

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, beginning at 8:00 PM.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Batista	- Present
	Trustee Bueno	- Present
	Trustee Watson	- Absent (Death in family)
	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, for the record, wanted the Board to know that Andrew Maniglia got back to him the day after the last meeting with regard to the "For Sale" notice on the Executive Touch building and everything was straightened out satisfactorily.

Larry Levine, 1414 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Levine thanked the Board for having the yellow lines drawn on the roadways in the Village. He feels, however, that the Village is missing out on collecting enormous amounts of money from drivers coming off the Route 9W overpass exceeding the Village speed limit. He has witnessed this himself on many occasions and feels that if the Village put up a camera in that area that the Village could make money from the tickets that could be issued.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq., Village Attorney: Counselor Hood has researched that same issue with a State representative on behalf of the Village and the County. To his dismay, he was informed that there is a state law that mandates there be a population of over one million people in a township in order to install red light cameras and at this time there are no provisions for cameras to detect speeding vehicles. He will continue to connect with state representatives to discuss this issue, with the hope that something can be done in the future.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine inquired when he could expect the "STOP" signs and crosswalk on West Street to be installed. He is really concerned about the traffic and safety issues in that area.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the DPW started to paint the crosswalks, but then the weather intervened. He assured Mr. Levine that it will be taken care of in the near future.

Sherry Copelan, 68 Main Street: Ms. Copelan inquired if the Village Clerk had spoken to the Mayor regarding Parking Lot #12.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded yes and informed Ms. Copelan that the DPW would be changing the times on the sign.

Sherry Copelan: Ms. Copelan also thanked the Board for changing the times on the signs in Lot #9 and also for creating Lot #17, which has been very convenient for her. She is aware that notices with winter parking regulations have been put on cars, however, she suggested that the notices also mention the alternate side of the street parking on certain streets in the Village so everyone is aware of that.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor thanked Ms. Copelan for mentioning the alternate side of the street parking because the Village does not advise all the people of that convenience.

Sherry Copelan: Ms. Copelan then mentioned a car in Parking Lot #9 that has an expired registration. The car continues to be ticketed, but still remains in that lot. She thought that the car would be towed at some point.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor was unsure of the Village policy for towing vehicles, but inquired if Ms. Copelan knew the make, model and license plate number on the car.

Sherry Copelan: Ms. Copelan stated it is a red car with a Pennsylvania plate.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Ms. Copelan that he will have it looked into.

Sherry Copelan: Ms. Copelan agreed with Mr. Levine about the speeding cars coming off the overpass and suggested putting a traffic light at the end of the overpass so people will be forced to stop.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that there are "STOP" signs in the area, but unfortunately, drivers are not paying attention to them.

Arti Taub, 3304 Leewood Drive: Mr. Taub inquired if the Village was going to do anything about the "STOP" sign at the bottom of the hill in the Harbors.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that it, along with others throughout the Village, are going to be changed out for the standard issue model.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post informed the Board that coming down the hill to the Harbors, if you actually stop at the "STOP" sign the driver cannot see to his/her right or left. When he stops at that sign he moves further up so he has the visibility needed to move on.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he will mention it to George White, Superintendent of the DPW, so the new signs will be installed in a location that will allow the driver clear view of the roads, as per DOT standards.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport mentioned that the "WELCOME TO HAVERSTRAW" sign by the shooting range and Tilcon is no longer readable because the posts on the sign are bent, which also caused the sign to bend.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he is not sure whose sign it is because when it went up he had inquired if the Village installed the sign and was told "NO".

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport stated that the sign is still in good shape and all that would probably be required is to straighten out the poles.

