No, we have used contractors to help us haul snow out of the downtown. I guess it was obviously hauling snow. I cannot imagine, unless it was Mike.

Trustee Walker: Was it being used by the Village? You do not know.

Village Manager Frobel: I do not know. He did not mention anything to me.

We have got a presentation coming to you and, in fact, it is overdue. Mike Gunther and Jerry Daley have been working on an analysis for us on our street sweeper needs. I attended a demonstration for a smaller sweeper which I think would fit the bill. But it is not rated to sweep the entire Village. It is medium sized. It costs about \$145,000 to \$150,000.. It is more for a smaller application. It would have been ideal for the downtown and parking lots, but the pressure is going to be to do the outlying areas, as well, and this machine would not hold up for a long period of time if used in that capacity.

Trustee Walker: What is the advantage of a small sweeper like that?

Village Manager Frobel: It would be nice in the downtown. We could do Maple, Warburton and probably Washington parking lots, Main Street, the downtown area.

Trustee Walker: Why is it more effective than a big sweeper?

Mayor Swiderski: Harder to maneuver in a parking lots..

Trustee Walker: So it cannot get into corners and things like that? It would be more strategic?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, the smaller can get in there.

Trustee Lemons: I wonder about how important it is to sweep all those outlying areas. My observation is that it comes by once in awhile and I do not see a lot of difference, whereas the downtown, that is critical. These areas in the parking lots are critical, and to optimize on those areas makes sense.

Village Manager Frobel: That is part of our analysis, where if we were to buy the smaller machine we would still supplement it with, say, a twice a year Village-wide sweep with a private contractor.

Trustee Lemons: That makes a lot of sense, because it is to get something that is designed well for what we know is the main issue.

Trustee Walker: I have never understood why we cannot get the contractor out more frequently, however. We looked at it last year during the budget review, and it looked like we had budgeted more money than had been used during the year to contract out the

sweeping. Why do they not come on a regular basis? We have a contract that is worth a certain amount, and you pay a certain amount. They come not just on an as needed but on a regular basis.

Village Manager Frobel: We have this year. When you get the budget you will see that we will have spent all the money allocated for street sweeping this year. Last year there was a bit of a lag time because Mike was at that time relying on Dobbs Ferry to supplement it more frequently than he is this year.

Trustee Walker: So did not that then represent an increase of sweeping in the downtown and the areas around the downtown that we are talking about?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, the main streets: Washington and Warburton.

Trustee Walker: I think there was an improvement, but still we could use more.

Village Manager Frobel: It should be more frequent. Nothing beats having it available to you at will. We knew that going into it, but we thought with the contractor and avoiding the price of a new sweeper five years ago this was a way to address our needs.

Trustee Lemons: That was good to have given that a shot. If there is any reasonable chance of getting this funding it makes sense to do that one more year, because that is a very large amount of money to save.

Mayor Swiderski: And the smaller sweeper is under that \$150,000 cap you are talking about so it may be the right call. We have not heard member items in a long while. It is nice to hear that those proverbial spigots might be opening again. I do not remember the last time we got anything, and they certainly have no problem in imposing tax caps on us. It is nice to see a little manna flow from where the lash usually is issued.

Village Manager Frobel: At our next meeting I will have Mike and Jerry here and they will make a presentation, and we will have a recommendation to you at that time.

Trustee Lemons: What about continuing to explore with Tarrytown the joint purchase? There is no reason we could not do that for other equipment that could be shared.

Village Manager Frobel: Very definitely.

Trustee Walker: Sharing which one?

Village Manager Frobel: This was a small excavator.

Trustee Lemons: I would not give up on that if that seems to be an important piece of equipment and they want to consider sharing it.

Trustee Walker: One of my concerns was how often the sidewalks do not get shoveled as frequently as they need to. This winter has not been a problem, but last winter the downtown was a serious problem. Some landlords or tenants are good about shoveling, and others are absentee or the building is vacant and you do not see it get done. That is why I was raising the issue of a piece of equipment that can deal with sidewalks, and the bridge for that matter going down to the train station down Maple or Southside. These are places the Village is responsible for, and people depend on it in order to walk to the train.

Trustee Lemons: You are going to have more of those if we pull more sidewalks.

Trustee Walker: True, ones that are not necessarily being taken care of by property owners. That is why I was concerned about a piece of equipment that could do that.

Village Manager Frobel: Let me get some pricing on that.

