

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, beginning at 8:00 PM.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Batista	- Absent/Vacation
	Trustee Bueno	- Present
	Trustee Watson	- Absent/Vacation
	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.

Gil Muesinger, 1416 Round Point Drive: Mr. Muesinger spoke about the "Speed Hump" located on Maple Avenue adjacent to Head Start. He feels the way the hump is constructed it can cause damage to vehicles and should be made more gradual where a vehicle approaches the paver bricks minimizing any possible damage to vehicles.

With no further input from the public, the Mayor continued with the agenda for that night's meeting.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open a Public Hearing regarding preparation for the MS-4 Annual Reporting.

#### RESOLUTION #126-2015

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

The Mayor informed the public that New York State Law and the Department of Environmental Conservation requires every municipality to comply with Municipal Storm Water Management by protecting a municipalities water shed, lakes, rivers and tributaries from pollution. The Village is required, therefore, to report its efforts by providing all storm water related activities including placement of protective guards for catch basins to keep out debris, educating the staff and providing outreach to the public to inform them of the harm caused by dumping things into storm drains, which run into the river killing fish and polluting the river. He explained that the Village is required by law to hold a Public Hearing annually in this regard.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing

#### RESOLUTION #127-2015

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

At this time, the Mayor invited the public to make comments or ask questions.

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

RESOLUTION #128-2015

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

Mayor Kohut:

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.:** Counselor Hood reported that the attorney currently handling the ongoing situation with Martin Ginsburg and settlement with AAA Electric is moving to a new firm, effective immediately. Counselor Jim Neale will now be with the law firm of Winslett Studnicky McCormick & Bomser LLP located in New York City. His hourly rate is being reduced to \$525.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to continue working with Counselor Jim Neale, at his new law firm with his new rate as stated above for the Village's ongoing negotiations with Martin Ginsburg.

RESOLUTION #129-2015

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

Counselor Hood then requested the Board to schedule a Public Hearing with regard to changes to the Amusement Devices Law.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to schedule a Public Hearing at 7:05 PM on August 17<sup>th</sup> as stated above.

RESOLUTION #130-2015

Motion by: Emily Dominguez  
Seconded by: Rafael Bueno  
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 received a Letter of Resignation from Werner Saravia of the Architectural Review Board (ARB).

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept Mr. Saravia's resignation from the ARB with regret.

RESOLUTION #131-2015

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

Mayor Kohut then entertained a motion to appoint Anthony Accomando to the position vacated by Mr. Saravia on the ARB.

RESOLUTION #132-2015

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

The Mayor also received a Letter of Resignation from Gloria Murray, a Crossing Guard in the Village for many years.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the resignation of Ms. Murray with regret.

RESOLUTION #133-2015

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

The Mayor then announced that anyone interested in the vacated Crossing Guard position can apply at the Village Hall.

The Mayor reported that the Village has received all final approvals from the New York State Department of Transportation enabling the Village to finally move forward with the Streetscape Project. The first step is to authorize the Village Engineers to prepare the bid documents and to post a Notice to Bidders with the Rockland County Times, with bids to be submitted by August 12<sup>th</sup> to the Village Clerk. He also mentioned that there will be a pre-bid walk through on Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the Village Hall for all contractors and consultants.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the Village to move forward with the bid segment of the Streetscape Project.

RESOLUTION #134-2015

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

In relation to that, the Mayor stated that the Village must also put out a "Request for Proposal" (RFP) for hourly services from all the consultants involved with this project, including the landscape architect, the lighting engineer and all other consultants who should be a part of this walk through.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to obtain an RFP from all parties involved with the Streetscape Project as stated above.

RESOLUTION #135-2015

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

The Mayor reported that the DOT also requires the Village to procure construction inspection services, explaining that these inspectors would be required to observe the work of general contractors and sub-contractors on this project to ensure that everything is being done properly, therefore, the Village needs to forward an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) to DOT for a pre-approved list of qualified inspectors.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to send out an RFQ for this federally funded project in the Village of Haverstraw.

**RESOLUTION #136-2015**

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

The Mayor then reported that Max Stach of the Turner Miller Group has prepared a memo naming the Mayor as the Responsible Local Official and as temporary Project Manager on this project until one is appointed.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

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

**FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno:** Trustee Bueno read the following report for the month of June, 2015, submitted by Fire Chief Robert Drexler, Jr.:

Total Alarms	-	14
General Alarms	-	9
Special Calls	-	3
Mutual Aid Calls	-	2
Structure Fires	-	0
Cooking Fires	-	1
Brush/Rubbish Fires	-	1
Water Conditions	-	3
Good Intent/Misc.	-	3
False Alarms	-	3
Total Manpower Responding		- 275 members

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

**PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Trustee Terence Watson:**  
Due to the absence of Trustee Watson, Mayor Kohut read the following report submitted by George White, Superintendent of Public Works, as of July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

- 1) Prepared Emeline Park for Art Festival to be held on July 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Put up various events banners.
- 3) Cut Greenway Trail and prepared for fireworks.
- 4) Installed fencing and footing for African American Park.
- 5) Cut grass and weeded on west side of Short Clove overpass.
- 6) Repaired damaged fence at Emeline Park.
- 7) Worked on ball field fence in preparation of Championship Series.
- 8) DPW cleared streets of debris from several heavy rain storms.
- 9) Installed top barrier extension fence at Community Garden.
- 10) Put down playground treated wood chips on all Village of Haverstraw park playgrounds.

