

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, January 7th, 2013, beginning at 8:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Batista	- Present
	Trustee Bueno	- Absent
	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.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post inquired if the Mayor was able to get a letter out to the politicians with regard to assault weapons.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that the Conference of Mayors sent out a lengthy five-page letter to the President approximately two weeks prior, which he signed along with hundreds of other Mayors.

Mel Post: Mr. Post felt that letters should also be sent to the Governor. He also requested that the Mayor draft a letter from the residents of the Village. Mr. Post then inquired if the Mayor and Board have given any thought to the restaurant initiative with the Culinary Institute (CIA).

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that with everything else going on with the storms, cleanup, etc. that the Board has not had the opportunity to discuss the possibility of a restaurant initiative with the CIA, but it is something they will consider doing when time allows.

With no further input from the floor, the Mayor announced that there was a Public Hearing scheduled for 8:05 PM that night with regard to the 2013 Community Development Block Grants. He explained to the public that residents of the Village are selected to be a part of the Community Development Citizen's Advisory Board who, in conjunction with the Village Board, are involved in making the decisions for which applications received by the Village would be presented to the Rockland County Community Development Office.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #1-2013

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor gave an overview of the Community Development Program, informing the public that Rockland County will receive approximately \$1.2 million for 2013, which will be distributed to municipalities and nonprofit agencies throughout the County. Haverstraw has always been a recipient of Community Development funds, which have been used for such things as the Façade program, Head Start, extensive roadwork throughout the Village, as well as funding non-profits including the Arts Alliance for their many programs and G.E.T. He mentioned that the Village could receive between \$90,000.00 to \$100,000.00 based on Census Track and financial information. He then opened the floor to the public.

With no response from the public, Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #2-2013

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

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood discussed the purchase of the Damiani property adjacent to Emeline Park. He reported that there are significant liens on all three Damiani properties amounting to approximately \$26 million. Counselor Hood then mentioned ways that the Village could purchase or obtain the Damiani properties; the first being the Trustees could go to court to extinguish the liens and accept a deal of \$415,000.00, which would then be disbursed between the different lien holders. Secondly, by condemnation, and this would be the quickest route for the Village. After discussions with the Board and condemnation attorney John Watkins, Counselor Hood requested the Board hire Mr. Watkins to look into condemnation of this property and to file all necessary paperwork.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to retain the services of Watkins & Watkins to move forward with condemnation of the Damiani properties.

RESOLUTION #3-2013

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

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: After some discussion, the Mayor reported that the Board has agreed to add Division Street to the current list of alternate side of the street parking, which now includes Hudson Avenue, Broad Street and Clinton Street.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to add Division Street to the list of alternate side of the street parking as stated above.

RESOLUTION #4-2013

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

The Mayor reported that the Board has discussed their desire to eliminate the present metering system and all the poles involved on New Main Street, Main Street and Broadway, with the possibility of replacing them with a parking kiosk system, similar to that in Nyack, as a part of the ongoing

Streetscape Project. He mentioned a Parking Trade Show in Hartford, Connecticut on March 28th and he requested the Board's permission to attend this trade show, for the day, along with Judy Curcio, Village Clerk and the Chief Parking Enforcement Officer, Nikki Merriman.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve attendance at the Parking Trade Show in Connecticut as stated above.

RESOLUTION #5-2013

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

The Mayor mentioned that his appointment to the Joint Sewer Board is up this year, therefore, he requested the Board to approve his nomination for re-appointment.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #6-2013

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

The Mayor stated that Relief Hose Co. #3 located on Conklin Avenue is not an incorporated entity, for the social aspect, not firematic activity, which is under the Village's control. They want to become incorporated and a Public Hearing is required prior to incorporation, which the Mayor would like to schedule for Monday, February 4th at 8:05 PM.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #7-2013

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

The Mayor mentioned that the Village will be closed on Monday, January 21st for the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., a federal holiday, therefore, the next Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 22nd.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno: In the absence of Trustee Bueno, Trustee Watson submitted the following application for admittance to the Haverstraw Fire Department:

Mario A. Strianese – Lady Warren Hose Co. #5 – non resident

The application is complete and duly notarized.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept Mr. Strianese into his chosen fire company.

RESOLUTION #8-2013

Motion by: Terrence Watson
Seconded by: Francisco Batista
Motion Carries: All

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Trustee Terence Watson:

Trustee Watson mentioned that the DPW has received estimates for repair work on the interior of the DPW building, but have received no estimates for the work needed on the exterior of the building.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez gave the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of December 14th, 2012 through January 2nd, 2013:

Reachout Counseling Services – The staff held counseling sessions for 15 individuals and their family members for group and/or family canceling.

Homework Program – The Center continues with its Homework Program for over 60 children who attend on a daily basis. There is a long waiting list of children who want to enter the program and the Center is looking for volunteers to help with this program.

Trustee Dominguez announced that the Center will be open until 9:00 PM on Friday nights giving the youth of the Village a place to hang out.

