

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2000

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, September 19, 2000 at 8:10 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr., Trustee Elsa C. DeVita, Trustee Michael Holdstein, Trustee David Walrath, Trustee Bruce Jennings, Village Manager Neil P. Hess, Village Attorney Brian Murphy, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

CITIZENS: Three (3)

PRESENTATION - SAFETY COUNCIL REPORT

Mayor Kinnally: We are in receipt of a report from the Safety Council following their meeting of June 29 with a series of recommendations:

1. Hillside be made one-way from Farragut to School Street and that a drop-off area be designated on the south side of Hillside starting from a point 285 feet east of the street's intersection with Farragut Avenue.
2. School Street to be one-way south from Hillside to Mount Hope, with increased parking along both sides of School Street.
3. Recommendation that school buses be loaded and unloaded inside the middle school courtyard adjacent to Hillside.
4. Increase police presence at the Farragut Avenue complex during students' arrival and dismissal times as an experimental program for traffic control and to enhance enforcement of laws.
5. Increase parking enforcement around the Farragut school complex during arrival and dismissal times.
6. Eliminate the closing of Fairlane Drive to vehicular traffic.
7. Recommend a child drop-off zone at the Chemka Pool parking lot, with utilization of the foot path from the parking lot to Hillside School.
8. Limit access to Hillside School property during the arrival and dismissal times to school buses and staff only.
9. DPW should contact Andrus Nursing Home administration to cut bushes and shrubs on their property along the east side of South Broadway. These bushes and shrubs limit visibility of the drivers entering South Broadway from the intersection with Tompkins. Hastings DPW is to remove all the brush and shrubs along the opposing property or make the proper notifications to have this accomplished.

10. Recommend that the bus stop in the Village be moved north, to the front of the Bank of New York.

Village Manager Hess: In addition, there was a recommendation from the Safety Council in February that there be no parking and standing on school days on the east side of Farragut for 185 feet from Hillside Avenue, with the hours consistent with the signage on the west side of Farragut.

Phyllis Zahnd, 9 Hastings Landing: The one area not addressed by the traffic safety study is the access road directly in front of the middle school. That is an area of complacency, where kids think they have made it across the street or they have not begun to cross the street. Yet there is dropping off or picking up constantly, with parents more concerned about making eye contact with their kids, or moving along the line, than with watching kids who are crossing. There needs to be a clearly marked crosswalk with stanchions and eye-level signs that say Yield To Pedestrians. Also, along Hillside there are two crossing areas: one into Reynolds Field and one towards town, and those are not clearly marked; there are no Yield To Pedestrians signs.

Mayor Kinnally: I thought we had re-striped that recently.

Ms. Zahnd: You did re-stripe, and you just went over lines already there. There needs to be something that is really clear that identifies it as a crosswalk.

Village Manager Hess: I will take a look at it.

Ms. Zahnd: The issue of a sidewalk on Broadway has been addressed but has not been followed up. I would like your recommendation on where to go with that issue. There is no sidewalk, and there are more kids walking this year than last, by my observation.

Mayor Kinnally: We will pursue that. You had indicated that there have to be better markings in front of the middle school. Is there a cross-hatch?

Ms. Zahnd: There is something there, but it is not sufficient.

Village Manager Hess: That is school property. They have to do the markings.

Karen Keller, 66 Villard Avenue: The recommendations are excellent and everyone I have spoken to thinks the things that have been done already have definitely been an improvement, especially having the police officer there.

I have some questions and comments on the recommendations. Making the streets one-way will be an inconvenience especially to people who live on Hillside. We have discussed the possibility of making those streets one way only during school drop-off and pick-up times. That idea has its own problems, and needs to be looked at in terms of safety for children. A child may not remember to look both ways after 3:30 p.m. I think that the traffic consultant believed, and the Safety Council agreed, that if those streets are one way you will not have the problem of kids running across traffic to get to school.

Mayor Kinnally: You will still have the problem of kids running across traffic.

Ms. Keller: But they will not be running across oncoming traffic, which is one of the things that we observed on Hillside Avenue, for example.

Village Manager Hess: But you will have two cars going the same way as opposed to one car going one way and one going the other way. So the kids on the north side of Hillside would still potentially cross in front of oncoming traffic.

Mayor Kinnally: Let me say as a *caveat* that vigilance should not be lessened. There is a false sense of security with this. To say the kids would only have to look in one direction is dangerous. It may make it a bit more orderly, but that does not mean that order is always going to be the rule of the day.

Trustee Holdstein: Are we going to have two lanes of cars going one way on those streets?

Village Manager Hess: Now there is parking on one side of the street and two-way traffic, so if it is one way you could have two lanes of traffic.

Trustee Holdstein: Besides parking on both sides of the street, how could we control it to make it only one traffic lane?

Trustee Walrath: The first point states that a drop-off area should be designated along the south side of Hillside starting 185 feet east of the street's intersection with Farragut. We could make as much of that as we wanted a drop-off area, and limit it to a single lane with striping.

Village Manager Hess: With all the dropping off in the 15-minute rush in the morning, it is not going to be as smooth, even with striping, as we might envision.

Ms. Keller: Would it be possible to make that drop-off area the whole length of the street?

Mr. Rodriguez: The reason we chose that number of feet is that there is a bend in the road. We made sure that we went beyond the bend so that vehicles would pull to the right side, which would be a drop-off zone from that point on. It is going to limit the ability of cars behind them to double up in the roadway. If we include striping it is going to take care of that problem.

Ms. Keller: Regarding the recommendation for a child drop-off zone at Chemka Pool, a lot of people use the pool parking lot to pick up and drop off and it makes sense to encourage more use. But there is no system and it is quite chaotic with people stopping at the top of the driveway and cars backing up behind them, or kids streaming through the lot to meet their parents. One suggestion is to put a crosswalk stripe at the top of the driveway with markers, and signs that say Park Your Car - Get Out Of Your Car - Meet Your Child at the Bottom of the Hill (if that is what you want to do). Another is to put steps at the end of the path into the lot and create a pick-up area marked off with stripes or cones, so that a child can come down the stairs, a car can pull up, pick up the child, make a loop around the driveway and come back out. The path is adequate; it is paved, plowed, and wide enough. I would rather see money spent on things like signage and enforcement, or planning for a more structured area. Several parents have made a plea for lighting on the path for evening school events.

Mayor Kinnally: I have spoken with the superintendent and the Hillside principal about this, and we are going to see if we can work together on some of the problems. There may be a logical way of getting people to move around. Striping in that parking lot may make it chaotic when the pool is in use, so we are trying to balance some things. But a lot of these recommendations are common sense, and we can address them.

Ms. Keller: Regarding limiting access to Hillside school property, folks who have kindergartners and young elementary kids have expressed their concern about dropping off at the gate. They are concerned about the child's ability to get through the parking lot to their classroom, or in the afternoon having their child walk all that way alone to find them. Some folks are just not going to use the pool parking lot and will still want to use the upper driveway. When we were counting cars with the traffic consultant, and one of days was rainy, the maximum queue was 65 cars. The concern seems to be that the queue prevents the buses from leaving because there is parking on Lefurgy on the other side of the street and the buses have a hard time getting around those parked cars as well as the people who are queued up waiting to get into the driveway.

One possibility is to ban parking on Lefurgy during that time so that there is one completely clear lane so that people can continue to queue up from the closed gate to Mount Hope until the buses leave. Once the first round of buses leaves, open the gate and let the queue move

into the driveway, go around the circle and follow the buses out. Once the buses leave the entire queue takes six or seven minutes (we timed) to clear. The cars are gone before the buses come back.

We observed that the morning is not as big a problem. People come in staggered, and it takes less time to get your kid out of the car than it does to get them in the car.

Another possibility would be to route people around on Lincoln, ban parking on Edgewood for a half-hour and let people queue there, and turn in the gate after the buses have left.

Village Manager Hess: This series of recommendations have to be taken as a group; for example, the inconvenience of one-way on Hillside is helped by opening Fairlane. As the "traffic safety committee," what is your recommendation relative to these recommendations?

Ms. Keller: With the exception of prohibiting people from accessing the driveway at Hillside, these are all very good. That is the one that people seriously feel puts their kids at more risk.

Trustee Walrath: Would supervision and some system at the pool help to get over the objections of the people who have to be first in line so they see their child coming out?

Ms. Keller: Better supervision would be a very good thing, but I am not counting on that happening, and there are people who are just not comfortable using the pool.

Mayor Kinnally: You are trying to solve a problem but not inconvenience anybody and you cannot do it. The first issue is the safety of the kids. You are saying that there are some people who will not be happy with the solution that may be the most practical solution. If the solution is keeping everybody happy it is not solution at all.

Ms. Keller: I agree, and I have no doubt that whatever happens there are going to be a lot of people upset.

Trustee Walrath: There is another advantage to closing off at the gate: to make it safer for a lot of children who have to walk through all that traffic of cars picking up children. The problem is really quite a serious one, with the traffic, the children, the buses.

Village Manager Hess: The closing of the driveway at Hillside is a school decision. We can cooperate and do things at the pool in conjunction with that closing, and we can do some things at the pool even if it is not closed, but that is a school decision.

Ms. Keller: One of the things that is very dangerous about the gate is the ice cream truck. I hope that this spring and summer the ice cream truck will not be parked at the gate.

Village Manager Hess: We moved them last spring, and the police are putting out a general order again tomorrow morning on the ice cream trucks. They are not to be within 250 feet of school property. That is how the Code reads, and there is a reason for that. If the school wished to designate an area on their property for the ice cream trucks that would be fine.

Trustee Jennings: In the deliberations of the Safety Council was the idea discussed of having the buses go to the pool parking lot and escorting kids down the path to the buses?

Mr. Rodriguez: It was discussed, and there was no real objection.

Mayor Kinnally: When the kids get on the bus they are queued up by the teachers or the aides and escorted onto the bus. I cannot imagine marching down to the lot with a queue of kids, and what happens to the rest of the kids who are on another bus, or whatever.

Trustee Walrath: My recollection from the joint meeting we had with the School Board, the superintendent objected strenuously to that alternative.

Ms. Keller: The School Board has a plan in its Facilities Committee report to build a new parking lot at the top of the hill by the gate. It is important to solve this problem because it would be a terrible thing to cut down those woods and build another parking lot because our collective wisdom cannot come up with a better system.

Claudia Classon, 62 Stratford Lane: There are people who think that more parents should be encouraged to allow their kids to walk to school. The committee has not pursued this because we do not know how realistic it is. There are a lot of issues with that, the main issue being safety, whether it is sidewalks or areas kids have to walk through. Maybe there are things we could work on in addition to all of the adjustments we are trying to make in the streets.

There are some people who think a lot of kids walk up Fairlane Drive. David Walrath and I counted about three kids a day in the morning using Fairlane Drive. The only time Fairlane Drive would be a real problem would be in the morning, because as soon as the commuters get wind of it, and they realize they have a shortcut around stop signs, they are going to use it more often, but I think we should try opening it.

Mayor Kinnally: We are going to work with the PTSA and the school in sending home a questionnaire and finding out exactly what type of usage there is.

Ms. Classon: Please ask if people would allow their children to walk on Fairlane if there were a sidewalk, and please keep that as a possibility. If we are going to encourage people to use the pool, the driveway has to be widened a little at the top. A staircase coming down the hill would be wonderful. Also, there needs to be more public awareness of the pedestrian crossings and how to observe them.

Mayor Kinnally: Maybe we can get the Chief, or one of the policemen, to do a short public service piece for WHOH.

Village Manager Hess: If we are going to separate any of these recommendations we should consider the one-ways and Fairlane opening as one local law, and then the other ones as another local law. We will schedule public hearings for Oct. 17.

Trustee Holdstein: Have these recommendations been forwarded to the School Board?

Mayor Kinnally: If not, we will do so. I discussed some of the elements with them, but we will forward that with the minutes, and then follow up with the minutes of this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

On MOTION of Trustee Holdstein, SECONDED by Trustee DeVita, with a voice vote of all in favor the Board scheduled a Public Hearing for October 17 to discuss proposed Local Laws No. 4 and 5.

Trustee DeVita: On number 10, the bus stop in the Village: is this separate?

Mayor Kinnally: I do not know if that is a solution.

Trustee Holdstein: It moves it about 20 feet.

Village Manager Hess: And we still have the problems with the driveways. It is very dangerous with the buses there, and people trying to go in or out of those driveways. You are pulling over a double yellow line going into oncoming traffic and cannot look north if a bus is there. There is an inconvenience factor for businesses and residents, but the main concern is the safety aspect. That is one of the reasons I made a recommendation to the Safety

Council to move it towards the intersection with Broadway near Wagner Park. It is much wider in that area, and the bus sits there when he is early. It would mean that anybody taking the bus would have to walk about 175, 185 feet farther.

Trustee Walrath: That stop would be practically adjacent to the stop just north of Riverview Place and one at the foot of Edgar's Lane for the northbound. Is there any possibility of moving into the block just the other corner of Spring and Warburton?