The Mayor also reported that Mr. White is requesting Dionisio de la Cruz be upgraded from Laborer to MEOII (position currently vacant) at an additional salary of \$1,150.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to upgrade the position of Mr. de la Cruz as stated above.

**RESOLUTION #137-2015**

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

There was nothing further to report from the DPW.

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Francisco Batista:** In the absence of Trustee Batista no report was given.

**BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Emily Dominguez:** Trustee Dominguez read the following report submitted by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of June 15<sup>th</sup> through July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

Rental registrations	-	83
Municipal searches	-	8
Miscellaneous inspections	-	212
Construction inspections	-	69
Complaints	-	13
Violations & tickets	-	52
Building Permits/C.O.'s	-	50

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

**MINUTES:** The Mayor presented the minutes of the Regular Meetings of May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup> for approval by the Board.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above stated minutes.

**RESOLUTION #138-2015**

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

Mayor Kohut:

**OLD BUSINESS**

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez reminded everyone that the Farmers Market continues to be open every Sunday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. She reported there being a lot of foot traffic with some from Stony Point since they do not have a Sunday market.

Mayor Kohut:

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor announced that the River Arts Festival held the previous weekend at Emeline Park was a success, bringing a lot of new people to the Village.

**Mayor Kohut:**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Arty Taub, 3304 Leewood Drive: Mr. Taub inquired about the hourly wage for the Streetscape consultants.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that these are pre-existing consultants that the Village has used for many different projects. Their contracts with the Village have expired and in order to have them come back to help the Village with the Streetscape Project, it is necessary to renegotiate hourly rates with them for the time they will be assisting the Village with the walk through and choosing the appropriate contractors for the Streetscape Project.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Point Drive: Mr. Post congratulated the Board on the Streetscape Project approval. He then spoke about the house located at 56 New Main Street which he still believes is an eyesore to the Village, especially because it sits in such a prominent location at the entryway to the downtown. He inquired if there is anything the Village can do to make the property more presentable.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor believes the Building Department has issued a violation on that property but he is not sure if the matter has gone to court yet. He will check with the Building Inspector to confirm.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired about the GDC negotiations.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that the Village had their first conversation with Mr. Ginsburg since the "Interim Agreement" was signed, but have not gotten any further with resolving the problem. The Village may have to go back to attorney meetings rather than just having some friendly conversations.

Mel Post: Mr. Post also feels it would be better to let the attorney's handle this problem. He does feel, however, that the tax ratables that will come from the new projects at Harbors will benefit the Village.

Gil Muesinger: Mr. Muesinger wanted to thank the Board and the DPW for handling the big problem with the litter around the area of the Post Office. He said it was a real plus seeing the workers actually going around the buildings to do the cleanup work and as a result the area is in a lot better shape.

Franklin Pena of D&D Transportation: Mr. Pena stated that he handed in paperwork to provide transportation services to the Village, making it very clear that his company is not a taxi service. He explained that D&D is a transport service bringing people from the Village to New York City locations and vice versa. He also stated that they are certified, have a sufficient amount of insurance coverage (\$1.5M) and are authorized by the U.S. Department of Transportation. They operate a daily door to door service with vans that carry up to 14 passengers who are picked up en route to New York City along with other passengers from upstate New York, including

Albany, Troy, Schenectady, etc. and some locations in Massachusetts. He stated that they could even work with the taxi services in the Village who would receive a commission from D&D Transportation. The fee is \$25.00 for a 1 way trip. He is appearing before the Board to simply request permission for his vehicles to do pick-ups and drop-offs in the Village. He then mentioned that he has already received authorization from the Town of Haverstraw and the Village of West Haverstraw.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor inquired if D&D would provide extra services to and from the city if a group wanted to go into the city on a Friday night for example.

Franklin Pena: Mr. Pena responded that they would accommodate people whenever and wherever they would like to go, the same as a limo service. He also mentioned that there is no drinking or smoking allowed in the vans.

Judy Curcio: Ms. Curcio will review all the documents Mr. Pena submitted and put the matter on the agenda to be discussed and/or approved at the next meeting.

Franklin Pena: Mr. Pena inquired if he would be able to operate in the Village through this time period until the next meeting.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor requested Mr. Pena to call the Village Clerk the following day to be sure all the paperwork is in proper order, and if so he can conduct his business in the Village.

Mel Post: Mr. Post asked if there is any movement on the Maple Avenue Project.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that no-one has approached the Village to date with regard to a project to be developed on Maple Avenue. As far as he has heard the people are having problems with Orange & Rockland. The Board has heard nothing further.

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 #139-2015

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk