

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 6, 2003

A Regular Meeting and was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, May 6, 2003 at 8:10 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr., Trustee Michael Holdstein, Trustee Bruce Jennings, Trustee Marjorie Apel, Trustee Peter Swiderski, Village Manager Neil P. Hess, Village Attorney Brian Murphy, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

CITIZENS: None

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Kinnally: Diana Peck and Keith Fagan have agreed to be members of our Cable Television Advisory Board, and will be working with Raf and the other people whom we have appointed. I thank them for agreeing to serve.

POLICE CHIEF RETIREMENT

Mayor Kinnally: I am announcing the retirement of our police chief, Joe Marsic, effective May 22. Joe has been chief for approximately 25 years, and he will be sorely missed. He served over 30 years on the department. He was on the force when I came on the Board and has led the department through a number of changes over the years: the move from the back office up to Broadway, and then back here, without missing a beat; the integration of a number of high-tech features with the department; the restructuring of the department; the youth officer; things of that nature. The chief has done a super job with the department, and under his leadership they have flourished and have been professional in every sense of the word. I would like to thank the chief for his many years of service to the community, and wish him well in his retirement.

Trustee Holdstein: I first met the chief playing racquetball with him about 20 years ago at Court Sports. I have had the opportunity in my time on the Board, and quite a bit of time before I was on the Board, to hang out with a lot of the police officers, and hang out in the department, and get to know the chief and a lot of the staff there. He has led this department wonderfully for a long period of time. We wish him good health in his retirement. Besides doing a great job here in the Village, I know that he is one of the finest shots in the county and one of the most respected leaders of a police force in the county. He is a great guy and a great friend and, Joe, I am going to miss you and I wish you well.

Trustee Apel: I have only been working with him for the last couple of years. Through the meetings, and the times we gotten together, I have grown to admire him even more. He is a great listener and a great analyzer and a wonderful department head. The Village has been fortunate to have him all these years, and he is going to be missed.

Trustee Jennings: I got to know Chief Marsic when I served a few years ago on the police commission. I developed a keen appreciation for his concern for the citizens of Hastings and for the concept of community policing. He has helped to build a very strong, very professional, very effective police department for our Village and we should all be proud of that department and of him. He is a fine police officer and public servant, and he is also a really nice man. A wonderful man to have dinner with or have a beer with. He will regale you with stories well into the night. We are all going to miss him.

Trustee Swiderski: I never had the opportunity to get to know him, so I am sorry I do not have much to say.

2003-04 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Kinnally: These are my 2003-04 liaison assignments.

Affordable Housing	Bruce Jennings
ARB	Lee Kinnally
Beautification	Peter Swiderski
Committee on the Disabled	Peter Swiderski
Conservation	Michael Holdstein
Deputy Mayor	Rotating among Trustees according to seniority
Downtown Partnership	Bruce Jennings
Draper Review Board	Peter Swiderski
Finance Committee	Marge Apel and Peter Swiderski
Fire Department	Lee Kinnally
HRTW	Michael Holdstein
Library Board	Bruce Jennings
LWRP	Michael Holdstein
Newsletter	Bruce Jennings and Marge Apel
Parks & Rec	Marge Apel
Planning Board	Bruce Jennings
Police Commission	Lee Kinnally
Safety Council	Marge Apel

School Board	to be decided
Senior Council	Michael Holdstein
Youth Council	Marge Apel

Vision Plan:

Waterfront	Lee Kinnally
Village Core	Peter Swiderski
Residential Areas	Michael Holdstein
Parks, Trailways and Public Spaces	Marge Apel
Large Land Tracts	Bruce Jennings

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Holdstein, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Public Hearing of April 15, 2003 were approved as presented.

On MOTION of Trustee Jennings, SECONDED by Trustee Holdstein with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 15, 2003 were approved as presented.

On MOTION of Trustee Holdstein, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Executive Session of April 22, 2003 were approved as presented.

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 22, 2003 were approved as presented.

On MOTION of Trustee Holdstein, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 29, 2003 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

- Multi-Fund No. 74-2002-03 \$92,193.34
- Multi-Fund No. 75-2002-03 \$64,103.41
- Multi-Fund No. 76-2002-03 \$23,385.15

44:03 TAX WARRANT 2003 - 2004

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustee authorize the Mayor to sign the 2003-2004 tax warrant as attached.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Michael Holdstein	X	
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Marjorie Apel	X	
Trustee Peter Swiderski	X	
Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr.	X	

45:03 COMMUNITY CENTER GRANT

Village Manager Hess: This is a member item for \$50,000 we got through Assemblyman Brodsky for the Community Center project through the New York State Dormitory Authority. We have to make a commitment to hire an architect prior to July 1 to make county funding of \$380,000 available to us. This will bring our total funding available for the project to \$430,000. This is one of many steps that we will have to take between now and July 1 if we are going to move forward on this project.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to execute the agreement with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York for a Community Enhancement Facilities Program Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the renovation and addition to the James Harmon Community Center.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Michael Holdstein		X
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Marjorie Apel	X	
Trustee Peter Swiderski	X	
Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr.	X	

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Hess: I want to congratulate the Affordable Housing Committee and the Affordable Housing Fund on the excellent work they have done since 1989. The ribbon-cutting on the affordable homes was a week ago, with the county executive and officials from the state and federal government, banks, fire chiefs, local officials, etc. The houses are beautiful. And they are moving forward with other potential projects. It is a very busy committee. We always talk about the volunteers in Hastings, whether it is affordable housing, beautification, trailways. The level of volunteerism is wonderful. I congratulate the Affordable Housing Committee on a job well done.

The next person I want to thank is behind the camera, Raf Zaratzian. We mentioned well over a year ago that we were challenging the census counts. Raf followed it from A to Z, and we received a letter from the Bureau of the Census that, indeed, they did make a mistake: the group quarters, which I assume is Graham and maybe even Andrus, were included in the Yonkers count. They are going to be switching those back to Hastings. I have written to the commissioner of finance of Westchester County indicating that there will need to be a correction in the sales tax, and we expect that it will be retroactive to when the census was released. He got very nervous when I talked to him about it on the phone so I followed up it up in writing with copies of the information from the Bureau of the Census. I just wanted to congratulate Raf on a job well done.

Trustee Swiderski: Do you know what the increase in the count is?

Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian: No, we do not know yet. The letters that were FAXed to them by the heads of the institutions were about 100 from Andrus and 150 or 170 from Graham.

Village Manager Hess: We are going to be near 8,000 again.

Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian: Yes, that is what we are heading for. I wanted to point out that this was a joint effort with Susan. The Census Bureau at one point had said there is no way they are going to reverse this. We pushed a little bit.

Mayor Kinnally: When it first started, the federal government gave us the brush-off and said it is what it is and there is no way we could have made mistakes. Somehow or other they fessed up to it, so thank you, whatever the numbers come out to be.

Trustee Holdstein: Neil, did you have any guestimate of what this might represent in terms of monies?

Village Manager Hess: It should be a difference of about 4% in the sales tax, so it could be \$28 to \$30 thousand annually.

Trustee Swiderski: Do the schools get anything?

Village Manager Hess: As the Bureau of the Census said, this not only affects us, it affects the City of Yonkers and Greenburgh. So the school population may be altered, too.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Update on the Waterfront

Mayor Kinnally: The next big event on the waterfront is the meeting May 13 where the Riverkeeper's suit settlement will be discussed. Counsel for the Village and for the Riverkeeper, and the engineering personnel who assisted us throughout the litigation and in structuring the settlement, will be present. It will be an opportunity for the Village to ask questions and to give comments, seek more information, and to give us whatever we need to come up with a final decision.

We have sent out a Village-wide mailing with the *precis* from the settlement and frequently asked questions and answers that were prepared initially by Trustee Swiderski. I want to thank him for his input and his help in pulling this together, and Neil and Linda Knies who pulled this together very quickly and sent out the mailing. We turned it around in less than a week. I have gotten a number of comments from people saying that they thought the *precis* was very informative. People are coming to the meeting as well informed about a topic as we have had in 20, 25 years. The comment period will extend to May 27.

2. Boards' Joint Committee on Youth and Their Families

Trustee Apel: In a previous joint meeting that we had with the school board, a subject we all felt was important for both boards was youth and their families. It was decided that a committee would be formed, with two representatives from each board. Myself and Bruce Jennings from our board and Michael Holstein and Ann Woods from the school board attended, along with Bill Finkeldey and Deidre Forbes. I will read the mission statement that came out of this meeting:

The joint committee was created to conduct a study of factors that affect the quality of life of youth and their families in the Village and in the school

district, and to make recommendations concerning future activities that may be undertaken for the benefit of the youth and their families.

We came up with three objectives:

1. Review existing services and programs, including Village-sponsored, school-sponsored, and private resources in Hastings and the surrounding areas, for example, the town and the river villages.
2. Educate community leaders and the general community about the needs of young people and their families, for example, through discussion, discussion contained in its written report, working with other Village groups on educational programs, or through organizing one or more community forums.
3. Produce recommendations for possible Village Board, school board, and community action.

We came up with some examples, such as creation of other resources for youth and parents, a comprehensive community resource guide, and a Web-based bulletin board for weekend activities.

The committee wanted us to discuss approval of the mission statement, and whether we should add more people to this committee or not, and how we would go about it.

Trustee Jennings: A number of people have asked me why this joint committee was formed, in light of the fact that there are a number of other committees and entities already operating in the Village that seem to have the same mission and concerns: the Youth Council, PTSA, a group the superintendent of schools convenes, a group within the police department, not to mention the youth advocate and his office and activities.

The best answer to that question is two-fold. By making this a committee of both the Village Board and the school board, we are putting the spotlight on the fact that both the Village and the school district give a very high priority to the issue of the quality of life of our young people. The schools recognize that their educational mission does not end at the door of the classroom, but is affected by what goes on in the broader community. And we in Village government recognize that the environment that we create in our community is creating the citizens of tomorrow. So we certainly have a joint and mutual interest in this, and we wanted to highlight it.

The second part of the answer is, this is not meant to supplant or replace any of these existing groups or activities. This is an activity that will probably will have a one-year lifespan and will go out of business. It is going to produce a bird's-eye view that will benefit all of the other existing groups as they do their work. They are taking more of a close-eye view, and we are going to be looking at the big picture.

The purpose of our report is to create a framework and to pass along some suggestions and recommendations that will implemented in an ongoing basis by these existing groups. We are not in competition with them. We are not trying to supplant them. We are not going to be entirely redundant with them either. This is a time-limited effort to step back and take a bigger picture, and see what other communities are doing, and provide a framework and give the spotlight to this and the Village as a whole.

Trustee Holdstein: I am looking at the objective and comparing that to the mission statement. Objective of reviewing existing services and programs: review for what purpose? The mission statement: Conduct a study of things that affect the quality of life; produce recommendations for possible community action. Again, produce it to improve the quality of life, to comment on how to maintain it? There could be a little more fleshing out of the objectives, with a targeted plan as to what those objectives are going to be.

Trustee Jennings: It is a starting point of other ideas. In our written report, we would have a brief section describing what the other bodies are and what they do. Nobody has ever brought that together in one place, so this descriptive part of our final report alone might be helpful and informative. This is probably the least significant aspect of what we hope to do. The exciting part of this committee will be brainstorming to go beyond what we are doing now, to see what others are doing, and to try to bring in some creative new ideas and some new thinking.

Trustee Holdstein: What is missing in both the mission statement and the objective is something alluding to the fact, even your first sentence: Created to conduct a study of factors that affect the quality of life. Is our goal to tie all the pieces of these other committees into one resource guide, or is our objective to not only look at and study the factors of the quality of life, but through that process also come up with a game plan, a road map, of things that we can do to improve it, to alter it?

Trustee Jennings: Unless we find that it is as good as is possible for it to be, I think implicit in this is the idea that we are going to try to improve. This is a complicated business, and it involves the whole community. We are just a catalyst, at best. Communities improve their quality of life, committees do not do that.

Trustee Holdstein: But there will be the goal of coming up with a road map of ideas that one of these other committees might run with or might not run with. At least it will give us some areas where we have got some shortcomings to work on.

Trustee Apel: That is always the possibility. We generally know what we are going to find, but it is going to be based upon what our research shows and what some of the other communities are doing, which we have not looked at. So to us this is a skeletal type piece. This is not an in-depth; once you get your objectives then you have your tasks and all the other things that follow.

Mayor Kinnally: It has come a ways from when we had our joint meeting with the school board. We have made some progress here. My suggestion, before this Board does anything, I do not know if this has been discussed in any detail with Jim Davis and their group.

Trustee Apel: I have met with Jim Davis and I am going to the meeting this Wednesday. They will be making their presentation.

Mayor Kinnally: Maybe you can come back with some input from them, and maybe we can do something on May 27.

Trustee Apel: The school board has looked this over, and their thought was, we do not need additional members. We can always have guests.

Trustee Holdstein: For May 27, what are you envisioning that the Board may act on?

Mayor Kinnally: Marge has asked that the Board endorse this and give their blessing. That is all.

Mayor Kinnally:

3. Fenwick Drainage

Mayor Kinnally: We are awaiting a report from Cliff Gold on the Fenwick drainage project. We have received correspondence. He will be here for a presentation either on May 27 or June 3. We will let the leaders in the Fenwick area know when the meeting is.

Village Manager Hess: Notify the entire Fenwick area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Holdstein, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Kinnally adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:45 p.m.