

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 7, 2015

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 8:05 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Swiderski, Trustee Marjorie Apel, Trustee Meg Walker, Trustee Nicola Armacost, Trustee Daniel Lemons, Village Manager Francis A. Frobels, Village Attorney Linda Whitehead, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto

CITIZENS: Ten (10).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

County Legislator Mary Jane Shimsky, 35 Ashley Road: How lucky we are in the Village of Hastings to have the people we have agreeing to serve our communities. The Mayor has been very hard at work for many years in various capacities, as has Trustee Apel. Trustee Armacost brings a lot of financial knowledge to the work. Trustee Walker, thank you for serving again. They said of Franklin Roosevelt he had a second-class intellect and a first-class temperament. With Dan Lemons, we get a first-class intellect and a first-class temperament, which is a very good combination indeed. And thank you to Trustee Jennings. We all talk about how smart Bruce is, but Bruce would not be Bruce without that kindness and generosity of spirit that he also has. He has done a great deal for our village and he will be greatly missed. So thank you. Good luck to all the next two years.

John Gonder, 153 James: Congratulations to Walker and Lemons, and the Mayor. That was a good election. A lot of people got out and voted. That was nice. Finally there is an update on the waterfront. It has only been 217 days, 7.23 months since we had something like that. I hope it is a nice presentation.

You are sitting in leather chairs. At least get some nice soft cushions for these benches or change your meeting to the Orr Room or the Community Center. Then we are on an even par with you. But these benches are terrible. You did not appoint the Board members yet, Mr. Mayor, to certain positions. I hope you take Meg Walker out of the downtown and put her in some of the other places like Uniontown, Ravensdale or Mortgage Hill or Pinecrest, Shadowlawn and help us out for a change. I would appreciate that. I was hoping that Mr. Jennings would still be here to hear that my favorite song is *The Tennessee Waltz*.

Patrick Randolph Bell: First of all, of course ...

Trustee Armacost: Sorry. One thing I wanted to mention is, you do not ever state your address.

Mr. Bell: I have done it before, and then Tim Downey showed up at my house the next morning. So prefer not to always state the address.

Mayor Swiderski: Well, that is part of the procedure.

Mr. Bell: So everybody can show up to my house. Sixty-nine Prince Street. I live in Uniontown. Can I now not do it for another year...

Mayor Swiderski: No, each time.

Trustee Armacost: I think it is required.

Mr. Bell: So each time. Anyway, let me go back to congratulations. Trustee Lemons, congratulations. I hope we see good things from you. Trustee Jennings has big shoes to fill. Congrats to Meg Walker, who I adore. She always does so much for the downtown and continues to keep working on it. And to Mayor Swiderski also, congratulations. I hope you do another great job, or try to do a great job for the next couple years.

I was looking today at the duties of the Mayor. I thought one of them was to appoint a Deputy Mayor. Do we ever have a Deputy Mayor?

Mayor Swiderski: At the end of your five minutes, if there are questions I can answer I will do so.

Mr. Bell: The Community Center for having these meetings I thought might be a great idea. The Orr Room was great the other day. Maybe we could have a couple meetings, space them throughout the Village for different people that may be able to walk over. I know this is a pain for certain people if they are older, if they are handicapped, to come up and down these stairs or having to walk all the around.

One of the citizens had some questions about deer and maybe you can address it later when you are doing your deer update. Do we ever have a baseline? When I was reading these different articles, there is one article by Trustee Jennings saying we might have 500. Then later it changes down to 100, then it is up to 150. The numbers jumped all over. Two-hundred, Mr. Gonder says. When are we going to figure out when this deer program is actually successful or not? Is there a certain day we say this is when we are going to cut it off, and we are not going to spend another \$25,000 or whatever it was this year, I think \$23,000. Even though all the estimates you put out in the paper always say \$10,000 a year, from March of last year to March of this year it was \$23,000; \$29,000 or \$28,000, without

that \$6,000 grant. That is a lot of money. Let us figure out if we are going to end it or continue it, if we have a way to even test this. Because we do not have a baseline, how do we even know it is working? I saw a dead deer on the side of the road across from the cemetery the other day. How do we know that is not one of our deer, besides the tag. It could be one of ours. They are coming in from everywhere, they are going out everywhere. I am not sure how this project is even going to work. When will we cut it, how do we cut it without violating our contract too much, even that it says we can stop it when we are ready. Have any does been hurt or injured? Have any been darted? I think there were one or two that got darted and we never caught them, even though I was reading today there was a radio tag in the original dart that helps us track them. Have we lost any darts in the woods? What do other villages think about this?. When I called up Irvington the other day, or called up Dobbs, they did not know there was a missing deer or one of the ones we had tagged had been poached up in Irvington. So Dobbs had no idea about this. Are we informing neighboring villages of the progress of our experiment? I think it is more of a vanity experiment than a real scientific experiment. I am sure Trustee Lemons can tell you, without a baseline, without a control it is very hard to even tell if you are being successful.

Mayor Swiderski: You are at 15 seconds.

Mr. Bell: It was interesting to see that there was not an invocation today for the first time in something like 20 years. Maybe I will ask you some more about that next week. I volunteered to do one; to give the first atheist and secularist one in the history of the Village. I was wondering why I was not chosen to do that.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and the Executive Session of March 18, 2015 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 66-2014-15	\$ 22,792.25
Multi-Fund No. 67-2014-15	\$ 20,859.19
Multi-Fund No. 69-2014-15	\$102,718.15

**27:15 APPROVAL OF NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION SNOW AND ICE AGREEMENT EXTENSION**

Village Manager Frobel: This is our annual request to renew that relationship with the New York DOT to maintain their roadway in the community. The estimate is just under \$3,000 we will be reimbursed. However, I am sure in a few months, once we determine winter is over there will be an adjusting entry as to what the final amount will be that we will see. But for now, this is to enter into the agreement.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to sign the New York State Department of Transportation Snow and Ice Agreement Extension for the 2015 - 2016 Snow Season.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Marjorie Apel	X	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	X	
Trustee Daniel Lemons	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

28:15 APPROVAL OF STIPULATION OF AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

Village Manager Frobel: This is to affirm an action by the Board as part of a relationship termination we have with an employee. We are looking to affirm the stipulation and the release.

