

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
APRIL 5, 2016

An Organizational Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 7:37 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, Trustee Walter Stugis, Village Manager Francis A. Frobel, Village Attorney Linda Whitehead, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto

CITIZENS: Seventeen (17).

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

Trustee Nicola Armacost
Trustee Walter Stugis
Village Justice Joseph DiSalvo
Acting Village Justice James DeVita

Mayor Swiderski: This is a strongly symbolic moment for the year. It is where I break out my Declaration of Independence tie with all the signatories and where we, on a year like this, bid some adieu and welcome others aboard. We start with the administration of office for two Trustees and the two judges, and then after that we will talk about Marge.

Mayor Swiderski administered the Oath of Office to Trustee Nicola Armacost, Trustee Walter Stugis, Village Justice Joseph DiSalvo, and Acting Village Justice James DeVita.

TRUSTEE MARJORIE APEL

Mayor Swiderski: The "hellos" are easy and joyous, the "goodbyes" a little less so. After many years of service up here on the Board we lose one of our own, and a very good one at that. Marge, it has been a delight. I will start with we ran together the first time. You remember that?

Trustee Apel: Yes.

Mayor Swiderski: I remember, at one point, somebody was afraid we were from a church organization because we were so prim and proper at the door as we were going door-to-door that we were Jehovah's Witnesses or something. They were relieved that we were not. We have been up here a while together. We ran together, we ran against each other, and then we ran together again. I have, by far, preferred the running together part.

It has been a pleasure. You have been an important voice for constituencies that are not always heard up here, and also a second check on us. You have no fear in calling our attention to something you are concerned about. You have no fear in standing up to make sure that what seemed to be little details, whether it is the minutes are right or the words in a legal document are right. Those are not little details, and we have been lucky to have you up here. It is sad to see you go. You have really served the Village. It is a pleasure to serve, but it is not always easy. You have caught it between the eyes, like we all do on occasion. I appreciate that despite that you have come back for a total of 10 years of service up here. That is a lot, and we have been lucky to have you.

I hope you walk away feeling that your tenure was both important and valuable. I lay the Comprehensive Plan at your feet. You carried that through, and I am amazed what an impact that had on us. I was delighted it was not the shelfware it becomes in so many communities. We actually went through it, and you pushed for a number of things to happen. You advocated, whether it was for zoning at the gateways to the community or the Village Advocate. You went through it, and you said this is what it says, let us get to it. And lo and behold we did, and that is you. There is a village here that is better for your presence. And in life, to be able to say that and know that is a great thing. I want to say from the bottom of my heart I am going to miss you. Thank you, and I have probably said all I can say.

Trustee Walker: You are a hard act to follow, Mayor. But Marge, I want to thank you for being my neighbor here, my partner, my friend. It has been great having you up here on the Board, especially sitting right next to me, because you are such a straight shooter, you ask the hard questions, and you circle things and say what about this, and I think, you are probably right, we better ask that tough question. I appreciate your honesty and your strong ethical stance and your good judgment. We will miss that. But you might find us calling you occasionally to ask for your opinion on certain things because you exercised incredible wisdom while you have been here. I want to thank you for shepherding the Comprehensive Plan through, and standing there making sure we implement it. Without that it is meaningless, so thank you for your strong actions and your strong words.

Trustee Armacost: Marge, I want to say that you were really fantastic to have as a running mate because my running mate before you was Jerry Quinlan, who I had to look like this to. My running mate after you Walter, who I also had to look up like this to. Sandwiched between those two magnificent men was you, and it was really fun to run with you, to campaign outside of what was then the A&P, outside of the Farmers' Market, to, in the process, learn about the history of some of the things we were dealing with that I did not know because I had not been involved in Village politics at that time.

So it was very interesting to get the historical perspective from you, some quite interesting stories along the way, and to hear your wisdom and your take on where the Village had progressed from. And always a sense of optimism, always real commitment and heart. It was a tremendous learning experience and fun to be your running mate, and amazing to have somebody more or less the same height as me. So thank you, Marge, for everything for the Village, and for being the most fantastic running mate.

Trustee Lemons: Marge, I have been the least fortunate member of the Board because I only got to serve one year with you. I also knew you the least when I came on to the Board. Of course I have known of you and known your name for a long time because you have been prominent in the Village and been on the Board for many years. But I had no idea, really, who is Marge Apel and how does she function in this board. I have been mightily impressed. For the reasons that have been mentioned, I appreciate the way you dig into things, pick out the details, and point out the things that do not make sense. That is such a hugely important function to play. My only real concern is how we are going to continue to do that. It puts a lot of pressure on Walter, but it puts a lot of pressure on the rest of us because that has been such an important role. You have brought your experience with that willingness to do that, and it is so critical because things can slip by. It has been great. I feel like I have learned a lot in this only one year that I have had serving with you, but I have really learned a lot and I will miss you.

Trustee Apel: Thank you.

Village Manager Frobel: Marge, on behalf of all the Village employees I want to thank you for your service. I want to thank you for always looking out for them, and professionally, thank you for looking out for me. You were the one who gave me the opportunity 11 years ago to serve as Village Manager, and I have always been grateful to you. So thank you very much and good luck.

Trustee Apel: Well, thank you.

Mayor Swiderski: I would like Ellen Hendrickx to come forward.

Ellen Hendrickx: Marge, I am representing the Hastings Democratic Committee, and then personally. This is for you. John Gonder has given me the inside scoop on how to take care of it. You are going to have a lot of free time now, although do not think you are going to get away. I would imagine they are already queuing you up for some committee or another. Serving with you on the Comprehensive Plan Committee to prioritize and get things going was a great experience because you know how to cut to the chase and prioritize, and get everyone focused. That was a great other side I got to see. I guess everyone on the Board

got to see that. As a friend, it has been terrific and I am glad that we will continue to be. Thank you, thank you from us all because you are a legend in the Hastings Democratic Committee.

Trustee Apel: So John, you will come over and take care of the plant?

Mayor Swiderski: We are at the point that we are exchanging gifts. This is one from the Board. I had a fear that my original idea of an embroidered pillow was too sexist, so we went with a more traditional item.

Trustee Apel: Oh, look at this. Well, thank you very much. What can I say?

Mayor Swiderski: You have to read the inscription.

Trustee Apel: "Thank you, Marge, for 10 years of service – Hastings-on-Hudson 2016." I have known for awhile that this time was going to come, and I was thinking what am I going to say with my time. I should warn you that I have been a professor at a college and I am used to giving lectures for an hour and a half, but I will spare you tonight.

I have thought about three words that came to mind that summarize my experience on the Board. One is "fortunate," another word is "thankful," and the other one is "privileged." I have been fortunate to be sitting on the Board with all of you. I am looking around and thinking that you are talking about what I bring to the Board, but I am thinking about Meg's planning she does with the downtown. I am thinking about Peter's leadership to the Board and keeping calm during some of the meetings we have had. I am thinking about Dan and his science and environment and, maybe you do not realize, real estate background. And I am thinking about Niki and her ability to analyze and work on the finances, an education for me. When I ran again we actually met. It was quite an interesting meeting to try to go over the budget. We never used to get all that information. We were like here is the budget, here is the final thing, and vote on it. So learning about the budget was an eye-opener.

Working with Linda, sitting right next to me, and giving us all the legal advice. There are things you do not think about, and all of a sudden you have to say, Linda, tell me how do we do that. She is right here with that information. Fran, ever steady, ever understanding and calm, and bringing to the Village a thoughtful and planned way of dealing with the community, which is not easy, when everybody is coming and demanding things of you. So we appreciate what you have done and how we have worked together, and how you have helped me out and we have come to some decisions on things. I really appreciate what you have done.

Sue has been like a right arm. She is the go-to person. We have spent a lot of hours working and going over activities, and she helped us summarize and think clearly. It has been a pleasure working with you.. She does the last-minute stuff when we call up and say we have to send this out. She has been fabulous, so I really appreciate it.

There is one person in the audience that I wanted to thank for being here all the time, and that is John Gonder. You have been the man reminding us and thinking about things and we are listening, so I want you to know it did not go on deaf ears and we appreciate it. He comes to every meeting, it is phenomenal.

I have been fortunate to be able to work with the Board, people in the community and staff, and the volunteers. I could not do what I wanted to do without all the people that are volunteering and writing reports and having meetings and sending us information and having discussions. It has been so helpful so I thank those people out there that are volunteering and I hope they continue to do so.

