

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 4, 1999

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, May 4, 1999 at 8:25 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 David Walrath, Village Manager Neil P. Hess, Village Attorney Brian Murphy, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

CITIZENS: Eight (8)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee DeVita, SECONDED by Trustee Walrath with a voice vote of all in favor, the minutes of the Public Hearing of April 20, 1999 were approved as presented.

On MOTION of Trustee Holdstein, SECONDED by Trustee Keaney with a voice vote of all in favor, the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 27, 1999 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 105 - 1998-99	\$164,172.17
Multi-Fund No. 107 - 1998-99	\$ 30,003.44
Multi-Fund No. 108 - 1998-99	\$ 27,243.34
Multi-Fund No. 109 - 1998-99	\$178,801.97

PRESENTATION - LITTLE LEAGUE

Mayor Kinnally: When the Uniontown field was changed to a baseball diamond a number of years ago one of the elements in that approval was that Little League would not use the field on the weekends for games. Little League has experienced an explosion of interested kids, and has presented a proposal for the utilization of Uniontown Field on an exploratory basis for four weekends between now and the first weekend of June. I understand there is an amendment.

Steve Horelick, 8 Buena Vista Drive: We put in stronger language in number 3 talking about spectators and parents and where the drop-off points are. In number 7 we had discussed the idea of having an ombudsman from the neighborhood, but no one seemed to think that that was important: that all communication would be done directly with Neil, or members of the Board, so we removed that.

There were references to meetings at the Uniontown Firehouse; we now target days or months for those meetings and not a location. The parking below High Street on Farragut was changed to the eastbound shoulder.

Neil DeBenedetto, 60 Rose Street: My concern is not for the trial program, because I have not seen a lot of disruption in parking with the games during the week. It is more the future; if more games are scheduled at Uniontown Park, parking will become a problem.

Mayor Kinnally: Before there is any expansion there will be further meetings and discussions. When we approved this last time, we made a commitment to the people in the neighborhood that we would have another forum. We will do the same this year to assess how things have gone in the four weeks in order to plan the future.

Kerry Franzman, 11 High Street: Everyone is clearly for the Little League games, so the issue is the already tight parking situation in Uniontown. I have a driveway, but the majority of residents do not and use the public streets as their driveway. The concern is that the existing problem in Uniontown will be exacerbated.

The best suggestion has been to park on Farragut Parkway. I suggest that Little League have for each game a designated team parent who might have an SUV or a minivan, have it at a designated drop-off and car parking spot on Farragut, and the designated driver would bring everyone up, making one or two trips.

If you are going to start holding sports events in Uniontown then you are going to be adding congestion to the neighborhood; maybe the Village should look into renovating the field to provide parking.

Mr. Horelick: We are going to emphasize to the parents that carpooling is a necessity to make this happen. We want this trial period to be successful. There are a lot of things we are willing to do to make it successful. If designating a shuttle person to help people get back and forth from Farragut is going to make it work, we will do it.

Mayor Kinnally: I join with David in commending everyone in coming up with what I think is a workable proposal.

On MOTION of Trustee Holdstein, SECONDED by Trustee Walrath with a voice vote of all in favor, the Board approved a schedule of use of the ball fields at Uniontown for four weeks as outlined in the Little League proposal to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

47:99 ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 1999 - VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Mayor Kinnally: This was the subject of a Public Hearing at our last Board meeting. The first amendment restricts access from Ravensdale for people getting on the Saw Mill River Parkway southbound. The second amendment addresses the traffic problem at the high school and middle school. A traffic light that was to be funded by the County of Westchester turned out to be impractical so we are proposing a three-way stop sign at Farragut and Olinda.

Jennifer Cottrell, 14 Clinton Avenue: I was not aware until I read it in *The Enterprise* that this no left turn off Stanley was going to happen. I live on Clinton Avenue between Clarence and Ravensdale. This will divert traffic from the Farragut entrance to the Clarence entrance. We already have a crisis on our street because of traffic. Cars have to wait for each other to go through. This proposal only moves traffic from one place to another. We need to consider limiting access to both southbound entrances.

