

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, 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 inquired if there are still sufficient funds available in the snow removal budget.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that the Village is still fine with that portion of the budget.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport then thanked and commended the DPW for the great job they are doing with snow removal in the Village also mentioning that our DPW, by far, does the best job of any municipality in the County.

Larry Levine, 1414 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Levine wanted the Board to know that there are several lights on the overpass that are not working.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Levine that they actually are working and it is the sensors on each light that turns them on and off. He is not sure if the sensors are on a timer or on photo sensor, but he has driven the overpass at different times throughout the night and has found that late at night they are all functioning.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine stated that he drove to the meeting via the overpass and 3 of the lights were out. He then requested an update on the Streetscape Project.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed the public that the Village has resubmitted the last item that the State had problems with and was promised that they would get to it shortly. The Village will go out to bid for the project approximately 2 weeks after the approval letter is received.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post requested an update on the Ginsburg negotiations.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village has recently sent Mr. Ginsburg a "demand letter". He mentioned that they are not getting the cooperation from Mr. Ginsburg that they had hoped for, and will continue to work on the problem. He explained that, per the Eminent Domain Law, the claimant is entitled to ask for additional legal fees if there is a large difference in what was originally offered and what was awarded. Additional attorney fees of \$1.2M is now being requested and is a motion that has to be acted upon by the Court. There are conversations taking place between both attorneys, but nothing directly with Mr. Ginsburg.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then requested an update on the Maple Avenue development.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that their consultants have advised the Board that the language proposed for the new zone is almost entirely agreeable to them, however there are a few small issues that still need to be worked out. The Mayor assumes it will be late spring at the earliest before the Village even starts with the zoning issues, etc.

Mayor Kohut:

### **REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.:** Counselor Hood had nothing to report.

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

**MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut:** The Mayor reported that the Traveler's Insurance Policy is due for renewal with the Village for the period of March 2015 through February 2016 at a premium rate of \$189,850.00 plus a \$303.00 surcharge, \$2,029.00 premium for the fiduciary policy and a premium of \$3,390.00 for an Anti-Theft policy.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to pay the upcoming insurance premiums as stated above.

#### **RESOLUTION #35-2015**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Terrance Watson, Jr.

Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion for the 2015 Camp Fees to remain the same as the previous year.

#### **RESOLUTION #36-2015**

Motion by: Francisco Batista

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor reported that Orange & Rockland is proposing another 11.5% increase in electric services and 35.1% increase in gas services, mentioning that since the government has done away with the Consumer Protection Board, there is no-one to fight these proposed increases, unless the people get together to do so. Since the Village has previously participated in a Municipal Consortium to go against the Public Service Commission to fight this increase in gas and electric charges, the Mayor is proposing the Municipal Consortium fight this battle for the Village, with the maximum Village contribution being \$2,500.00. The attorney who previously handled this matter for the majority of the municipalities in Rockland and Orange Counties is Daniel Duthie, Esq., whose services the Village would like to retain to join the Consortium in fighting this rate increase.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to join the Municipal Consortium and hire Counselor Duthie to fight this increase on behalf of the Village as stated above.

RESOLUTION #37-20145

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

The Mayor received a request from the Village Clerk to send Nelly Ariza and Isabel Gonzalez-Soto to a Notary Public Workshop to prepare to take the test when it is next offered. The fee for the workshop is \$50.00 per person and will take place in Nyack on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the attendance of 2 staff members at a workshop as stated above.

RESOLUTION #38-2015

Motion by: Terrance Watson, Jr.  
Seconded by: Rafael Bueno  
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor received a proposal from RBC Wealth Management to update the Village's LOSAP Investment Policy Statement (IPS), which is the firefighter's pension plan. This will give the management company more flexibility with investments in order to improve returns on investments.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the proposed change in investment policies by RBC Wealth Management to handle LOSAP investments.

RESOLUTION #39-2015

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

The Mayor then reported that repairs need to be made to the fire sprinkler system at the Community Center, which currently has a slow leak, but could eventually blow out. The proposal by R&H Plumbing and Heating Company is \$1,775.00, which will include all labor, materials, tools, equipment to make all necessary connections with new hardware and gaskets to have the system restored to proper working condition.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the services of R&H Plumbing to restore the fire sprinkler system at the Community Center as stated above.

RESOLUTION #40-2015

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

The Mayor then presented the following budget adjustments submitted by the Village Accountant:

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Increase Appropriations</u>	<u>Decrease Appropriations</u>
A3410.41	New Fire Hydrants	\$11,000.00	
A8160.4	Refuse	8,000.00	
A9040.81	Workers Comp Fire	9,200.00	
A9040.8	Workers Comp	47,000.00	
A1990.04	Contingent		\$75,200.00

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above stated budget adjustments.

**RESOLUTION #41-2015**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Terrance Watson, Jr.

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor then made the following announcement of upcoming events in the Village:

- 1) The New Jerusalem Pentecostal Church - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Crown Plaza in Suffern starting at 12:00 PM. The cost is \$55.00 per person, \$40.00 for children under 12 years old. Anyone wishing to attend can call Daisy Rivera at 845-300-9312 to make reservations.
- 2) The North Rockland Lions Club - 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at Town & Country Caterers from 2:00 to 6:00 PM when West Haverstraw Mayor John Ramundo, their first Club President Robert Klein and local business owner and member Noel Rappaport will be honored. Tickets are \$75.00 a person, which will include a cocktail hour, dinner and entertainment.
- 3) The Great American Cleanup will be held on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 AM at the Village Clock Park, adjacent to the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to donate the same amount as last year to Keep Rockland Beautiful to help make this a successful event.

**RESOLUTION #42-2015**

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor reported that Habitat for Humanity (HFHR) will be coming to the Haverstraw area to construct a home for a local family. With the Mayor's help, HFHR was able to obtain a piece of property at the corner of Partition and Ridge Streets. They are in the process of forming a committee to select a family and draw up blueprints for the house to be built. The Mayor also mentioned this is a well put together and worthwhile project for anyone interested in volunteering their help.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to waive all building fees connected with the construction of this home.

**RESOLUTION #43-2015**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Francisco Batista  
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

**Mayor Kohut:**  
**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**FIRE & ORDINANCES** – Trustee Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno read the following report for the month of February, 2015, submitted by Fire Chief Al Lynch:

Total Alarms	-	28
General Alarms	-	21
Special Calls	-	6
Mutual Aid Calls	-	1
Structure Fires	-	1
Cooking Fires	-	5
Vehicle Fires	-	1
Outside Smoke Condition		1
Gas Leaks	-	7
Carbon Monoxide Alarms		2
Pump Outs/Water Leaks-		5
Landing Zone	-	1
Good Intent/Misc.	-	3
False Alarms	-	1

Total Manpower Responding - 545 members

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, as of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015:

- 1) Refurbished village public garbage cans on Main Street, New Main Street and Broadway.
- 2) Provided maintenance on all snow emergency vehicles.
- 3) DPW worked various snow storms.
- 4) DPW moved over 1,500 tons of snow.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES** - Trustee Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista gave the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of February 12<sup>th</sup> to February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

- 1) The Haverstraw Collaborative is scheduled to meet on Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. The Collaborative is a group of human service providers who plan and promote activities to better serve the community.

- 2) The Spanish Speaking Parents Group is schedule to meet on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.
- 3) The Literacy Zone will be having their ESOL classes for those who know little or no English. Classes will be held on Monday's and Wednesday's from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Haverstraw Elementary School beginning March 11<sup>th</sup> and ending June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- 4) 21 participants were seen for individual or family counseling.
- 5) 9 participants attended Smokers Aftercare.
- 6) 7 participants attended a session of Butts Out.
- 7) Girls life skills group held at Fieldstone had 6 participants in attendance.
- 8) Boys life skills group for ages 11 to 14 years old had 12 attendees.

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

**BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT** - Trustee Emily Dominguez:

Trustee Dominguez read the following report submitted by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of February 16<sup>th</sup> through February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

Miscellaneous inspections	-	76
Construction inspections	-	77
Complaints	-	6
Violations & tickets	-	4
Permits/C.O.'s	-	17

Trustee Dominguez reminded everyone that the Village's overnight parking rules will be ending March 31<sup>st</sup>. She had nothing further to report.

**MINUTES:** The Mayor presented the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for approval by the Board.

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

**RESOLUTION #44-2015**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez  
 Seconded by: Terrance Watson, Jr.  
 Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut:

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

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

Mel Post: Mr. Post requested an explanation of the Habitat for Humanity Program.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that it is a nationwide, non-profit program, started by President Jimmy Carter. Basically the program tries to put people who would otherwise not be able to afford their own homes, into reclaimed or newly built houses. To date, they have been able to build 7 new homes in the Sloatsburg and Hillburn area. The family chosen has to donate, he believes, 500 hours to working not only on their home, but also on future projects. When HFHR contacted the Mayor, he was able to find vacated properties or vacant land that could be used for this purpose. This particular property was recently in foreclosure and HFHR was able to purchase the property from the bank. The home is built with the help of community supporters, including builders, electricians, attorneys, any volunteers from the community willing to give their time and effort to this project, etc. The people who are awarded the home will take out an interest free mortgage with Habitat for Humanity, however if they were to leave the property for any reason, they could make no more than 1% over their purchase price.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the first meeting in April will begin at 7:00 PM instead of the usual 8:00 PM.

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 #45-2015

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Terrance Watson, Jr.

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015