Also, I am very thankful for those people that have been supportive of things we have discussed and the issues we have had. I really appreciate everyone out there that has been supportive. I have been privileged, because I live in a community that is interested in what is going on, comes to meetings, shows up, is thoughtful. We may not always agree, but sometimes you do change your opinion because you did not think of that side. I have really been the privileged one. I have gained so much, and I have been delighted you have let me serve you. So I want to thank you for allowing me to do that.

I think that is about all I wanted to say because otherwise I will get really sad. But thank you all very much.

Jim Metzger, 427 Warburton Avenue: Mr. Mayor, would you take a comment from the audience before Marge steps down?

To paraphrase, speak softly and carry a big heart. To anybody who sits on the Board now and who will sit on the Board in the future, if you want to do this job think what would Marge do. There were times on this Board when it seems like nothing was happening. I am going back 15 years or so. Marge was always the person who was there to listen, to think about the issues, and to stand up and speak her mind regardless of anything else that was going on. It was thoughtful, considerate, and her heart put into every decision, every comment Marge made. As many people have said, it has been a pleasure serving with Marge on the Comprehensive Plan and the various committees that have come after that. But we tend to forget the people that are leaving. I ask that the people on the Board, Walter, do not forget what Marge has done and how she has done it for this village. It has been

extraordinary and has been done quietly, and that is something you do not see that often in public life. So I want to thank her.

Trustee Apel: Thank you, Jim. He has been my partner in crime on the Comprehensive Plan. We have been working very hard. And he also takes all the pictures, so there you go. Thank you very much, and I leave it to Walter. I remember the one thing my brother said to me when I was going off to college. I asked him to tell me what I should do because I was a young girl and going off to college. He got all embarrassed. I think you all know him, my brother Bob Tucker. He did not know what to say, and finally he looked at me and he said, "Keep your sense of humor, and don't sweat the small stuff." That is my advice.

Thank you again.

[Trustee Apel leaves the dais and Trustee Stugis takes his seat.]

Mayor Swiderski: This is an organizational meeting and these are the various resolutions establishing infrastructure for the year.

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

19:16 MAYORAL AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTMENTS

A. ACTING VILLAGE JUSTICE

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint **James R. DeVita** as Acting Village Justice for a term of one (1) official year

B. VILLAGE ATTORNEY AND VILLAGE PROSECUTOR

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees award a contract for services to McCullough, Goldberger, & Staudt, LLP as Village Attorney and Village Prosecutor for a term of two (2) years.

C. HISTORIAN

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint **Barbara Thompson** as Village Historian for a term of one (1) official year.

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

20:16 MAYORAL AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES DESIGNATIONS

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

A. OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees designate the **Rivertowns Enterprise** and the **Journal News** as official newspapers for a term of one (1) official year.

B. OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees designate **JP Morgan Chase Bank, Citibank, N.A., Sterling National Bank, and MBIA-Class** as official depositories for a term of one (1) official year.

C. POLICE AND FIRE SURGEONS

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint **Dorian Tergis, M.D.** and **Charles Edelson, M.D.** as Police and Fire Surgeons for a term of one (1) official year each, to be compensated on a fee or contract basis.

D. REGULAR MEETING DAYS

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees designate the **first and third Tuesday of each month** as the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting days.

E. AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN CHECKS AND INSTRUMENTS

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the following to sign checks and instruments of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, when countersigned by the Mayor or one (1) Trustee:

Francis A. Frobel, Susan Maggiotto

except individual payroll checks which shall require one (1) of the following signatures:

Francis A. Frobel, Susan Maggiotto

21:16 EXECUTIVE SESSION POLICY

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the Executive Session Policy as follows:

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson to conduct Village business in an open fashion and to make available as much information as may legally and practically be disseminated.

The New York Open Meetings Law authorizes the Board to conduct business in executive session in a number of areas. These include:

1. Matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;
2. Matters which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer;
3. Information relating to criminal investigations;
4. Discussions relating to proposed, pending or current litigation;
5. Collective bargaining negotiations;
6. Personnel matters; and

7. The proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property or securities.

The Board recognizes that it is authorized to use Executive Sessions in these situations, but will do so with restraint.

