

The minutes of the Budget Public Hearing of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 7:00 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 informed everyone that this hearing was called to review his 2015/2016 proposed budget with the public. The following is a brief synopsis of the budget, page by page, highlighting any significant differences, after which he opened the floor to the public for questions or comments.

### **Page 1**

- 1) Minor increases in Contractual Expenses under the Board of Trustees, which is based upon actual expenditures and needs.
- 2) Minor variations under Justice Court, some having to do with longevity raises for personnel and raising the number of hours for some of the Constables.
- 3) Some reductions under Contractual Expenses and Traffic Ticket line based on actual expenditures over the past year.

### **Page 2**

- 1) Minor increase of \$5,000.00 in personnel services under the Treasurer's Line due to the increase in the hourly rate for a part-time employee, plus longevity increases.
- 2) Increase of \$3,000.00 on the Treasurer's Line due to the Affordable Care Act regulations.
- 3) Change under Auditor for an additional audit that has to be performed this year for the Actuarial Report that has to be done every 3 years.
- 4) Change to the Clerk's Line due to the increased hourly cost for student employees and longevity.

### **Page 3**

- 1) Personnel Services Line under Law - a proposed raise of \$5,000.00 for the Deputy Village Attorney based upon his earnings when joining the Village.
- 2) Shared Services Building – A reduction of \$5,000.00 in the Fuel/DPW Garage based upon estimates and the lower cost of fuel.
- 3) An increase in gas and electric estimates based upon the increase in rates.
- 4) Increase of \$7,000.00 for Central Communications due to IRIS (the new communication system that allows the Village to send messages as required) not being budgeted the previous year.
- 5) Increase to the Central Communications Alarm line.
- 6) Increase to the Central Storeroom due to increased cost.
- 7) Increase to Central Printing/Postage due to the increase in postage rates.

### **Page 4**

- 1) Unallocated Insurance – reflects the increase in the Village's most recent insurance rates mainly in the flood insurance area, all of which is subject to marketplace rates.

- 2) Judgments & Claims – an increase of \$10,000.00 to reflect anticipated tax certiorari judgments, etc.
- 3) Contingent Overtime – Increase of \$55,750.00 based upon actual expenses of overtime in all departments and budgeting for anticipated retirements.
- 4) On-Street Parking Personnel Services – Increase of \$11,000.00 for additional parking enforcement personnel (now 4) and increased hours to benefit the Village with increased fines and judgments.

#### **Page 5**

- 1) Fire Department, Water Hydrant Rental – Increase based upon an increase in the number of hydrants and the associated monthly fee attached. These rates have continuously gone up, therefore, they are being budgeted appropriately.
- 2) Safety Inspection Category – Small increases due to longevity raises.

#### **Page 6**

- 1) Minor increases for longevity and minor decreases for Contractual Expenses.
- 2) Street Maintenance, Road Repairs – Increase for both road repairs and sidewalk maintenance.
- 3) Snow Removal, Contractual Expenses – Increase of \$70,000.00 for the cost of road salt.
- 4) Street Lighting – Minor decrease in Contractual Expenses due to budgeting meeting actual expenses.

#### **Page 7**

- 1) Special Events – Decrease
- 2) Farmers Market – Increase
- 3) Community Center, Personnel Services – Increase based upon longevity and additional personnel that will be paid through grant funds.
- 4) Community Center, Contractual Expenses – Increase of \$5,000.00 based upon actual costs over the years.

#### **Page 8**

- 1) Youth Services, Personnel-Summer Camp – Increase due to the raise in minimum wage.

#### **Page 9**

- 1) Refuse Collection – Increase of \$8,000.00 to better reflect the rise in costs.
- 2) Beautification – Increase in the cost of flowers, landscaping, etc. to keep the Village looking attractive throughout the year.
- 3) NYS Retirement – Increase based on estimate from NYS
- 4) Firemen's Benefit – Minor reduction.
- 5) Worker's Compensation – Increase based on actuals expended in prior year.
- 6) Worker's Compensation Fire – Increase due to compensation set by the State.
- 7) Hospital & Medical – Increase

#### **Page 10**

- 1) Debt Service, Serial Bond Principal – Decrease in payment.
- 2) Statutory Bonds – Bonds for various projects and acquisitions throughout the Village, particularly for the Chair Factory.

- 3) Statutory Bond/Interest – Show a reduction because the Chair Factory is no longer under this line.
- 4) Contributions to Other Funds, Reach Out – Shows the difference between the cost of operating the Reach Out program after the Village reduces the amount with the grant money and OASAS funds, as well as money received from the Town of Haverstraw and the Village of West Haverstraw.

The Mayor's proposed budget amounts to \$9,224,947.00. He then reported on the estimated revenues as follows:

**Page 11**

- 1) Special Assessments have gone down slightly.
- 2) Payments in lieu of taxes have gone up approximately \$95,000.00. The Mayor reported the reason is contractual agreements for certain projects within the Village there are agreements in lieu of taxes with the owners, giving an example of the building adjacent to the Village Hall, which is having renovations done to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, as well as other PILOTs that have gone up.
- 3) Non-Property Tax distribution by the County for sales tax is estimated to rise as is the Utility Gross Receipts for electric, gas, telephone, water and cable TV.
- 4) The Village anticipates an increase in parking permits, actuals being better reflected at the current time.
- 5) Parking meter fees are up by approximately \$1,000.00.
- 6) The fees for recycling are down slightly.
- 7) Rental fees for real property have gone up mostly due to the rental of the restaurant (previously Civile's) on Front Street.

Rafael Bueno has just arrived at the meeting.

- 8) Fines and Forfeitures have gone up mainly due to actuals at this time showing increased revenues from the Justice Court.
- 9) State Aid is going up by approximately \$12,600.00.
- 10) Other Governmental Aid has gone up due to a federal grant the Village received.
- 11) The Mayor is proposing to reduce the draw on the fund balance reducing it from \$750,000.00 to \$600,000.00.

When calculated, the rate per thousand will go from \$159.22 to \$169.38, showing a proposed increase of 6.379%, which will put the Village \$275,000.00 over the 2% tax cap.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing

**RESOLUTION #73-2015**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Terrence Watson, Jr.

Motion Carries: All

Ted Buonocore, Harbors: Mr. Buonocore had no questions at the present time, however the Mayor did inform him that if he does have any questions that come to mind after reviewing the proposed budget that he is welcome to call either himself or the Village Treasurer.

The Mayor then inquired if the Trustees had any further questions since they last discussed the budget.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista inquired about Contractual Expenses under Law on Page 3.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that increase is for anticipated potential attorney fees for the AAA litigation matter to settle negotiations with GDC for the payment of the \$600,000.00 Bond.

With no further questions from the public, Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #74-2015

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

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 #75-2015

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk