

The **Minutes** of the **Regular Board Meeting** held on January 19, 2010 by the Mayor and the Board of Trustees.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL Trustee Batista – Present
 Trustee Bueno – Absent
 Trustee Dominguez – Present
 Trustee Watson – Present
 Mayor Kohut – Present

Mayor Kohut: First item up is the first of two public participations. If anyone wishes to say anything at this point, they can do so. If not, then we will go on.

Mayor Kohut: Reports of Officials:

Village Attorney: I do not have anything other than what was discussed in workshop.

Village Treasurer: My treasurer's report for November and December 2009, total disbursements \$2,229,151.00 and total Revenue \$247,000.00.

Mayor's Report: I have two items to discuss. First, we have a workshop next Monday evening, the 25th, to discuss a variety of items. We also need to schedule a very short special meeting for 6:00 p.m. on the 25th for the purpose of approving Community Development applications, so that they can be submitted to the Community Development office later in the week. If I can have a motion to that effect?

RESOLUTION #09-2010

Motion by: Trustee Dominguez
Seconded by: Trustee Watson
Motion carried: All

Mayor Kohut: We had received word of grant possibilities from New York State Energy Department for Energy Retrofits of Public Buildings, Energy efficient street lighting, etc. Our engineering firm, Brooker Engineering, has an area in their firm that is now doing energy efficiency studies and we have asked them to prepare a grant application to try to get us up to \$500,000 in funding. We need a motion authorizing them to prepare an application on our behalf.

RESOLUTION #10-2010

Motion by: Trustee Watson
Seconded by: Trustee Dominguez
Motion carried: All

Mayor Kohut: We have a request from the North Rockland Rowing Club Inc. They would like to use our meeting room and hereby request permission for the day of Tuesday, February 9th, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

We had a discussion on this and we have no problem with letting them use one of our facilities, either in this building or the Community Center. Emily will check with the Community Center to see if they are available. Otherwise, I will make available the upstairs of village hall. Can I have a motion authorizing this use?

RESOLUTION #11-2010

Motion by: Trustee Dominguez
Seconded by: Trustee Batista
Motion carried: All

Mayor Kohut: We have several items of reorganization to continue with. The first is authorizing the village to use any bank located within the Town of Haverstraw, which would allow the treasurer to shop for higher interest rates on our investments. Could I have a motion to that effect?

RESOLUTION #12-2010

Motion by: Trustee Batista
Seconded by: Trustee Dominguez
Motion carried: All

Mayor Kohut: To designation of the official newspapers of the Village of Haverstraw; the Journal News or the Rockland County Times and as per request El Clarin or El Sol as the official newspapers of the village. This determines which newspaper we must use for publication but does not limit our use of only one paper.

RESOLUTION #13-2010

Motion by: Trustee Dominguez
Seconded by: Trustee Batista
Motion carried: All

Mayor Kohut: The mileage allowance rate has been set by the Internal Revenue Service at .50 cents per mile. This was reduced from last years. We need to set our standard rate and set it at .50 cents per mile.

RESOLUTION #14-2010

Motion by: Trustee Dominguez
Seconded by: Trustee Watson
Motion carried: All

Mayor Kohut: There is an authorization for attendance of schools and conferences. Attendance is not authorized nor can reimbursements be applied for unless the board approves the attendance in advance. There is a sample policy in there. If everyone is comfortable with this?

RESOLUTION #15-2010

Motion by: Trustee Batista
Seconded by: Trustee Dominguez
Motion carried: All

Mayor Kohut: Lastly, with accounting and finance, it's a good time to take care of some policies that need to be revised. The cash receipt section at our present policy states that deposits should be made within one week. The state law however requires 10 days to make deposits, and it works out better for us if it's a 10 day policy. Can I have a motion to correct the village's policy accordingly?

RESOLUTION #16-2010

Motion by: Trustee Dominguez
Seconded by: Trustee Watson
Motion carried: All

Mayor Kohut: We will revisit those other items at our next meeting.

Mayor Kohut: We have interviewed several people for a few positions that we have on our boards. At this time, I will entertain a motion to appoint Gilbert Carlevaro of 43 Leonard Street to a vacancy on our Architectural Review Board. Can I have a motion?

RESOLUTION #17-2010

Motion by: Trustee Dominguez
Seconded by: Trustee Watson
Motion carried: All

Mayor Kohut: We have the bonding resolution that I am going to read. I will explain it prior to reading it. We have gone through a process of acquiring what's commonly referred to as the chair factory property, which is located down to the left of Emeline Park. If you are looking at it along the river it is going towards Liberty Street. It has been acquired as part of our overall master plan for the waterfront. At this time there is some issue as to whether the developer is in a financial position to purchase the property. However, we have owned the property under condemnation for two years but it's been in litigation during that period of time. In order to meet our legal obligation to the former property owner we are required to pay him a stipulated sum at this point, which may increase or decrease at some point in the future once the actual value of the property is established. In order for us to meet our obligation, I am going to read the ban resolution. It's a ban anticipation note, which is basically borrowing money for 1 year upon receipt of paid interest only.

Prior to the reading of the resolution, Trustee Batista asked if the developer had been given an opportunity for a statement saying he cannot purchase the land.

Village Attorney: He has not. The time we are required to pay the former owner has been dictated by the court and if we do not take the steps to get the money, we may of course need to go back to court. That is why I asked that we provide for the bonding. We have also given notice to the developer that the closing will take place sometime in February. If in fact he fails to do it, then we will go forward with making the payment.

