

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, September 21st, 2015, beginning at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Batista	- Present
	Trustee Bueno	- Present
	Trustee Watson	- Present
	Trustee Dominguez	- Absent
	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 informed the Board that the dead tree has not yet been removed from its location by the overpass. He also believes that there are more lights out along the overpass than are lit, which he feels is a safety issue that needs to be addressed.

Terence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson responded that George White, Superintendent of Public Works, is aware of the problem but someone has to be hired to replace the lights along the overpass, which he is looking into.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then requested that the lines on Maple Avenue be repainted because with the way some people drive it is a hazard for everyone.

Terence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson has spoken with George White about that problem, however, it is not on the list of items to be taken care of this year but will be taken care of next year.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine questioned why it takes so long to get some of these simple items taken care of.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that for years there were no lines on Maple Avenue and things were fine. He pointed out, however, that the Village has to wait for the County to bring in their equipment to paint the lines. They have a schedule for that and the Village is not on their schedule for this year.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine inquired if there is a Village law referring to how long a vehicle can remain parked on a street with no meters.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor believes it is 72 hours. He requested Mr. Levine to give him precise information on the location so he can send someone to check it out.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine informed the Board the motorcycle has a license plate and has not been moved for at least 2 months from a parking space in front of the Harbors Café at Round Pointe Drive.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor will have the Code Enforcer look into the matter. With no further input from the public, the Mayor continued with the agenda for that night's meeting.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood reported that he looked into the surcharges for the Court and forwarded a document to the Mayor stating the Village is capped most times at \$5.00. He will be check with the Judge, however, to be sure that the Village is charging as high a fee as it can on every matter presented.

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

VILLAGE TREASURER, Judith Curcio: There was no report from the Treasurer's office.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor has requested Jay Hood, Jr., Esq. to prepare legislation regarding garbage collection days for the Village in order to have consistency in the days that garbage is to be picked up. He believes the best way to handle this new service is to prepare a law stating that contractors must comply with the terms of the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Contract with the prime bidder. He would like to hold a Public Hearing for this at the 2nd meeting in October.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to schedule a Public Hearing on October 19th, 2015 for an amendment to the Village Local Law regarding garbage collection day legislation.

RESOLUTION # 174 - 2015

Motion by: Francisco Batista
Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor requested an Executive Session following this meeting to discuss CSEA negotiations.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION # 175 - 2015

Motion by: Terence Watson, Jr.
Seconded by: Francisco Batista
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor reported that the 2 pumps that operate the Harbors sewer station are undersized resulting in clogged pumps. The DPW has been there 3 times over the past few months to unclog the pumps but they still had to be repaired. This is an issue the Village has had with the developer; however, in the meantime, it is costing the Village money in overtime and repairs. The Village has received a proposal from TAM Enterprises, Inc. to replace both pumps at Harbors with 2 new ABS non-clog submersible pumps at a cost of \$6,300.00 per pump and \$2,500.00 for installation and rewiring of controls for a total cost of \$15,100.00. The Mayor suggested that the Village move forward with this and deal with the developer afterwards.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to replace the pumps at Harbors as stated above.

RESOLUTION # 176 - 2015

Motion by: Rafael Bueno
Seconded by: Francisco Batista
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor received a letter from Emilio Frustaci complaining about the "food truck vendor" drawing customers away from his tenant's restaurant, Sabor Latino Restaurant, selling food the same food at lower prices, resulting in his tenant's inability to pay his rent and possibly closing. The Mayor and some members of the Board were under the impression that the restaurant was only open for parties and special occasions.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista mentioned that the Vendor has been setting up in the parking lot with tables, etc. to sell his food. He believes this is an eyesore in the downtown and is a hindrance to the restaurant.

The Mayor responded that the Vendor does have permission to sell in the parking lot, but he will get back to Mr. Frustaci with an answer.

The Mayor then reported that there is a vacancy in the DPW for a full-time Laborer and is requesting approval to move a current Seasonal Laborer, Ramon Taveras, to the full-time position of Laborer.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to move Ramon Taveras from a Seasonal Laborer to the vacated position of full-time Laborer at a salary of \$48,931.00.

RESOLUTION # 176 - 2015

Motion by: Rafael Bueno
Seconded by: Francisco Batista
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor requested authorization from the Board for the Mayor to sign the Justice Court Grant Application for storage shelving units.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION # 177 - 2015

Motion by: Francisco Batista
Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor stated as part of the Executive Session he would like to include discussions with the developer based upon a recent meeting. He requested an amendment be made to Resolution # to include discussions with the Harbors developer.

The Board discussed several businesses to present awards to for the Latino Business of the Year, Latino Entrepreneur of the Year, Latino Corporate Citizen. The Mayor will have the awards prepared for presentation.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:
REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

The Mayor mentioned that the Rockland County Firemen's Parade was held the previous Saturday by the West Haverstraw Fire Department and was happy to report that the Village of Haverstraw Fire Department won 3 awards.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Trustee Terence Watson: Trustee Watson read the following report submitted by George White, Superintendent of Public Works, as of September 21st, 2015:

- 1) Worked on and paved the Village Hall Parking Lot on Maple Avenue.
- 2) Cleaned out the catch basins and performed sewer maintenance on all problematic sewer and storm drain lines throughout the Village

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor thanked the DPW staff for the fantastic job they did on the Village Hall Parking Lot. Everyone agreed it looked like a job that was done by professionals. The Mayor also mentioned that they did a great job with the sewers throughout the Village before the bad weather sets in. Job well done.

Trustee Watson mentioned that if a professional contractor had been brought in to do this paving job it would have cost the Village \$80,000.00.

Trustee Batista requested the DPW to look at the sewers on Santiago. He believes they need to be cleaned. He can see a lot of debris. He also mentioned the vacant lot on the corner of Santiago and Spring Street is overgrown with bushes, etc.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista read the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of September 8th to September 15th, 2015:

- 1) Homework Help Program: started September 8th with 65 children attending.
- 2) Monthly Youth Celebration will be held on September 24th in conjunction with Caught Being Good with participants being chosen who exemplify good behavior.
- 3) The Spanish Speaking Parents Group will be having their 1st meeting at the Center on October 7th at 6:00 PM.
- 4) Family Fun Night will be held on October 1st from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.
- 5) On October 31st the Center will host its Annual Halloween Parade and Costume Contest with lineup at 4:45 PM and parade starting at 5:00 PM. The Mayor mentioned there will also be a Window Decorating Display on business windows in the downtown area starting on October 16th.

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Emily Dominguez: In the absence of Trustee Dominguez no report was given.

The Mayor did want to mention that on Sunday, through the efforts of Magda Truhan, Anthony Accamando, Joel Santana, Richard Sena and Joe Coe a “Food Crawl” was organized for the downtown with 14 restaurants participating and had approximately 400 people visiting 1 or more of these restaurants from the hours of 2:00 to 6:00 PM to sample the foods served at these restaurants. A great effort was made by all to bring people into the Village to sample the fine authentic cuisines these restaurants have to offer. The Mayor complimented and thanked all those that participated in this successful event.

MINUTES: The Mayor presented the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17th, 2015 for approval by the Board. Not everyone had a chance to review the minutes, therefore, they will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Stuart Suchotliff, 1313 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Suchotliff requested an update on the GDC negotiations.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Board met with representatives from GDC the previous Wednesday and they are not able to discuss the meeting at this time. He informed the public that the 2nd part of the Executive Session is for the Board to discuss what took place at that meeting. All he could say is that the Village is still in negotiations with GDC.

The Mayor also mentioned that “Keep Rockland Beautiful” has been in the area doing some clean-up and thanked them for all they have done for the Village.

The Mayor then mentioned that the following day, Tuesday, at 3:00 PM the groundbreaking ceremony will take place for the “Habitat for Humanity” project at the corner of Ridge and Division Streets. They will be building a single family home for a deserving family from our Village.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if the Board has been able to meet with anyone from Tilcon and if so what was the outcome.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village is still awaiting the outcome of the DEC investigation before it can move forward. He explained that they have a very active investigation going on at the end of which the Village will know how to move forward with that problem. Before the next Board Meeting, he will follow up with the DEC representative to see how things are moving along.

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn to Executive Session.

RESOLUTION # 178 - 2015

Motion by: Francisco Batista

Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk