

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 29, 1997

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, April 29, 1997 in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr., Trustee James B. Keaney, Trustee Elsa C. DeVita, Trustee Michael Holdstein, Trustee Anthony Gagliardi, Deputy Village Attorney Marianne Stecich, Village Manager Neil Hess.

Mayor Kinnally: This is a Special Meeting, and under the rules that we operate under only those items which are on the agenda for the Special Meeting may be considered. We have two items on this evening. The first is consideration of the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for Guski Trucking on the waterfront, and the second is the adoption of our '97-'98 budget.

31:97 CERTIFICATION OF OCCUPANCY - GUSKI TRUCKING

[Mayor reads the resolution]. A public hearing was held on this, at which time the applicants spoke. This is to allow Guski a Certificate of Occupancy in Building 72-A, located at 1 River Street, to continue the storage of elevator parts and structures, a continuation of the use they've have in an adjacent building for a number of years.

Mr. Hess, I understand there has been an inspection done of the premises.

Village Manager Hess: Yes, by the Fire Department and Building Department, and both of them approved.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Kinnally called for a resolution.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the Certificate of Occupancy for Guski Trucking in Building 72-A, located at 1 River Street.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee James B. Keaney	X	
Trustee Elsa C. DeVita	X	
Trustee Michael Holdstein	X	
Trustee Anthony Gagliardi	X	
Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr.	X	

32:97 ADOPTION OF 1997-98 BUDGET

Mayor Kinnally: The second item on our agenda this evening is the adoption of budget, and the tax rate, for 1997-1998. [Mayor reads the resolution]. We've had our statutory hearing on the budget and a number of work sessions to consider the various portions of the budget. Mr. Hess gave a detailed description of the budget approximately a month ago.

Village Manager Hess: I am recommending this budget for the Board's adoption. It presents in detail a plan of action for the coming year and for the next several years. As for the budget itself, the tax rate increase represents 1.9 percent, which is far below, and at \$110.13 per thousand, certainly was one of the lowest property tax increases in the area. The Village continues to be one of the lowest-taxed villages in the county. At the hearing I gave a presentation and comparison on full-value tax rates to give the public a chance to understand the comparative nature of taxes, and this village versus other villages.

I want to thank the department heads and the staff for all their work on the budget, and the Board for their budget review for the past two months and for their input prior to the budget, which helped in the preparation of this plan for '97-'98.

Mayor Kinnally: I was on the Board when we were looking for a village manager, and one of the strengths we were seeking was a keen financial sense and an ability to budget accurately and promptly and prudently for our Village. The past 16 years has borne out our assessment at that time, that we were on the right road to fiscal recovery. At that time we had a deficit when we had shown that we had a surplus. But the ship was turned around, and our last number of years certainly have shown that we are in good shape financially here in the Village, with the exception of the uncollected taxes on the waterfront. But for that receivable we would be in very, very good shape today.

This is a lean budget. Within the constraints of the budget we continue to fund new programs, especially in the parks and recreation area, in senior services and social services. Of course, we would like to see some growth. But that growth will be prudent, if and when the tax base allows it and the economy allows it. I'm proud of the efforts we have made here in the Village in keeping our costs down and keeping services up. We always look to improve those services, and I'm sure none of us up here are going to rest on our laurels.

Trustee Keaney: I would also like to commend Mr. Hess for his excellent budget presentation. Not only is the budget always on time, but it's even early. The department heads are brought into the loop, and there's plenty of chance for the public to comment. As far as the process goes it's an excellent one. As far as the substance goes this year, I also think that it's a very tight budget. It takes into account the balance we need between our ability to fund our present operations, and yet it takes care of some items going forward into the future that are expensive but are necessary

and will bring us value. So I think that it's an excellent budget, and I'm going to vote for it.

Trustee DeVita: I agree with what Trustee Keaney has said, and I commend Mr. Hess for his fine work and his careful financial considerations.

Trustee Holdstein: Just further commendation for the Village Manager and the job he does to keep the taxes low. Also, I note Neil's ability to get grant applications in and written in whatever way he does it to get us additional funding. I notice that he has found additional funding for our summer concerts through his abilities.

Trustee Gagliardi: I agree with the other Trustees. I've been reading in the paper where villages similar to us have six or six-and-a-half percent increases. I think Neil and everybody did a wonderful job.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Kinnally called for a resolution.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees hereby adopt the 1997-1998 Village budget as follows:

Appropriations General Fund	\$ 7,111,225.00
Pool Fund	205,150.00
Library Fund	367,475.00
Draper Fund	<u>14,300.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 7,698,150.00

Revenues from Property Tax	\$ 4,863,734.00
State Aid	350,100.00
Sales Tax	598,000.00
Reappropriated Surplus	96,964.00
Other Revenue	<u>1,789,342.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 7,698,150.00

and be it further

RESOLVED: that the property tax rate be established at \$110.13 per thousand of assessed valuation.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYE

NAY

Trustee James B. Keaney	X
Trustee Elsa C. DeVita	X
Trustee Michael Holdstein	X
Trustee Anthony Gagliardi	X
Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr.	X

Mayor Kinnally: Mr. Hess, I want to thank you and your staff and all of the department heads and the people in the Village for pitching in and coming up with a budget that not only is within line but, as Trustee Keaney said, "on time and early," probably three weeks earlier than the law requires. That gives all of us an opportunity to go through the budget and to prepare so that the work sessions are not mere formalities, but can be substantive, and not only the Trustees but the people in the community have an opportunity to see where their dollars are going, how we're collecting, and, more importantly, how we're spending them.

This is going to be an interesting year because we're going to be undertaking some projects that have a very large price tag to them, one of them being the renovation of the Municipal Building. We're also going to be looking at certain reconfiguration of some of our personnel. So it's going to be an interesting year, and one in which I hope we will be able to realize some of the potential that we have here in-staff, and be able to move into larger quarters, get out of some of the cramped storage areas and work areas that we've been working in and provide even better services. That's the most important thing. It's not just creature comfort, but it's providing better services for the same, if not less, money to the community.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Holdstein, SECONDED by Trustee Gagliardi, with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Kinnally adjourned the special meeting.