

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, January 5th, 2015, 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 first thanked the Board for quickly attending to the trash cleanup at Harbors. He then inquired if there are any county or local laws regulating taxi's in the Village.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq., Village Attorney: Counselor Hood responded that the Village forwarded proposed laws/regulations to the County Attorney for review in October, however, to date he has not heard back.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed the public that technically each municipality can choose to regulate or not regulate taxi cabs in their districts. For example, Spring Valley regulates the size of the signage allowed on the cabs and the fees that the taxi's can charge both in and outside of their municipality. At the current time, the Village of Haverstraw does not have regulations to that extent. The problem is that there is no central authority for taxi cabs in the County of Rockland which is why the Village has been pushing for a County Wide Taxi Commission for the past 7 years. He explained one of the problems the taxi's face is when they cross the Tappan Zee Bridge to drop off or pick up a fare in Westchester County, they can be ticketed or have their cars impounded because there is no reciprocity with a taxi/limousine commission in Rockland County. The Village has been trying, not only to help the taxi companies, but to also get some sort of standardization for the taxi industry in the County because the taxi's also have to pay fees to each different municipality where they do business. The Village is willing to forego these fees for uniformity in the taxi business.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.: Counselor Hood mentioned that the County has received permission from the State to move forward with this but he has yet to see anything being done on the County level to standardize the taxi business for the County.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then requested an update on the Streetscape Project, also mentioning that when the project is finalized he hopes that the Village does not follow what New City did with its streetscape in reference to the bump-outs.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that there is 1 bump-out on the Village plan, but it is out of necessity, therefore it will be nothing like New City.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista felt that the New City Street Project was nicely done and is aesthetically appealing.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor feels the functionality is lacking with all the bump-outs on the main street, making it hard to plow snow or keep the streets clean. He then mentioned that he received a letter from the state informing the Village that they cannot do any kind of work to anything, including sidewalks, located in front of the Post Office because it is a federal building. He did report, however, that the State is trying to push this through the FHWA (Federal Highway

Administration) for a final approval to the Project. He reported that he previously had a discussion with the Village Engineer who was going to contact our State Representative to try to resolve this issue with the FHWA so the Village can finally go out to bid for the project, which he is still hopeful will happen in 2015.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post inquired if the Mayor had received a letter from John Cooney of Tilcon, as promised.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he has not yet received the letter Mr. Cooney promised to have to him by the end of December, but is giving him some leeway because of the holidays. He will contact him, however, if he does not hear from him shortly. He did mention that the smaller piles at Tilcon are a specific blend being produced for a client and are expected to be shipped out over the course of the winter.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired if any more thought had been given to switching the big "STOP" sign on New Main Street with the smaller one at the end of the overpass, which he feels would be a great idea.

Mayor Kohut: With no further input from the floor, the Mayor moved forward with that night's agenda.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood requested approval to sign 2 Tax Certioraris which are due for refunds as follows:

- 1) Terrace on the Hudson (27.61-1-4) which was vacant for a period of time after the existing building was taken down. The refund determined by the Village Assessor is \$11,131.47.
- 2) Smakam & Susasu LLC (26.51-1-42 & 26.51-1-43) which was vacant also for a short period of time. The refund determined by the Village Assessor is \$6,189.81.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve Counselor Hood to sign both Tax Certiorari Settlements as stated above.

RESOLUTION #1-2015

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

VILLAGE TREASURER, Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio gave the following report for the months of September, October and November, 2014 as follows:

Total Disbursements	-	\$2,308,923.00
Total Revenues	-	\$1,218,957.00

Ms. Curcio had nothing further to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that the Board has been discussing the possibility of changing the meeting time for the Regular Board Meetings from 8:00 PM to 7:00 PM and wants to get input from the public by holding a Public Hearing on the issue. He requested a Public Hearing be scheduled for 8:05 PM on February 2nd to consider moving the meetings times.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #2-2015

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

The Mayor reported that it is necessary for the Board to re-adopt the Chair Factory Resolution amending the period of probable usefulness because, again, it was not published in the required 10 day period.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to re-adopt the Chair Factory Resolution as stated above.

RESOLUTION #3-2015

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

The Mayor then informed everyone that the Village Hall will be closed on January 19th in honor of Martin Luther King, therefore the next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20th at 8:00 PM.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno read the following report for the month of December, 2014, submitted by Fire Chief Al Lynch:

Total Alarms	-	19
General Alarms	-	12
Special Calls	-	5
Mutual Aid Calls	-	3
Structure Fires	-	1
Vehicle Fires	-	2
Electrical Fires	-	1
Cooking Fires	-	3
Rubbish Fires	-	1
Gas Leaks	-	4
Pump Outs	-	1
Good Intent/Misc.	-	4
False Alarms	-	3

Total Manpower Responding - 475 members

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 January 5th, 2015:

- 1) Replaced sewer rings on Broadway, Grant Street and Halgren Crescent due to damage caused during the winter seasons.
- 2) Trimmed trees throughout the Village.
- 3) Fixed the DPW yard dumping area.
- 4) Put up new signs on Broadway, Jefferson and Archer Streets.
- 5) Salted and plowed roads due to snow storm on January 3rd, 2015.
- 6) Performed maintenance on DPW trucks for the winter season.

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 December 15th through December 31st, 2014:

Annual Holiday Party: The party was held on December 15th with the Center welcoming members of the "TOYS FOR TOTS" Marine Corps. along with 267 participants including the youth who attend activities at the Center on a daily basis and their families. Gifts were distributed to the children along with a complete turkey dinner served to the children and their families. Trustee Batista thanked everyone who volunteered and/or cooked for the event. A fun time was had by all.

Upcoming Events: Trustee Batista reported the following events which will take place at the Community Center during the month of January, 2015:

- 1) The Haverstraw Collaborative will meet on Wednesday January 7th from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM.
- 2) The Spanish Speaking Parents Group is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 7th at 6:00 PM.
- 3) On January 27th the staff will be working with the North Rockland High School Extension for "Career Day". Any students not scheduled for exams are eligible to participate.
- 4) On January 30th there will be a County wide high school "Teen Night" at the Center sponsored by the Rockland County Coalition for Drug Free Schools & Communities. Participants from all county wide high schools are welcome to participate in this event.

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 December 15th through December 31st, 2014:

Municipal searches	-	12
Miscellaneous inspections	-	90
Construction inspections	-	124
Complaints	-	7
Violations & tickets	-	6
Building Permits/C.O.'s	-	6

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:
NEW BUSINESS
None.

Mayor Kohut:
2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport inquired about the new car for the Village Parking Enforcers.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed the public that the old car kept stalling and breaking down as well as the headlights not working. The Village was able to purchase the new car for \$13,000.00.

Mr. Rappaport noticed there has been a larger police presence in the Village and was wondering why.

Mayor Kohut: Although the Mayor is not aware of the reasons for the increased police presence in the Village he was happy to hear there has been an increase in patrols and that some people have noticed the increase.

Mel Post: Mr. Post requested an update on the matter with GDC paying the \$6.5M that is owed to the Village for the Site A condemnation.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that there is nothing new to report and that the Village is still in discussions with GDC to resolve this matter.

Joel Santana, 100 Halgren Crescent: Mr. Santana believes that all the Boards serving the Village should have some sort of joint training in order to better serve the Village and its residents. He also inquired about the terms of the \$6.5M that Mr. Post spoke about.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he will look into the necessity and/or possibility of joint training for all the Boards in the Village. He then reported that the term of the \$6.5M Bond Anticipation Note is 1 year at an interest rate of 1.25%.

Mel Post: Mr. Post wanted the Board to know that he feels it would be inconvenient to the public to schedule the Board Meetings earlier in the evening.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine wanted to make the Board aware that the 6:00 PM fire whistle is getting later and later every day.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed the public that the fire whistle is controlled by the County and it is up to them to make the necessary adjustments.

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting in memory of the 2 members of the NYPD who were killed in the line of duty and in memory of former Governor Mario Cuomo.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #4-2015

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk