

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 2, 1999

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, March 2, 1999 at 8:18 p.m. in the Municipal Offices, 615 Broadway.

PRESENT: Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr., Trustee James B. Keaney, Trustee Elsa C. DeVita, Trustee Michael Holdstein, Trustee Anthony Gagliardi, Village Manager Neil P. Hess, Village Attorney Brian Murphy, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

PRESENTATION - VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (VIP)

Michele Noe, Steering Committee for the Village Improvement Project: We are here to give you an update what we have been busy with the last few months. Larry is going to give a presentation of the Spring Initiative.

Larry Marone, Hastings Art Supply Store & Hastings Chamber of Commerce Board: The VIP is an exciting new organization that has been growing. I would like to read into the record our mission statement:

"The Village Improvement Project's mission statement is to strength the heart of Hastings-on-Hudson's community by creating a vital and beautiful downtown. We will bring together the imagination and expertise of the community to develop and to implement a comprehensive plan. We establish a partnership between residents, merchants, property owners, the civic organizations and, of course, the local government to achieve our goals."

Our goals are included in the sheets Michele handed out.

The Spring Initiative will be comprised of five projects which can result in improvements to the cleanliness, the aesthetics, and the infrastructure around the commercial aspects of the Hastings business district. This Spring Initiative will be a cooperative effort. We have been in touch with our Chamber of Commerce, which is giving us 100 percent support. We are asking for support from the Village Board and for some funding. We will also seek private donations and corporate donations from the local corporations that do business in the Village.

We are going to participate in the Flower Village Program sponsored by the Historic Rivertowns; try to get new waste receptacles throughout the downtown business area; begin a comprehensive program for cleaner sidewalks, including steam cleaning; revive Thursday night shopping in the Village; and establish a new way-finding signage for downtown.

Mayor Kinnally: This is an ambitious program and you have my backing although I am not speaking for my colleagues. I am concerned that the merchants are not sweeping their sidewalks.

Mr. Marone: I agree with you; I will include that in talking to merchants: let's start paying attention to the fronts of our stores. With the addition of waste and recycling receptacles that are attractive and well-made, people might think twice about littering.

Trustee Holdstein: Have you priced out the steam cleaning, and will it get all the stains off?

Ms. Noe: We have not finished the research on that. But we would be coming back to you with some evidence and information about frequency recommendations.

Village Manager Hess: We had done it about five years ago and it did not work out very well. It did not bring up the blackened gum and grease, which is the most noticeable. We want sidewalks to be clean. Give us a comprehensive proposal, as opposed to just steam cleaning.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

On MOTION of Trustee Gagliardi, SECONDED by Trustee Holdstein with a voice vote of all in favor, the following warrants were approved:

Multi-Fund No. 88-1998-99	\$ 8,397.87
Multi-Fund No. 89-1998-99	\$ 23,025.48

27:99 PURCHASE OF POLICE VEHICLE

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the purchase of a Police Department vehicle, a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria, for an amount not to exceed \$20,535.00.

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

28:99 - DARE PROGRAM

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 authorize the Mayor to sign a Grant Award between the Division of Criminal Justice Services and the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson for the DARE Program for the period 6/01/98 - 5/31/99 in the amount of \$4,000.00

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	

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Hess: We received the traffic study done by Allee, King, Rosen, and Fleming for the LWRP committee. We will be using this as the basis for our parking committee study. We will be calling a meeting of members who have indicated a willingness to join within the next several weeks.

We have received the contract on the Nepera Farragut Park, with a suggested closing date of March 19th at 2 o'clock. There is a rider attached to the contract which indicates that use of that property is restricted as park land, which is what the board had agreed to previously. The \$14,000 cost will be funded through a grant we received from Senator Spano's office.

We received the 1998 recycling summary for Westchester County. For the fifth year in a row we were number one in recycling. We recycled 397 pounds per person, significantly higher than our neighbors. Our goal this year is to exceed 400 pounds. Over 51 percent of our trash is recycled.

Trustee Keaney: We might want to think about another dumpster just for paper..

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Update on the Waterfront

Mayor Kinnally: After meeting with the LWRP committee, ARCO has agreed to help fund a facilitator to get a community consensus on waterfront development.. I told the ARCO representatives that there already is consensus to have a mixed use there: water-related uses; open space park land; recreational facilities; and residential housing; with some small commercial operations. But ARCO does not want to remediate until a plan has been finalized. ARCO is not going to do the PCB cleanup as the state has suggested; they are looking to do hot-spot remediation and capping. They see the PRAP as an onerous imposition of a cleanup for the PCB's, and they have no intention of doing that. They want to negotiate their way from 40 feet well north of that. We are in for a long fight with ARCO. We will keep the pressure on the DEC for the PCB cleanup as stated and for the remediation of the heavy metals and the PAH's.

In the short-term cleanup, brush and debris have been removed.. In the third week of April they will assess the asbestos and other substances that may have to be remediated, and take an inventory of the buildings that will come down in the spring, summer, and early fall. I have been working with two of the tenants to see if there are relocation sites available. I told ARCO that I did not want to see any displacement of people that was unreasonable.

Other Village mayors and I met with Senator Spano and he asked for applications for funding from the state, his member items, and other funding. Mr. Hess and I forwarded a number of proposals to the Senator's office. Traffic was a major concern. The Senator is going to arrange a meeting with the new regional head of the DOT for this area with the mayors to go over our concerns. We discussed the closing of the Saw Mill River Parkway exits and entrances in the Village and the Senator was fairly positive to our concerns. I also enquired about the gas stations that we fought to have closed on the Saw Mill. There is a lawsuit because the state had signed a contract for those stations and a lot of money is at issue, so the state is reluctant to make any modifications to the site while the suit is pending.

I want to commend Rafael Zaratzian for the publicity that WHOH, and Raf, got in *The Enterprise*: a front-page article. Congratulations on that and all the work you do on WHOH. The array of programming on the station is really wonderful; it has more than exceeded our expectations. It is a great addition to the community.

Trustee Holdstein: Regarding the improvements to the train station, after observing traffic I have concerns about the island and also about extending the peninsula another 10 feet, because it narrows the access to the Dock Street bridge as the main entrance to the waterfront. When there are more than one truck, traffic comes to a standstill and gets backed up. You are walling-off the entrance to that whole area, which is going to be a critical hub one day with the waterfront.

Trustee DeVita: The purpose of that island is to slow down the trucks and have them wait for each other. It will protect the pedestrians. Regarding the peninsula, you are coming out as far as that proposed peninsula anyway to make a right turn, to go south on Southside.

Mayor Kinnally: I would like to cone-out the area with the peninsula so that we can look at how it works.

Trustee Holdstein: I have to go on record and say that I think that extending the sidewalk on Southside would be a big mistake. The existing island is eight feet, not 10, and I looked at the stretch of sidewalk, trees, the poles, etc., and the concept of having dining out is impractical.

Mayor Kinnally: I agree that adding to the sidewalk while not moving out the utilities and the other obstructions makes that addition on half of the sidewalk virtually useless. If you take two feet off that island you are going to have an unbalanced island with some of those trees very close to traffic.

Trustee Keaney: Two or three votes last week said we would be in favor of widening the sidewalk somewhat but nothing should come from the road; that is not going to happen if that middle island is eight feet wide, not 10.

Mayor Kinnally: Is there anybody who is in favor of encroaching on that island to accommodate a larger sidewalk on the east side of the street?

Trustee DeVita: I am still leaning towards having wider sidewalks, not for outdoor cafes but for commuters coming up from the train to be more comfortable, and for it to be a more visually attractive.

Trustee Gagliardi: I was in favor of shaving two feet off the 10 feet, but if it is not 10 feet I do not think it is going to be practical; I have changed my mind, and would like to see it the way it is right now.

Julius Chemka, 8 Ridgedell Avenue: When is the time to vote?

Mayor Kinnally: We voted on a number of the elements last week. We did not vote on the sidewalk or narrowing the existing island. On the center island in front of the train station, they are going to come up with alternatives and we will look at the renderings. We did agree on the peninsula.

Mr. Chemka: For safety and aesthetic reasons it should not be widened. Those sidewalks now could take two wheelchairs side by side; they are wide enough. Let us not give the safety of the citizens a back seat to the restaurants who want to put more tables there. Leave this island alone. Just replant it. Has anyone talked to the tillerman for the hook and ladder? The hook and ladder swings out wide in turns.

Mayor Kinnally: That is a good point.

Ann Schnibbe: Improving and beautifying lower Washington and Southside is terrific, especially putting sidewalks on the east side of Southside alongside the parking lot. But the island in front of the train station would cause more problems than what is supposedly there without it and that peninsula is not a good idea. There is already a bump-out; why do you want to stick more of us out in the traffic? I strongly oppose widening the east side of Southside, especially at the cost of trimming that middle aisle. The existing island is part of Hastings history and should be left undisturbed.

Trustee Gagliardi: We should talk to Chief Hoffman and get his input on the fire trucks.

Village Manager Hess: The deduct alternates in the bid give us 30-60 days before construction starts for a final decision. That way we do not hold up the specifications because of two or three controversial items.

Mayor Kinnally: I do not see any consensus that we want to extend the sidewalk.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION of Trustee Gagliardi, SECONDED by Trustee Holdstein 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 Keaney with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Kinnally adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:25 p.m.