

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW C OF 2024 (REVISED)
& REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024**

Regular Meeting Opened 7:02 PM

PLACE: MEETING ROOM, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Armacost
Trustee Lopez
Trustee Fleisig
Trustee Drake
Trustee Alligood

Village Manager Murphy
Village Attorney Whitehead

Absent:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Trustee Alligood, seconded by Trustee Fleisig, the Board of Trustees entered into an Executive Session to discuss matters of particular personnel. Motion carried, all voting “aye”. Approved 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW C OF 2024 (REVISED)

No members of the public offered public comment to the Village Board.

Trustee Lopez moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Trustee Drake. Motion carried, all voting “aye”. Approved 5-0.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Armacost, with the advice and consent of the Trustees, made the following appointment:

- Anjali Chen, Planning Board, effective as of April 1, 2024.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Drake moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, March 5, 2024, and the minutes for the Budget Work Sessions of March 12, 13, and 18, seconded by Trustee Alligood. Motion carried, all voting “aye”. Approved 5-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

AA. General Fund	\$497,285.78
CD. Fed Drug Grant	\$8,790.00
EM. Draper Park	\$832.00
ER. Pool Fund	\$1,020.91
HH. Capital Fund	\$192,532.72
LL. Library Fund	\$21,471.29
TT. Betterment Fund	\$9,848.55

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Skolnik, of Hillside Avenue, offered public comment, noting the Village Manager’s email regarding the re-commencement of the Route 9 paving project, commenting on noise. Mr. Skolnik also offered public comment regarding the submission of volunteer board and commission minutes. Mr. Skolnik commented on traffic provisions relating to Electric Owl Studios.

RESOLUTIONS

37:24 ADOPTION OF PROPOSED LOCAL LAW C OF 2024 (REVISED), 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 Drake moved, seconded by Trustee Fleisig, that the following resolution be approved: Approved 5-0.

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees hereby adopt Proposed Local Law C of 2024 (Revised), 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:

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

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson as follows:

Section One. Section 260-18 Conditions for exemption is amended to read as follows:

§260-18. Conditions for exemption.

In order to be eligible for a partial exemption as set forth herein, the income of the owner or the combined income of the owners of the property from all sources as set forth in such §467 of the Real Property Tax Law, as amended, for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of making application for exemption exceeds the sum of the maximum income exemption eligibility level for the granting of partial exemption from real property taxation as provided herein. "Income tax year" shall mean the latest twelve-month period for which the owner or owners filed a federal personal income tax return or, if no such return is filed, the latest calendar year. Where title is vested in one spouse, their combined income may not exceed such sum. ~~Such~~

income shall include social security and retirement benefits, interest, dividends, net rental income, salary or earnings and the net income from self-employment but shall not include gifts or inheritances. **“Income” shall be as defined in Real Property Tax Law §467(3)(a)(iv), except that in accordance with Real Property Tax Law § 467(3)(a)(iv)(1), any social security benefits that were not included in the applicant's federal adjusted gross income shall not be considered included in “income.”** Any such income shall be offset by all unreimbursed medical and prescription drug expenses not paid by insurance and/or veterans' disability compensation.

Section Two. Section 260-19 Application for exemption is amended to read as follows:

§ 260-19. Application for exemption.

A. The application for exemption in accordance with the above shall be governed by the provisions of § 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, including those statutory provisions prescribing qualifications for and limitations on such exemptions, the application and processing procedures and the penalties for willful false statements. Application shall be filed with the ~~Village of Hastings-on-Hudson~~ **Town of Greenburgh** Assessor.

~~B. Pursuant to the provisions of Subdivision 8 of § 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Assessor is hereby authorized to accept applications for renewal of exemptions granted under this article after the taxable status date. In the event that the owner or all of the owners of property which has received an exemption pursuant to this article on the preceding assessment roll shall fail to file an application for renewal on or before the taxable status date, such owner or owners may file the application, executed as if such application had been filed on or before the taxable status date, with the Assessor on or before the date set for the hearing of complaints.~~

Section Three. Severability

If any section, subsection, clause, phrase or other portion of this Local Law is, for any reason, declared invalid, in whole or in part, by any court, agency, commission, legislative body or other authority of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent portion. Such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof, which other portions shall continue in full force and effect.

Section Four. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

38:24 ADOPTION OF 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 Drake moved, seconded by Trustee Fleisig, that the following resolution be approved:
Approved 5-0.

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees hereby adopt 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:

**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**

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson as follows:

Section One. Current Article VIII of Chapter 260 of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson entitled “Exemption for Members of Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps” of Chapter 260 Taxation is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with new Article VIII entitled “Exemption for Members of Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps” adopted pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §466-a to read as follows:

Article VIII Exemption for Members of Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps

§260-39 Exemption granted.

Pursuant to §466-a of the Real Property Tax Law an exemption of 10% of assessed value of property owned by an enrolled member as set forth below, or such enrolled member and their spouse, is hereby granted from taxation with respect to the real property taxes of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson as long as eligibility requirements are met.

§260-40 Eligibility.

Such exemption shall be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service provided that:

- A. The property is owned by the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker; and
- B. The property is the primary residence of the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker; and
- C. The property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker’s residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this Article; and
- D. The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker resides in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is served by such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service;
- E. The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker is certified by the authority having jurisdiction as an enrolled member of such an incorporated volunteer fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service; and
- F. The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker meets the minimum service requirement established by the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, which is hereby established as 2 years.

§260-41 Application for exemption.

A volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker must annually, on or before the applicable taxable status date, file an application for such property tax exemption with the

assessor responsible for preparing the assessment roll for the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, on a form as prescribed by the New York State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance. The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson must maintain written guidelines, available upon request, as to the requirements of an enrolled volunteer member relating to this exemption.

§260-42 Certification.

The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Fire Department must annually file with the Assessor, prior to the applicable taxable status date, a list of the active volunteer members who are certified to meet the minimum service requirement. Such list must provide, as of the applicable taxable status date, the number of years of service served by each such enrolled member and such enrolled member's address of residence.

§260-43 No diminution of benefits.

An applicant who is receiving any benefit pursuant to Article 4 of the Real Property Tax Law as of the effective date of this article shall not have any of those benefits diminished because of this article.

§260-44 Grant of lifetime exemption.

Any eligible enrolled member who accrues more than 20 years of active volunteer service (as certified by the authority having jurisdiction) shall be granted the 10% exemption as authorized by this article for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson.

§260-45 Un-remarried spouse of enrolled member killed in the line of duty.

The un-remarried surviving spouse of a deceased enrolled member killed in the line of duty, as certified by the authority having jurisdiction, is qualified to continue to receive an exemption, as long as the deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five years and had been receiving the exemption at the time of his or her death.

§204-47 Un-remarried spouse of deceased enrolled member.

The un-remarried surviving spouse of a deceased enrolled member, as certified by the authority having jurisdiction, is qualified to continue to receive an exemption, as long as the deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least 20 years and the deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption at the time of his or her death.

Section Two. Severability

If any section, subsection, clause, phrase or other portion of this Local Law is, for any reason, declared invalid, in whole or in part, by any court, agency, commission, legislative body or other authority of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent portion. Such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof, which other portions shall continue in full force and effect.

Section Three. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

39:24 SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING – 2024-2025 VILLAGE BUDGET

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM, or shortly thereafter to consider the proposed 2024 – 2025 Village Budget.

40:24 RE-NAMING OF SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

WHEREAS: in 2006 the Mayor and Board of Trustees established the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS: that committee was charged to identify, develop, and coordinate services that help meet the needs of the Village's older residents, with such services enhancing the independence and involvement opportunities in the lives of older adults living in the community; and

WHEREAS: that committee was to advocate for older adults, to identify and to meet their social and cultural needs, to encourage maximum independence and to ensure their quality of life and advise the Mayor, Board of Trustees, and Village Manager on programs, policies, and activities consistent with its charge; and

WHEREAS: the committee's current name is long and unwieldy, does not fully reflect its charge, and is in need of modernization; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees re-name the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee to the Senior Council.

41:24 RESOLUTION URGING INCLUSION OF THE LOCAL JOURNALISM SUSTAINABILITY ACT IN THE NEW YORK STATE BUDGET

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

WHEREAS: threats to freedom of the press and free expression are growing around the world; and

WHEREAS: a free and independent press plays a vital role in combating the growing threats of authoritarianism, misinformation, and disinformation; and

WHEREAS: reaffirming freedom of the press should be a priority for our nation's local, state, and federal leaders as they strive to promote democracy, transparency, human rights, and good governance; and

- WHEREAS:** from 2022 to 2023, 11% of weekly newspapers in New York State have suspended publication, highlighting the urgent need to support and sustain local journalism outlets; and
- WHEREAS:** New York State has lost half of its journalists since 2005; and
- WHEREAS:** local news outlets serve to keep citizens informed of the work of their local governments through reporting, legal notices, and community calendars; and
- WHEREAS:** small municipalities have limited resources to create additional lines of communication for residents to fill the void left when a local press ceases to publish; and
- WHEREAS:** academic studies in the political economy space show that geographic areas with reduced local media coverage have less informed voters and lower voter turnout rates; and
- WHEREAS:** through community calendars and coverage, local news outlets engage the community and attract volunteers to support the demands on municipal staff; and
- WHEREAS:** the Local Journalism Sustainability Act (S.625B/A2958C) sponsored by Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal and Assemblymember Carrie Woerner provides a vital mechanism to support local journalism by offering tax credits to local news outlets for the employment of local news journalists; and now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees:
- Urge Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to include provisions in the state budget to support local journalism in Hastings-on-Hudson and across New York State, specifically through the inclusion of the Local Journalism Sustainability Act.
 - Recognize the critical role of local journalism in fostering an informed and engaged citizenry, promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance.
 - Call upon the Governor and state legislature to prioritize the passage of the Local Journalism Sustainability Act to ensure the continued availability of reliable and comprehensive local news coverage for our community.
 - Emphasize the importance of local news outlets in keeping citizens informed about the work of their local governments, promoting civic engagement, and facilitating community involvement.

- Direct the Village Clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Hochul and members of the New York State Legislature representing Hastings-on-Hudson, urging their support and action in including the Local Journalism Sustainability Act in the state budget; and be it further

RESOLVED: that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

42:24 AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE LETTER OF RESOLUTION WITH NYS OPRHP, NYS DEC, AND ELECTRIC OWL STUDIOS REGARDING PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GRAHAM-WINDHAM PROPERTY

Trustee Drake moved, seconded by Trustee Lopez, that the following resolution be approved: Approved 4-0. Trustee Fleisig voted “nay”.

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to execute the letter of resolution for the development of the Graham-Windham property in connection with the construction of the Electric Owl Studio project, as attached.

43:24 ADOPTION OF POOL FEES

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees hereby approve Pool Fees as follows:

Early Bird 2024

Full Season Family	525
Split Season Family	370
Full Season Indiv	275
Full Season Jr. Indiv	135
Split Season Indiv	205
Family of Two	460
Split Family of Two	330

Regular Pricing 2024

Full Season Family	570
Split Season Family	395
Full Season Indiv	305
Split Season Indiv	245
Full Season Jr. Indiv	150
Family of Two	520
Split Family of Two	365
Daily Admission	150
Special/Caregiver	150
Early Morning	150
Non-Resident Fam	875
Non-Resident Indiv	520

VILLAGE MANAGER’S REPORT

Village Manager Murphy and Parks and Recreation Superintendent Podhurst presented the Village Board with the Village’s “Tree City USA” sign commemorating 40 years of the Village being a “Tree City”. Potential sites for the signs were discussed. Superintendent Podhurst will provide the Village Board with sample photos for final approval.

Village Manager Murphy began a discussion regarding the recently awarded joint-arborist grant with Dobbs Ferry and Irvington. The grant is being administered by American Forests. Village Manager Murphy recommended that the current matching funds commitment be adjusted to increase flexibility of the scope of work. Board discussion followed. The Village Board agreed to Village Manager Murphy’s recommendations.

Village Manager Murphy presented the Village Board with an available grant opportunity through the USDOT for road safety and planning, focusing on pedestrian safety, particularly for Ravensdale Road and Route 9A, Farragut Avenue, Mount Hope Boulevard, and associated side streets. The Village Board authorized the Village Manager to proceed with the grant application.

Village Manager Murphy informed the Village Board that Westchester County has instituted a program with Helpsy, a textile recycling and repurposing company, to collect textiles curbside from homes. Village Manager Murphy recommended the Village joining. A resolution will be brought before the Village Board for consideration.

Village Manager Murphy provided a progress update on the water tower refurbishment. The project is set to be completed in early April. Village Manager Murphy reminded parents that the path to the school is currently closed and to use alternate means for accessing the school. Village Manager Murphy clarified for the Village Board and the public that the water tower is not owned or operated by the Village and that the Village has not signed any agreement with Veolia or the selected contractor.

Village Manager Murphy and Parks and Recreation Superintendent Podhurst provided the Village Board with proposed increased pool fees for 2024. This proposal was unanimously approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission. After this discussion, the Village Board adopted resolution 43:24.

Village Manager Murphy informed the Village Board that the remaining work for Route 9 south of Five Corners includes catch basin repair and drainage work, then proceeding north and out of the Village.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

Mayor Armacost began a discussion regarding the Landscapers Program for providing proof of purchase of electric equipment. Board discussion occurred regarding the particulars. The Village Board directed the Village Clerk and Village Attorney to develop the resolution and application for the next Village Board Meeting.

Mayor Armacost read a letter to the Village Board from Helen Mary Turek, thanking the village community for the care and support from friends, neighbors, and the Village government.

Mayor Armacost, Trustee Fleisig, and Village Manager Murphy reported back to the Village Board and the public regarding the public workshop on March 7, 2024, held at the Tarrytown Senior Center. The workshop was modeled as a visioning exercise for participants.

Mayor Armacost reported back to the Village Board on the Hillside Woods Deer Drive held on Saturday, March 16, 2024. The Drive was well attended and had over 100 participants. The event was noted as a strong community event. Mayor Armacost offered thanks to the Village staff, the school district, board and commission volunteers, and the participating public.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Wed. Mar. 20 – Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting, 6:00 PM, Hosted via Zoom
2. Wed. Mar. 20 – Conservation Commission Meeting, 8:00 PM, Hosted via Zoom
3. Thurs. Mar. 21 – Safety Council Meeting, 7:00 PM, Village Hall Conference Room
4. Thurs. Mar. 21 – Planning Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM, Village Hall Meeting Room
5. Mon. Mar. 25 – Senior Council Meeting, 3:15 PM, James Harmon Community Center
6. Mon. Apr. 1 – Architectural Review Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Village Hall Conference Room
7. Tues. Apr. 2 – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM, Village Hall Meeting Room

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting Adjourned 9:18 PM

Anthony P. Costantini
Village Clerk