

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, December 17th, 2012, beginning 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.

Larry Levine, 1414 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Levine requested an update on the Streetscape project.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he and the project engineer had a meeting with the Department of Transportation (DOT) who has approved the Design Document (DAD) for the final Streetscape project. The Mayor believes the process should now move forward more quickly, stating that the funding is still there for the Village to start this project. He was informed by DOT that the project could begin in the 2013 construction year, however, when factoring in all the documentation involved which requires state approval, including final construction documents, bid documents and actual bidding going out with a thirty day return policy, it could push the project out to late summer or early fall, which may only allow for a symbolic groundbreaking in 2013. He stated that simultaneously he has met with Orange & Rockland Utilities (O&R) about the requirements to change out the existing utility poles on New Main Street and Main Street. That part of the project O&R has said could be completed in 2013 with some of the poles having to be relocated into the street itself because the road is going to shift on Main Street. The landscape architect is working with her engineers to get the documentation started.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then inquired if, in theory, the project should be done some time in 2014.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that in 2014 the project should be under full construction, however, whether or not the whole project can be done in one construction season has not been determined. He stated it is possible but may depend on what obstacles they run into.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post requested the Village Board write a letter to the President of the United States asking him to ban assault rifles, military weapons, etc. to all people except the military and police and that background checks be done in all cases of purchasing weapons in stores or at tradeshow.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he is a member of the coalition "Mayors Against Guns" who have been lobbying for years to restrict the sale of certain weapons. He feels, however, that after the catastrophe that occurred in Connecticut this past week it will probably get more attention than in the past.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport mentioned a gun buyback program that was in effect several years back, stating that he wholeheartedly agreed with Mr. Post that there is a dire need to get guns off the streets.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated gun control is a continuing effort and he believes that there is still funding available for anyone wanting to turn in guns in the County, however, guns can always be turned in whether or not there is a buyback in place. The Mayor stated that the Board would be willing to send a letter to the President on behalf of the Village.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood reported that the previous owners of the AAA Electric property were awarded approximately \$6 million in the condemnation case. An appeal is currently in progress. He requested the Board's approval to ask the County Executive, by resolution, to get involved by sending in an Amicus Brief to bolster the Village's position.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion for the Mayor to authorize and sign a resolution requesting the County to intervene in this appeal on behalf of the Village.

RESOLUTION #315-2012

Motion by: Francisco Batista

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor announced that the Board is rescheduling a meeting with Tom Parker of Gemba Security Solutions (GSS), with regard to an Emergency Warning System (IRIS), to January 7th, 2013. This system will give the Village the ability to notify constituents who have signed up for the system of various things such as emergency notifications, special events etc. He mentioned that there was an article in the Rockland County Times referring to another type of system purchased for Clarkstown. He questioned Mr. Parker about the differences, which Mr. Parker explained to him. The Mayor will go into that with the public after their meeting. The Mayor then explained that IRIS is the same system that the Federal Government uses to relay information, therefore, he believes it is better guaranteed to reach the public than the other system. He then stated there would be a per person cost of \$1.50 per year to the Village.

The Mayor received a request from the Tax Collection Department of the Treasurer's Office to upgrade the Village's KVS Tax Collection Module provide the Village with the proper compatibility with its accounting program, at a cost of \$4,070.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to upgrade the KVS system used by the Tax Collection Department as stated above.

RESOLUTION #316-2012

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

The Mayor reported that the Village has been participating with the County District Attorney's Office in the DMI program. The County has requested that the Village take over the administration of this program, which has been working very well since its inception. In so doing, the Village would sign a contract with the County for the year 2012 to receive \$5,000.00 for services rendered.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with the County as stated above.

RESOLUTION #317-2012

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

The Mayor updated the public on some work that has been done which was all covered by a Court Administration Grant. He reported that the court now has a new window with a speaker system in the Court lobby, and a new exterior door.

The Mayor mentioned that the Board received a request by a resident this past fall to seek weekend ferry service from Metro North Railroad. The Board received a letter dated December 6th from Howard Permut, the President of Metro North Railroad, which the Mayor read in full. A synopsis of this letter is that funding restraints prevent them from being able to make any ferry runs on weekends. Metro North is completely funded by federal and NYSDOT monies. These funds are limited and currently it has been difficult for them to fund both the Haverstraw-Ossining and Newburgh ferries due to decreasing funding, which is solely available for weekday commuter service. The cost to operate the Haverstraw-Ossining ferry on weekends would be approximately \$600,000.00 annually based on the current operating expenses. Due to these restraints, they are unable to grant the Village's request.

The Mayor stated that the second meeting in January falls on Monday, January 21st, a federal holiday celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King, therefore, the Regular Meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, January 22nd.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #318-2012

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

The Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy New Year, Happy Kwanza and to all a Happy Holiday Season.

Mayor Kohut:
REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Jonathan Rodriguez - Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. #1
His application is complete and duly notarized.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept Mr. Rodriguez into the fire company.

RESOLUTION #319-2012

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:
Trustee Watson read the following report submitted by George White Superintendent of Public Works as of December 17th, 2012:

- 1) Cleared the sewer blockage at Haverstraw Transit. Televised the sewer line and found it was separated in several places causing the blockages. Will follow-up on making repairs.
- 2) Continuing to remove storm related debris from Emeline Park.
- 3) Cleaned up Harbors Promenade of storm related debris.
- 4) Finished the installation of Christmas lights and decorations throughout the Village.
- 5) Billy King, along with the help of the DPW, constructed the base of the new salt shed.
- 6) Clear Span erected a canopy on the base of the salt shed.
- 7) Had insurance company, FEMA and the public adjusters look at storm related damage throughout the Village and submitted claims.
- 8) They will continue to remove storm related debris and downed trees in the areas surrounding the Harbors as well as the Warren Avenue area.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that the Village has met with FEMA representatives. They will be sending representatives to look at the damaged sites to determine what is and what is not payable. He stated it would be a long process, not only with FEMA, but with the Village insurance

company as well. The Village is working through the process with hopes of starting to make repairs throughout the Village within a reasonable amount of time.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez gave the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of November 30th to December 13th:

Reachout Counseling Services – The staff held counseling sessions for 27 individuals and their family members for group and/or family canceling.

Project Shift – The Center continues to work with Judge Grant of the Town of Haverstraw on this program, which works with any youth facing minor charges who are also first time offenders.

The Center is continuing with the DMI Program for which they have received their second year of funding.

The Center’s annual Christmas party was held for approximately 150 children at the Community Center.

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 December 1st through December 14th:

Rental property inspections	-	1
Municipal searches	-	3
Miscellaneous inspections	-	76
Construction inspections	-	0
Complaints	-	6
Violations & tickets	-	24
Permits	-	4

Trustee Batista announced that parking is free in the Village’s downtown business district from December 17th through January 1st, for a maximum of two hours.

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez reported that the Christmas Community event will be held Christmas day at the Quisqueya Sports Club. She has found a Santa for the event and they are still in need of toys and donations.

Mayor Kohut:
2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport suggested putting something in the newspaper about the free parking in the Village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the parking meters have all been covered, but they will also put something in the paper.

Name not given: The gentleman wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated he hopes that 2013 will be a better year for everyone.

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting in memory of all the children and teachers who lost their lives in the Connecticut School massacre.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #320-2012

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift
Senior Steno Clerk
December 18, 2012