

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 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.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport announced that today was his 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a businessman in the Village of Haverstraw. Over those years he has served many customers who continue to be loyal customers today. Unfortunately, lately many of those customers have complained to him about the deterioration of the Village during the past few years; the sidewalks, the roadways, illegal parking, potholes, peeling paint on the buildings, etc. and he is afraid of losing customers because the Village is in such bad shape. He then spoke about the new sign at the Route 9W entrance to the Village, which is also in a bit of disrepair, speaking not of the sign itself, but the area surrounding the sign. Firstly, he was unable to read the sign in the dark and the area underneath the sign is so unsightly and cluttered with debris it is not a welcoming gateway to the Village. He feels that the area under the sign should at least be cleaned up and maybe a few plants put in until it can be totally landscaped. He also requested an update on the Streetscape Project.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Rappaport that a local electrician has volunteered to install the necessary lighting for the sign so it will be illuminated. That and the landscaping will be completed when the volunteers are available to do the work. Unfortunately, the landscaper had problems with DOT allowing any of the work planned for the area surrounding the sign. That area will be spruced up, but the majority of the landscaping will be installed across the railroad track and adjacent to the Miller & Miller Law Office. He also informed everyone that a Civil Engineer is being brought in to help get the project moving quicker. He agreed with Mr. Rappaport that the Village will have to do something to dress up the area until the landscaping work can be completed, stating the sign will be dressed up and lit before the holiday season. He then mentioned that the Village will move on the rest of the streets and sidewalks as finances allow, mentioning that sidewalks have been installed and/or repaired on Grant and Edgar Streets, and installation or repair will also be done on Tor, Maple and Fairmount Avenues and that paving of Warren Avenue, the intersection of New Main & Maple Avenues, West Broad Street & Third Street should be starting within the next couple of weeks. The Mayor then mentioned that potholes and repairs to the roads are done on a regular basis, and property owners are now being held responsible for neglecting to take proper care of their property.

Larry Levine, 1414 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Levine again addressed the Board about the "STOP" sign on the corner of Clove Avenue and New Main Street, inquiring why there are not two "STOP" signs on that corner. He mentioned he was in that area on Friday and a school bus was coming down the hill at about 40 MPH. He feels it is a dangerous situation and

does not understand how the Village can have a “STOP” sign on one side of the corner and not the other. He asked again if a sign could be placed in that area.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that there have not been any issues at that site for the past fifty years, therefore, the Board does not feel there is a need for a “STOP” sign on that opposite corner of the road.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine also previously requested a “STOP” sign be installed on West Street.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that made he was not in agreement to putting a stop sign there.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine feels that the drivers today are inconsiderate and careless and he hopes that no-one has to be killed or maimed before something is done. He asked what the cost would be to install a “STOP” sign and have the Police maintain it.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that it is not the cost involved, but the fact that then people would be requesting “STOP” signs to be installed all over the Village.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then inquired about when the repairs would begin at the Harbors.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that the contractor working on the sidewalk project will also be doing the work at the Harbors and as soon as he is finished with the sidewalks he will begin the work at Harbors, which will hopefully be by the end of the month.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine thanked Trustee Dominguez for her assistance the previous day at the Holiday and Gift Fair held at the Community Center. He was disappointed that no other members of the Board showed up to help with the event and he feels that their show of support is necessary for anything that goes on in the Village.

Lynn Bernstein, 1323 Round Pointe Drive: Ms. Bernstein volunteered to run the Holiday/Gift Fair and worked many long and hard hours getting vendors, etc. to hold a successful fair, even making and placing signs throughout the Village with her husband. She was very disappointed in the attendance from the Board, the staff and their families, but thanked Trustee Dominguez and a couple of other volunteers again for being there. Her concern is that all their efforts are not appreciated or valued enough. She had things planned for the event that would be appealing to every age, including Bossy Frog to entertain the children and affordable priced gift items to sell. She feels they did not get enough of a turnout for the kind of effort that was put into setting up the whole event and also that the event was not well promoted by the Village.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post inquired at the last Board Meeting whether or not FEMA funds had been received. He believed he was told that \$125,000.00 was received and targeted for repairs at Harbors.

