

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 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.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport thanked the Board for having a "STOP" sign installed at the corner of New Main Street and Clove Avenue and is hopeful that it will slow people down when approaching the Village from Route 9W. He then congratulated the fire department for putting on such a wonderful parade, however, the synagogue on Clove Avenue had problems with parking that morning. He called the police about the "No Parking" and was told that Clove Avenue was designated for fire apparatus attending the parade that day. He informed the police that there are services at the Synagogue every Saturday and they would be gone by 12:00 PM, but was told that vehicles would be towed if they parked on Clove.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor apologized for the oversight and any inconvenience it may have caused.

Sonia Crannage, North Rockland Rotary: Ms. Crannage stated that the Rotary is always there to do whatever they feel needs to be done in the community to make things better and more helpful for residents, especially the elderly and people with disabilities. She explained that the Rotary has discovered that these residents are having a problem getting to different facilities for meetings and social events and do the things that are important to them, especially during the winter months. She reported that the Rotary would like to purchase a bus shelter for the Knights of Columbus (KoC) location, however, she was informed by the bus company that it would have to be approved by the Village. The Rotary is requesting having the present bus shelter on New Main Street removed and reroute the buses to stop at the Knights location, where there is less traffic and more accessible curb space for wheel chairs, etc. In addition to the shelter itself, the Rotary would like the new shelter to be named "The Gary Zeh Bus Stop Shelter" in honor of Mr. Zeh who did so much for this community. She explained that the Rotary would also pay for that expense. Ms. Crannage then explained that she did some research into the cost of a Bus Shelter and found that Assemblywoman Jaffe was able to obtain a \$10,000.00 grant for the Village of Nyack to have a bus shelter installed. The North Rockland Rotary intends to approach Assemblyman Zebrowski about a grant for this project.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor felt that rerouting the buses from New Main Street to the Knights of Columbus did not make a lot of sense because the present location serves multiple bus lines throughout the day. He also feels the County would not be willing to reroute the bus service. He then mentioned that putting up a bus shelter by the Knights of Columbus (KoC) might not be something that they would want and without their approval it cannot happen because that is their property. The Mayor could envision a bus shelter

somewhere else along the route within the Village, which he feels would make more sense.

Sonia Crannage: Ms. Crannage has checked with the Department of Transportation (DOT) who informed her that rerouting the bus route would not be difficult and is something they do all the time. She was actually informed by DOT that she had to come to the Village first for approval of this project. She also would not go to the Knights of Columbus without permission from the Board to move forward with this project. She also mentioned that the KoC is the location that the senior citizens go to for most of their events. She then presented the Board with a letter from the Department of Aging who is very much in support of this project to help the Seniors with their socialization.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that he has never seen any buses taking people to the KoC.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez is aware that the Knights is the place that the Seniors catch their buses when going on trips, but nothing else.

Sonia Crannage: Ms. Crannage feels that possibly it is not happening because it is not available to the Seniors. She would approach the Knights if the Board gives its approval, then come back to the Village if the Knights are in agreement with this project. If not approved by the Knights, the Rotary would then look for a different location.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez mentioned to Ms. Crannage that our village residents come to the Village Hall to purchase their tickets for the bus, which is a convenience for them.

Sonia Crannage: Ms. Crannage does not feel it would be that much of an inconvenience for the residents of the Village to walk over from the KoC.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez explained that these buses run for the convenience of all the residents, especially those who ride the buses on a daily basis, not just the seniors.

Sonia Crannage: Ms. Crannage feels that there is a lot more traffic on New Main Street than Broad Street and would therefore make Broad Street a better location for the safety of the residents. If the Village is not interested in exploring this bus stop then the planning would stop here. She then spoke about homebound seniors and the agencies that support them, who would give their support to this project.

Thomas Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson would like to discuss this further in a workshop where the Rotary could present all their plans and specifications, along with any legal issues that would have to be resolved before the Board can make any kind of decision on this project.

Judith Curcio, Village Clerk/Treasurer: Ms. Curcio suggested Ms. Crannage contact her once she has gathered all necessary information to schedule a date to be put on the agenda to appear at a Village Workshop.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista suggested Ms. Crannage request the DOT to do a traffic survey, because he believes there is just as much traffic

in the area of the Knights of Columbus as there is on New Main Street, especially when the Knights have their regularly scheduled events.

Terrence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson also mentioned that the bus shelter that the Rotary is thinking of installing is much larger than any other shelter throughout the Village which is the reason for requesting Ms. Crannage to gather all information before coming to a workshop.

Patricia Gordon, 15 Christine Lane, Tappan: Ms. Gordon is President of the Haverstraw Brick Museum. She explained that the Brick Museum volunteers would like to have a street in the Village named after Gary Zeh. Ms. Gordon has spoken with Mr. Zeh's daughter who agreed that it would be an honor to have a street named after her father. The members of the Brick Museum feel that Hudson Avenue would be the perfect street since that is where Gary was raised and the family has lived for generations. She also mentioned that if the Village would pay the expense of installing the sign on one side of the street, the Brick Museum would pay the expense of installing a sign on the other side of the street. The members of the Brick Museum feel he should be remembered and recognized for everything he and his family have done for this Village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor and the Board will take this request into consideration and notify Ms. Gordon of their decision.

Dana Morel, 98 Maple Avenue: Ms. Morel stated that she does not approve of all the new signage for the STOP sign on New Main Street. She is a member of the Town of Haverstraw Police Department and is very aware of how people drive, however, she feels the extra signage and speed bump are not needed. She feels just the STOP sign itself is fine and there is no need for a speed bump. She then discussed the speeding issue on Maple Avenue giving examples of speed range, and suggested installing a speed bump on Maple Avenue, where one is definitely needed. She mentioned Head Start School located on Maple Avenue with people dropping off and picking up their children, all the children living on Maple Avenue, the normal flow of large trucks, school buses and now the TOR buses also using Maple Avenue, all adding to the ongoing traffic problem on Maple throughout the day. She agrees the speeding in this Village is out of control and no-one adheres to the 25 MPH speed limit, however, these items should be installed where they are most needed, which she feels is Maple Avenue which is in dire need of not only speed bumps, but also sidewalks with curbs on both sides of the street. She stated that she has requested having speed bumps installed on Maple Avenue many times and was told they could not be installed because of the school buses, which are driven on every street in the Village having speed bumps, so she does not understand how it is not possible to have speed bumps installed on Maple Avenue, which is a main thoroughfare of the Village with its high volume of traffic driving at excessive speeds throughout the day. She believes this is something that has to be addressed for the safety of both the children and adults who walk or play on that street. She also feels it is so dangerous that more than one speed bump is needed on Maple Avenue to keep the speed of traffic under control.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Ms. Morel that sidewalks will be installed starting the following week on Maple Avenue from the Municipal property south on Maple and going up to West Street. The Mayor also informed Ms. Morel that Head Start now has crossing guards.

Dana Morel: Ms. Morel stated that she has dealt with a crossing guard in that location who should not be helping people crossing that street. She has spoken to someone at Head Start about this situation also. While on duty she has sat there and watched what he did, which was only look one way to cross people.

Regina Mayer, 71 New Main Street: Ms. Mayer inquired if the sign announcing the actual STOP sign is just there temporarily.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that he is not sure at this time if it will be a temporary measure or not, but the current need is to give people a warning that there is a STOP sign ahead, especially since there has never been one in that location before this. The signage was put up to forewarn people to avoid any type of liability to the Village.

Regina Mayer: Ms. Mayer then inquired about the lack of a speed table warning sign on the west side of the street.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Ms. Mayer that there is a STOP sign on that side of the street, which has been there for a very long time and people know to stop when they get there.

Regina Mayer: Ms Mayer has no problem with the STOP sign, she does however have a big problem with the huge warning sign placed in front of her house.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor again reiterated that they want outsiders, as well as residents, coming into the Village to be aware that there is a newly installed STOP sign ahead. If, in the future, it is found to be unnecessary, then it might be taken down but for now the warning sign is staying in place.

Regina Mayer: Ms Mayer is also a Realtor selling in the Village and it is not always easy to "sell" the Village of Haverstraw. Entering the Village it is very attractive, but then with all the signage it looks like you're traveling on a major highway. She also inquired if there is a size minimum.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that at this time the additional signage is required. He explained that the Village put up the largest signage possible so it would be visible to drivers speeding down the street approaching a blind turn to be forewarned of the STOP ahead. In the future, when people become accustomed to stopping at that location, perhaps the size of the signage can be changed, but for the time being that particular signage is staying as is, as a safety precaution. The Board feels anyone speeding through that STOP will end up crashing into the newly refurbished house on the other corner or worse, therefore, the signage is staying as is for the time being.

Terence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson feels that people are so used to not stopping at that location that they will go right through the STOP sign even with the speed bump and additional signage. He feels that corner is something that the Board can re-evaluate down the road when developing the plan for the Streetscape. If all the signage, etc., does not fit into the Streetscape plan the STOP sign can be modified to a smaller sign. He then explained that for any newly installed STOP signage it is a requirement that there be a warning for the driver that there is a new STOP sign ahead.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport reported that he has more than once felt like he almost got killed trying to turn onto Clove Avenue when the car behind him could barely stop for him to make that turn. He feels for everyone's safety this STOP sign is an absolute necessity.

Nick Lucas, Main Street: Mr. Lucas feels that it is all just too excessive. The STOP sign is totally needed, however, the huge speed hump and the warning sign he feels is in excess of what is needed and defaces the entryway into the Village. He also feels going over the railroad tracks is a speed bump in itself since they were renovated because you would bottom out with your vehicle.

Mayor Kohut: With nothing further from the public, the Mayor moved forward with the next item on the agenda; a Public Hearing for the Incorporation of General Warren Emergency Co., #2.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing as stated above.

RESOLUTION #214-2014

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

The Mayor stated that the Haverstraw Fire Department consists of five companies. He explained that these companies have existed underneath the umbrella of the Village of Haverstraw for purposes of Tax I.D. numbers, etc. The five companies have to go out on their own, becoming their own entities with their own TAX I.D. numbers. Several companies have already incorporated following all state requirements including a Public Hearing being held by the Village. The Mayor introduced former Fire Chief Pete Rugg from General Warren Emergency Co. #2 who was present to answer questions from the public with regard to the incorporation.

With no comments or questions from the public, the Mayor entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing for incorporation of General Warren Emergency Co., #2.

RESOLUTION #215-2014

Motion by: Emily Dominguez  
Seconded by: Thomas Watson Jr.  
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the incorporation of General Warren Emergency Co., #2 which will then be filed with the Secretary of State.

RESOLUTION #216 - 2014

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

Mayor Kohut:

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.:** Counselor Hood reported on the following:

- 1) Sterling National Bank has exercised its 5 year extension option to lease the front part of the Village Hall building at 40 New Main Street.
- 2) A settlement has been worked out with the attorney for Pine Environmental in the amount of \$9,925.00. The Mayor explained that this was for equipment that was damaged during Hurricane Sandy for which some funds were received from FEMA and 50% was to be paid by Pine Environmental for the value of the equipment.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the settlement with Pine Environment as stated above.

**RESOLUTION # 217 - 2014**

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

- 3) Counselor Hood requested the Board schedule 3 Public Hearings for 3 Local Laws he has drafted.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to schedule the Public Hearings for Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:05, 8:10, and 8:15 PM.

**RESOLUTION # 218 - 2014**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez  
Seconded by: Thomas Watson Jr.  
Motion Carries: All

- 4) On September 15<sup>th</sup>, the property at 41 Clinton Street, the garden area at the end of Clinton Street, was awarded to the Village of Haverstraw by Judge Alfieri. Counselor Hood explained that the Village has maintained this property for many years but there was no deed for the property granting them ownership. The Village served notice to the Haverstraw Realty Company who owned the area at some point in time, but with no response from them, Judge Alfieri officially awarded the property to the Village. He then reported that the Village is currently contracted to sell the property to Virginia Norfleet for \$15,000.00. He will contact Ms. Norfleet to see if she is still interested in purchasing the property.

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

**VILLAGE TREASURER, Judith Curcio:** Ms. Curcio gave the following report for the months of June, July and August, 2014:

Total Revenue	\$6,224,000.00
Total Disbursements	\$2,668,000.00

Ms. Curcio had nothing further to report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut:** The Mayor announced there is an upcoming grant opportunity through the Federal Government for Fire Department Diesel Exhaust Systems, which the Village would like to pursue for 3 firehouses. Presently the trucks continue to expel fumes into the buildings, which is a dangerous situation for everyone involved. He would like to have Vickers Grant Writers prepare a grant proposal for the Village at a cost of \$500.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize Vickers Grant Writers to prepare a grant proposal as stated above.

**RESOLUTION # 219 - 2014**

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

The Mayor received a request from the new tenants at 16 Front Street, the former Civile's, to have a retaining wall built behind the refrigerator boxes at the building. Mr. Milone, the tenant, has obtained a proposal from one of his contractors to do the work for \$3,500.00 and would like the Board's approval to move forward with this excavation.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the tenants request for excavation with a retaining wall at a cost of \$3,500.00 as stated above.

**RESOLUTION # 220 – 214**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez  
Seconded by: Thomas Watson Jr.  
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor reported that the County of Rockland is going to assist the Village with a \$2,000.00 supplement towards the Haverstraw River Arts Festival which will be held on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at Emeline Park. He mentioned bands that will be playing, sculpting will be done, crafters and food will also be available. He explained that this money would have to go to the Village for fees and expenses that the Village paid out on behalf of the Arts Festival. He requested the Board approve spending up to \$2,000.00 for payments of the bands, porta-sans, etc., which will be reimbursed by the County.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve spending up to \$2,000.00 for items needed for a successful River Arts Festival as stated above.

**RESOLUTION # 221 - 2014**

Motion by: Thomas Watson Jr.  
Seconded by: Francisco Batista  
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

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

**FIRE & ORDINANCES** – Trustee Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno had nothing to report.

**PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS–Trustee Thomas Watson**

**Jr:** Trustee Watson requested approval for George White to attend a Public Works Officials Conference in Saratoga Springs from October 20 through October 22<sup>nd</sup> at a cost of \$510.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve George White’s attendance at a conference in Saratoga Springs as stated above.

**RESOLUTION # 222- 2014**

Motion by: Thomas Watson Jr.  
Seconded by: Emily Dominguez  
Motion Carries: All

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Francisco Batista:** Trustee Batista gave the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of August 28<sup>th</sup> through September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014:

**HOMEWORK HELP:** This program continues again this year as the children return to school. There are currently 64 children attending with another 40 children waiting for availability.

**SENIOR CITIZEN BREAKFAST:** To be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 11:30 AM.

**CAUGHT BEING GOOD PROGRAM:** This program will begin in late September.

**STRAIGHT TO THE TOP:** This program will also begin in late September.

**NORTH ROCKLAND HIGH SCHOOL EXTENSION:** In collaboration with the YMCA will begin in September.

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 September 2<sup>nd</sup> through September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014:

Rental property inspections	-	3
Miscellaneous inspections	-	66
Complaints	-	5
Construction inspections	-	7
Building Permits/CO's	-	13
Violations & tickets	-	10

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.



Mayor Kohut:

**OLD BUSINESS**

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez just wanted to remind everyone that the Farmers Market continues to be open until October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that Cosgriff Hose Company #4 of the Haverstraw Fire Department hosted the Annual Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters Parade. He thanked them for all the time and effort they put forth in hosting this event. He mentioned also how well the Village presented itself, the parade was well attended and no major issues occurred.

Mayor Kohut:

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**Mayor Kohut:**

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

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport mentioned that there were tickets issued for noise ordinances in the Village, which were thrown out of court because there was no equipment for measuring sound in the Village.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez stated that she was a witness, as well

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting, closing with a moment of silence in memory of Gary Zeh.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

**RESOLUTION # 223 - 2014**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Francisco batista

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift  
Senior Steno Clerk