**Mayor Kohut:**  
**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.:** With all the interest people have expressed about having weekend ferry service, Counselor Hood drafted a resolution, which he read as follows:

**WHEREAS,** the Haverstraw–Ossining Ferry Service began on September 14, 2000 as part of a five party transaction among NYS Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Metro North Commuter Rail Road, NY Waterway and Ginsburg Development Companies, LLC, and

**WHEREAS,** the current Haverstraw-Ossining Ferry Service became the first such service from Haverstraw to Ossining since 1851, and

**WHEREAS,** the Haverstraw-Ossining Ferry Service uses a double hulled vessel capable of speeds up to 38 knots causing the Hudson River crossing to occur in approximately 11 minutes, and

**WHEREAS,** the Haverstraw-Ossining Ferry Service has operated uninterrupted except for extreme inclement weather for 12 years, and

**WHEREAS,** the Haverstraw–Ossining Ferry Service services approximately 500 riders per day on weekdays, Monday-Friday, and

**WHEREAS,** the Haverstraw–Ossining Ferry Service makes fourteen trips per day between Westchester and Rockland Counties, and

**WHEREAS,** the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees desires to increase visitors to its newly renovated downtown and restaurant district, notably on Saturdays and Sundays. Conversely, many Haverstraw residents have expressed interest in accessing Westchester County and the Metro North Commuter Rail Road for trips to NYC on Saturdays and Sundays, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees requests that Metro North Commuter Railroad extend Haverstraw-Ossining Ferry Service operation to include a weekend schedule, to coincide with the Metro North Commuter Railroad weekend schedule.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the draft resolution for weekend ferry service as written.

RESOLUTION #254-2012

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Francisco Batista

Motion Carries: All

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then instructed the Village Clerk to forward the resolution to the Metro North Railroad.

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

**MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut:** The Mayor thanked Trustee Dominguez, Lynn Bernstein, Mr. Bernstein and everyone else who helped to make the Village's first Annual Holiday Craft Fair held on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at the

Stone Building adjacent to the Village Hall, such a successful event. The Mayor was unable to attend, but was informed that the event was well attended, there was a good variety of crafts and the vendors were pleased with their sales. He thanked everyone again for all their hard work and effort put forth to help make this a very successful event. The Mayor then mentioned that the Village is attempting to hold another fair some time in December.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez mentioned at this time that \$400.00 worth of books is being donated to Head Start.

The Mayor received a request from General Warren Emergency Co. #2 for some electrical work to be done for their kitchen renovation.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the necessary electrical work required in the kitchen of #2's firehouse and for the Building Inspector to contact Lighting Connections to provide them with assistance in meeting the necessary electrical requirements.

RESOLUTION #255-2012

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

The Mayor announced that there is an upcoming seminar sponsored by NYCOM for Code Enforcement and the use of other tools to deal with abandoned properties. It is being held in Peekskill on November 8<sup>th</sup> and both the Mayor and the Building Inspector would like to attend this seminar at a cost of \$40.00 per person.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the attendance at the above seminar as stated above.

RESOLUTION #256-2012

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

The Mayor received a proposal from PenFlex Inc. who services the LOSAP (Length of Service Awards Program) program for the Fire Department. Their base fee for this service is \$3,000.00 and an annual audit fee of \$495.00, with an estimated total expense for the year being \$6,495.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the above stated proposal.

RESOLUTION #257-2012

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

In relation to the Fire Department, the generator at the existing main fire station has been inoperative for some time. It provides certain levels of lighting and power to the building in the event of a power failure. The Fire Chief brought to the Mayor's attention that there is someone he knows that can write a grant request for the Village for the cost of the generator and the

impending electrical work. The Village is eligible for up to \$35,000.00. Victor's Consulting Services, Inc. is prepared to draft a grant application for the Village within the necessary time frame to submit the application by the deadline date at the end of the month at a cost of \$500.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize Victor's Consulting Services, Inc. to prepare grant documentation as stated above.

