

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Tuesday, September 6th, 2011, beginning at 8:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Batista	- Absent
	Trustee Bueno	- Present
	Trustee Watson	- Present
	Trustee Dominguez	- Present
	Mayor Kohut	- Present

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed the public that Trustee Batista was absent from the meeting due to a medical emergency with his wife. He then opened the floor to the first Public Participation inviting the public to ask questions or make comments.

Gil Musinger, 1416 Round Point Drive: Mr. Musinger expressed his thanks to the Mayor and the Board for their quick response to having the ditch filled in on the side of Dr. Girling Drive. He does feel, however, that something more permanent should be done because some of that fill was washed away during the last storm. He requested that the Board look into the pothole problems in the area of Short Clove Road and Route 9W, which he believes is a safety issue for all drivers. He then mentioned reviewing some regulations from the Committee on Open Government and feels everyone would agree with the legislative declaration, which basically states that it is essential that public business be performed in an open and public manner. He then specifically spoke about the minutes, which are supposed to be made available to the public within two weeks of a meeting. He again requested the Board have all meeting minutes available to the public in a timely manner to conform to the regulations.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Musinger that a hard copy of the minutes, in draft form, is always available to the public within the time allotted. The minutes are not posted on the Website until the Board has reviewed and approved them.

Larry Levine, 1414 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Levine heard that the light fixture came in for the DPW building.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor spoke with Bobby Drexler who said the fixture was supposed to be in by the 24th, but he was not sure if, in fact, the light fixture has arrived. The storm related damage has kept the DPW occupied, but he will find out and have it taken care of as soon as possible.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then inquired about the painting of the DPW building and wanted to know if the Village received insurance funds to take care of the building after the fire.

Terence Watson: Trustee Watson stated that they are still planning to get the building painted.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that the insurance money was to be used strictly for the repair of the building and replacement of the lost items inside. It was not intended to pay for painting the building.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine inquired if the Board had a chance to look into "STOP" signs for Short Clove Road in the area of the new sidewalk. He is concerned about fast moving vehicles once the new overpass is opened. He also wanted to know if a traffic light was going to be installed in that area.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor has driven past the area where the new sidewalk was installed, but the Village has not yet analyzed the whole situation to install "STOP" signs in that particular area. The Mayor feels it might get better when the overpass is open because there will be a "STOP" sign at the end of the ramp.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine feels a traffic light is needed at the end of the ramp because people are not going to pay attention to a "STOP" sign.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Levine that the State will only be installing a "STOP" sign at the end of the ramp and that no traffic light is scheduled for installation in that area.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport asked if the Village Square Clock could be set to play patriotic music for the weekend of 9/11 in honor of the tenth anniversary. He thanked the Village for providing him with sand bags to prevent flooding in his store from the storm.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood informed the Board that he has looked into a law for keeping chickens, which he is now reviewing. Among other regulations, it would specify the number of chickens allowed to be kept by each household. He is also looking into creating a law regarding the paint colors that can be used in the downtown area of the Village due to the over use of red, white and blue color schemes by many Barber Shops in the Village. He hopes to have a draft ready for the Board's review by the next meeting. Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

VILLAGE CLERK/TREASURER, Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: With regard to Hurricane Irene, the Mayor reported that the Village made it through the storm with minor damage. He spoke about some flooding issues in the areas of McKenzie Avenue, the Hornick property and the Tilcon property. He also mentioned that the river came up in many places including the Harbors and Emeline Park, but stated there were no major problems. He reported that the fire department responded throughout the day and night on calls for assistance with pump outs, etc. He then spoke about the Minisceongo Creek eating away at some properties, mentioning that the County is in the process of overhauling all the creeks and streams in the County to avoid any more problems during heavy rainfalls and storms.

The Mayor then presented the following bids for board approval:

1) The 2011 Road Surfacing Program – This includes resurfacing of the roads and installation of speed humps on Division and Clinton Streets. The Village received two bids, with Tilcon having the lowest bid in the amount of \$107,164.00 including the catch basins, etc.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to award the project for the 2011 Road Surfacing Program to Tilcon at \$107,164.00.

