

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2024-2025 VILLAGE BUDGET  
& REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024**

**Regular Meeting Opened 7:00 PM**

**PLACE:** MEETING ROOM, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Armacost  
Trustee Fleisig  
Trustee Drake  
Trustee Alligood

Village Manager Murphy  
Village Attorney Whitehead

Absent: Trustee Lopez

**PRESENTATION**

Members of the Rivertowns Skate Society, Denim McNeil, of Elm Place, Caetano Beltrano, of Cochrane Avenue, and Sawyer Dolgins, of Pinecrest Parkway presented to the Village Board about the proposed Skate Park Project in the Village. Pearl Dean, of Villard Avenue, read a statement in support of the proposed Skate Park Project. Alexandria Hassan, of Broadway, read a statement in support of the proposed Skate Park Project.

Mike Jacobs, of Hopke Avenue, and the Parks and Recreation Commission, presented to the Village Board regarding the proposed Skate Park Project. Anthony Fischetti, of Windsor Road, also presented to the Village Board. Josh Dean, of Villard Avenue, and the Parks and Recreation Commission, also presented to the Village Board.

Village Board discussion followed the presentations.

Jason Rezmovits, of Circle Drive, offered public comment in support of the proposed Skate Park Project, offering to commit time and funding to the project.

Zoe Malliaros, of Villard Avenue, offered public comment in support of the proposed Skate Park Project.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2024-2025 VILLAGE BUDGET**

Village Manager Murphy introduced the proposed budget at the beginning of the public hearing, noting that the budget currently under discussion is the result of changes made through the Budget Work Session process. The currently proposed tax rate is 5.573 per 1,000.

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

Trustee Drake moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Trustee Fleisig. Motion carried, all voting “aye”. Approved 4-0.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Alligood moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, March 19, 2024, seconded by Trustee Drake. Motion carried, all voting “aye”. Approved 4-0.

## **APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

Trustee Alligood moved to approve the warrants, seconded by Trustee Drake. Motion carried, all voting “aye”. Approved 4-0.

AA. General Fund	\$159,980.43
CD. Fed Drug Grant	\$4,360.00
ER. Pool Fund	\$831.22
HH. Capital Fund	\$83,187.53
LL. Library Fund	\$2,941.83
TT. Betterment Fund	\$5,955.31
TT. Payroll Fund	\$3,467.32

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **44:24 EARTH DAY PROCLAMATION**

Trustee Drake moved, seconded by Trustee Alligood, that the following resolution be approved: Approved 4-0.

**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 Nicola Armacost does hereby proclaim Monday, April 22, 2024, as Earth Day in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and urges all citizens to support environmental initiatives in the village, regionally and nationally, and to encourage others to undertake similar actions.

**45:24 ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION**

Trustee Drake moved, seconded by Trustee Alligood, that the following resolution be approved:  
Approved 4-0.

**WHEREAS,** on January 4, 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

**WHEREAS,** this holiday, called Arbor Day, was observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska on April 8, 1874, and in 1875 became a legal holiday in Nebraska, and

**WHEREAS,** Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

**WHEREAS,** trees reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, store carbon and thus mitigate climate change, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

**WHEREAS,** trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

**WHEREAS,** trees in our Village increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** that the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, recognized as a Tree City USA Community by the National Arbor Day Foundation for forty (40) years, desires to continue its tree planting ways, and be it further

**RESOLVED:** that Mayor Nicola Armacost does hereby proclaim Friday, April 26, 2024, as Arbor Day in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and urges all citizens to support efforts to care for our trees and woodlands.

**46:24 PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL AS “NATIVE PLANT MONTH” IN THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON**

Trustee Drake moved, seconded by Trustee Alligood, that the following resolution be approved:  
Approved 4-0.

**WHEREAS,** native plants are indigenous species that have evolved and occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, and habitat; and

**WHEREAS,** native plants help prevent flooding, drought, and erosion and can help restore damaged ecosystems; and

- WHEREAS,** native plants provide shelter as well as nectar, pollen, and seeds that serve as food for rapidly declining populations of native butterflies, insects, birds, and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot; and
- WHEREAS,** more than 200 of the native plant species in the United States are estimated to have been lost since the early 19th century; and
- WHEREAS,** habitat loss and fragmentation, extreme weather events, invasive species, and herbicide use have contributed to the decline of native plants in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** native plants are essential components of resilient ecosystems and our natural heritage.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Nicola Armacost, Mayor of Hastings-on-Hudson, do hereby proclaim April 2024,

“NATIVE PLANT MONTH”  
IN THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

April 2, 2024

**47:24 RESOLUTION OPPOSING NYSERDA’S REDUCTION IN FUNDING FOR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS**

Trustee Alligood moved, seconded by Trustee Drake, that the following resolution be approved:  
Approved 4-0.