Trustee Batista: I am not ready to vote for this. There are too many things pending.

Village Attorney: Every indication is that we will not be forced. However, by passing this resolution you are not incurring a \$1.5 million debt. You are putting yourself in a position to go forward.

Trustee Batista: I understand that. I'm sorry for interrupting you and I understand that there is a process. The thing is, that when we do that and it's in the newspaper, we are allowing him to think that we are going to purchase the land.

Village Attorney: Mr. Ginsburg is going to come forward and pay us this money or he is in default and then he has no opportunity to get this. We can put this over.

Mayor Kohut: We will hold off on this resolution.

One last thing, our second meeting of February falls on President's Day, which is a federal holiday. We need to reschedule it and my suggestion is to move it to Tuesday, February 16th at 8:00 pm.

RESOLUTION #18-2010

Motion by: Trustee Dominguez
Seconded by: Trustee Batista
Motion carried: All

Mayor Kohut: In a form of a motion, it is necessary to set, by State law, the Village Tax Grievance night. The Village Board is obligated to sit for a 4-hour period of time. The grievance period is for people to come and grieve their taxes. We will set that period of time from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Tuesday, February 16th. Can I have a motion to that effect?

RESOLUTION #19-2010

Motion by: Trustee Dominguez
Seconded by: Trustee Batista
Motion carried: All

Mayor Kohut:

Report of Standing Committees:

Fire and Ordinances, Trustee Bueno- He is not present, but Trustee Watson will give his report.

Trustee Watson- We have an application for membership to the fire department. The applicant's name is Patrick McNamee, III. He resides at 37 Riverside Avenue. His date of birth is 7/9/92. He has never applied for membership. He has never been refused. He has never been dropped by the Haverstraw Fire Dept. He is applying as a resident. There is no sign of handicap and has never been convicted of a crime. He is applying for membership at Relief Hose #3. Application is properly signed and notarized. I make a motion that we accept Patrick McNamee III as a Jr. Firefighter.

RESOLUTION #20-2010

Motion by: Trustee Watson, Jr.

Seconded by: Trustee Dominguez

Motion carried: All

Public Works, Buildings and Ground, Trustee Watson- No report.

Youth and Family Services, Trustee Dominguez- We receive from the Town of Haverstraw an annual contract of \$20,000 for Reach Out, to provide services for the town residents. I would like to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.

RESOLUTION #21-2010

Motion by: Trustee Dominguez

Seconded by: Trustee Watson, Jr.

Motion carried: All

Buildings and Code Enforcement, Trustee Batista- The Building Department Report for the period of January 5th – January 15th.

Rental Property Inspections – 38

Municipal Searches – 16

Misc. Inspections – 7

Complaints – 8

Violations and Tickets – 13

Trustee Batista: I have no report from the ticketing code enforcement.

Mayor Kohut: One of the things that I neglected to mention is we all know about the tragedy that occurred a week or so ago down in Haiti. You may not know what people in the village are doing. The church on Lincoln Street, Harvest Assembly of God, a Haitian church, they all accepted and took upon themselves to start raising funds, food, etc. for the people in Haiti. In addition, we have our own homegrown Haverstraw Relief Task Force, which has been in existence for 15 years or so. They are functioning again and have met in order to help raise funds for this disaster. Donations can be made here at Village Hall, Harvest Assembly of God Church on Lincoln Street or the Quisqueya Club.

Trustee Dominguez: On Saturday there is going to be entertainment from 12:00 to 6:00 pm We are going to be asking people to bring water, non-perishable foods, medical things, pillows, etc.

Mayor Kohut: Approval of the minutes of the December 7th meeting.

RESOLUTION #22-2010

Motion by: Trustee Dominguez

Seconded by: Trustee Watson, Jr.

Motion carried: All

Mayor Kohut:
Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Participation:

Cathy Lubuono, 40 Hillside Ave.- She had a question on the chair factory property. She asked if Ginsburg would be obligated to come up with the money as previously mentioned.

Mayor Kohut: On a default in contractual arrangements, there are contractual remedies. You can bring lawsuits. If they are in breach of their contract, that could put them in jeopardy of the overall plan.

Village Attorney: There are many different things that the village could do at that time.

Lori Scally, 64 Sharp St.- She asked about the audit in the Journal News. She asked about the Justice Court.

Mayor Kohut: They were procedural things. There was no money missing anywhere. It was how we proceeded in some of our policies. The village as far as our finance department, we've provided our own response to the audit and we will provide our own corrective action plan to State Comptroller's office to say how we are going to address the issues that they have raised. The Justice Court has provided their own response and will provide their own corrective action plan. Even though it is all "village", it's a separate department.

Lori Scally: Was it 2009?

Village Treasurer: It covered September 2007 through March 31st 2009. It covered (18) eighteen months.

Lori Scally: Do we do our own audits?

Mayor Kohut: We have an annual audit that we are obligated to do by an outside auditor firm.

Lori Scally: She asked about the village website.

Trustee Dominguez: Some things need to be done to the site, so hopefully by next month.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main St.-If NY State is cutting money from all over where are they getting money for NYSERDA?

Mayor Kohut: Anyone else? Could I have a motion to adjourn?

RESOLUTION #23-2010

Motion by: Trustee Dominguez
Seconded by: Trustee Watson, Jr.
Motion carried: All

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Castro
Clerk/Typist