Mayor Kinnally: Senator Spano has said that he will set up a meeting with the Regional Director of the DOT to discuss closing a number of exits and entrances on the parkway. We tried this a number of years ago, and the state was not very responsive. I would like to close everything except Farragut Parkway, but then you will hear complaints from people on Farragut Parkway. I cannot say that any of this solves everyone's problems, and I do not mean to aggravate anybody's situation.

Trustee Holdstein: We are also trying to get signage at Jackson Avenue before the bridge into Hastings to designate the entrances to the parkway off Saw Mill River Road to deflect the non-Hastings traffic from coming over the bridge. Then the only traffic would be people coming from within our own Village, and it would make more sense for them to come down Farragut Avenue from Farragut Parkway or take Farragut Parkway all the way to the Saw Mill. The key is to minimize the out-of-town traffic, and the balance of the flow would go elsewhere.

Richard Cottrell, 14 Clinton Avenue: I want you to consider the traffic we have from the exit on Clarence, which comes down Clinton. It is extremely busy, the drivers are in a freeway state of mind, and are impatient. There are a lot of kids playing on Clinton Avenue with these crazy drivers. If you eliminate one exit the others would get worse. You have to look at the big picture. Also, the intersection of Ravensdale and Clinton is very dangerous. If you encourage people to use Clarence Avenue, rather than the one you want to put a sign up to protect, that intersection will be used much more.

Bonnie Brommell, 15 Clinton: All of that traffic is going to go onto Clinton, which is essentially a one-lane street because of the parked cars, where cars have to take turns to get through. It is not a two-lane street.

Mayor Kinnally: My suggestion is that we send this back to the Safety Council. There has to be notification for all the neighborhoods from Mount Hope to Farragut, and from 9-A to Farragut Parkway.

Regarding the stop sign amendment, we have been told that the present temporary stop signs are unenforceable and we have a problem.

Village Manager Hess: We have been put on notice by the county that the temporary stop signs are not legal; they are allowed only if they were existing prior to 1971 and the road is not a federally-aided road. We miss it on both counts. If there is an accident as the result of the temporary situation, there is a liability issue. This amendment has been recommended by the Safety Council and by staff.

Trustee Holdstein: I do not remember this being recommended by the Safety Council.

Village Manager Hess: Members of the Safety Council were at that Board of Education meeting, as were staff.

Trustee Holdstein: I am concerned about the roadway during the lion's share of the day coming out of five corners and having these stops. It is a tough situation to solve, but I am not convinced that this is the answer.

Trustee Walrath: The congestion is exactly the worst at the time when we want the stop there, which is in the morning. We should try to encourage people to use Broadway to Executive Boulevard for the parkway south, because it is a more a road meant to get cars out. Running them past the school is not a good idea.

Village Manager Hess: There are times other than when the school crossing guard is there that schoolchildren cross the street: activities at the Burke, lunchtime. Several of the accidents have been when the school crossing guard is not there. That intersection met one of the warrants for a traffic light because of the number of pedestrian accidents.

Trustee Walrath: I would like to separate the two items in our resolution.

Mayor Kinnally: We have talked about this at length. We had a joint meeting with the School Board. The president of the School Board is here tonight. We have to come up with a solution. Mr. Holstein, would you like to say something?

Michael Holstein, School Board President: Our concern is the safety of the children. They are going back and forth from athletic activities at the Burke Estate, and they are out there at lunchtime. That is a road where 20-mile-an-hour signs do not mean much and we do not want to

see any more accidents out there. I know the stop signs will cause some inconvenience, but I think it pales in light of safety concerns.

Trustee Walrath: The stop sign will have a calming effect, and it is the best we can do in the time we have available. The stop signs will not eliminate the need for the 20-mile-per-hour speed limit, and it is required by state law. But the stop sign should go in, and more enforcement would not be a bad idea.

Trustee Keaney: There is similarity between this problem and the problem on Clinton and Stanley: the choice we want to make that we think is the best for the Village is outside our local control. The choices we are faced with are not very good, but the three-way stop sign is the best.

Trustee DeVita: Since we cannot use the portable stop signs, and we are concerned about the safety of the students, we do not have any choice except a three-way stop at that corner.

School Board President Holstein: When I go to work I pass the bottom of the 59th Street Bridge, and they have stop signs that fold in half so that when they are not in use they are not active. Could we use that kind of sign?

On MOTION of Trustee DeVita, SECONDED by Trustee Walrath, the amendment of Local Law No. 2 of 1999 to delete the amendment of Chapter 97-5 was duly adopted upon roll call vote.

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 hereby adopt Local Law No. 2 of 1999 to amend Chapter 97 Vehicle and Traffic as follows:

Amend Chapter 97-7 by adding the following:

Three-way stop sign at the intersection of Farragut Avenue and Olinda Avenue

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

Village Manager Hess: The president's suggestion to have stops for only certain hours of the day is a possibility we will look into, and if we need to we can amend this local law.

48:99 SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees hereby schedule the following summer Regular Meeting dates:

1. July 13, 1999
2. August 17, 1999

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

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Hess: We are looking at substantial completion on the Municipal Building within six to eight weeks. I would say they are only off a week-and-a-half to two weeks from the original projections. It is moving along very well. We have had some change orders, but we are still within the contingency section of the contract. There is a 10 percent contingency on top of the bids to account for unforeseen circumstances, which we had. We found we had asbestos in the boiler and additional asbestos in some of the radiator areas that we had to remove.

We will be taking bids on the Whitman Street sewer project on May 11. We have gotten in the Southside/Washington Avenue specifications and we will receive bids on May 25. There are two issue outstanding on that project: the peninsula and the island; they are deduct-alternates in the bid specs.

Trustee Holdstein: At what point do we make a decision?

Village Manager Hess: Prior to giving the contractor the go-ahead.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Update on the Waterfront

Mayor Kinnally: There is a stakeholders' meeting in Westchester on May 20 to deal with the bulkhead. I am awaiting a decision by ARCO whether or not they are going to give me a full report of their environmental assessment of the buildings, and also awaiting plans for the demolition of some of the buildings that ARCO was committed to. I received a letter from George Heitzman of the DEC to ARCO, advising them that if any buildings are to be taken down they have to work through the DEC for permits in addition to the permits that are necessary in the Village before anything can be demolished.

2. Traffic

I have been speaking to the Manager about setting up the meeting with DOT addressing the traffic concerns in the area and, most particularly, the traffic concerns in connection with Austin Avenue and closing of certain of the entrances and exits on the Saw Mill.

3. Andrus Property Rezoning

Andrus has indicated that the DEIS would be submitted to the Village next week. I have indicated to them that our consultants would work on it throughout the summer and there would be action no earlier than September 15.

4. Dog Cleanup

Mayor Kinnally: An initiative has been taken by people who live along the Aqueduct to address the problem of dog waste on the Aqueduct. They are trying to get people who use the Aqueduct with dogs to clean up after the dogs. Please be mindful that allowing animal waste on the Aqueduct poses a health hazard not only to people but also to animals. I know Marco will be contacted to see if there is something the Village can do to assist this effort.

5. Other

Trustee Keaney: Regarding the ARCO/BP situation, Congressman Gilman had urged the Federal Trade Commission to obtain assurances that BP would comply with the recommended remediation. I learned through a well-informed resident that ARCO is potentially responsible for 125 sites throughout the country. They have accrued, at the last fiscal year, \$870 million for the cleanup of this. If BP were to take over ARCO, you may get a combined entity that does not have enough to clear up the remediation problems. I have alerted the congressman to that angle.

We are not alone here. Maybe there are 125 other congressmen who should be worried about this, too. I hope to see him later this week, and I will speak to him about it.

WORK SESSION

On MOTION of Trustee Walrath, SECONDED by Trustee Keaney with a voice vote of all in favor, the Board scheduled a Work Session at the Municipal Building at 8 p.m. on Monday, May 10.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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 10:00 p.m.