- WHEREAS,** the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson has participated in NYSERDA’s Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program since March 22, 2017, earning 11,100 points and 5 designations to date; and
- WHEREAS,** the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson has allotted grant funding from the NYSERDA Stretch to Zero grant to install a geothermal energy system at Village Hall and the Library; and
- WHEREAS,** NYSERDA has proposed to the Public Service Commission to potentially end the CEC Program which rewards municipalities based on performance and results, and replace it with a smaller amount of funding for a select cohort of municipalities in 2026, merging the municipal outreach role of NYSERDA’s CEC Coordinators with the DEC’s CSC Coordinator network; and
- WHEREAS,** the CEC Program’s no-match grants and coordinator support have helped jumpstart clean energy action in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and will remain critical in the coming years; and
- WHEREAS,** New York State is unlikely to be able to meet the emissions and equity goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) without providing incentives in the form of financial support to local

governments to enable them to initiate projects that would otherwise be unaffordable; and

**WHEREAS,** the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and our sister municipalities require additional funding and support to help us meet the emissions reduction requirements of the Climate Act; and

**WHEREAS,** the New York Climate Act Scoping Plan specifically mentions the importance of the State partnering with local governments to meet the emissions reductions requirements of the Act; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** that the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson strongly urges the Public Service Commission and NYSERDA to continue the CEC program and increase the existing funding level to enable the State to reach its climate goals by providing performance-based grants and awards to municipalities.

**48:24 AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH WESTCHESTER COUNTY FOR HELPSY TEXTILE RECYCLING**

Trustee Drake moved, seconded by Trustee Alligood, that the following resolution be approved:  
Approved 4-0.

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to enter into an agreement with Westchester County for the Helpsy textile curbside recycling program.

**49:24 AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH WESTCHESTER COUNTY FOR THE COUNTY REPOSITORY FOR INTEGRATED CRIMINALISTIC INFORMATION**

Trustee Drake moved, seconded by Trustee Alligood, that the following resolution be approved:  
Approved 4-0.

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to execute an Intermunicipal Agreement with Westchester County for the County Repository for Integrated Criminalistic Information (RICI), as attached.

**50:24 ESTABLISHMENT OF LANDSCAPER ELECTRIFICATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Trustee Drake moved, seconded by Trustee Fleisig, that the following resolution be approved:  
Approved 4-0.

**WHEREAS:** the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is committed to promoting a healthy environment and promoting eco-conscious practices; and

**WHEREAS:** the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson has adopted Local Law 3 of 2023, prohibiting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the Village except during the period of October 15 through December 31 of each year; and

**WHEREAS:** the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson has received \$15,000 in grant funding that is eligible for disbursement and which will be utilized for the Landscaper Electrification Incentive Program; and

**WHEREAS:** the Mayor and Board of Trustees acknowledges the potential hardship electrification poses to landscapers and is desirous to help ease said hardship; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees establish the Landscaper Electrification Incentive Program:

**Landscaper Electrification Incentive Program**

This one-time program is designed to ease the hardship for landscapers as they transition to electrifying their leaf blowers and associated equipment. The program will be active through December 31, 2024 or when the \$15,000 is expended, whichever comes first.

**Reimbursement Amount:** Up to \$1,500 per registered Landscaper as defined in the Village Code for the purchase of commercial grade electric leaf blowers and associated necessary equipment.

**Reimbursement Cap:** No Landscaper may receive more than \$1,500 in incentive funding.

**Eligibility:** Requirements for applying for and being awarded funds for reimbursement are as follows:

- This is a first come, first served program.
- Only landscapers registered with the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson may apply for and receive reimbursement.
- Equipment must have been purchased after Local Law 3 of 2023 went into effect on January 1, 2024.
- Landscapers must provide the Village Clerk with proof of purchase of said equipment, such as a copy of a receipt or invoice.
- Landscapers must provide evidence of working in Hastings-on-Hudson to the reasonable satisfaction of the Village Clerk, such as a contract/agreement with a homeowner within the Village, a letter of reference or confirmation of services from a homeowner within the Village, or a copy of a paid invoice and a copy of a cashed check for services rendered in the village.