**RESOLUTION #258-2012**

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion carries: All

The Mayor reported that on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, a second DMI (Drug Market Intervention) initiative was held at the Community Center. Three individuals who have been dealing drugs in Haverstraw and were subject to jail time ranging from 3 to 27 years, attended this intervention. These individuals, ranging in age from 20 to 60 are now being given the opportunity to straighten out their lives by being provided with whatever form of social services they require to cease these illegal activities. This is, basically, the last attempt that these three individuals have to build a better life for themselves. Many powerful speakers attended the event, which was very successful. The Mayor explained that DMI is an initiative by the District Attorney's Office in collaboration with the Village Youth and Family Service Center to deal with petty drug dealing. The program has been very successful in the past getting petty drug dealers off the streets.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

**Mayor Kohut:**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**FIRE & ORDINANCES** – Trustee Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno submitted the following application(s) for acceptance to the Haverstraw Fire Department as follows:

Richard M. Abril, Jr. - Lady Warren Hose Co. #5  
As a Junior Firefighter and non-resident

George E. Johnson - General Warren Hose Co. #2

Both application(s) are complete and duly notarized.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept both applicant(s) into the fire company of their choice.

**RESOLUTION #259-2012**

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

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

In the absence of Trustee Watson, the Mayor read the following report submitted by George White Superintendent of Public Works as of October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012:

- 1) Reinstalled various signs throughout the Village.
- 2) Did line striping in the parking lot and crosswalks at Harbors.
- 3) Started to winterize the snowplow trucks.
- 4) Assisted with setting up tables and chairs for the Holiday Craft Fair at the stone building.
- 5) Cut and trimmed back the trees on Dowd Street.
- 6) Fixed the potholes in the alleyways with millings.
- 7) Assisted Relief Hose Co. #3 with removing the cornerstone for their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- 8) Fixed and black topped the potholes on Dowd Street and the upper end of Fairmount Avenue.

The Mayor then mentioned that the Village has recently purchased two trucks for the DPW, to replace aging vehicles in the fleet. One of the trucks needs to be outfitted with a plow and salt spreader at the cost of \$12,245.00 by Red's Garage in Port Chester, New York.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

**RESOLUTION #260-2012**

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

There was 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 29<sup>th</sup> to October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Reachout Counseling Services – The staff held counseling sessions for 40 individuals and their family members for group and/or family canceling.

Homework Program – The Center continues with its Homework Program for 64 children in grades 3 through 12 who attend on a daily basis.

Halloween Parade – The Center will be holding its annual Halloween Parade and party on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

**BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Francisco Batista:** Trustee Batista read the following report submitted by Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios for the period of September 17<sup>th</sup> through October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012:

Rental property inspections	-	0
Municipal searches	-	4
Miscellaneous inspections	-	76
Construction inspections	-	4
Complaints	-	5
Violations & tickets	-	16
Permits & C.O.'s	-	2
Parking Tickets for September		284

Trustee Batista announced that overnight parking regulations will go into effect on November 15<sup>th</sup> and Parking Permits are available at the Village Hall, starting October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

**MINUTES:** The Mayor presented the minutes of September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for approval by the Board.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #261-2012

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

Mayor Kohut:

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

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

Arti Taub: Mr. Taub inquired if Trustee Batista had laryngitis because he is not making or seconding any motions.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that Trustee Batista did respond to some of the resolutions.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista explained that it does not matter who approves and seconds a motion as long as all the Board is in favor.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine asked about the piece of property that Mr. Rappaport spoke about earlier in the meeting, wanting to know if that property was condemned.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained the property was taken via condemnation by the Village for the developer to be used as part of the Site B development.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine inquired if the price of the property would be lower because it was taken by condemnation. He is curious as to the effect of condemnation on a property.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that when a property is condemned, it puts the title of the property in the Village's name. The Village has since turned the property over to the developer, however, since he is not yet ready to build on the property, the Village has allowed him to short term lease it on a yearly basis, until he is ready to start construction on Site B.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez mentioned that she is starting to collect turkeys for the center's Thanksgiving dinner.

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 #262-2012

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift  
Senior Steno Clerk  
October 23, 2012