

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, March 16th, 2015, 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.

Mikko Peltoniemi, 100 Dowd Street - C6: Mr. Peltoniemi inquired about the last time Dowd Street was paved, because he believes it now needs to be repaved. He also requested the Board have a "Do Not Block Intersection" sign installed at the foot of Dowd Street, explaining that since the traffic light was installed people tend to block the entrance to the street causing even more congestion in the area.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor was not sure the last time Dowd Street was paved but would have it looked into. He also felt installing signage at that intersection to avoid traffic congestion is something that the Village can definitely do.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post requested an update on the Tilcon problem regard to the piles that are continuing to grow.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that as of that night he had not yet received or heard anything from Tilcon.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired if the Mayor had received anything from the State with regard to Tilcon, which was sent from one of the State agencies about hydro-seeding the hills.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the Village did not receive any direct communication from the State, however, the Town received a letter and they informed the Village of its contents. He will make those facts known in future correspondence to Mr. Cooney.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then requested a copy of the letter the Town received from the State, which the Mayor agreed to. He then stated that one of the items in the letter from DEC instructed Tilcon to cut the hill back by 50 feet, however, it appears to him that they have actually continued to add to the height of the hills because they are much higher than they have ever been.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor did not think the letter stated an actual number the hills had to be reduced by, only that they had to reduce the height. He also mentioned that the woman in charge at DEC is aware of where the height was and where it currently stands. DEC actually did a visual inspection and the Mayor believes she took pictures at the time that she made the complaint violation.

With nothing further from the floor, Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to continue with the night's agenda and open a Public Hearing with regard to amending Local Law Section 137-4 & 137-402 and Section 245-36

regarding penalties for offenses and raising punishable fines related to the present building code violations and the proposed changes.

RESOLUTION #46-2015

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

The Mayor requested the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, to come forward to explain the reasoning for amending the Law.

Ruben Berrios: Mr. Berrios explained that the current laws are limited to a \$1,000.00 fee for a code violation. On several occasions when going to court he was challenged by the Judge who said the Village could only receive \$1,000.00 per violation issued, meaning that he would have to continue issuing the same violation over and over for the Village to receive a larger fine. This meant he would have to continuously go back to the property to investigate whether or not the violation had been taken care of; most of the violations being illegal apartments, rooming houses, etc. These violations are also found as a result of a fire at a property. Currently, the Village can only issue 1 violation on a property for a fee of only \$1,000.00. The Village is looking to raise the violation fee up to \$10,000.00, which would give the department more room for fining properties with extremely serious violations, especially with repeat offenders.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that if it is a case of uncut grass there would only be 1 violation issued. In the case of serious building code violations, as explained by the Building Inspector, he would then have the authority to issue a larger fine for a violation and not have to continuously make daily visits to a property for extended periods of time to issue violations over and over again.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista reiterated that a 1 time fine would be \$1,000.00 asking the Building Inspector to explain giving a \$10,000.00 violation.

Ruben Berrios: Mr. Berrios explained that the fines would be up to \$10,000.00, which would enable him to issue a justifiable fine to those properties with illegal apartments, boarding houses, etc. The higher fines would be issued for any illegal issues found on a property, however the ultimate decision on the amount of the fine is up to the Judge. He gave an example of the fire at 17 Broadway that had a rooming house several years back. They were taken to court and paid the fine. Now with the recent fire it was discovered they still have an illegal rooming house, which is where the fire started. They again went to court, but the maximum fine that could be charged was \$1,000.00 because the violation does not exist any longer, however, for what occurred with the fire, they should have had to pay at least \$5,000.00 for still having the illegal rooming house and being a repeat offender.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that it would give the Building Inspector and the Prosecutor more leverage for a higher fine to be issued. The Judge may or may not agree with the amount of the fine and may lower it, but it gives the Village a chance to set what they consider a realistic amount in fines.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez feels it would also put more pressure on the owners to take care of the illegal housing issues because the next fire might not have as good an outcome as this one, which could have resulted in a tragedy.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then opened the floor to the public.

Edwidge Auponte, address inaudible: Mr. Auponte inquired of the Building Inspector if there would be any possible way to produce a listing of repeat offenders in order to keep the public safe.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that this is not meant for previous offenders, but for violations from this day forward to allow the Village to prosecute offenders under the new law and awarded heavier fines.

Ruben Berrios: Mr. Berrios mentioned that these fines would be for first time and repeat offenders based on the severity of the violation. He also mentioned that this does not apply to single family dwellings unless the owner decides to lease the property, then the Building Department has the right to go inside and inspect it.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor also explained that the Apartment Inspection Program allows the Building Department to check only the buildings that the Village is aware of having apartments, etc., it does not allow them to go into every residence in the Village. He gave an example of 9 Fairmount Avenue where there is a known number of apartments and the Building Inspector would have free access to inspect those apartments for violations.

With no further input from the floor, the Mayor entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #47-2015

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the Local Laws stated above to amend the amount of the fines that can be levied for illegal issues on a property.

RESOLUTION #48-2015

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

At this time, the Mayor entertained a motion to temporarily move from the Regular Board Meeting to open the Board of Assessment Review Meeting.

RESOLUTION #49-2015

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

The Mayor explained that the Village Board also sits as the Board of Assessment Review along with the Assessor Edey McCarthy, for the purpose of allowing village property owners the right to challenge their tax assessments. He reminded everyone that Grievance night took place at the

2nd meeting in February and the grievances have now all been reviewed and a document prepared showing the results of each grievance submitted, many of which were dismissed or denied based on the fact no information was received with the grievance or other reasons. He reported that there have been adjustments made to some properties that the Board determined were reasonable requests for reductions to their assessments. This document will be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the 2015 Assessed Value Changes.

