

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

Regular Meeting Opened 7:01 PM

PLACE: MEETING ROOM, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue

This meeting was also hosted via Zoom, streamed live on Channel 75 (Cable), Channel 43 (FiOS), and on www.whoh-tv.org.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Armacost
Trustee Lopez (attended via Zoom)
Trustee Fleisig
Trustee Drake
Trustee Alligood

Village Manager Murphy
Village Attorney Whitehead

Absent:

PRESENTATION

Lauren Brois, of Sustainable Westchester, and David Klatt, of Logical Buildings, provided the Village Board with an overview of the GridRewards program, as well as presenting the Village Board with a check in the amount of \$2,194 for participating in the GridRewards program and the Rivertowns Mayors Challenge and a commemorative plaque.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Drake moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, February 6, 2024, seconded by Trustee Alligood. Motion carried, all voting “aye”.
Approved 5-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Trustee Alligood moved to approve the warrants, seconded by Trustee Drake. Motion carried, all voting “aye”. Approved 5-0.

AA General Fund	\$381,726.52
CD Fed Drug Grant	\$4,226.24
ER Pool Fund	\$2,578.42
HH Capital Fund	\$58,952.75
LL Library Fund	\$15,838.14
TT Betterment Fund	\$18,283.91

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present in-person or via Zoom to offer public comment.

RESOLUTIONS

23:24 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX CERTIORARI SETTLEMENT – 542 WARBURTON AVENUE

Trustee Drake moved, seconded by Trustee Fleisig, that the following resolution be approved:
Approved 5-0.

WHEREAS, petitions having been filed by the property owner, below challenging real property tax assessments on the Town of Greenburgh assessment rolls with respect to the following parcels:

Property Owner	Address Description	Year(s)
Jigsaw, Inc.	542 Warburton Avenue 4.70-49-10	2018 Town - 2020 Town

WHEREAS, petitioner's court challenge is now pending in Supreme Court Westchester County; and

WHEREAS, mutually agreeable resolution with regard to the assessments at issue in the Court challenges;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Special Counsel to the Village is authorized to execute a settlement on behalf of the Village for assessments for no less than the following:

Years	Current AV	Reduced AV	AV Reduction
2018 Town	647,400	598,500	48,900
2019 Town	647,400	605,000	42,400
2020 Town	647,400	611,800	35,600

The refund of Village taxes amounts to \$765.88±.

24:24 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX CERTIORARI SETTLEMENT – 487 WARBURTON AVENUE

Trustee Alligood moved, seconded by Trustee Drake, that the following resolution be approved:
Approved 5-0.

WHEREAS, petitions having been filed by the property owner, below challenging real property tax assessments on the Town of Greenburgh assessment rolls with respect to the following parcels:

Property Owner	Address Description	Year(s)
Kezema, Eugene	487 Warburton Avenue 4.70-48-2	2019 Town - 2021 Town

WHEREAS, petitioner's court challenge is now pending in Supreme Court Westchester County; and

WHEREAS, the Town, the Village, the School District and the property owner have reached a mutually agreeable resolution with regard to the assessments at issue in the Court challenges;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Special Counsel to the Village is authorized to execute a settlement on behalf of the Village for assessments for no less than the following:

Years	Current AV	Reduced AV	AV Reduction
2019 Town	920,900	770,000	150,900
2020 Town	920,900	770,000	150,900
2021 Town	823,900	770,000	53,900

The refund of Village taxes amounts to \$2,144.70±.

25:24 AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE LICENSING AGREEMENT WITH BROADWAY TRAINING CENTER

Trustee Alligood moved, seconded by Trustee Fleisig, that the following resolution be approved: Approved 5-0.

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to execute a licensing agreement with the Broadway Training Center for the installation of an ADA compliant ramp to the entrance of 12 Washington Avenue.

26:24 AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT WITH CUONO ENGINEERING PLLC FOR STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

Trustee Drake moved, seconded by Trustee Alligood, that the following resolution be approved: Approved 5-0.

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to execute an agreement with Cuono Engineering PLLC for structural engineering services for the Village Hall Roof Project, subject to Village Attorney approval, as attached.

27:24 AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS FOR OPERATION OF CHEMKA POOL SNACK STAND

Trustee Alligood moved, seconded by Trustee Fleisig, that the following resolution be approved:
Approved 5-0.

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to solicit proposals for the operation of the Chemka Pool Snack Stand.

28:24 SUPPORT FOR THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE TO PASS A STRONG PACKAGING REDUCTION AND RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE ACT (A.5322-A/S.4246-A) AND EXPAND THE STATE'S BOTTLE BILL (A.6353/S.237-B)

Trustee Fleisig moved, seconded by Trustee Drake, that the following resolution be approved:
Approved 5-0.

WHEREAS, packaging makes up approximately 40 percent of the waste in New York State; and

WHEREAS, managing packaging waste costs New York taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, some packaging is not recyclable and reusable and refillable packaging systems are not readily available; and

WHEREAS, plastic causes serious pollution including litter and use of toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS, companies that produce packaging should help bear the costs of packaging waste, not just taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, enacting the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, as drafted in the New York Assembly A.5322-A and the New York Senate S.4246-A, would reduce waste, increase recycling rates, create jobs, reduce toxicity in products, provide millions of dollars in savings for local governments and taxpayers, and lower greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act should work in tandem with and supplement New York State's Returnable Container Act; and

WHEREAS, New York's Returnable Container Act should be modernized to reflect an expanded market of beverages, and the deposit on beverage containers should be increased to 10 cents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Hastings-on-Hudson urges the New York State Legislature to pass and Governor Kathy Hochul to sign into law a strong and effective Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act A5322-A/S4246-A, and an expanded and modernized Bottle Bill A.6353/S.237-B; and

RESOLVED, further, that Hastings-on-Hudson shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, New York State Senate Majority Leader and our State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblymember Shimsky and all others deemed necessary and proper.

29:24 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INCREASE IN AIM FUNDING

Trustee Drake moved, seconded by Trustee Alligood, that the following resolution be approved:
Approved 5-0.

WHEREAS, the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program plays a critical role in funding essential municipal services for cities and villages across New York State; and

WHEREAS, city and village officials share the same priorities as our state leaders which is to make New York safer and more affordable; and

WHEREAS, New York's local governments, who are on the frontlines of controlling property tax affordability and ensuring public safety, are integral to achieving those goals; and

WHEREAS, the State has not increased AIM funding in 15 years and according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation has increased by nearly 45% during that same period; and

WHEREAS, this neglect from the State has led to rising municipal tax burdens and harmful disinvestment in essential municipal services and staff; and

WHEREAS, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the services their residents need; and

WHEREAS, the challenges of rising inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid, only accentuate the need for an increase in AIM funding; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's 2024-25 Executive Budget proposes to keep AIM funding flat; and

WHEREAS, an increase in AIM funding would reduce the local tax burden and help revitalize communities across New York;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson urge Governor Hochul to work with the leaders of the Senate and Assembly and increase AIM funding in the 2024-25 adopted State Budget.

A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky, and the New York State Conference of Mayors.

30:24 SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW C OF 2024, A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 260 TAXATION OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON TO REVISE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE III SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION

Trustee Fleisig moved, seconded by Trustee Drake, that the following resolution be approved:
Approved 5-0.

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees schedule a public hearing for Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:00 PM or shortly thereafter to consider Proposed Local Law C of 2024, a Local Law to Amend Chapter 260 Taxation of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson to Revise Provisions of Article III Senior Citizen Exemption.

31:24 SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW D OF 2024, A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 260 TAXATION OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON TO REVISE ARTICLE VIII EXEMPTION FOR MEMBERS OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE CORPS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW

Trustee Alligood moved, seconded by Trustee Fleisig, that the following resolution be approved:
Approved 4-0. Trustee Drake recused himself from the vote.

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees schedule a public hearing for Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:00 PM or shortly thereafter to consider Proposed Local Law D of 2024, a Local Law to Amend Chapter 260 Taxation of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson to Revise Article VIII Exemption for Members of Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps Pursuant to Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law.

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Prior to the adoption of resolution 30:24, Village Manager Murphy and Village Attorney Whitehead introduced a discussion of the proposed law. Board discussion followed.

Prior to the adoption of 31:24, Village Manager Murphy and Village Attorney Whitehead introduced a discussion of the proposed law. Board discussion followed. Trustee Drake recused himself from the discussion.

Village Manager Murphy presented a proposal to the Village Board regarding a crosswalk study on Warburton Avenue at Division Street and Pinecrest Drive. Board discussion followed. The proposal will appear on the next meeting's agenda for authorization.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

Mayor Armacost reminded the Village Board and members of the public that a public workshop on the Route 9 Complete Streets project will be held on March 7, 2024, from 6pm – 8pm at the Tarrytown Recreation Center.

Mayor Armacost reminded the Village Board and members of the public that the Hillside Woods Deer Push is on March 16, 2024 at 10am. Volunteers will meet at the Hillside School Cafetorium. Pre-registration is required and can be found online.

Mayor Armacost introduced a discussion regarding potential incentives for landscapers to switch to electric leaf blowers. The Village Board discussed the criteria, including landscaper application for the incentive, as well as the funding source.

Mayor Armacost announced to the Village Board and members of the public that she has re-registered the Village to be part of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, supporting the monarch butterfly. Mayor Armacost offered thanks to the Conservation Commission, the Beautification Commission, and the Pollinator Pathway group for their work in achieving the pledge items necessary for the Village to apply.

Mayor Armacost provided a recap on recent events and announced the upcoming schedule of events.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Wed. Feb. 21 – Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting, 6:00 PM, Hosted via Zoom
2. Mon. Feb. 26 – Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, 3:00 PM, James Harmon Community Center
3. Thurs. Feb. 29 – Zoning Board of Appeals Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM, Village Hall Meeting Room
4. Mon. Mar. 4 – Architectural Review Board Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM, Village Hall Conference Room
5. Tues. Mar. 5 – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM, Village Hall Meeting Room

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Drake moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting, seconded by Trustee Alligood. Motion carried, all voting "aye". Approved 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:40 PM

Anthony P. Costantini
Village Clerk