Mayor Kinnally: It is the same problem of people making a right-hand turn coming out of Spring Street.

Trustee Holdstein: Move it close to Spring.

Mayor Kinnally: We used to have a stop...

Trustee DeVita: ...on the other side of Spring.

Village Manager Hess: The stop used to be south of Main Street where the Toy Cottage is.

Mayor Kinnally: I think there may have been one at Nancy Caruso's.

Trustee DeVita: She used to keep the schedule there. So you are right.

Mayor Kinnally: We are going to have to work with the county on this, and the police department. The bus drivers have not been adhering to the regulations that they are not supposed to be standing with the motor running.

Trustee DeVita: The other problem is that it is a heavily-used bus stop, and there is no place for these people to be. If you move it up towards Broadway, a shelter could be built. The only problem then is the distance between the two bus stops, because the next bus stop is not until opposite the Food Emporium. We also talked about separating the bus routes. One bus would stop one place and the other would stop further south on Warburton.

Village Manager Hess: Two aspects: kids from St. Matt's use the bus, and Wagner Park would be closer; and a majority of the ridership works at PTI which is on a month-to-month lease and is supposedly moving to Texas.

Trustee Walrath: A bus stop up in that area is fine. The one at Riverview Place and at Edgar's Lane could be incorporated with the one there. But I think it is a reasonable spacing to have one closer to this side of the Village.

Trustee Holdstein: I disagree with that.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Holdstein, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings, with a voice vote of all in favor the minutes for the Regular Meeting of August 22, 2000 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 29-2000-01 \$ 18,841.61
Multi-Fund No. 30-2000-01 \$32,991.24
Multi-Fund No. 32-2000-01 \$202,619.49

80:00 SALARY - VILLAGE MANAGER

Mayor Kinnally: This is the result of our annual review of the Village Manager. We review the Manager as we do all the other non-union employees in the Village and it was an oversight not to put this on the agenda earlier.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees establish the annual salary of the Village Manager/Treasurer at \$130,250 effective June 1, 2000.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

| | AYE | NAY |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Trustee Elsa C. DeVita | X | |
| Trustee Michael Holdstein | X | |
| Trustee David Walrath | X | |
| Trustee Bruce Jennings | X | |
| Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr. | X | |

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Hess: Southside project: the lights are on, but the electronic eyes are not in, so the lights are on constantly.

Bomanite in the downtown: they are recoloring the bomanite across from this building tomorrow to make it look the same as Southside; if they can do so, then they are only going to have to replace the sections that are unacceptable in terms of cracks. If they can't, they have to remove it and redo it all. They have already been advised of that.

We have received the \$2,000 grant for emissions equipment costing \$6,000 at the garage so we can do our own inspections.

We are expecting that the Municipal Building plaza will be completed approximately a week from Friday.

The first six months of recycling for this year we are, again, number one. We increased our recycling percentage by 4 percent.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

Mayor Kinnally: This weekend at Hillside School we are having our planning forum. This is everyone's opportunity to have input, to put ideas into action, and to try to come up with a blueprint for our waterfront that will do us proud. This is our opportunity to revitalize the waterfront.

We have not heard anything from the owners of Marinello Cove, and we are going to schedule a public hearing on the condemnation of the Marinello property later this fall.

Trustee Walrath: With regard to the problems on Fenwick, the next step is that Michael and I plan to get people together. These have all been individual meetings. He and I are going to talk about that.

Trustee Jennings: I was very encouraged by the article in *The Enterprise* concerning the Hudson River Institute Research Center, and I would like to commend you, Mr. Mayor, for the role that you apparently played in that meeting advocating on behalf of Hastings. It is really good leadership.

Mayor Kinnally: Thank you. The LWRP and our Deputy Village Manager have been working on our behalf, so our message is being carried to Albany by many people. We do

not yet know the scope, so everybody is trying to put together an application package without knowing what they are applying for, but we will keep pushing that.

I saw recently in a NYCOM news bulletin that the governor has signed legislation allowing cities and Villages to regulate jet skis. Given the fact that we are hoping to have water-dependent uses in our redeveloped waterfront, this might be something we might want to look into.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION of Trustee Jennings, SECONDED by Trustee Walrath, with a voice vote of all in favor the Board scheduled an Executive Session immediately following the Regular Meeting to consider litigation, land acquisition, and personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Walrath, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Kinnally adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:35 p.m.