To maintain confidentiality and to encourage the uninhibited discussion of the subjects of Executive Sessions, the specific subject matter and any statements made or positions taken by all participants must remain confidential and may not be disclosed by any participant unless and until a majority of the Board votes to authorize the release thereof by the Board.

It has been and continues to be the practice of the Board that all members of the Board, acting together, come to agreement by consensus on the specific information which is to be released to the public, the suitable vehicle for reporting that information, and the timing of the reporting.

The Village Clerk (or designee) shall take minutes of each executive session, such minutes to consist only of the following:

1. Date of resolution calling for the executive session;
2. Date, place, and time of executive session;
3. Names of persons present;
4. Broad description of subjects discussed (e.g. personnel, pending litigation); and
5. If any action is taken by formal vote, a summary of the final determination of such action and a record of the vote, in accordance with Public Officers Law ' 106.

Minutes shall be approved at the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees on September 28, 1993.
Revised November 20, 2007.

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

22:16 RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mayor Swiderski: There is a document that is available online with descriptions of regular meetings, special meetings, quorums, executive sessions, agendas and other sections involved. It details the regular order of business and general rules of procedure. We are not altering sections, other than one I would like to amend. We have, for a couple of years, had speakers limited to five minutes on a given topic. I would like to argue that given the length of our meetings and the ability to describe a topic efficiently in three minutes that we move to three minutes from five. I am going to ask if anyone dissents with that. Otherwise, I will ask for a motion. Is there a dissent from five minutes?

Trustee Armacost: No, I think that is warranted.

Mayor Swiderski: All right, so we will move to three minutes, and I am going to ask for a motion.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the Rules of Procedure as attached, amending Section 10 – Guidelines for Public Comment, to change the time limit for speakers from five (5) minutes to three (3) minutes..

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

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Swiderski: First, I would like to thank all those volunteers who will be giving us their time and expertise in what is a truly thankless job. We cannot say enough for the dedication many of these people show. I know we have at least one member in the audience, if you can stand and acknowledge our thanks. It is real work done on our behalf. It is time that comes out of your private life and it is not always without controversy. We are what we are because of it, so thank you.

I would also like to thank Trustee Armacost, who calls everybody to verify if they are interested in serving again, pushes us mercilessly to fill the empty spot that do open up. It is equally thankless a job. It is a job, it is a lot of work, and we are as good as we ever have been. There is one slot open?

Trustee Armacost: There are two slots open at the moment.

Mayor Swiderski: Out of what is it, 111 positions?

Trustee Armacost: A lot.

Mayor Swiderski: So that is pretty good.

Trustee Armacost: Let me say it is not thankless because I love connecting with all the amazing people who are part of our volunteer corps. And as you said, if it were not for them many things simply would not happen in the Village. For me, it is a privilege to be able to reach out and thank people, and have a conversation and hear what has been going on with different boards and commissions. So thank you for giving me what you think is a thankless job, which I secretly enjoy.

Mayor Swiderski: I actually know that. I was being kind. You have a knack for it and a gift for it, and the willingness of people to sign up again time and again is certainly, in part, due to your remarkable ability to talk people into just about anything. So thank you.

New Appointments:

Affordable Housing Committee – Lisa Carroll (no term)
Ethics Board – Peter Kolbert to a five year term
Youth Council – Adrian Forman to fill term expiring 2017

Reappointments:

Advisory Committee for the Disabled – Maureen Bassman

Architectural Review Board – Michael Lewis, Kirsten Sibia, Douglas Emilio
(alternate)

Conservation Commission – Ron Cascone, Haven Colgate, Andrew Ratzkin,
Jean Hamerman

Ethics Board – Barron Lerner

Library Board of Trustees – Diane Jaeger, Joanna Reisman

Parks & Recreation Commission – Samantha Merton, Angela Reeve

Planning Board – Richard Bass, James Cameron, William O'Reilly,
Rhoda Barr (alternate)

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee – Barbara Thompson

Tree Preservation Board – Wayt Thomas, Peter Lee Waczek

Youth Council – Donna Hart, Jeff Edelman, Jeanne Newman

Zoning Board of Appeals – Matthew Collins

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Organizational Meeting at 8:17 p.m.