RESOLUTION #50-2015

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Board of Assessment Meeting and resume with the agenda for the Regular Village Board Meeting.

RESOLUTION #51-2015

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

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood was absent from the meeting therefore no report was given.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor received a request to use the Maple Avenue Parking Lot to park a Game Bus for a child's birthday party since there is not enough room to park the bus on Maple Avenue.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to allow the Game Bus to park in the lot adjacent to the Fire House on Maple Avenue, provided they supply the Village with the proper insurance documentation.

RESOLUTION #52-2015

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

The Mayor received a request from Jason Quinones for a Peddlers Permit for a food truck, however, based upon a history received from the Town of Haverstraw Police Department, which has been reviewed by the Board, it was their decision to deny the request of Mr. Quinones.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to deny the request for a Peddlers Permit as stated above.

RESOLUTION #53-2015

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

The Mayor has received the 2014 Service Award Program Firefighters Records of the Haverstraw Fire Department LOSAP Program, listing all the firefighters who have reached 50 points triggering the LOSAP attendance for this year.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the 2014 LOSAP firefighter records for the Village of Haverstraw Fire Department.

RESOLUTION #54-2015

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

The Mayor requested a Public Hearing be scheduled for Monday, April 13th at 7:05 PM to review the Mayor's tentative 2015/2016 Village Budget.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #55-2015

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

The Mayor received the following budget adjustments from the Village Accountant:

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Increase Appropriations</u>	<u>Decrease Appropriations</u>
A1650.04	Central Communications	\$ 6,100.00	
A1990.04	Contingent		\$ 6,100.00
A1650.045	Alarm	1,500.00	
A1990.04	Contingent		1,500.00

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above stated budget adjustments.

RESOLUTION #56-2015

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

The Mayor then read the adjustments to be made to the Village Overtime Record as follows:

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Increase Appropriations</u>	<u>Decrease Appropriations</u>
A1110.11	Justice Court	\$ 2,447.11	
A1410.11	Clerk/Treasurer Office	2,784.28	
CM9961.9	Reach Out	448.68	
A7140.1	Recreation	448.68	
A3620.1	Building Department	860.90	

A5110.1	DPW Laborers, etc.	49,931.53
A5010.1	DPW Administration	13,285.85
A1990.41	OT Contingency	\$70,207.03

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above stated budget adjustments.

RESOLUTION #57-2015

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

The Mayor received a request from the Girl Scouts of the Hudson Valley to once again use the parking lot adjacent to the Knights of Columbus for the bus pickup/drop off point for their summer day camp.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the Girl Scouts request as stated above.

RESOLUTION #58-2015

Motion by: Terence Watson, Jr.
 Seconded by: Rafael Bueno
 Motion Carries: All

The Mayor received a letter from Cosgriff Hose Co. #4 inviting the Village Board to the 2015 Haverstraw Fire Department Chiefs Convention.

The Mayor received a request from Rand Commercial Services to continue their engagement as the Commercial Broker for the Chair Factory property for a term of 1 year beginning that night and running through March 16th, 2016.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #59-2015

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

The Mayor reported that he met with representatives from Orange & Rockland Utilities, who will be working in the Village during 2015 replacing gas lines in a variety of places throughout the Village including the entire community of Dutchtown, between New Main Street & Clove Avenue to the railroad tracks, the entire Village on the Green Development, 9W in the area of McDonald's and on Lakeview Court. O&R will handle repairs to the roads by paying the Village the amount of money it would cost the Village to repair the damaged roads. The Board feels this is the best way to handle the road repairs. He did mention, however, that the repairs would not be made until 2016 because the ground needs to settle for a period of time before any work is done. The residents will be informed of the work to be done.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:
REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Ian Thomas - Relief Hose Co. #3

His application is complete and duly notarized.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept Mr. Thomas into the company he has chosen.

RESOLUTION #60-2015

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 March 16th, 2015:

- 1) DPW crew hand swept downtown business district.
- 2) Continue to do pothole repairs throughout the Village.
- 3) Continue with snow removal from village streets.
- 4) Cleaned sewer blockage behind NSA Supermarket.
- 5) Continued working on the refurbishing of the Village public garbage cans.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

The Mayor complimented the DPW workers for the exceptional job they have done throughout the winter season with keeping the roads clear of snow and ice, as well as the whole snow removal process.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista gave the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of February 27th to March 13th, 2015:

- 1) Unity in the Community: This event is held annually at the Community Center by the Haverstraw Collaborative and various organizations throughout the County, taking place during North Rockland School District's spring recess, which this year will be March 30th through April 1st.
- 2) The Haverstraw Center will be hosting an "ALL NIGHTER" on April 2nd. This is an overnight event for youth in the 9th through 12th grades in the North Rockland area.
- 3) Individual/Family Counseling had a total of 20 participants.
- 4) Boys Life Skills Group for ages 11 to 14 held 1 session with 12 participants.
- 5) 55 participants daily have been provided with Homework Help.

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 March 2nd through March 13th, 2015:

Miscellaneous inspections	-	47
Search	-	2
Construction inspections	-	36
Complaints	-	4
Violations & tickets	-	6
Bldg. Permits & CO's	-	1

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Mayor reminded the public that starting with the April 6th meeting the start time will be 7:00 PM.

RESOLUTION #61-2015

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk
March 23rd, 2015