Trustee Dominguez mentioned that the Center has funding in their budget to hire student workers, therefore, she requested approval to hire the following students based on Rockland County Personnel approval through the end of the fiscal year, May 31st, 2013:

Julissa Estavez	– 12 hours per week @ \$8.00 per hour
Krystal Torres	– 15 hours per week @ \$7.25 per hour
Sergio Perez	– 10 hours per week @ \$7.25 per hour

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to hire the above mentioned students as stated above.

RESOLUTION #9-2013

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

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Francisco Batista:

Trustee Batista read the following report submitted by the Building

Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of December 17th through January 4th, 2013:

Rental property inspections	-	0
Municipal searches	-	2
Miscellaneous inspections	-	75
Construction inspections	-	4
Complaints	-	4
Violations & tickets	-	7
Permits	-	1

Trustee Batista announced that the free holiday parking has ended and that the Parking Enforcement Officers are also working at night to ticket any illegally parked vehicles.

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor announced the following budget amendments submitted by Joseph Modafferri, Village Accountant, which require Board approval:

<u>PROJECT</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
Fire Equipment	-	\$.02
Promenade	-	\$ 116.84
Fire Truck	-	\$2,125.39
TOTAL	-	\$2,242.25
 <u>INCREASE</u>		
Capital Fund A9950.9	-	\$2,242.25
 <u>DECREASE</u>		
Contingency Acct. A1990.4	-	\$2,242.25

Approve the transfer of excess Bond Funds to the General Fund Debt Reserve Warren Court in the amount of \$500,000.00.

Approve transfer of excess Bond Funds to General Fund Debt Reserve Community Center in the amount of \$47,047.29.

Approve closing the Capitol Project Community Center.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above budget adjustments and to close the Capitol Project Community Center.

RESOLUTION #10-2013

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Francisco Batista

Motion Carries: All

MINUTES: The Mayor presented the minutes of the Regular Meetings of November 5th and November 19th, 2012 for approval by the Board.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above minutes with minor changes.

RESOLUTION #11-2013

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

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez thanked everyone who volunteered at the Christmas event held at the Community Center, which was a huge success.

Mayor Kohut:
2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport reported that some of the meters on New Main Street were not working. He then inquired, if the Damiani property, mentioned previously, gets flooded the same as Emeline Park.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the covers were taken off the meters and they may need new batteries, which will be checked by the Parking Enforcers. With regard to the Damiani property, the Mayor stated that the Board is not sure yet what will be done with that property, but everything will be dealt with when that is decided.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport then inquired if repairs were ever made to Emeline Park from the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that nothing has been done in that area to date because the Village is still awaiting a reply from the insurance agency and FEMA, which will hopefully be within the next couple of months.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired of Counselor Hood if he has heard from the County on the Amicus Brief.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.: Counselor Hood responded that it is prepared, but has not yet been sent to the County for review. It will be sent out tomorrow and hopefully there will be nothing controversial and they will sign it. They were reluctant to get involved at all, because they thought they would have to pay for their involvement, however, all documents have been prepared by outside counsel; therefore, there would be no cost at all to the County.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that the County has tentatively agreed with the request.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired if the Board has spoken with anyone with regard to preventing another flooding problem from occurring in the Harbors.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the MTA is in the process of getting everything straightened out with the Ferry landing, but he has not yet received any information with regard to their repairs. He believes they are still struggling to figure out what has to be done to prevent any damage like

that during Hurricane Sandy. From his conversations with Andy Maniglia, MTA is currently working on the problem internally.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if anyone is actually pursuing the situation in terms of also protecting the interest of the Harbors.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded not as far as he knows, stating that the ferry people are worried about fixing the ferry problems, but to a certain extent it will be the key that will keep the river front from flooding. From discussions with FEMA, they are still looking at mitigation with regard to Harbors. They will not do anything to protect individual's property, but they will try to mitigate damages to public property. His feeling is that they will fund protecting the Promenade and public property inland.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if there is anyone that the Mayor knows of who is acting on behalf of the Harbors residents.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he is not aware of anyone at this time.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired whether or not it is the responsibility of the Village to protect the Harbors.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded only to the extent that the Village protects public property. If by protecting public property it happens to protect private property than yes, but according to what he was told by FEMA, the Village cannot do anything to barricade the parking garage, for example. The Mayor stated the Village is still waiting to hear from FEMA, however, in previous discussions with them, in addition to the cost of repairs, etc., they said part of their mission is to try to mitigate issues in the future and they would try to come up with ideas for mitigation.

Mel Post: Mr. Post wanted to know if anyone is looking into the south side of the property.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village is not because it is beyond the scope of the Village property and at this point, he does not know who would be responsible for that property.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if the parking lot by the ferry is also Ginsburg property.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded it is Ginsburg's property leased to the MTA, which is why they are involved in getting that area repaired and protected.

Mel Post: Mr. Post requested the Mayor to inquire of Andy Maniglia whether or not the MTA or Metro North is going to make repairs strictly to the ferry landing or if they will include protection from flooding in their plans.

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 #12-2013

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Francisco Batista
Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift
Senior Steno Clerk
January 8, 2013
File #99