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

RESOLVED: that the that the Mayor and Board of Trustees hereby ratifies and approves the Stipulation of Agreement and Release between Bruce Marquez and the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson dated March 24, 2015, as recommended by the Chief of Police.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Marjorie Apel	X	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	X	
Trustee Daniel Lemons	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

29:15 EARTH DAY PROCLAMATION

Trustee Armacost: May I say many thanks to Susan for coming up with what I think is very eloquent text to describe something which all of us are privately celebrating, but now we have an opportunity to publicly celebrate. The timing of it comes at a very similar time to other initiatives in the Village, like the annual Village Cleanup and other things surrounding this, which are promoting a more positive environmental future for all of us. So thank you to Susan and thank you to the other Trustees for agreeing to having this proclamation.

Mayor Swiderski: As a community we take our environmental responsibilities very seriously, and it is only appropriate that this become part of our annual tradition.

Trustee Armacost: Maybe we can dedicate this first one to Bruce Jennings.

Mayor Swiderski: I think so.

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

WHEREAS, the global community faces extraordinary challenges such as environmental degradation, climate change, food and water shortages,
and global health issues; and

WHEREAS, all people, regardless of race, gender, income, or geography, have a moral right to a healthy, sustainable environment; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that the citizens of the global community must step forward and take action to create positive environmental change to combat the aforementioned global challenges; and

WHEREAS, a sustainable environment can be achieved on the individual level through educational efforts, public policy, and consumer activism campaigns; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to broaden and diversify the environmental movement to achieve maximum success; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that Mayor Peter Swiderski does hereby proclaim Wednesday, Apr. 22, 2015 as Earth Day in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and urges all citizens to support environmental initiatives in the village and to encourage others to undertake similar actions.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Marjorie Apel	X	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	X	
Trustee Daniel Lemons	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: I heard from county officials today that work will be resuming on the Warburton Bridge as early as next week. We can expect to see the season start again for construction. There will be some traffic interruptions. They are going to have to close the road to traffic traveling southbound for probably two days, maybe a little longer. They are going to be doing concrete pour probably next week, and then it will take some time for it to cure and then open the bridge to the one way. They will be switching the lanes over.

In your packet I sent to you last week a copy of the hazard mitigation plan. I had offered some preliminary comments indicating that this had been a work in progress for a number of years. It started with the former Police Chief, former building official. It was part of an effort led by the Town of Greenburgh to take a look at our hazard mitigation exposure, and do some risk assessment and determine where we were vulnerable. A lot of it came out of Hurricane Irene and then Super storm Sandy. I expect it will be a topic for a future meeting. We will get a little deeper into some of the details. But essentially, it talks about good management practices, things we can do to reduce risk for flooding, and taking certain steps with infrastructure to protect property and lives. So a rather comprehensive report, and one that is going to deserve some further conversation.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Code Amendment – Street and Road Opening Permits

Village Manager Frobels: Our road opening permit process only requires that the contractor or the utility restore that portion of the roadway that he disturbed, the trench that he opened up. That trench can be hundreds of feet long. Other communities, and in fact one that I worked with most recently several years ago, require the contractor to pave curb to curb, the entire width of the disturbed area that he disturbed. I am suggesting any cut longer than 100 feet would require the utility to restore your road. A lot of advantages to that. It makes for a smoother riding surface, reduces the likelihood of settling, an uneven surface, a seam being formed for weather to get in to cause potholes. It is a good practice to have the pavement restored to the condition it was in or better. In fact, it has been pointed out to me by a contractor that they were not surprised not to see that we had that provision in the law.

The other part of the recommendation is that some authority be given to the Chief of Police to determine whether the contractor, as part of his traffic management plan, should have a uniformed policeman on the scene. We have never had a dispute in this regard, but I could foresee the time where perhaps a contractor would say it is less expensive to me to have a flagman there when the Chief could insist that we need a uniformed police officer. It would be better to have that in the code so we can turn to it and say it is our call, we believe a uniformed police officer should be on the scene.

This is just the first cut at it. I have not spoken with Attorney Whitehead yet. If you give us the go-ahead we can polish it up and set it for either a work session or go to a public hearing.

Trustee Apel: I just want to know about 100 feet. I am a visual person. Is it much longer than this room, a couple of times?

Village Manager Frobels: It is quite a distance.

Trustee Apel: So the question is, is 100 feet too long?

Village Manager Frobels: I would be happy to go less. I just threw that out. Some communities have it even longer, but we are so condensed in here and compressed I would think a short one, even 50 feet, would be responsible. Let me research that a little further and come back with a recommendation.

Trustee Apel: I would make it shorter. Because in our village, as you said, we are small village and proportionately it is going to look a lot larger.

Village Manager Frobel: It is viewed simply as the cost of doing business. When you are putting in utilities, these are factored into the cost of that and, obviously, passed on to the consumer ultimately. I do not kid myself on that. But let me look into that and see if I can come up with a formula that is a little shorter than 100 feet.

Trustee Walker: Because when they disturb the roadway by digging a trench, even if it is just 10 feet long, as you said even if they patch it and repair it you are opening yourself up for future potholes, future problems in that area unless they replace the whole thing. The point is curb to curb, but you do not want them to do a short segment of roadway because that is kind of discontinuous. So it is an amount that creates something that is the width of the decent-sized intersection, which is 20 to 30 feet.

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, you do not want just a strip. You try to have a longer cut.

Trustee Walker: But if they were ripping up the intersection, for example, you would want them to finish that whole intersection. You would not want just a portion of it. So I would say 20 to 30 feet is a good amount.

Trustee Apel: I also think that within a period of time, except when it is winter when we cannot use that asphalt, you do not want them to just rip it up and say we will come back in three months. There needs to be a time factor in here. It must be finished within a timeframe.

Mayor Swiderski: Weather permitting.

Trustee Apel: Weathering permitting, it should be done within a short period of time.

Village Manager Frobel: Let me work out a time thing. Often I would like to wait for it to settle. The idea is to let it settle as long as you can. But let me look into what a reasonable time period would be for complete restoration to be finished.

Trustee Armacost: Do we have language which specifies who pays for the police here, in what way they are paid, and how overtime is handled? Is that in the contract with the contractor? For example, if the Chief says it is important for there to be police officers there, is it clearly stated that the company is paying for those police officers?

Village Manager Frobel: I believe so, but let me double-check. Chief, did you want to offer a comment on that, while you are here? I know you have been very familiar with the amount of utility work going on in the community within the past year.

Police Chief Visalli: Generally, what we have done in the past is require it on the permits that they have to have police officers. This will certainly allow us to bypass that if this would be in the ordinance. We also explain to them in the meetings that they are required to pick up the cost.

Trustee Armacost: So is it very explicit what costs are involved?

Police Chief Visalli: Yes, we give them the hourly rates of the officers.

Trustee Armacost: So they know in advance, and they understand if there is an overtime scenario that they are paying for overtime?

Police Chief Visalli: We give them the hourly rates as well as the minimum number of hours. It is minimum 4-hour payment to the officer whether they work or not.

Trustee Armacost: That is fantastic that that is clear. In addition, they have to pay for any overtime that is incurred. Is that clear, or are we paying for the overtime?

Police Chief Visalli: It depends who does the work. If it is Con Edison the overtime would be reflected on our timesheet and Con Edison then gets an invoice from us and they reimburse us.

Trustee Armacost: So any police officer time or police officer overtime is billed, penny for penny, to the contractor in that scenario.

Police Chief Visalli: Correct. That is an order also to help protect the officers should something happen, they get injured on the street, they are shown to be on the timesheet for the Village, not for a contractor.

Trustee Armacost: So the income that comes in is reflected as revenue for us. How that income is reflected on our books is revenue, is that right, Fran?

Village Manager Frobel: Is that how we do it, Raf, it comes in as a revenue?

Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian: No, it comes in in the expenditure and wipes out, zeroes out, the amount.

Village Manager Frobel: It is completely off-budget, for lack of a better word.

Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian: It is the way the state says to do it.

Police Chief Visalli: This was the same issue we talked about in the work session last time. that the money went back into the overtime line, but was then moved someplace else.

Trustee Armacost: But you cannot do that with police officer pay.

Trustee Apel: It is reimbursement.

Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian: It covers the expenditure so there is no cost to the Village.

Trustee Armacost: It is not about cost to the Village. It is about how it is reflected in a budget line item.

Mayor Swiderski: Movement in and out of a budget line.

Trustee Armacost: Exactly.

Mayor Swiderski: Could you check with our auditor to see how he would prefer it? I would imagine he has an opinion on that.

Trustee Armacost: Because if it is part of an officer's regular day the Village is not indifferent to that cost. That is a cost that is being charged. You cannot do that off the books, that has to happen on the books. If it is something that is happening in the officer's free time that is a different thing.

Police Chief Visalli: But it is not off the books. When they report for work, even if they are doing a traffic detail for Con Edison, they get logged in on our timesheets. Then when the job is completed, the lieutenant and I do very detailed invoices for Con Edison and then they send us a reimbursement check. The officers have already been paid the overtime by the Village. They get paid regular payroll. Then we bill Con Edison and they reimburse us for that overtime for the side job with Con Edison.

Mayor Swiderski: But let us verify what the auditor tells us.

Trustee Armacost: Yes, and how it is handled. Everything relating to Con Edison is treated as overtime, that is one thing. If it is treated as partially regular pay plus some overtime, it needs to be very clear.

Police Chief Visalli: No, it is always going to be overtime. It is not something that is done on their regular shift. We will meet with the Con Edison representatives, we will map out the job details, and then we put up sign-up sheets for overtime. It is all overtime for the officers.

Trustee Armacost: When officers work on films, say, and I know this is not exactly this topic but just so we can understand it, if they work on films, are they working on overtime?

Police Chief Visalli: No, they get paid separately by the movie company for that.

Trustee Armacost: As if they were not Village employees at all.

Police Chief Visalli: Well, they are acting as police officers. They still have their police powers. They are uniformed officers with radio cars, but they are reimbursed directly by the movie company and they receive a 1099 at the end of the year. The reason they are there is that they have to be acting in an official capacity; whether it be closing a street or whatever else the movie company needs them to do.

Trustee Armacost: But that is a private arrangement.

Village Manager Frobel: I do not think there is a difference.

Mayor Swiderski: Yes, there is.

Trustee Apel: There should not be.

Police Chief Visalli: When they work for a movie company they are not on overtime. It is a side job, paid for directly by whatever company they are working for.

Trustee Apel: So if they hurt themselves working for the film company, then it is the insurance of the film company and not as a police officer?

Police Chief Visalli: That is one of the issues we have had here, myself in particular, for years. We used to do the same thing with Con Edison. After speaking to the Village Manager several times, we agreed that at least with Con Edison we could get them onto the timesheets. Yes, it is an inherent risk for the officers. I think they would win that in court that they were acting as police officers but that could take years. And yes, it is a gamble. What if they get hit by a car while they are out there and they are on the payroll of the movie company, not the Village?

Trustee Armacost: But is it a liability issue for the Village? Normally, you cannot work for two different employers.

Police Chief Visalli: No, they can.

Trustee Armacost: Normally, you have to be working for the employer to have the powers associated with that employer, if you see what I mean. It is very unusual that you could have the powers associated with an employer, but be paid on the side. That is not a normal arrangement to have.

Police Chief Visalli: But this is a unique situation. You are talking about state-granted police powers. The reason they are being hired is, it is a situation that requires police authority to do whatever it is they are doing.

Trustee Apel: We are not disagreeing with you. What we want to do is protect the policemen.

Trustee Armacost: And ourselves.

Trustee Apel: Ourselves especially. If we want them to pay us, and do just what you are doing with Con Ed, we may decide ...

Police Chief Visalli: I have been in favor of that for years.

Mayor Swiderski: Let us look into that.

Trustee Apel: We want everyone protected.

Police Chief Visalli: Yes, I agree.

Village Manager Frobel: OK, very good.

Trustee Armacost: It makes it a bit gray. And even the way it is reflected in the budget needs to also be clearer. And that could be part of the reason why the overtime lines look different year to year. If this is handled differently year to year in the budget, then that may be part of the reason why that is the case.

Deputy Village Treasurer Zaratzian: It does not affect the overtime line. It is an in and an out.

Mayor Swiderski: Understood, but it is a movement.

Trustee Armacost: But, please, can we have the discussion at the Board level?

Mayor Swiderski: It is a budget movement, and we will ask the auditors to weigh in on how that should be represented.

Trustee Armacost: Exactly. Thank you so much.

Trustee Lemons: Fran, is there a statute of limitations assumed on this work done properly? I do not know how often we have issues with sinking repairs, but that sometimes takes a while.

Village Manager Frobel: It does. Normally, you would find out quickly whether it is going to fail or not, but if two years went by, you probably would have a hard time getting a contractor to come back and correct it. You could ask, but typically you would have a hard time. Usually you know within the first few months whether it has settled and compacted properly and will be trouble-free.

Trustee Lemons: Has that been an issue in instances like that?

Village Manager Frobel: With some. Some contractors are better than others. Some utilities are better than others. And we have had to watch them closely on some occasions. The bigger problem is getting them to come back and do the final fix. They are very good about the cold patch, compacting, and then letting it settle out. Dragging them back here to do the final patch is often a struggle. It takes repeated phone calls. Part of that is because the utility wants to have the contractor do several villages at the same time. They do not want to send a crew out here to just do a stretch on one of our streets and then run to another community. They like to batch them all, let them settle out. So some that were done earlier in the season wait the longest when they finally get the contractor to come back. That has been a problem more than the settling: getting them to come back and do the final fix.

Trustee Lemons: You do not get full payment until you have finished.

Village Manager Frobel: They do take out the permit. We do have some surety, though.

2. Update on Deer

Mayor Swiderski: We are heading toward the last week of the darting effort. This is the second year of a five-year effort. It is a scientific experiment carried out under protocols set

by the New York State DEC, Fish & Wildlife Service, by Dr. Rutberg, a professor at Tufts, and the Humane Society. It has as its major components a set of metrics that is tracking both the impact on deer number in Hastings as well as the deers' effect on the community.

The baseline numbers can be established in a couple of ways in a community. The gold standard is setting up a grid of cameras, and those cameras are specialized for wildlife and triggered when an infrared trigger is tripped when a warm body passes within roughly 15, 20 feet of the camera. You run the cameras for several weeks, and you count the photos. Somebody might wonder how that works. In fact, it works best when there are some tagged deer out there, and it is essentially very basic math and very straightforward. We have now 30 tagged deer. If you look at the photos taken by the cameras, half the deer in the photos have tags. Do the math; we have 60 deer. The proportion of tagged to un-tagged deer is the gold standard for counting deer in a community. So if you put out a grid of cameras, which we did, property laid out around the Village in 15 locations, count the pictures, the deer that show up in these pictures, it will give you a very solid number. We ran this once last September and we are getting to run it again this year now that we have more tagged deer. That will give us a good baseline for how many deer there are.

We have got estimates. Last year, based on herd size observed, it was somewhere between 110 and 120. This particular metric is going to give us a much better number. There is an alternate way also, which is quite expensive. That is an aerial infrared photography of the community from a plane that does a grid overhead, and then you count deer in the pictures. This year so far, with a few days remaining, we have 22 deer tagged. In addition to the eight last year we now have 30 in total. That is enough to begin to have a measurable impact on the existing deer herd. We will not see that impact until a year out, when these 22 deer, one of them is a buck, do not have fawns. So next summer, 2016, you should see a drop, in theory. That is why it is a study and that is why, after five years, we evaluate if there has been a substantial enough drop both in numbers and in impact on the community to merit continuation from a study into a regular annual event.

Since this year is the first year we have tagged enough deer to impact the numbers, it makes no sense to discontinue this study until several years out. It should run its course. The study, to date, is running within its budget. We have asked for our cost to be around \$12,000 a year. We had, this year and last year, \$6,000 in grants, and are pursuing grants for next year to offset the cost so our portion of the this cost remains roughly in that \$12,000 cost that we have aimed for. We believe it is a reasonable cost, given the potential positive benefit of a lower deer population, and one we are willing to assume. If, at the end of five years, we see either no real change in deer numbers or no real change in the impact of the deer on the community, then we will evaluate whether it makes sense to continue. We are not crazy up here. If it is not making any sense it will be stopped.

The other metrics we are tracking are impact on cars. That is an annual number. Impact on vegetation. That comes in two forms. One is, we have distributed around the Village 50 pots with hostas in them, and we count how many survive. Over time, one would hope more will survive if there are fewer deer. The hostas are a legitimate proxy for property damage. You cannot rely on people phoning in their damage because that is not a scientifically valid result; you cannot track that. So we rely on the hosta as a proxy for property damage. At Cornell they used oak seedlings. It is the same idea, it is the same protocol. That is being run by a volunteer who tracks how quickly the hostas are eaten. We track that information and, over time, you hope to see less of it.

We also have two enclosures set up in the woods that are going to simulate what would happen if the woods were without deer. Then next to those enclosures we have staked out equal-sized plots of land with simple stakes in the ground and are counting the species within those staked areas. Over time, if there are fewer deer in the woods, you would hope to see more species return over the years. That effort is being run based on a protocol used up and down the Hudson Valley and it being done by students in the advanced placement environmental science class in Hillside Avenue run by Melissa Shandroff, the teacher there. Those are the three metrics we are tracking: car, hosta and an understory, meaning the ground level plants you would typically see in woods but no longer see in Hastings because everything is eaten from roughly 5 feet down, which is what a deer can reach up to and eat.

Trustee Armacost: Do you have any results on the car metrics?

Mayor Swiderski: We have metrics, and that is going to be probably the last one to shift. We have not had a drop in population yet because only this year have we tagged enough deer with the immuno so see a drop-off in population start in two years' time.

Trustee Armacost: But, for example, in the year you started you are tracking cars that have hit deer? Is that what you are tracking?

Mayor Swiderski: Yes.

Trustee Armacost: So do we know how many cars hit deer in the first year?

Mayor Swiderski: Yes, I think it was 11. Last year was the first year, 2014. It is the end of the year number.

Trustee Armacost: OK, so it is not far enough into this year.

Mayor Swiderski: No, not for this year.

Trustee Armacost: Yes. And there are many factors that can make it go up and down.

Mayor Swiderski: Many, many.

Trustee Armacost: Your numbers were a little bit unclear. I understood that we have tagged 20, eight this year.

Mayor Swiderski: No, 22 this year.

Trustee Armacost: But around 30, which is a proxy for 60 deer or doe? You said deer, and I assume you meant doe because you also threw out 120.

Mayor Swiderski: Right. Let me be clear. It is not a proxy for anything yet. I was describing how the math would work with a photograph census, OK? Right now, we do not have the results from the census done in October or September of last year, and there were not sufficient tagged deer to have great confidence in the number yet. This year, we should have sufficient tag deer when the census is run again. We will have a better number.

Trustee Armacost: But we are mostly tagging doe.

Mayor Swiderski: With one exception.

Trustee Armacost: Exactly. So when you say 60, are you referring to doe or are you referring to deer?

Mayor Swiderski: Deer.

Trustee Armacost: You do mean deer. So you are including bucks in the non-tagged.

Mayor Swiderski: Right. But again, 60 is not the number. I was giving it as a math example that would be easy for people to understand. We do not have that number yet.

Trustee Armacost: I am just trying to understand when you are using the word "deer" and you mean deer, and when you are using the word "deer" and you mean doe.

Mayor Swiderski: Absolutely. So to be clear, we are looking to effect the full population of deer in Hastings. Regardless of does or bucks, we are looking to bring the total number down. When it comes to the total number, we are indifferent to whether they are does or

bucks. We want a population count. It is interesting and important to understand the distinction in the population for a couple of reasons, but in terms of the total number it is not important. All we want to know is how many are tagged and what percentage of the deer photographed are tagged. That will tell us what our raw number is. It is a straight mathematical proportional number. We do not have that for this year yet.

Trustee Apel: However, although it is not important, it is important. Because if you do not dart some of those does, then the chances are the numbers will increase. But if you have fewer does ...

Mayor Swiderski: Totally. I am saying the primary purpose of beginning a count is to have a baseline. Ultimately, that census will give you an indication of the ratio of bucks to does. Clearly, that is important because you want to know have you gotten most of the does or some of the does.

Trustee Apel: Is there a baseline in science that will tell you if you have ... are there typically more does than bucks?

Mayor Swiderski: Does outnumber the bucks, and I am not going to throw out what the percentage is. However, in Hastings they outnumber the bucks, at least last year, to a degree that indicates probable poaching of the bucks. The population ratio is skewed in a way that would indicate there may be poaching. I did not ask this year if that ratio was observed and those differences were observed. There was last year. It looked like there was a skewing of the numbers.

Trustee Apel: I guess a scientist would tell us, but would the objective be to get fewer does than bucks if you could?

Mayor Swiderski: Well, you want to dart as many does as you can because the substance only works on does. So you are aiming for a high percentage of the does.

Trustee Apel: So they would not produce does either. If you did a count and you had more bucks than does that might be a good answer to the problem, too? Or they do not know.

Mayor Swiderski: I am not sure I understand the question.

Trustee Apel: If you have fewer females around able to give birth you would have less of those, and you would just have does. They have nobody to mate with so the numbers are down. And the chances are that they would also not have any more.

Mayor Swiderski: Clearly. The fewer does the better off you are, but you do not want to have a situation where bucks are brought into the community or attracted to the community.

Trustee Apel: They would not be attracted if there are no does around.

Mayor Swiderski: If you are sterilizing does apparently that can happen. It is not part of our solution, but in one other experiment carried out at Cornell it turned out that physical sterilization led to essentially permanent estrus, permanent heat. So the drop-off in population of the does was offset significantly by bucks coming in thinking that ...

Trustee Apel: Got it.

Trustee Armacost: We have enough going on in our woods, Mayor, may I say?

Mayor Swiderski: To be clear here on the does, this particular substance is not a hormone and it does not sterilize the deer. It is a pig protein. When it is injected into muscle tissue it promotes an immune response and the antibodies apparently attach to the ovaries and prevent insemination. That immune response happens within two days and the pork protein fades away and is no longer an issue.

Trustee Lemons: That is an important point to make because some people have been concerned about what is in these deer after they have been immunized. What is in them is their own naturally produced antibodies. That is it. You could eat them, there would be no problem. We are not going to advocate that. But the immunizing substance is long gone.

Mayor Swiderski: Long gone. The deer are tagged for two reasons. First of all, it is a scientific experiment and deer need to be tracked and tagged, and the state requires that. Secondly, because we are bringing the deer down with anesthetic, for the first couple of days it is not a great thing to eat that meat. So the warning on the tag is not because of the PZP, but because of the anesthetic agent. A couple of days after the immunocontraception has been delivered that goes away as an issue. So that is an important point. One of the Humane Society professionals made me a little queasy saying you have probably had PZP if you had a pork sausage. All sorts of stuff land up in sausage, including the parts that are distilled into PZP. You can eat it, it is digested, it is protein, it does not affect you biologically. It is protein. Consuming PZP does not provoke that response

No does have been hurt that we are aware of. The does you see limping are typically injured through slips on ice and snow, or cars but more typically ice, apparently, and we are not aware of any being hurt. Other than speaking to the mayors at the VOC meetings every month periodically updating them, we have not advertised out in any great detail the progress

of the project. We are asked about it frequently by neighboring communities, and the mayors are all aware of what is going on. I imagine the village managers are, but I do not know if they particularly care, it does not impact them in any reasonable way.

We have another four or five days left in the darting this year and, once it is done, we are going to sit down, go through a full recap of what worked this year, what did not. It is a wildlife study, which means every year you learn better how to do it. This year we did better than last year, and it is an improving process. There are three risks that remain for the project. One is immigration risk. There are new deer that come into the community so you are going to have to dart the new deer as they come in. This is not an effort that stops after five years. When you commit to population control, regardless of the method whether it is culling or PZP, it is something you commit to forever because of the immigration effect. There is no question that PZP works. It has been run on two islands to great success. But the question is, will it work in a dense suburban environment with immigration. We do not know. That is why it is called a scientific experiment and why the likeliness of success is far from 100 percent.

We would have probably no better chance with a cull. Setting aside cultural issues which are significant, a cull in Hastings would be confined to a very narrow part of the Village because you cannot shoot a bow and arrow or a rifle within 500 feet of a house unless you have that homeowner's explicit permission, or a school. If you draw a 1,000-foot diameter circle and begin to look in Hastings for places you can put that to carry out a bow hunt, you are going to run out of places very quickly. There are not many. So a cull would have a limited range and also face immigration issues. Ultimately, it is a question of does population control work in a dense suburb, regardless of the mechanism. We are going to find that out.

The other two risks worth mentioning, and I consider them new, not ones that I originally considered. One is, can this be easily done? It is a challenge to get the 30 deer we got. On an ongoing basis, "execution risk" is what we call it in the industry. Are you able to execute on your plan successfully? Are you able to tag the deer you need to tag? That remains to be seen. It is a challenge so far. Then finally, once the five years are up, staffing up and maintaining this at a reasonable cost, whether done by volunteers or others, long-term sustainability remains an open issue. And we have to determine that. But the experiment is under way, it is on-budget so far. We have not tagged as many deer as we want, but we have tagged enough to probably have an impact.

Trustee Apel: How long does it last when they get the shot?

Mayor Swiderski: Two years. Every two years you have to go back.

Trustee Apel: Do you have different-colored tags?

Mayor Swiderski: No, they have big numbers on them so you know. And if you are not close enough to read the numbers you are too far away to be darting the deer. Most of these deer have been tagged within 35 feet, and these are easily visible.

Trustee Armacost: At what point do you think you are going to be able to say we think we have more or less X number of deer in the Village, of which X number are doe and X number are bucks?

Mayor Swiderski: I would say after the camera count this fall we will have a very good idea of both those numbers. I do not know if the person doing the count is distinguishing between bucks and does. Do you know?

Village Manager Frobel: I do not know.

Mayor Swiderski: It is worth asking, but I would imagine it is something we can also determine

Trustee Armacost: But it is somewhere between 60 and 120.

Mayor Swiderski: Well, we do not know 60. I threw that number out simply as an educational effort to explain how the ratio works. Please stop talking about 60. I was simply using that as an example of how it would work. You know, you take a bunch of photos.

Trustee Armacost: But I think we are grasping at straws here to find something coherent. Numbers have been thrown around that are huge numbers. And if the numbers are substantially less than 200 and closer to 100.

Mayor Swiderski: I do not know where the number 200 ever came from.

Trustee Armacost: I think that is Mr. Gonder's number. And he is an expert in this area.

Mayor Swiderski: No, the number offered last year was between 110 and 120 by the end of the season, based on visual confirmation of the herds. But this year, we will have a more precise number.

Trustee Lemons: And that is still an informal number. It is not a nailed-down, systematically-derived number.

Trustee Armacost: We are never going to get that number. But it would be nice to get to a stage where we are comfortable, give 10 or 20.

Mayor Swiderski: It is not nice, it is mandatory. You need to know how you are doing and that metric, that camera count, is critical to the success of this project. We need population counts, and we will have a good one this year because enough deer have been tagged in enough places in the Village so that ratio has meaning. You can determine something from that ratio.

Trustee Lemons: It will also serve as a baseline because there is a lag between the immunization and any potential drop in the deer population. We have not seen that drop yet, so that count is going to be valid as a baseline measure.

There are two other things. For anyone who wants to dig into the state of the art of the science of this, I recommend a publication that came out in December by Paul Curtis. He is the lead Cornell wildlife biologist, who has been working on this problem for years up there. It is a very thorough synopsis of what has happened over that time. Just incidentally, they do have a culling part of their program. The average time to cull one deer was 90 hours, with expert hunters. So although that seems like a quick and dirty way to do this, it turns out it is not that quick.

The other thing, and this goes to the issue of communicating with other villages, there is going to be a county-wide deer management all-day workshop in White Plains on April 30 for anybody who wants to get up to speed on what is happening with parks and everything else in the county. It is a concern all across the county. Everybody is worried about it. We happen to be taking the lead in this approach.

Trustee Armacost: Will we be presenting at that meeting?

Trustee Lemons: We will be. Dr. Rutberg will be there, and it is likely that one of us will be there as well.

Trustee Armacost: Sorry to press this point, but can we just say we do not have a baseline yet?

Mayor Swiderski: We do not have a baseline yet, but we have the ingredients for one.

Mr. Bell: Sir, just one quick question. It is kind of like [off-mic] .

Village Clerk Maggiotto: You cannot talk from the back.

Mr. Bell: We spent \$9,500 on rent for two months.

Mayor Swiderski: Right.

Mr. Bell: [off-mic] can you guys discuss maybe in the budget [off-mic].

Mayor Swiderski: We will issue a full report at the end of this that will go over where money was spent. The housing budget this year was a small fraction on a per-day, per-person budget compared to last year, given that there were four to five people in town on any given day of the study. Compared to cost the previous year, where we did not have housing of that sort, it was not only the right call but the same call we intend to take next year because that is the way you keep your costs down.

3. Update on DPW Consolidation Study

Mayor Swiderski: The study is posted. We have scheduled on the April 29 a meeting at the Community Center. Both the board of Dobbs and our board will be there to share our thoughts about that study. There is an excellent executive summary, five pages long that summarizes the key findings. Both boards will be prepared to speak.

4. Update on the Waterfront

Mayor Swiderski: This will disappoint. It is not detailed or deep. We are heading toward the end of negotiations with ARCO and Riverkeeper on the update to the consent decree. There are two documents that govern how this cleanup is going to occur. One is the consent order, and two have been issued by New York State, defining exactly how the cleanup is going to occur. It details not how, but to what level, the cleanup needs to occur. The parts per million of pollutants in certain areas; how deep it needs to be cleaned in other areas; what should happen offshore. That consent order was signed last year and establishes how the ARCO site needs to be cleaned upon shore and off shore.

There is a second document that governs the cleanup called the consent decree. That was a settlement that BP, Riverkeeper and the Village signed to settle a lawsuit that had been launched by Riverkeeper and the Village against BP for not cleaning up that site. That consent decree was pushed by a judge and signed by all parties in 2003, based on the cleanup that was described at the time, which was focused only on the land portion. The new cleanup order issued by the state last year covers both offshore and shore portions. It is substantially different than the original consent order, so therefore the decree needs to be updated. We are updating quite a few items in that decree, taking a slightly different approach from the

approach originally taken 12 years ago. We are in the final stages of negotiation on that. We expect that signed in late May, and that will be a public process with public meetings and presentation to the Board..

There is another document we have been waiting for and is now, in draft form, available to us. That is the report of the Infrastructure Committee, a group of volunteers that has worked for a couple of years on this, that will describe where roads, where development, where parks are going to go on the waterfront. We have been waiting for this document, BP has been waiting for this document. BP is now engaged in the engineering design. An engineering design is the hardcore detailed design of how they are going to do what the state is demanding they do. If BP is told where the road will go they may specify a different sort of fill there. Why put two feet of dirt if that is where the road will be? If they know where the trench will go to hold the sewer and water and electrical lines, because we tell them where the development will be, they can lay that while the ground is open instead of coming in afterwards and doing that.

So this Infrastructure Committee's report is important because it is going to help ensure that the cleanup is done smartly, with an eye to the future of the waterfront. It does not say two things: what is going to go on the waterfront, and an opinion on Building 52. It presents a with and without case on 52. All it does is speak to where the development is likely to be, where the roads are likely to be, and where the parks are likely to be in some detail. That is going to be a presentation to the Board at the next Board meeting by the Infrastructure Committee when they formally turn this over. Then we will have to schedule public meetings. At this point in time, it becomes our document. We need to review it, we need a public review for public comment. Once we are satisfied with the result we will be passing that on to the DEC and BP. That is the second item on the waterfront.

The third item, the waterfront is composed of three pieces. The northern two-thirds is ARCO, and the southern third is equally divided, 14 acres, between Exxon, which is facing out on to the water, and Uhlich, a privately-owned parcel that borders the tracks and Exxon to the west. The Uhlich property is apparently on the market. That is all I can really say. They are asking \$7 million or something for it, and that is public information. I thought it was worth sharing.

Trustee Walker: Several of us attended a meeting that was sponsored by the DEC and Scenic Hudson. We came away with the idea that there is some grant money out there and some technical assistance that could be very useful to us now that we are getting our infrastructure report. Maybe at the next meeting we can discuss pursuing some of that, at least starting to make inquiries and seeing what we can do with the program. That is the Hudson River restoration project.

Mayor Swiderski: Part of the consent decree negotiation involves also refilling a pot of money we have had for engineering and other design work that we get to dip into. That could be matching funds to what you are talking about or dedicated outright. But yes, absolutely.

Trustee Walker: Also it gets us back on the radar screen so the state knows we are interested in moving forward with the planning process. And that opens other doors to us, in the future for money and other assistance.

Trustee Armacost: The property at the southern end is not that valuable without access via the bridge. I am curious as to where things stand on the bridge.

Mayor Swiderski: I know Jerry Quinlan reached out to you.

Village Attorney Whitehead: Yes, I met with Jerry. I also, last week, was in touch with someone I know who works in the MTA counsel's office to try to get some help. Jerry had not been able to find the right person at Metro-North to talk to. My contact at the MTA reached out to somebody at Metro-North who was going to find the right person, they thought in the engineering department, and have them contact me. The agreement was, if I did not hear from them by tomorrow or Thursday to let my person know that I have not heard and he would follow up. Jerry knows all this because I was in touch with him last week.

Mayor Swiderski: Right. It is an MTA bridge.

Village Attorney Whitehead: Our position is, absolutely, it is an MTA bridge. The 1917 agreement says the MTA is responsible. There are questions about the accesses, who is responsible for that. There are some documents that could argue that Exxon is responsible for some of the access work, accessways and things like that.

Trustee Armacost: Access on the other side. Obviously, the property is very difficult to sell if no one can get access to it.

Trustee Walker: But it is not impossible that somebody could buy it and want to rebuild the bridge. They would have to work with MTA, but that is not impossible.

Village Attorney Whitehead: Right, and that would be a good thing for the Village if somebody bought it. They could be pushing Metro-North as well as the Village pushing Metro-North. A private property owner who might be willing to put some money in to get it rebuilt. There are certain things that Metro-North is not responsible for, not the structure

itself with supports, but the roadbed they are not responsible for. So there are some fine lines in there as to who is responsible for what.

Trustee Armacost: Based on the 1917 agreement?

Village Attorney Whitehead: The 1917 agreement. There are also some provisions of village law and railroad law that apply that muddy the waters a little further.

Mayor Swiderski: There is another issue we cannot forget, which is the zoning on the parcel. The zoning right now is marine industrial, which is about what it sounds like. That does not include housing, it does not include commercial. It is quite limited.

Trustee Walker: But, again, someone could apply to change the zoning. That is not impossible either. We need to be a few steps ahead so we need to be thinking about that.

Mayor Swiderski: One question. We do not typically allow questions, but you a historic connection.

Mr. Gonder: On this consent decree, this new one. Is there any court monitor going to be in it to make sure we speed this thing up? It has been going on and on, and dragging. The other thing is, I appreciate your nice thing on the riverfront, but you did not mention Building 52. Anything about that?

Mayor Swiderski: I would rather not comment on the consent decree negotiations until we have a finalized document.

My last words are on the Deputy Mayor issue in Hastings. It is a rotating position based on seniority and the quarter of the year. Susan, who is Deputy Mayor now?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: Trustee Apel.

Mayor Swiderski: There you go. It becomes relevant if I am not here or a document needs to be signed and I am unable to do so.

5. Update on the Downtown

Trustee Walker: We have some activities coming up in the downtown, which our Downtown Advocate will help me describe. This Friday we are kicking off the year with a literary event for Friday Night Live called Words on Hudson, thanks to our wordsmith, Bruce Jennings, who is also the chair of this event. One would call him the honorary chair,

but he has also helped to organize the event. In a way, we are also doing it in his honor. He was really interested in having another literary event so he has helped Barb and me and Lisa organize this one.

Tomorrow night we are going to have a Downtown Collaborative meeting, open to the public, at 7:30 at the Community Center. We are going to discuss different roles for volunteers in the various projects that Barb is spearheading. We are looking for additional folks to help us with many of the projects. We will also talk about additional activities and physical improvements that we want to look at this year.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: First, I would like to congratulate our Mayor and our new Trustee, Dan Lemons. And congratulations, Meg.

If I might just start with some good news. I have been given the green light by a future downtown business owner, pending the signing of a lease in about a week. PennyLick Ice Cream Company will be joining us in the spot where the Charles laundromat was. We are very excited about that. Many of you know her from the market. She is a Hastings resident, and it will be a terrific addition to our downtown offerings.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: Thank you, Meg. Yes, I worked with the landlord, who reached out to me to discuss looking for a tenant and what would be market rent. Ellen reached out and asked for support with the landlord. So, together, it came to pass that we will have this terrific business here.

One of the things we will discuss at the Collaborative meeting is empty spaces. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer, and there is a group of us that would like to continue to work on empty spaces and filling them. Inspired by this success, this week I reached out to the landlords of the old Chelsea space and the art supply store and 45 Main, and also to Christina Griffin about trying to connect me with the developers of the 555 Warburton building, the former Hastings House. Potential business owners have been contacting us, as well. I feel this is going to be the beginning of an upswing on filling our spaces.

You might have noticed a letter in *The Enterprise* from architect Ned Baldwin saying he was looking to do an architecture project and improve a façade or a building. I recommended maybe working with some of our downtown landlords, but it has to be a non-profit. However, he did volunteer his services to do some free assessments, which I will point out to landlords.