**Method of Disbursement:** Landscapers entitled to reimbursement hereunder will be provided with a check for up to the maximum of \$1,500 to be mailed to the address on the registration as part of the Village's regular payment process.

**Application:** Interested landscapers must complete an application either online (link) or in-person at the Village Clerk's office.



**Village of Hastings-on-Hudson  
Landscaper Electrification Incentive Program**

**Application for Reimbursement**

Landscaping Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Landscaping Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Equipment Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost Claimed: \_\_\_\_\_

Must provide proof of purchase (attach):

- Receipt
- Invoice

Must provide evidence of working in Hastings-on-Hudson (attach):

- Contract/agreement
- Letter of reference or confirmation of services
- Copy of paid invoice and copy of cashed check for services

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **51:24 AMENDMENT TO VILLAGE FEE SCHEDULE**

Trustee Alligood moved, seconded by Trustee Fleisig, that the following resolution be approved:  
Approved 4-0.

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees amend the Village Fee Schedule as follows:

Sidewalk Café:	\$200 per season
Parklet:	\$250 per parking space per year

### **VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**

Village Manager Murphy provided the Village Board with proposed locations for the Tree City USA signs. The Village Board has left this to the discretion of the Village Manager, who will speak with the State regarding posting one sign on Broadway or Farragut Parkway, and the County regarding posting one sign on Warburton Avenue. Village Manager Murphy will report back.

Village Manager Murphy updated the Village Board regarding proposals for the landscaping maintenance of Quarry Park. Village Manager Murphy recommended contracting with Pennington Grey, in the amount of \$10,902 for the season, as the proposed plan aligns well with the original design concept. A resolution will be presented at the next Village Board meeting.

Village Clerk Costantini presented the highlights of the Government Operations Climate Action Plan to the Village Board.

Village Manager Murphy updated the Village Board on the status of the TAP grant for the sidewalk on Broadway, the status of the CDBG design documents for downtown sidewalks, as well as ongoing work in the Riverview Manor section of the Village performed by Con Edison, and hydrant flushing performed by Veolia village-wide. The State will be working on Route 9 to move north out of the Village. DPW will begin catch basin cleaning within the week.

### **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS**

Mayor Armacost introduced a discussion regarding sidewalk café and parklet fees. Mayor Armacost, Village Manager Murphy, and Downtown Advocate Prisament met with downtown restaurateurs to discuss proposed fee structures. The proposed fees are:

Sidewalk Café:	\$200 per season
Parklets:	\$250 per parking spot per year

After Board discussion, resolution 51:24 was adopted.

Mayor Armacost provided a comprehensive update on the Clean Energy Communities grant program, noting that the Village has earned 11,100 points through completing 28 actions. These actions have provided the Village with \$662,500 in funding.

Mayor Armacost made note of the successful Clean Energy Communities campaign programs, such as community solar, including the community solar site on the School District's middle and



high school complex, household accounts enrolled in the program, and four municipal meters enrolled in the program; the electric vehicle campaign, with 413 EVs registered in the zip code, with 131 registered in 2023; the energy smart homes campaign, in which heat pumps are installed in residential properties, with 73 approved in 2023; and GridRewards, in which residents and the municipality reduce electricity consumption on particular days and at particular times and are provided a dollar award in return.

Mayor Armacost apprised the Village Board with the highlights of the 2023 Climate Smart Communities Annual Progress Report, noting the Village's actions and achievements as part of this program. A resolution for adoption will be presented at the next Village Board meeting.

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Thurs. Apr. 4 – Zoning Board of Appeals Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM, Village Hall Meeting Room
2. Wed. Apr. 10 – CPU & LWRP Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM, James Harmon Community Center
3. Thurs. Apr. 11 – Affordable Housing Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM, James Harmon Community Center
4. Thurs. Apr. 11 – Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting, 8:00 PM, James Harmon Community Center
5. Tues. Apr. 16 – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM, Village Hall Meeting Room

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Drake moved to conclude the public portion of the meeting and hold an Executive Session to discuss matters of particular personnel, and adjourn the Regular Meeting at the end of the Executive Session without returning to the Regular Meeting, seconded by Trustee Alligood. Motion carried, all voting "aye". Approved 4-0.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:53 PM**

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Anthony P. Costantini  
Village Clerk