Judy Curcio, Village Clerk/Treasurer: Ms. Curcio reported that the Village has received some money from FEMA but not all. She explained that FEMA reimburses a municipality after a project has been completed, the

contractor has been paid and the bills sent to FEMA and that they will only reimburse up to 90% of the bills.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that there are different categories under the FEMA program, including storm preparation, storm cleanup, parks & recreation, buildings, etc. He mentioned that some funds were received for storm preparation, storm cleanup and pump station repairs that were done by the Village. The larger projects exceeded the monetary cap, therefore no funds are released until after the work is done, bills are paid and sent to FEMA for reimbursement.

Mel Post: Mr. Post remembers asking the Board if funds had been received and if they were to be dedicated to repairs at Harbors. He thought he was told that \$125,000.00 was received and was to be used only at the Harbors.

Judy Curcio: Ms. Curcio informed Mr. Post that \$125,000.00 was the bid amount awarded for repairs to the promenade but no FEMA money for that project has been reimbursed to the Village yet.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if the bricks would be replaced in the same manner they were originally placed and how much the contract was.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded the contract amounted to \$125,000.00 for the promenade.

Terence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson stated that the Village will only be reimbursed for 90% of that amount.

Mel Post: Mr. Post is worried that if the bricks are placed the same as the original bricks that when the waters rise the bricks will just fall again.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the bricks are going to be affixed to each other so they will hopefully not come down again with the rising waters, however, the additional cost for that will be on the Village.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired about the plan that was previously presented to the Board by Mr. Ginsburg to build retaining walls along the river's edge.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that nothing is happening because there was no official plan, proposal or payment method ever submitted to the Board by GDC.

Mel Post: Mr. Post feels that somehow the Village should get the development protected.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded if there were funds available it would be done, however, that is not the case. It is his understanding that one event alone will not allow for mitigation money. If this had happened three or four times FEMA might pay for some kind of storm prevention, but for a one-time event they will not pay out any mitigation money.

Mayor Kohut:

## **REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.:** Counselor Hood requested the Board to accept the resignation documentation of Gregory Taylor from his

position with the DPW, effective October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the day he signed the document.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the resignation of Gregory Taylor as stated above.

**RESOLUTION #175-2013**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Motion Carries: All

Counselor Hood then spoke about the "Residency Law" he presented to the Board. He explained that the law referred strictly to the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer position, which would make it allowable for the Village to hire someone from all of Rockland County rather than just the Village or Town. He requested the Board schedule a Public Hearing, which is a requirement for passage of a law.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to schedule a Public Hearing as stated above, to be held at 8:05 PM on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

**RESOLUTION #176-2013**

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

Counselor Hood then gave an update on 78 Sharp Street and 174 Broadway, which were both fire scenes, explaining that there is some movement by the banks who will eventually take over the properties, which are currently in the names of the homeowners, however, the banks now have authorization from the homeowners to fix up the outside of the buildings, which is what the Village was most concerned with.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that the Village is preparing to award a contract for the demolition of 78 Sharp Street and inquired of Counselor Hood if they should hold off on awarding the contract at this time.

Counselor Hood suggested that the Board go ahead with awarding the contract, which might put pressure on the bank to move forward quickly with their plans.

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

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

**MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut:** The Mayor received a request from Leo Ladders American Legion Post 130 for a donation to help them purchase new uniforms for their honor guard in time for Veterans Day.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to make a donation in the amount of \$250.00 to Post #130 as stated above.

RESOLUTION #177-2013

Motion by: Rafael Bueno  
Seconded by: Emily Dominguez  
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor requested the Board's approval to sign a contract with the County for the 2013 Project Shift in the amount of \$17,409.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion for the Mayor to sign a contract with the County as stated above.

RESOLUTION #178-2013

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

The Mayor received a proposal from Brooker Engineering to provide the Village with Civil Engineering for the completion of the Streetscape Project through the contract lending phase in the amount of \$134,500.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the proposal from Brooker Engineering as stated above.

RESOLUTION #179-2013

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

The Mayor received a proposal, relating to 78 Sharp Street, from Atlantic Environmental Inc., in the amount of \$1,200.00 to provide an asbestos identification and quantification survey to check on the existence of asbestos before the building is demolished.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to hire Atlantic Environmental Inc. to provide the Village with a survey of 78 Sharp Street as stated above.

RESOLUTION #180-2013

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

The Mayor reported it has been brought to the Board's attention that there are some safety concerns at the Community Center where employees can be left alone in part of the building and are unable to safely address anyone coming into the building. Based upon a meeting held with the employees and the Public Employees Safety & Health Hazard Agency to address these concerns, the Board has decided to purchase two-way radios, not to exceed \$500.00, that the employees can keep with them to contact other employees in the building if they are fearful of their safety.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to purchase two-way radios as stated above.

RESOLUTION #181-2013

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

The Mayor received a proposal from Penflex, Inc. for the administration of the 2013-2014 LOSAP Program for a total estimated fee of \$6,400.00 and preparation of the LOSAP audit package for an additional \$495.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the proposal from Penflex, Inc. as stated above.

RESOLUTION #182-2013

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

**Mayor Kohut:**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**FIRE & ORDINANCES** – Trustee Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno submitted the following application for admittance to the Haverstraw Fire Department:

Jonathan M. Eshbach – non-resident – Lady Warren Co. #5

His application is complete and duly notarized.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept Mr. Eshbach into the company of his choice.

RESOLUTION #183-2013

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

Trustee Bueno then read the following report for the month of September, 2013, submitted by Fire Chief Al Lynch:

Total Alarms	-	26
General Alarms	-	17
Special Calls	-	7
Mutual Aid Calls	-	2
Structure Fires	-	0
Cooking Fires	-	3
Extrication Calls	-	1
Washdown	-	2
Landing Zone	-	1
Boat Calls	-	2
Good Intent	-	6
Miscellaneous	-	4
False Alarms	-	5

Total Manpower Responding - 435 members

Chief Lynch reported that due to severe weather on September 12<sup>th</sup>; he had members stand by in their firehouses for a couple of hours until the weather improved.

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

**PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Trustee Terence Watson:**

Trustee Watson had nothing to report except to say that the DPW did another excellent job with clean-up after the last storm that hit the Village causing trees to come down, along with power lines in some areas. The DPW continues to assist with the sidewalk and paving improvements currently taking place in the Village.

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 September 13<sup>th</sup> to September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013:

- 1) Homework Program – The Center has begun its Homework Program with approximately 60 children attending from all grades in the district.
- 2) Reachout Counseling Services – The staff held counseling sessions for 36 individuals for group and/or family canceling.
- 3) Will be resuming the Girls & Boys Club Counsels in October.
- 4) Continuing Project Shift - Two sessions have been held at the Center with twelve people attending.

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 September 16<sup>th</sup> through October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013:

Rental property inspections	-	2
Municipal searches	-	3
Miscellaneous inspections	-	131
Construction inspections	-	9
Complaints	-	10
Violations & tickets	-	10
Permits	-	4

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

**MINUTES:** The Mayor presented the minutes of the August 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting for approval by the Board.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above stated minutes.

**RESOLUTION #184-2013**

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

Mayor Kohut:

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor thanked the Chamber for all the effort they put forth with the Annual Street Fair, which was held on September 15<sup>th</sup> and was another well attended successful event. He also thanked everyone involved in putting on the Craft Fair for their dedication and hard work.

**Mayor Kohut:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mel Post: Mr. Post informed the Board that the Village Website is not functioning. He was told the website is being updated and worked on.

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 #185-2013

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Francisco Batista

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift  
Senior Steno Clerk