Mr. Skolnik: About the sweeper, if you are thinking about making that kind of expenditure it would be worth coming up with a way of actively notifying neighborhoods. And it is going to be a cultural shift for people to get used to the idea that they have to do something after they have gotten this notification. Also, the sweeper in the areas outside the downtown is going to be dealing mostly with foliage debris, not so much trash, so is there something about the machine that has to be taken into account about what it might be collecting

Trustee Walker: I think those are great points. On the streets that do not have parking regulations people are not used to moving their cars. It is hard enough to get them to move when there is a snow emergency.

Village Manager Frobel: There was a time when there was a practice, and homeowners could rely on a sweeper coming by certain days of the week. When we went with the contractor we got out of that habit, because we were not sweeping side streets.

Trustee Walker: How frequently did you sweep the remote parts of the Village?

Village Manager Frobel: Where I live on Nepperhan, if I saw the sweeper come by, once a month it was that frequent. He had his routes and knew the neighbors would know what days he would be coming through there. There was a pattern we could count on.

Trustee Walker: And we could not do that with contracts because?

Village Manager Frobel: Because it was infrequent with the budget amount. Mike tried to gingerly use that backup downtown and more critical areas than to do the entire Village. Then we started doing the entire Village like once a year, we would come in there in April. At that time I thought he printed a schedule as to when he would expect to be in the neighborhood. But then that quickly went by the wayside as well.

Trustee Walker: If we do buy a smaller sweeper for the downtown areas and then decide to contract out for the other areas, can we afford to come up with a monthly schedule so we do hit them more frequently and notify them?

Village Manager Frobel: That is something I am going to have to work with Mike on.

Trustee Walker: Next time we talk about that? Because we would have to know for our budget.

Village Manager Frobel: During the budget and, certainly, during this presentation I would like to have him explain to you the scheduling we could put in place.

Trustee Walker: So weighing these alternatives, right?

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Elimination of Bee-Line Bus Route 6U through Uniontown

Mayor Swiderski: We have received a notification from Mary Jane.

Village Manager Frobel: Let me tell you what I know. Late last week I heard from Andrew Ziegler. He is the program administrator, bus operations, Westchester County Department of Public Works. He called me and indicated that the county was looking to eliminate a number of bus routes, one of which was in Hastings, the Uniontown bus route. I voiced concern because I know we went through a discussion a few years ago where we were looking to reduce the number of routes that went through the downtown, never mind eliminating one completely. He indicated it was entirely due to drop-off in ridership. They analyzed ridership, they looked at the number of people that rely on the transportation, and try to make adjustments accordingly. This would go into effect sometime in March and would be a complete elimination of that route.

I indicated to him we would like some statistics. While I do not doubt the veracity of what he is telling me, I know we are going to want to know how dramatic the drop-off is. Having not heard back from him, I called him several times over the next few days, finally hooking up. He apologized and indicated these types of requests have to go through the county executive. He cannot release any information to any municipality that requests this information without going through Mr. Astorino directly. I indicated we have a meeting Tuesday night and it was going to be on the agenda. He said I hope to get you something by Tuesday evening. I do not have anything from the department in terms of the drop-off in ridership. I can only tell you that is the plan. They will be eliminating it. They are going to pull the bus shelter. I said that serves a purpose just for people waiting there for rides home. What is the urgency of taking that out? The shelter goes as well, so that is all I know.

Trustee Lemons: It is amazing that is what is required to get that information. And is that a state secret?

Village Manager Frobel: No, but I can tell you it has been the pattern because we have experienced it throughout the entire Warburton Bridge project. The people I finally talked to are not allowed, including Suzette Lopane, who was the planner on several projects, to indicate anything to us, nor can anyone in the sanitation or resource recovery indicate anything to me without going through the county executive. Everything must go through his office, nothing can be released, staff to the professional administrators, in the municipalities.

Trustee Walker: That is ridiculous. I deal with this kind of thing all over the country. I call transportation agencies and get the numbers. It is totally normal behavior to ask for these kinds of numbers, and I am a planner asking.

Mayor Swiderski: In fact, you should be able to get them online.

For those who are watching this meeting to this point, we are talking about an alternate route for the number six which typically goes down Broadway but in this case goes up High Street, stops at Harvard Lane, Warren Street, Rose and then Farragut Parkway, Burnside Avenue and Ravensdale Road, and then Mt. Hope Boulevard. Essentially in either direction. Like you said, the bus shelter at Mt. Hope and Farragut will be removed as well. So we are talking about that alternate number six, which is every third bus that comes through. We have received one response so far to my message yesterday and, interestingly, it was from somebody local who wants the bus route taken away because of impact on the local community. It was not what I expected, but that is the response we have had so far. Whatever we gather we will pass on to Mr. Astorino, and if you can try to get those numbers out of him by the next meeting time is wasting and the next meeting is the last one we can react to it. This is happening in March.

Village Manager Frobel: I was hoping Mary Jane Shimsky could have better luck than I. Mr. Ziegler did give me numbers, but I cannot release them publicly. It would be a breach of confidentiality in what he shared with me. I do not want to get him in trouble with his employer.

Mayor Swiderski: Were they indeed low?

Village Manager Frobel: They are extremely low. That I can tell you.

Trustee Walker: It is unfortunate as we, in this country, are trying to improve public transit all over the place and encourage people to take it, and make it easier and more frequent. Part of the problem is if it only comes around every hour and a half then you are unlikely to take it because if you miss one bus you do not want to wait. It seems backwards that we are taking buses away instead of increasing public transit and improving it to increase ridership. There must be seniors who live in that area, caregivers, housekeepers who depend on it. I feel badly. Granted, if it is low numbers it is hard to justify keeping it. But I wish there were a way we could boost those numbers. Part of it is if we made our buses easier and more pleasant to ride we probably increase ridership in this county.

2. Other

Mayor Swiderski: Time is running out for Solarize. The last day for contract signing is at the end of the month. To have your house evaluated and work through the contract process cannot be done much faster than 10 days to two weeks. If you have not gone through the effort of making the call, do so. The evaluation is free. If your house is a good candidate it can be as low as no cost to you. The number of Sunrise Solar is 914.762.7622. They are our partner on this effort. They are a prescreened firm of high quality that uses the best equipment out there. Most people signing up, I believe, are getting it for essentially no cost, and it is self-financed.

Trustee Lemons: Most people are financing it through NYSERDA.

Trustee Walker: Can we mention our field trip to Hillside Avenue?

Mayor Swiderski: We have been looking at the sidewalk on Hillside, and we ran a field test putting out cones where the edge of the sidewalk would be extending into the street, and then parked cars there as if they were at the curb. The cars were probably not right up to the curb, they were worst case scenarios of a foot or two away. The Trustees showed up at eight in the morning with the crunch of cars going to school. It was freezing. It was very clear within 10

minutes of observation that cars had a real problem navigating around what would be parked cars with additional jutting out of the sidewalk. So on the spot, we readjusted how we thought it would need to flow if there were to happen. I suppose it has gone back to the engineer for a new drawing.

Village Manager Frobel: We will take what we heard that morning and pass it on to him.

Trustee Walker: I was pleased we were able to do the experiment because in the plans it looked feasible, and I do not know if the measurement was correct throughout the entire street. But it was obvious that on that curve it was very difficult for cars to pass each other. They had to wait and one car had to go ahead and then the other car would go ahead. It did seem that we were burdening the street.

Trustee Lemons: The Ettingers were very helpful in thinking through how it might work.

Mayor Swiderski: They are willing to compromise some of their property to accommodate a sidewalk. We deeply appreciate that.

Trustee Walker: I think it will be a full four foot wide sidewalk, expect perhaps in a very small spot where we may have to cut a little around the tree. In order to save the trees we are trying to move the sidewalk more onto their property. I think it was a good compromise and we are maintaining parking on the street.

Mr. Skolnik: This issue is not anywhere showing on the agenda. That does not mean I am saying you cannot talk about it, but these things have come up before and given we all know this has been a somewhat contentious issue, either you did not know you were going to talk about it.

Mayor Swiderski: No.

Village Manager Frobel: No, I had no report planned for this evening.

Trustee Walker: Part of the reason was we only did this site visit on Friday and it could not get onto the agenda. We can bring it up and put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Skolnik: Going forward, you will know you had a conversation about it. If someone like myself is trying to follow along, then there is a glimpse somewhere, and "glipse" is not even a word. You might consider if you are doing a site visit, given that it has been an issue of some concern, you might have gotten a few local people to come out and observe the same process. I do not think it would have been a hardship for you to have a few more people

there. If you would keep this in mind if you are going to be doing some further field observations it would be a nice gesture.

Trustee Walker: Right, and we will have a Transportation Committee which can do these kinds of site visits in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Lemons, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:13 p.m.