The Village is doing a village-wide cleanup that Lisa O'Reilly and the Recreation Department are sponsoring on April 25 and 26. I encourage everyone to come out. I will

probably choose a spot in the downtown myself. Inspired by that, and the fact that many different projects are in discussion for the downtown and for lifting the face of the downtown, I thought it might be a great idea to come together for another kind of downtown project day. I am thinking about the weekend before Memorial Day, before the parade, which would be nice. It could be a day in which many things happen at once. I talked to Sue Smith and the Beautification Committee about planting some more flowers at the VFW. There is talk of building a stage riser on the lawn there for some events we can have on Saturdays after the Farmers' Market. Katie Reidy has asked the hardware store if she could paint a mural again on the side of the building, and they have approved that pending a sketch from her. We have been looking into plantings, Susan Maggiotto and a group of us, to add shrubs and replace the tree at Juniper Plaza. The idea is to have all these things happening on one day. People could add a project and volunteer for a project. We could get the Boy Scouts involved. I have a call in to Richard about the Girl Scouts cleaning up the downtown, that day as well. Planters. There are lots of ideas. So if you have ideas for that please reach out to me, come to tomorrow night's meeting.

People will notice that the graffiti tag that was on the wall by the side of the A&P has been painted over, something that I had discussed with the store manager. There are also discussions going on with the business owners that back onto Steinschneider parking lot. Fran has engaged with one this week, and I have too, about what we can do about the cans and the things that are still blowing around. One suggestion I came up with, and a business owner has agreed, we are going to look for a covered garbage bins receptacle that can hold at least a couple of garbage cans and try to get them behind one, if not more, of those spaces. I will see if our own hardware store can source anything for us and, if not, we will find someplace that can.

Trustee Armacost: A lot of the stuff that blows around is cardboard. That can be driven to the dump and put in the paper dumpsters. That does not have to sit there.

Village Manager Frobel: No, it does not have to.

Trustee Armacost: It is a simple solution to ask in that particular case. It is one thing if it is trash that needs to go in trash cans. But in the case of recycling, the recycling is available any time people want to tidy things up. It is a question of will. It is a willingness as opposed to a prohibition. That discussion can also happen. It is very close, like a one-minute drive around the corner.

Village Manager Frobel: And some businesses do, but this particular one has been very difficult to work with.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: Meg mentioned the Friday Night Live events this weekend. If it rains, please still come out because everything is pretty much indoors. The details are on DestinationHastings.org. Many of your friends and neighbors are either reading poetry, performing an original piece, sharing about the books they have written, making music or spontaneously joining in open mics. Galapagos Bookstore, I would like to thank them. They are sponsoring a literary tapas, which means they are taking dishes that appear in books like *Don Quixote*. An illustrator and an author are cooking those dishes for us and serving them along with sangria. Thanks to Velo Bike Shop, who is hosting with food and drink, as well. Allstate has come through as a sponsor for this. So thanks to Frank Campo in the Allstate office. They are sponsoring this entire Friday Night Live. Due to that and the May 8 crawl, which everyone I hope will calendar, which will be a fund-raiser for Friday Night Live and other sponsors that are interested in sponsoring the rest of the season, we are in a position where the Village can make a relatively small contribution and we will not need to court BP this year or need their funding at all for this series. It will be self-sufficient in terms of our own sponsorship and those generous donors. So thanks to them.

The next Friday Night Live will be June 12. Thanks to the Boy Scouts, who will be providing a 40-foot rock climbing wall. The streets will be closed, and we are going to have a lot of things planned.

Tonight, as I walked up the stairs, I was reminded how beautiful this building has become. Thursday night there is going to be the opening reception for the River Arts artists' studio tour; many Hastings artists' incredible work is on exhibit here. The same evening a bluegrass jam has begun in our Prime Restaurant, hosted by a new resident, Tara Linhardt. I was there at the first one and it was terrific. A lot of players came up from the city and a lot of local people came out.

Our florist shop has a new owner, her name is Liz. You might want to stop in and see her. The Purple Crayon has a new name. It is now called Purpl, and they have been rebranding. You will see the new backlit sign on the building. That was beautiful, and approved by the Architectural Review Board. They had Joan Osborn there this weekend. I heard it was a smashing success. So there are a lot of exciting things happening in town. Hopefully, I will see everyone out Friday night in the rain, indoors, and at the Roadhouse, which is also very nicely hosting a whiskey and wit open mic after the events.

Trustee Walker: The event at the Roadhouse is a poetry slam, is it not?

Downtown Advocate Prisament: She said it is not really a slam, it is an open mic.

Trustee Walker: So people can read their poetry. They do not necessarily have to perform.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: She is going to have bar napkin prompts, she said. So she will be inspiring some on-the-spot, whiskey-influenced perhaps. And I wanted to welcome the Southside Social Club to the May 8 crawl. They will be joining as another spot, a terrific place to start because there is so much parking there, or end, or leave your car overnight if you need to.

Trustee Walker: Fantastic.

Mayor Swiderski: Thank you. Before we adjourn, let us set some dates.

[Discussion of dates]

So the budget work session originally scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 is now rescheduled for Tuesday, April 21 following the regular Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m. meeting.

Village Attorney Whitehead: Was that not the night you are going to vote on the budget?

Trustee Armacost: But we have to vote before the 30th.

Mayor Swiderski: Even if we meet for five minutes.

Trustee Walker: On the 28th. But could we vote the same night?

Mayor Swiderski: If there is no substantial change.

Village Attorney Whitehead: You could do the budget meeting before the regular meeting and then see where you end up.

Trustee Armacost: I think that is tricky. If we are not aligned tonight, then the chances of us being aligned then are slim, without having had a discussion.

Trustee Apel: So what are we deciding?

Mayor Swiderski: Budget work session following the meeting on the 21st, and then if we need more meetings we will determine it at that point. The final budget approval, which was to occur on the 21st, will slip to some date we can come to an accord on.

Trustee Apel: Is there any thought that we could have the budget work session before the Village Board meeting, and if everything is copasetic at that point we could vote on it?

Trustee Armacost: It is very difficult unless we know we do not have disagreements beforehand. I guess we will know at the end of today, perhaps.

Mayor Swiderski: Why do we not leave that open? We can agree on that later on tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:30 p.m.