RESOLUTION #184-2011

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Terence Watson

Motion carries: All

2) The 2011 Curb and Sidewalk Replacement Project – This is for the replacement of sidewalks on Gurnee Avenue from Warren Knolls to the south side opposite Hoover Avenue. The sidewalks above that area were already replaced. The lowest bid was Bella Vista Construction with a bid of \$61,995.00. The Mayor mentioned that Bella Vista has done work for the Town and the Village of West Haverstraw.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to award the project for the 2011 Curb and Sidewalk Replacement to Bella Vista Construction at \$61,995.00

RESOLUTION #185-2011

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion carries: All

The Mayor then informed the public that the Village had previously requested the County to install a bus shelter in the area of Broadway and Lincoln Street, where many residents wait for the bus. He received a letter from Rockland County Transportation who has agreed to install a new bus shelter in this area. The county does, however, require a letter to be signed by the Mayor and approved by the Board stating that once the shelter is installed the Village will maintain it.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion for the Village to send a letter to Rockland County Transportation stating that it will maintain the bus shelter after installation by the County.

RESOLUTION #186-2011

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Motion carries: All

The Mayor stated that the Village received the Annual LOSAP Report (Length of Service Awards Program) for the fire department. The report showed an increase of 4+% in the fund, based upon the investments and including the payouts. The Village is required to accept this report by resolution.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the LOSAP Report.

RESOLUTION #187-2011

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor reported that the Village has received a grant from the Rockland County Health Department, who applied for the grant on behalf of the Village. The grant funds, he believes, originate from the New York State and are to be used toward creating healthy communities. It allowed the Village to install some exercise stations and park benches along the Green Way Trail and on Broadway. It was also used to help fund the Community Garden. As part of that grant, the Village has to demonstrate that it is trying to create healthy places to live, work and play in our community, as well as to help prevent chronic disease factors, increase availability of places for physical activity, increase access and consumption of healthy and affordable foods, help parents make healthy family choices, reduce access to foods with no nutritional value, increase the availability of fresh fruit and vegetables, create health promoting child care facilities, reduce obesity between children and adults, improve access for safe places for children to play, etc.

The County requires a proclamation to that affect, which the mayor read as follows:

"I, Michael Kohut, Mayor of the Village of Haverstraw, do hereby proclaim the Village of Haverstraw to be committed to the ideals of a healthier community and to create healthy places to live, work and play. I encourage all our citizens to join me in making health and wellness a priority and adopt a lifelong preventative health promoting behavior."

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to send the proclamation to the County.

RESOLUTION #188-2011

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Terence Watson

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor then informed the public that the Village received a "Certificate of Recognition" for its dedication to the Rockland County Americorp Program. He explained that it is a national program designed to give creative and educational jobs to our youth. The Village has been involved in this program for the past 5 or 6 years. George White, Superintendent of Public Works, has had the youth working with the DPW on various projects including the Community Garden, the Kaboom Park Project, etc. They also helped map the storm drain system, which the Mayor stated was a big money saver for the Village.

The Mayor then reminded everyone that the Annual Street Fair will take place on Sunday, September 25th, as well as the Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour.

The Mayor received a request from Judith Curcio to attend the NYS Comptrollers Accountability School in White Plains on September 27th and 28th. The cost of the program is \$100.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #189-2011

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno thanked the Village firefighters for a job well done during Hurricane Irene. He then informed everyone that Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. #1 will be having a “WET DOWN” for their new truck on September 17th starting at 4:00 PM. He invited everyone to join them.

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Trustee Terence Watson:

Trustee Watson read the following report submitted by George White, Superintendent of Public Works for the period ending September 6th, 2011:

- 1) Prepared for, and worked through Hurricane Irene.
- 2) Filled and distributed over 2,000 sandbags to village residents.
- 3) Severe sewer blockage at the Green Hill Nursing Home caused by heavy rain storms.
- 4) Continue cutting grass at all Village of Haverstraw properties, parks and parking lots.
- 5) Picked up yard waste, construction debris and white goods.
- 6) A tree fell at Greenway Trail due to the rain storm.
- 7) Line Striping throughout the Village.
- 8) Paved storm damaged streets.
- 9) Started the excavation of the damaged sidewalk at the corner of Prospect Street and Hudson Avenue.

- 10) DPW secretary came in over the weekend due to Hurricane Irene to assist with heavy call volume and to assist with any concerns and questions regarding the storm. She also kept a log of the distribution of the sandbags that were provided to village residents.
- 11) Cleaned up after the Latin parade.
- 12) Installed a fence at Jefferson St. Park.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez reported that the Community Center was open on Saturday and Sunday to anyone needing shelter during Hurricane Irene. She then mentioned that Haverstraw Center received a "Thank You" letter from Catholic Community Services for help they received over the summer. She explained that during the summer there were over a dozen youth that created and helped maintain the Catholic Services Community Garden of Love, donating over 320 manpower hours, including 9 weeks of labor during the summer program. The Director of Catholic Services extended a special "thank you" to Tanya Soto for her assistance throughout the summer. Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista was absent from the meeting, therefore no report was read. The Mayor stated that a combined report would be read at the next meeting.

MINUTES – The Mayor presented the minutes of August 15th for approval. Neither the Mayor or the Board had the opportunity to review the minutes, therefore, they will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mel Post: Mr. Post mentioned reading in the Journal News recently that the Village of New Square received a \$400,000.00 grant for a new playground. He wanted to know how aggressively the Village is pursuing grant funds and who is in charge of looking into these grants to obtain money for the Village.

Terence Watson: Trustee Watson responded that he receives e-mails with the Grant Action News issued by the State. These e-mails inform him of any funding that is available for a municipality, a school or a non-profit

organization, which are basically the only recipients of grant funding in the State. He informed Mr. Post that there are some grants out there, but that a lot of the grant funds were cut back due to the economy. He wanted everyone to know that he does keep up with any grants that can be funded to a municipality and presents them to the Board, as long as everything else is in place.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if the Village does have everything in place if we do apply for these grants.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village does apply for grants often, if the grant is applicable to the Village and the Village qualifies. He mentioned that the Village also has a Grant Writer who also receives information on available grants not only from the State, but also through the Federal Government and private agencies. She makes the Board aware of any grants that the Village is eligible for and presents them for approval. The Community Center puts in applications almost on a monthly basis and has received many grants. There are no more member items left on the State or Federal level; those resources have been cut back. Whenever there is anything available for the Village, the Village applies for it.

Gil Musinger: Mr. Musinger spoke about the sidewalk replacement, mentioning that Nyack replaced its sidewalks in the downtown commercial area, which brings business to the area and has a positive effect on the whole Village. In the residential areas, however, the residents were asked to pay 50% of the cost to replace or repair sidewalks. He asked that the Board give serious consideration to doing something similar when replacing or repairing sidewalks in residential neighborhoods. Mr. Musinger then mentioned reading in the Journal News that many county programs may have to be cut due to the economic situation. With this in mind, he feels a county wide police force may be one good way to cut expenses. He realizes that not all townships and villages are in favor of this program, but feels there must be a way to get everyone on board. He requested the Board to speak to whatever people have the power to make these decisions so something can be done to cut back on expenses and not programs.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine inquired if the Village has a PR person to promote the Village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the Village itself does not have a PR person; however the Chamber of Commerce does promote the Village as much as possible, as does the Village itself.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport read that there is going to be a Pawn Shop opening in "Haverstraw" and he is hoping it is not going to be located in our village. He mentioned many years back there was a Pawn Shop in the Village, and that his business was robbed and the items taken were then pawned in that shop. He is against having anything like that in the Village of Haverstraw.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor believes that the Pawn Shop is going into the location where Flash was located on the corner of Route 9W, in West Haverstraw, opposite Key Bank. As far as he knows, there is no Pawn Shop coming into the Village.

Mayor Kohut: In honor of the 10th Anniversary of 9/11, the Mayor requested a moment of silence to remember everyone who lost their lives on that day. With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #190-2011

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift
Senior Steno Clerk
September 8, 2011
File #41