

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015, beginning 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.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: With summer coming to an end, Mr. Rappaport requested the Board to consider changing the start time of the Board Meetings to 7:30 PM instead of 7:00 PM or just go back to the original start time of 8:00 PM.

Mayor Kohut: Mayor Kohut stated that the Board would discuss it again.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport again brought up the garbage situation in the downtown area, which he believes has gotten worse instead of better. He informed the Board that commercial garbage is not being picked up and he has seen people using the Municipal garbage cans for their commercial garbage. The situation is out of control and he feels something has to be done about this as soon as possible. It is his belief that the esthetics of the Village are moving downward instead of upward, especially now when the Streetscape Project is able to move forward.

Mayor Kohut: Mayor Kohut informed Mr. Rappaport and the public that the new garbage company was making every effort to get the issues in the downtown cleared up. They were meeting with all the business owners individually and have started bringing an interpreter with them so they could effectively communicate with the Spanish speaking businesses regarding the need to comply with the garbage regulations.

Stuart Suchotliff, 1313 Round Point Drive: Mr. Suchotliff spoke about the Village Farmer's Market, which in his opinion has very minimal participation with only a couple of stands available for people to shop. Also, he commented that the produce is awful and certainly not as fresh as it should be. He also believes that the additional funds allocated to Trustee Dominguez to manage the market are definitely not worth it.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he believes the additional funds allocated to Ms. Dominguez are worth it because it is quite a lot of work to organize and run the Farmer's Market. He also stated that although we only have a couple of vendors we have many people who make use of the market and who are happy with the produce. In addition, this is a community service that is provided as Rockland County Social Services has informed us that approximately \$30,000 in checks is given out in our area and they are to be used at places like the Farmer's Market.

Stuart Suchotliff: Mr. Suchotliff then inquired if the Board has received the Homeowners Association's (HOA) letter from their attorney, Beane & Beane with regard to the dispute between the Village and the Harbors developer, GDC.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Board has received the letter from Beane & Beane and it is now being reviewed by Village Counsel, Mr. Jim Neale.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post informed the Board that the company that was filming in the Harbors paid Harbors approximately \$20,000.00 for the use of the property while filming segments of a movie. He thought that might be a way for the Village to bring in additional income without having to put forth much effort because the film company does just about all of the work.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that there have been movies filmed within the Village on several occasions, some of which even included residents as extras in the movie. He also stated that the Board was considering instituting a permit fees for when these companies come to the Village.

Mel Post: Mr. Post agreed with Mr. Rappaport that the start time of the Board Meetings should be changed to either 7:30 or 8:00 PM. The 7:00 PM start time just does not give people enough time to get home, have dinner and then attend a meeting, because most of the people work out of the area and need that extra time it takes for their commute.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the Board would discuss it again.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then requested an update on the GDC negotiations. He also feels that there should be some way of updating the Harbors residents following any of these meetings so the residents are aware of what is taking place and how it may affect them.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that the Board was continuing negotiations with Mr. Ginsburg but there had not been any change.

Gil Muesinger, 1416 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Muesinger thanked the Board for following through on his request to have the sidewalks on Maple Avenue cleaned up.

Anthony Melee, Rockland Voice: Mr. Melee, representative of Rockland Voice, offered to advertise events and other happenings going on in the Village during his on air time.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor thanked Mr. Melee and asked that he send his contact information to the Village Clerk.

Stuart Suchotliff: Mr. Suchotliff feels that the apartments on Maple Avenue are an eyesore and a disgrace to the community and something really needs to be done about the lack of maintenance in that area as soon as possible.

Mayor Kohut: Mayor Kohut stated that he did not think the apartments were not being maintained but he would take a look at them over the next few days.

With no further input from the public, the Mayor continued with the agenda for that nights meeting starting with a Public Hearing for approval of the Amendments to Section #84 of the Amusement Devices Local Law. He then requested Village Attorney Jay Hood, Jr. to present the changes to the public.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.: Counselor Hood informed the public that the changes to the Amusement Devices Local Law rescinds Sections 84-4A, 84-6C&D, 84-7A&B, 84-8 and 84-11 A1 & A2 replacing them with new Sections 84-4A, 84-6C&D, 84-7A&B, 84-8 and 84-11A1&A2 as follows:

1) §84-4A, PERMIT APPLICATIONS: Any person desiring to locate or maintain an amusement device shall file an application to be made out and referred to the Building Inspector. The Building Inspector shall then request a background check for the applicant. The Building Inspector shall also investigate the location wherein it is proposed to operate such machine, determine the number of machines and ascertain if the applicant is a person of good moral character and either approve or disapprove the application.

2) §84-6 RESTRICTIONS ON ISSUANCE OF PERMIT

C: A permit may be issued to any person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor, provided that the Building Inspector approves said applicant as stated in §84-4A and in the event that any such conviction occurs subsequent to the issuance of said permit, said permit may be immediately suspended by the Building Inspector pending revocation.

D: No permit shall be issued unless the applicant has been approved by the Building Inspector and has paid the fees required pursuant to §84-5.

3) §84-7, ISSUANCE, EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL OF PERMIT

A: Upon proper application approval and submission of the appropriate fees, the Building Inspector shall issue a permit.

B: Permits issued under the provisions of this chapter shall expire on March 31 of each year and will be renewed by the Building Inspector upon receipt of a fee in the required amount.

4) §84-8, SEAL: Upon issuance of the permit, the Building Inspector shall also issue a seal for each device so permitted. Said seal shall contain the name of the applicant, the permit number and the expiration date. The seal shall be affixed to the device in a prominent place by the applicant.

5) §84-11, APPEALS

A: In the event of a denial of a permit or a subsequent suspension of a permit, the aggrieved person may appeal from said adverse determination to the Board of Trustees. Upon a determination denying an application for a permit or a suspension of said permit, the Building Inspector will send a notice to the aggrieved person by certified mail to the address stated on the application for the permit.

1) Twenty Days: The aggrieved person will have 20 days from the mailing of a Notice of Denial or suspension by the Building Inspector to request a hearing before the Board of Trustees. Said request for a hearing by the aggrieved person shall be directed to the Village Clerk and sent by certified mail or personally delivered to said Clerk.

- 2) Seven Days: Upon the Village Clerk's receiving a request for a hearing, the Board of Trustees will then hold a hearing within 14 days of said request. A determination by the majority of said Board will be final.

Upon the completion of Counselor Hood's presentation, Mayor Kohut announced that the floor was now open to the public for any comments or questions.

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

**RESOLUTION #161-2015**

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

Mayor Kohut then entertained a motion to approve the changes to §84 of the Amusement Devices Local Law as stated above.

**RESOLUTION #162-2015**

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

Mayor Kohut:

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

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

**VILLAGE TREASURER**, Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio gave the following Treasurers Report for the months of June, July and August, 2015:

Operating Expenses	-	\$ 878,712.00
Regular Payroll	-	662,100.00
Bond Payments	-	391,191.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>\$1,932,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$6,382,500.00</b>

Ms. Curcio had nothing further to report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor received a letter from Jacqueline Watson expressing her interest in filling the vacant position on the Architectural Review Board (ARB).

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to appoint Ms. Watson to the ARB to fill the term of resigned member Yolanda Lopez. Ms. Watson's term will expire on November 30, 2016.

**RESOLUTION #163-2015**

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

Since the Village is now under contract with a new garbage collection company, the Mayor requested Counselor Hood to look in to amending our Village code so as to coordinate all garbage pick-up for the same days in the various parts of the Village, particularly so that the commercial garbage is not being picked up on varying days.

The Mayor also requested Counselor Hood to check on the legality of processing a surcharge on tickets.

The Mayor received a request from Pastor Patrick Elias of the Bricktown Gospel Fellowship to use Rockland Street for an evangelical outreach event for the community on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve this request.

RESOLUTION # 164 - 2015

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

The Mayor received a letter from Rick Romano, President of the North Rockland Soccer Association, inviting the Board members to attend their "Fall 2015 Kickoff Celebration" being held on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Nardi Soccer Complex from 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM.

The Mayor stated that we had received the Penflex, Inc. LOSAP Service Fee Agreement for the November 1, 2015 through October 31, 2016 service year, in the amount of \$6,800.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize him to sign the LOSAP Service Fee Agreement as stated above.

RESOLUTION #165-2015

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

The Mayor requested authorization to sign the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2015 Agreement with the Rockland County Office of Community Development.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion giving him the authorization to sign as stated above.

RESOLUTION #176-2015

(Number issued out of sequence for this resolution)

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

The Mayor announced that the DOT was able to award the Village additional construction funds for the Streetscape Project in the amount of \$125,000.

The Mayor entertained a motion for the Board to approve the additional funding and authorizing him to sign the Supplemental Agreement (#4).

RESOLUTION # 166 – 2015

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

With the approval of the County of Rockland Department of Personnel, the Mayor requested permission from the Board to establish the position of “Data Entry Operator I Spanish Speaking”.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #167-2015

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

The Mayor requested permission from the Board to hire Elizabeth Morris to the position of Data Entry Operator I Spanish Speaking, full time, at a salary of \$34,545.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion as stated above.

RESOLUTION #168-2015

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to hire Mr. Montroy to the position of part-time Crossing Guard at a salary of \$13.00 per hour as stated above.

RESOLUTION #169-2015

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

The Mayor requested approval to hire Jerry Monroe to fill the part-time position of Crossing Guard at the corner of Maple and Tor Avenues at a salary of \$13.00 per hour. Hiring of Mr. Monroe is pending Rockland County Personnel approval and the determination of the need for an additional crossing guard.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #170-2015

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

The Mayor requested the Board to approve the 2014-2015 Year End Budget Adjustments submitted by Joseph Modafferi, Village Accountant.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to budget adjustments as stated above.

RESOLUTION #171-2015

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

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Village of Haverstraw  
OVERTIME RECORD  
Fiscal Year 2014/2015 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (March, April, May)

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>ACCOUNT #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
			Debit/Increase
Justice Court	A	1110.11	\$ 3,164.09
Clerk/Treasurer Office	A	1410.11	3,957.35
Law: 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	A	1420.01	10,070.00
Law: 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	A	1420.01	4,835.00
Recreation	A	7140.1	2,713.83
YFS – SNUG	A	7140.1	3,961.34
Building Department	A	3620.1	4,220.95
DPW: Laborers, etc.	A	5110.1	21,604.04
DPW Administration	A	5010.1	8,643.01
			Credit/Decrease
OT Contingency	A	1990.41	\$ 47,440.46
NYS Retirement	A	9010.8	15,729.15

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Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the 2014-2015 Year End Adjustments as stated above.

RESOLUTION #172-2015

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

The Mayor made the following announcements of upcoming events:

Village Food Crawl - Sunday, September 20, 2015  
Primary Day - Thursday, September 10, 2015

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

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

**FIRE & ORDINANCES** – **Trustee Rafael Bueno:** Trustee Bueno read the following report of fire activity for the month of August, 2015, submitted by Fire Chief Robert Drexler, Jr.:

Total Alarms - 21  
General Alarms - 14  
Special Calls - 6  
Mutual Aid Calls - 1

Structure Fires	-	0
Cooking Fires	-	3
Vehicle Fires	-	3
Rubbish Fires	-	2
Extrication Calls	-	1
Gas Leaks	-	2
Good Intent/Misc.	-	4
False Alarms	-	5

Total Manpower Responding - 431 members

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Francisco Batista:** Trustee Batista read the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of August 17<sup>th</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

- 1) The Haverstraw Collaborative met on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. This meeting was the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup & Bread Luncheon, which was provided by Meals on Wheels. The main speaker was Martha Robles, Executive Director of Catholic Charities Community Services of Rockland who did a presentation on "Hunger Awareness". This also included "Bread for the World's" 2015 Offering of Letters Campaign which focused on September being "Hunger Action Month".
- 2) Homework Help Program will begin on September 8<sup>th</sup> with a total of 65 children from Grades 3 through 12 signed up.
- 3) Strengthening Families Program will begin on October 8 and end on November 12<sup>th</sup>. It is a labor intensive program for parents and children geared toward learning more about each other while having fun doing it. The Haverstraw Center is the only one in the County that has been running the "Strengthening Families" program successfully for the past 10 years.
- 4) The Haverstraw Center will be holding its Annual Halloween Parade and Costume Contest on October 31<sup>st</sup> starting at 5:00 PM. Line up for the parade begins at 4:45 PM at the Center.
- 5) Individual Family Counseling had a total of 20 participants.
- 6) Butts Out/Smokers Aftercare has a total of 17 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 August 17<sup>th</sup> through September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

Rental Registrations	-	27
Municipal searches	-	3
Miscellaneous inspections	-	118
Construction inspections	-	28
Complaints	-	6
Violations & tickets	-	34
Permits & Cert. of Occupancy	-	48

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Mayor Kohut:**

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

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport inquired about the number of backpacks that were given out.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez reported that there were over 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies handed out and she thanked everyone for their generosity.

Gil Muesinger: Mr. Muesinger inquired if there is anything happening with consolidating the Town and Village Courts.

The Mayor explained that the Town and Village had discussed consolidation of the Court and had applied for a grant to do the necessary study. However, although the governor is very vocal about consolidation, the funding to do the required studies is not really available from the State. It would have cost approx. \$90,000 to do the study and both the Town and Village decided they didn't want to spend that much money at this time.

Mel Post: Mr. Post informed the Board that 56 New Main Street is in a state of total disrepair and something needs to be done about it. He also requested an update on the status of the Chair Factory.

Mayor Kohut responded that the Board had reached out to the previous owner of the property regarding a settlement but they had not heard back yet.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport requested an update on the status of the Graziosi building.

The Mayor explained that the Graziosi building was still privately owned and he had not heard anything regarding what they intended to do with the property.

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**RESOLUTION # 173 - 2015**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Francisco Batista

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk