

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, October 3rd, 2011, beginning at 8:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor opened the meeting with the first Public Participation inviting the public to ask questions or make comments.

Larry Levine, 1414 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Levine suggested that the Board try to do more advertising to promote the Village in order to keep moving forward like the other towns and villages who promote all their activities through the local media. He mentioned that the numbers of items in the local newspaper about the Village are very few. He then informed the Board that there is a piece of fence missing on Short Clove Road and wanted to know if there was any way to replace that piece of missing fence.

Terence Watson: Trustee Watson stated that the fence was taken down to do some work in the area and he is not sure whose fence it is.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the fence was originally installed by GDC, but he would look into it. He also thanked Mr. Levine for his suggestion to help promote the Village.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport brought up the broken fence in the area of Anderson Gardens, which he spoke about at the previous meeting and thanked the Board for their quick response in taking care of that issue. He then mentioned when he came into the Village on Sunday for the Street Fair he noticed a lot of different signs all over the telephone poles, some of which he removed. He inquired if the Village can legally take these signs down.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the non-political signage should be removed as soon as an event has ended. He mentioned that the Building Inspector has faced an ongoing battle with promoters over leaving the signs on the poles long after their events. The political signs, however, have different guidelines. He pointed out that the poles are utility poles and are supposed to be kept free of any signage. If a government agency removes the signs it could be conceived as stifling free speech. He did state, however, that Mr. Rappaport could remove any non-political signage as he see fit.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport also mentioned that the Chamber put out a number of signs about the Street Fair, but most could not be seen because of all the political signage all over the place. He then commended the DPW for always responding so promptly whenever asked to make repairs or take care of whatever problems are brought to their attention, even coming out on a Sunday when necessary.

Gil Musinger, 1416 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Musinger thinks that Street Fairs are very important to the Village, bringing in crowds of people who can see what the Village has to offer. He suggested that the dates be set for the Street Fairs early in the year so that as many people as possible can attend each event.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Musinger that the all the Rockland Chambers meet early in the year to set the dates for their events in order to prevent duplications. He then mentioned that Nyack had scheduled their Street Fair for the Sunday before Haverstraw's, but later discovered that their date was during the Jewish Holiday and changed the date, unbeknownst to anyone else.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post mentioned that he spoke with Village Attorney Jay Hood, Jr. with regard to the political signs. He feels the number of signs in any one given area is ridiculous and that any one candidate should only be allowed to put one sign in any given area. Counselor Hood thought that the Board might be able to do something about how many political signs are allowed to be placed in an area in the Village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor agreed with Mr. Post that many candidates do go overboard with their signage. He believes the Board can put a limit on the number of signs allowable in the Village, however, he does not feel that this is the proper time to make this change, since the candidates are already in the middle of a campaign. He did mention, however, that it is definitely something that the Board will address for future campaigns, possibly by sending letters informing anyone announcing their candidacy that the Village of Haverstraw regulations stipulate that they can only place one sign in any given area in the Village and that any duplicate signs would be removed.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr. Esq.: Counselor Hood requested Board approval for a reduction in taxes for the Chase Bank on Route 9W and permission for the Mayor to sign multiple copies of the Stipulation Settlement Agreement for this reduction. He has spoken with the Assessor and they have agreed, since it is not a significant number, that Chase Bank be allowed this reduction. The original assessment was \$142,500.00 minus \$15,500.00 reducing the assessment down to \$127,000.00, which amounts to approximately \$10,000 over a five year period.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the Stipulation Settlement Agreement and authorizing the Mayor to sign the documents accordingly.

RESOLUTION #198-2011

Motion by: Terence Watson

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

VILLAGE TREASURER, Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio gave the following report for July, 2011:

Total Disbursements	-	\$598,704.00
Total Revenue	-	\$315,151.00

Ms. Curcio had nothing further to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut:

The Mayor reported that he and the Board met with three representatives from New York Communities for Change (NYCFC) at the last Workshop. He explained that NYCFC is a group of people seeking to address the needs of mortgage holders who are trying to rework their mortgages during this financial crisis in order to keep them from going into foreclosure. Many banks, in particular JP MORGAN CHASE, who are not willing to help with the needs of their mortgage holders. The Mayor read the following proposal from NYCFC:

URGING JP MORGAN CHASE TO DEVELOP
FAIR LENDING PRACTICES
THROUGHOUT NEW YORK STATE

WHEREAS, the Village of Haverstraw has long had an interest in supporting workforce and other affordable housing and;

WHEREAS, the Village of Haverstraw finds that JP Morgan Chase (Chase) is the holder and/or servicer of mortgages within the State that have been foreclosed or are currently at risk for foreclosure and;

WHEREAS, Chase has demonstrated a lack of willingness to engage in good-faith efforts to negotiate permanent mortgage modifications that would help keep residents in their homes and;

WHEREAS, the Village of Haverstraw does not wish to support nor do business with any company that does not support efforts to reduce foreclosures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Haverstraw that they shall not use JP Morgan Chase in any way when issuing bonds to raise revenue for any purpose.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to adopt the above proposed resolution by not accepting bids from Chase whenever the Village needs to issue bonds and to help prevent foreclosures throughout New York State.

RESOLUTION #199-2011

Motion by: Francisco Batista
Seconded by: Emily Dominguez
Motion carries: All

The Mayor received a letter from the Central Presbyterian Church stating that they are having issues with their insurance company with regard to the sidewalks on New Main Street and Hudson Avenue. The sidewalks are lifting due to the roots of the large trees. They are requesting assistance from the Village with lifting the pieces of sidewalk, cutting the roots and replacing the sidewalks in those areas. The Mayor requested Trustee Watson to forward the letter to George White, Superintendent of Public Works to see what can be done to help the church in this matter.

The Mayor discussed some damage that was done to a car owned by Kimberly Flanagan, which was damaged while the DPW was weed-whacking in the area of the firehouse on Maple Avenue. Some stones were thrown by the weed-whacker, which hit and damaged her vehicle. She has gotten estimates for repairs, with the lowest being from Cilio Auto Body in the amount of \$331.63.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to pay Cilio Auto Body \$331.63 for repairs made to the damaged car.

RESOLUTION #200-2011

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion carries: All

The Mayor read a Letter of Resignation from John Geraghty, Parking Enforcement Officer, resignation effective October 14th. Mr. Geraghty enjoyed his time with the Village and thanked everyone for their support while he was on the job.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept Mr. Geraghty Letter of Resignation with regret.

RESOLUTION #201-2011

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Motion carries: All

The Mayor requested approval for the Justice Court to apply for a Justice Court Grant offered to court facilities for repairs and improvements to their workplace. They are seeking grant money for carpeting, chairs, ceiling tiles, a hearing impaired phone line, etc.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize application for the grant.

RESOLUTION #202-2011

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor spoke about a grant that was previously awarded to the Village by the New York State Energy Agency (NYSERDA) for energy efficiency upgrades in village buildings. The Village had a comprehensive survey done of the Village Hall, the firehouse on Fairmount Avenue and the Community Center, which use the most energy of any village buildings. A

proposal has been submitted to NYSERDA and the Village was awarded \$36,000.00. The Village engineers prepared an RFP, which was sent out for bid. One proposal was received from Albright Electric in the amount of \$17,500.00 which includes \$1,500.00 for the Village Hall, \$4,000.00 for the Community Center and \$12,000.00 for the firehouse on Fairmount Avenue.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the proposal from Albright Electric in the amount of \$17,500 for repair work as stated above.

RESOLUTION #203-2011

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

The Mayor received a proposal from PenFlex Inc., who is the management company for the Haverstraw Fire Department "Length of Service Award Program" (LOSAP). They have proposed \$5,800.00 for their management fee and \$495.00 for an audit review.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve both amounts as stated above.

RESOLUTION #204-2011

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

The Mayor read an invitation from Head Start for the Board to attend their opening day celebration on Thursday, October 6th between 9:00 and 11:30 AM. Trustee Watson will attend.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:
REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno read the following report submitted by Fire Chief Patrick McNamee for the month of September as follows:

Fire alarms	14
Structure Fire	1
Special Calls	0
Boat call	0
Extrication Calls	0
Mutual Aid	0
False alarms	5
Total members responding	- 469

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 October 3rd:

- 1) Installed catch basin on the corner of Sharp and Leonard Streets.
- 2) Started catching up on grass cutting throughout the Village.
- 3) Started preparing all trucks for the winter season.
- 4) Installed a new fence on Leonard Street.
- 5) Started work on reinstalling the fence at the bus stop corner of Broadway and Lincoln Street.
- 6) Picked up yard waste, construction debris and white goods.
- 7) Completed the installation of the new sidewalk at the corner of Hudson Avenue and Prospect Street.
- 8) Participated in the Street Fair with set-up and cleanup throughout the day.
- 9) The DPW building will be painted within the next two week period.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez had nothing to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Francisco Batista:

Trustee Batista read the following report submitted by Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios for the period of September 19th through September 30th:

Ticket enforcers - 321 in the month of September

Rental property inspections	-	41
Municipal searches	-	3
Miscellaneous inspections	-	93
Construction inspections	-	22
Complaints	-	11
Violations & tickets	-	8
Permits	-	17

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lisa Campbell, 100 Dowd Street: Ms. Campbell thanked the Board, on behalf of herself and her neighbor, Barbara Curti, for the Board's attention to their concerns at the Workshop. She also mentioned the oversized political sign that is blocking the view for drivers coming off of Dowd Street onto Route 202.

Barbara Curti, 100 Dowd Street: Ms. Curti mentioned the items regarding Dowd Street problems, which were discussed at a Workshop including flooding, broken catch basins and the icing conditions during the winter due to the curvature of the road. She stated all these things have a tremendous affect on the people who live on Dowd Street and wanted to be sure that the work session they had would be included in the minutes.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that the Workshop meetings are not recorded or included in the minutes, however, what she just said would become a part of the minutes.

Mayor Kohut: 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 #205-2011

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift
Senior Steno Clerk
October 5th, 2011
Tape #45