

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, April 20, 2015, at 7:00 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. With no input from the public, the mayor continued with that night's agenda, beginning with a Public Hearing to override the State Tax Cap.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #76-2015

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

The Mayor explained that due to the proposed 6.4% increase in the Mayor's proposed budget, which is not yet finalized, it is mandated by the State to hold a Public Hearing to approve a Local Law to override the State tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-C. He then opened the floor to the public.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport inquired what the 6% increase would mean to the average homeowner.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village did a sampling of properties including the Board and several other people and it showed an increase of approximately \$194.00, at the high end, and the low end being approximately \$105.00 for the year.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport then inquired about the increase for commercial properties.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that some of the samplings were commercial properties.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport is concerned that this increase will discourage potential investors from opening a business in the Village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that increasing taxes is not something the Board wants to do or takes lightly but with the Village expenses increasing (i.e. workers compensation, utilities, salt, etc.) there is no way the Village can exist without increasing certain areas of the budget, especially when the Village has no control over the increases being charged to the Village.

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

RESOLUTION #77-2015

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

The Mayor then polled the Board about passing the law that night or holding it over for another meeting, since there are still some areas the Board would like to review again. The decision was made to hold approval for overriding the State Tax Cap for another meeting.

Judith Curcio, Village Clerk/Treasurer: Ms. Curcio reminded the Board that the law has to be passed by April 30th.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to hold a Special Meeting for the budget on Monday, April 27th at 7:00 PM.

RESOLUTION #78-2015

Motion by: Terence Watson, Jr.
Seconded by: Francisco Batista
Motion Carries: All

Ex-Fire Chief Al Lynch: Chief Lynch addressed the group and wanted to thank the Board for allowing him to serve the Village as Chief of the Haverstraw Fire Department for the past 2 years. He mentioned his tenor as Chief would end the following day when Robert Drexler would take command as Chief of the Haverstraw Fire Department. Again he thanked the Board and appreciated this opportunity they assigned to him.

Mayor Kohut: On behalf of the Village Board, the Mayor stated that it was a pleasure to have had the department led by such a capable firefighter and with sincere gratitude and appreciation from the Board a "Thank You" for a job well done.

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 received a letter from the Rockland Conservation & Service Corps. (RCSC, previously Americorps) whose participants the Village has taken on in previous years as summer help. He explained that these young men and women will be working with the DPW to help with specific projects throughout the Village including cleaning up parks and trails, Stormwater Management work, planting, sprucing up playgrounds, etc. The cost per person is \$1,600.00. George White, Superintendent of Public Works has requested 2 students to participate this year with the DPW. The Mayor then mentioned that Trustee Dominguez brought up the issue of village recycling, especially in the business district. He said the Village as a whole has done a fabulous job recycling and, based on tonnage reports, has far surpassed the Town of Haverstraw and the Village of West Haverstraw, as well as many other

towns and villages in the County. He did state however, that even though the business district does a good job recycling cardboard, they are somewhat lacking with other recyclables. He has spoken with people from the Rockland County Solid Waste Authority about ways to improve this situation and they have suggested taking on a student worker from RCSC to assist with cleanups, etc. in the community, which would necessitate a 3rd person from RCSC. He also mentioned that the students are hard working and willing to lend a hand wherever necessary. Besides gaining valuable life experiences, work and educational skills, they also receive credit for their work and the Village gets the additional help, which extends the capacity of the DPW workforce.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to hire 3 students from RCSC to work for the summer starting on June 8th and continuing until as late as August 31st if necessary, as stated above.

RESOLUTION #79-2015

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

The Mayor reported that the Board needs to rescind a previously authorized Bond Issuance dating back to 2011 when the Village was in litigation over the old Graziosi property known as "49WB Litigation" in the amount of \$250,000.00 to pay for legal fees and claims. Fortunately for the Village this Bond did not get used because the Village won the case and the legal fees were covered by the Village insurance.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to remove the above bond resolution from the Village books.

RESOLUTION #80-2015

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

The Mayor reported that pursuant to the Affordable Care Act the Village has to establish policies for "reasonably expected" working hours for all salaried part-time positions. He then reported the hours as follows:

- 1) Board of Trustees – 6 hours per week
- 2) Planning, Zoning & ARB members – 2 hours per month or ½ hour per week
- 3) Part-time salaried employees:
 - a) Joseph Modafferi – 2 hours per week
 - b) Marion Breland – 15 hours per week
 - c) Jay Hood – 15 hours per week
 - d) Dennis Michaels – 5 hours per week
 - e) Ron DeCaprio – 8 hours per week
 - f) Luis Torres – 3 hours per week
 - g) Yesenia Lopez – 15 hours per week

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the work hours for salaried part-time personnel as stated above and to use these hours as the standard hours worked per month for the employee tracking under the ACA.

RESOLUTION #81-2015

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

The Mayor mentioned that over the past week the Village was involved in the Great American Clean-up with over 40 volunteers, who picked up garbage and litter on the Greenway Trail, around the river and the alleyways in the Village. The Mayor thanked them for all the efforts they put forth, not once but 3 times a year, to keep the Village looking clean and neat throughout the year.

The Mayor received a request from the Rotary Club to use the parking lot adjacent to the Knights of Columbus on September 2nd through September 6th or 7th, the week leading up to Labor Day Weekend, to host a carnival.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the use of the parking lot by the Rotary with all the necessary documentation and insurance submitted to the Village Clerk, as stated above.

RESOLUTION #82-2015

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

The Mayor then mentioned that Cosgriff Hose Company #4 was hosting a "WING NIGHT" that Friday at the Elks Club for anyone interested in attending. The cost is \$15.00 for all you can eat.

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:

Matthew Jerome Davis - Jr. Firefighter – Lady Warren Hose Co. #5

His application is complete and duly notarized.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept Mr. Davis into the Haverstraw Fire Department.

RESOLUTION #83-2015

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

Trustee Bueno then read the following report from the Chief's Convention of April 4th:

Fire Chief	-	Robert Drexler
1 st Asst. Chief	-	Thomas Price
2 nd Asst. Chief	-	John Bart Gordon

3rd Asst. Chief - Perry Masiello
4th Asst. Chief - Michael Begbie

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the newly appointed Fire Chief and 4 Assistant Chiefs, as stated above.

RESOLUTION #84-2015

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

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Trustee Terence Watson:

Trustee Watson had nothing to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista gave the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of March 30th through April 17th, 2015:

- 1) March 30 through April 1st, the North Rockland School District's spring recess, the Haverstraw Collaborative held their yearly event "Unity in the Community" with 76 youth in attendance.
- 2) The Haverstraw Collaborative met on April 1st with 40 people in attendance. Anyone needing assistance from the mental health outreach service can now call 845-517-0400.
- 3) Individual/Family Counseling had 20 participants.
- 4) Girls Life Skills – 6 participants
- 5) Boys Life Skills – 12 participants
- 6) High School Life Skills Transition – 16 participants
- 7) Project Shift – 8 participants
- 8) Anger Management – 5 participants
- 9) Homework Help – 55 participants daily
- 10) JUMP – 50 participants
- 11) Sharpshooters – 60 participants
- 12) Late Night Friday – 50 participants

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 April 7th through April 17th, 2015:

Municipal searches	-	5
Miscellaneous inspections	-	130
Construction inspections	-	92
Complaints	-	17
Violations & tickets	-	15
Permits	-	5

Trustee Dominguez then let everyone know that the ball field is now open for the season and the Farmer's Market will be opening June 14th.

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:
OLD BUSINESS
None.

Mayor Kohut:
NEW BUSINESS
None.

Mayor Kohut:
2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport suggested the Board put something in the newspaper about the Village Fire Department being an all volunteer organization. He feels many people believe they are a paid department.

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 #85-2015

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk