

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 4, 1997

**Note: The following additions to the previously filed minutes were filed on September 22, 1998 as transcribed from tape.**

**PRESENTATION 1997-98 PROPOSED BUDGET**

**Village Manager Hess:** The total operating budget is recommended at \$7,698,420 which is an increase of \$76,282 over the current budget, or one percent. The general fund is recommended at \$7,111,225; pool fund, \$205,150; library fund, \$367,475; Draper fund, \$14,300.

To support the proposed budget I am recommending a proposed tax rate of \$110.13 per thousand, which is an increase of \$2.05, or 1.9 percent. This is less than the CPI increase. On the average Village assessment of \$16,900 that would be an increase of \$34.65 annually.

This is a hold-the-line budget in terms of most services, but we are recommending some expanded services: youth baseball in spring, summer, and fall; the after-school programs that we've run at Hillside; expansion of our open gym program; and the expansion of the pool season which the Board approved previously.

The majority of our revenues is the property tax, 68.4; the next largest is miscellaneous revenues, such things as federal/state grants, contracts that we have with other municipalities, such as the Town of Greenburgh on the Fire Protection District. The next largest source of revenue, and our only growth revenue, is the sales tax. That represents 8.4 percent of our revenues, or \$598,000. This has been growing each year since the sales tax sharing with the Villages was implemented. Only \$56,000 of the \$350,000 in state aid is unrestricted; the other aid is specifically applied for, such as the money we received for the Youth Advocate program and our youth services. Utility tax and intergovernmental revenues are small. The fees we receive from our recreation programs are only 1.6 percent. We will have surplus available of 1.3 percent of total revenues, or \$93,000.

The largest object of expenditure is public safety, police, fire, and building inspection, which represents 33.1 percent of our budget. Those are just the operating costs; that does not include employee benefits section associated with those costs, or the debt service section. Approximately a third of employee benefits also are attributable to public safety. General government support services, which represents 18 percent of the budget, is \$1,071,200 and represents most of the general services that apply Village-wide.

Employee benefits represent 19.2 percent of the budget; debt service, 9.6 percent; interfund transfer, 6.9 percent or \$408,000 for transfers to the capital fund for street resurfacing or transfers to the library fund for its operations. Community services are 3.9 percent.

Our assessments for '97-'98 are expected to be what they were last year. Our assessments 20 years ago were actually higher than they are projected for '97.

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We list a total of \$1,897,750 in proposed capital expenditures. Those capital expenditures will be considered on an individual basis by the Board during the fiscal year. Some of the items we are recommending for capital expenditures in '97-'98 are police vehicle replacement, which the Board approved previously; continuation of the street resurfacing program; and recycling center improvements, including purchasing new recycling containers for all residents, partially funded by a state grant we have received for \$42,000; replacement of a front-end loader; a dump truck replacement; renovations at the Community Center; reconstruction of the Hillside tennis courts, including new fencing; the Municipal Building renovations; replacement of the ambulance; continuation of our Fire Department equipment upgrade; new lighting in the foyer of the library; and a parking lot at the Draper Observatory.

### **VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Village Manager Hess:** The City of Yonkers marathon will be on Sunday, September 21. They're requesting some changes in the route through Hastings, which I will place on the next agenda for your review and consideration.

We were notified by the county that for the third year in a row Hastings and its residents lead the county in recycled material delivered to the MRF.

At the last meeting I reported on a reported spill at the ATI site on Sawmill River Road. I spoke to the DEC since that time. They indicated that the matter has been cleared. I talked to the company which had removed the tank from the site in preparation for improvements that are going to happen at the former ATI site on Sawmill River Road. When they pulled the tank there was a hole in the tank. There was some contaminated soil, which was properly disposed of by the environmental company. DEC has indicated a clean bill of health. I have also talked to Mr. Tarricone. We also sent a letter to the residents in the area informing them of what was going on.

We received notification Friday of a grant request under the State Highway Improvement Program. We will be receiving \$75,000 under the grant, which will be available this year. We will use that partly for some of our street resurfacing and partly for the new access road into Draper Park from Washington Avenue. That brings our grant totals since '81 to over \$2,000,000.

You all have a copy of Mr. Angel's letter. He's looking for support to remove an old boat that is on the cove on the Marinello property. I indicated that I was sure the Board would support an effort to write to the Marinellos to have that area cleaned up by them.

### **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS**

#### **1. Update on the Waterfront**

**Mayor Kinnally:** Last week a total of 4,750 cubic yards of debris was removed from Building

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15. A second screener is now operating in Building 15. We feel that we have approached, if not exceeded, the midway point of removing and processing all of the debris inside Building 15.

We did, however, hit a bump in the road last week. We received notification that a 60-yard truck of processed material that had been removed from the site and traveled to the Hometown Landfill in Kingston, Rhode Island had triggered a radiation screening alarm at the Kingston site. Low-level background radiation was detected. The truck turned around and came back to the site. The debris was unloaded on the site, we were notified, and we notified DEC of the incident.

The material should not have been unloaded on the site and we should have been notified by the monitor that the truck had returned. We have advised the monitor that nothing of this sort should happen again. Subsequent to its return to Hastings the material was segregated, and today an inspection of the material was performed. Neil DeBenedetto of the Westchester County Department of Health came down. A detailed survey of the waste was conducted by the New York State Department of Labor without finding the source of the contamination of the elevated radiation levels. The waste is currently segregated in the southwest corner of Building 15, and we are awaiting written confirmation of the findings of the Department of Health and further input from DEC.

**Village Manager Hess:** A radiation screening alarm could have been set off by the radiation level emitted by something like a smoke detector. The Mayor is correct. When the truck came back they indicated their load was rejected. They should not have been allowed to dump on the site. The truck should have been segregated and DEC and Village officials called.

The return was at approximately 10:30 in the morning on the 28th, and we were notified in the afternoon. We notified DEC, the Department of Health came over immediately, and we inspected the site. I sent along inspectors from the Village, including Mr. Gennarelli and Mr. Wucherer. The Department of Labor/OSHA sent an inspector who pulled apart the pile and checked it without finding any source of the elevated radiation level. The pile of waste is segregated in Building 15. It will not be touched until we receive the final report from the Department of Labor, which we are expecting tomorrow. We are also expecting a report from our monitors tomorrow morning as to what occurred at the site.

The Village and DEC are reserving our rights in this matter. This is a serious violation of the current order. Even though it is only 60 yards of the entire pile, it is the first item that we considered serious enough, and DEC considered serious enough, that violations and penalties may be issued against the owners of the property.

Until we have all the final reports we want to assure people that the level which triggered the alarm could be something as simple, as I said, as a smoke detector. But until we know the exact information from the landfill in Kingston, Rhode Island, and from the Rhode Island Department

of Health and their equivalent of DEC, at this point we do not have any further information.

## **2. Bus Shelters**

**Mayor Kinnally:** We have requested and received from the Westchester County Department of Transportation ridership data from the Beeline system for the stops located within the Village to determine whether or not there are other spots where we could erect bus shelters, which generate revenue for the Village. The likely spots are limited. The majority of the spots we have presently are in residential areas, and these shelters are not particularly satisfactory because they are back-lighted and have commercial advertising. I suggest that we put this on for our next work session. Patty Chemka of our Planning Board sent this to us from the Department of Transportation. I thank her for the prompt turnaround on this.

## **3. Summer Concert**

**Mayor Kinnally:** Mr. Hess has advised us that the fee for the Westchester Philharmonic performance this summer in the Village has risen from \$10,000 to \$20,000. As much as we love the arts, that is a tough thing to fit within our budget. Mr. Hess is trying to get an adjustment in that number so that we can continue what has been a very successful program in the Village.

## **4. Parkway Gas Stations**

**Mayor Kinnally:** We had a well-attended meeting last week with the Department of Transportation to review the work that is being done on the Parkway in “renovating” the two gas abandoned stations. The state is supposed to give us the schematics for the signs on the property and keep us filled in on the screening. It was stated that separators would be put on the site around the island to prohibit any spills from going into the Sawmill River, and there were additional various types of material which were promised to us.

We continue to coordinate with Senator Spano's and Assemblyman Brodsky's offices to make sure that pressure is brought to bear. I will continue to be in contact with Mayor Spencer in Yonkers to see exactly what, if anything, they have in mind so that we can keep the pressure on D.O.T. and see if the project can be rethought. A number of times statements were made that it is a done deal. There were many unanswered questions. Obviously, money is being paid by Barrier Oil at the present time. This seems to be a fluid and evolving situation, and the Village will have its say in the matter, whether we're invited to or not.

After the meeting last week I spoke with environmental counsel to the Village, Mark Chertok, of Sive, Padgett, and Riesel. I also spoke with another attorney who is equally involved, representing a private individual, and we will coordinate all our efforts.

Our regular Village attorney has in the past, and continues to a limited extent, to do work for

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Barrier Oil, so he will not be involved with this. We are dealing solely and exclusively with Mr. Chertok on this instance.

**Trustee Winn:** I was as surprised as Assemblyman Brodsky to find out that rent was being paid from 1994. I was impressed with how people from both Hastings and Yonkers came together in this effort to be more informed.

**Mayor Kinnally:** In my experience D.O.T. really suffer from terminal arrogance. The reason they have not gone through the SEQRA process is that they do not want to run the gauntlet of public review and be scrutinized by not only the Village but also other layers of government. We will be as vigilant and as tough on D.O.T. as we have to be to make sure that everybody's interests are protected.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

On MOTION of Trustee Holdstein, SECONDED by Trustee Winn with a voice vote of all in favor, the Board scheduled a Tuesday evening meeting at 8 o'clock for a Board of Assessment Review.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On MOTION of Trustee Winn, SECONDED by Trustee Holdstein with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Kinnally adjourned the Regular Meeting.