

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016, beginning at 7:00 PM.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:	Trustee Batista	-	Absent
	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.

Stuart Sucholoff: 1413 Round Point Drive: Mr. Sucholoff wanted to make the Board aware that besides the usual issues going on at the garage on Dr. Girling Drive that there are now roosters at that location. He presented the Board with pictures he had taken.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Sucholoff that he has been in touch with Mr. Ginsburg who is not happy with the situation at the garage. He has been told that the original tenant is behind in rent payments and is concerned about what is going on at this location. He also mentioned that Eduardo Liz was due to come to the meeting that night to apply for a Special Permit to paint cars at the Dr. Girling Drive location but he never came in. He mentioned that the Village is not happy about that situation and they hope to resolve the issue shortly. The Mayor thanked Mr. Sucholoff for bringing this issue to the Board's attention.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport requested an update on the "Streetscape Project".

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Rappaport that the project is progressing and the Village is in the process of wrapping up things with the State regarding the Construction Management firm. The Board still expects a start some time before summer.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport then asked about the telephone poles and when that will be completed.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village is waiting for all the utilities to be removed from the existing poles before all the new connections can be made.

Betsy Rauschart, Open Arms Representative: Ms. Rauschart informed the Board that they will no longer be looking into moving into 28A Clinton Street. She also mentioned that they will not be looking into the Route 9W property either.

Stuart Sucholoff: Mr. Sucholoff requested an update on the Chair Factory and Damiani properties.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that particular issue was to be a part of his report but he did inform the public that the Village will be utilizing the services of a different condemnation counselor to handle this matter. He mentioned that the condemnation case is moving forward, but the Village will be going to trial over the Chair Factory property.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport requested an update of the 16 Front Street property.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that there have been some issues between the partners, but they have met with one of the principals and believe the restaurant will be open before the end of April.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post requested an update on the Ginsburg issue and if there have been any meetings to help resolve the problems.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the Village has given a counter proposal to GDC's proposal for an extension on the Interim Agreement between the 2 parties. He mentioned that Mr. Ginsburg was away and the Mayor has not heard anything since he has been back. He also

informed Mr. Post that Mr. Ginsburg has been keeping up with payments in accordance with the Interim Agreement, with another payment due the end of March.

Jackie Dreschler, Chairperson/Advocate for the National Alliance of Mental Illness: Ms. Dreschler explained to the Board that the Alliance will be conducting a “Ribbon Campaign” during the month of May to bring the issue of mental illness in the community to the forefront. She explained that the Alliance is a non-profit organization affiliated with the nation’s mental health organizations dedicated to providing support, education and advocacy to individuals and families affected by mental illness through their extensive array of **free** services and programs. The Alliance is hopeful that this direct dialog about mental illness will encourage treatment for adults and early intervention for children and teenagers, which will lead to a greater likelihood of them being able to lead healthy, productive lives. She stated that they will be partnering with local municipalities, schools, libraries, etc. to launch a countywide Mental Health Awareness Ribbon Campaign. They are requesting permission, therefore, to tie ribbons on trees, lampposts, etc. in high traffic areas, as well as installing 18 X 24 inch signs where appropriate, hoping that the Village will join the rest of the County in their public awareness campaign for the month of May. She informed the Board that the Alliance will be putting up and removing the ribbons and the signs.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor inquired if the Alliance participates with the Haverstraw Collaborative.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista informed Ms. Drechsler that the Haverstraw Collaborative will be meeting next on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 2:00 PM at the Community Center. He felt that would be a great place for all her information to be distributed and for her to be a part of the Collaborative. He explained that it is a combination of many county agencies that meet once a month to discuss and hopefully help solve issues presented.

Jackie Drechsler: Ms. Drechsler was not sure about the Alliance’s participation with the Collaborative but she thanked Trustee Batista for all the information and will definitely try to make this meeting.

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 requested authorization to sign off on the Murphy Manor Tax Certiorari settlement for the 2015 Assessment on Tax Map #27.17-1-2 having an original assessment of \$45,000.00 to a revised assessment of \$38,500.00 a reduction of \$6,500.00, with a refund due in the amount of \$1,093.95.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize Counselor Hood to sign the assessment settlement with Murphy Manor as stated above.

#### **RESOLUTION # 55 - 2016**

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

Counselor Hood then requested the Board to schedule a Public Hearing for a revision to the “Bed & Breakfast” law, as well as a new “Chicken Law”.

The Mayor explained that with so many people wanting to eat healthier these days, people are requesting they be able to raise chickens, NOT ROOSTERS, on their property. He mentioned that the new Tractor Supply in Stony Point sells chickens, which is the reason for getting our Law in order.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to schedule Public Hearings for both laws for April 18<sup>th</sup> as stated above.

RESOLUTION # 56 - 2016

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

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

**VILLAGE TREASURER, Judith Curcio:** Ms. Curcio gave the following report for the months of December, 2015, January and February 2016:

Total Disbursements	-	\$2,529,136.00
Total Revenue	-	\$ 506,666.00

Ms. Curcio had nothing further to report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut:** The Mayor asked for permission to request the Clerical Candidates List from Rockland County Personnel for a Typist/Spanish Speaking.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to request a Candidates List from Rockland County Personnel as stated above.

RESOLUTION # 57 - 2016

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

The Mayor announced that the Village of Haverstraw Little League Parade will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

The Mayor reported that the Village has received a Proposed Retainer Agreement from Zarin & Steinmetz, a law firm from White Plains, to retain them to handle the matter of the Village of Haverstraw vs. Ray River Co., Inc. (a.k.a. - Chair Factory Condemnation Proposal) at their stated hourly rates ranging from \$475.00 for their main partner down to \$100.00 per hour for paralegals and all other fees as required for processing.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the proposal from Zarin & Steinmetz as stated above.

RESOLUTION # 58 - 2016

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

The Mayor advised the public that the Town of Haverstraw will be celebrating its 400<sup>th</sup> Quadricentennial Anniversary this year and will be dedicating an Anniversary Clock outside of Town Hall. This presents the Village with the opportunity to support this project and have the Village of Haverstraw's name engraved on the clock. The fee for this sponsorship is \$200.00 per line.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to participate in sponsoring the Town clock.

RESOLUTION # 59 - 2016

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

The Mayor received a request from Rev. Thomas Madden of St. Peter's Church to permit members of the congregation to hold a religious procession through the Village on Good Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 PM and ending approximately 8:00 PM.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the religious procession through the Village on Good Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, as stated above.

RESOLUTION # 60 - 2016

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

The Mayor reported that no-one appeared to discuss the Special Permit Request for painting cars at the garage located on 2 Dr. Girling Drive.

The Mayor then reported that the Village has received the Annual Contract from Brooker Engineering for the services they provide to the Village. Their fee for the fixed fee services is \$15,600.00 for 1 year, payable monthly in the amount of \$1,300.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Contract with Brooker Engineering as stated above.

RESOLUTION # 61 - 2016

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

The Mayor requested approval of the Board to sign off on the contract with Big Brothers/Big Sisters for the Village fiscal year 2016, for an annual total cost of \$5,500.00 for the services they render to the Village at the Community Center.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign off on the Agreement with Big Brothers/Big Sisters as stated above.

RESOLUTION # 62 - 2016

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

The Mayor received a request from the "WINGS FOR WARRIORS" (WFW), a volunteer driven non-profit organization which helps ensure combat wounded Iraq and Afghanistan War Veterans returning home are receiving the adequate healthcare and financial benefits they and their families deserve. In conjunction with both the Town and the Village of Haverstraw, Cruz Sports Marketing & Promotions will be hosting a charity basketball game on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at the North Rockland High School in their continued effort to support WFW. With this in mind, they are requesting a \$500.00 donation to help defray the cost involved for this event.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve a \$500.00 donation to the "WINGS FOR WARRIORS" project for a basketball game to be held as stated above.

RESOLUTION # 63 - 2016

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

At this time, the Mayor invited Eduardo Liz to come forward to make his presentation to the Board for a Special Permit to paint cars at his garage at 2 Dr. Girling Drive.

Eduardo Liz, 333 Route 202, Pomona, NY: Mr. Liz spoke only Spanish. Trustee Batista interpreted for him stating that Mr. Liz is seeking a permit to do some mechanic work, body work and painting cars at his garage on Dr. Girling Dr.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor requested Trustee Batista to translate his remarks to Mr. Liz. He stated that there have already been complaints about what is taking place at the garage, including

roosters on the property, people sleeping in the area, etc. The Mayor stated that the Board can schedule a Public Hearing for a Special Permit for Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> but informing Mr. Liz that the person he is renting the garage from may be evicted from the property by Mr. Ginsburg and also that the Village owns part of that property. He also wanted Mr. Liz to be aware that painting cars requires a lot of special equipment to do the painting, as well as ventilation and disposal equipment, which is not what was originally approved for that location.

Eduardo Liz: By interpretation, Mr. Liz is going to try to work something out with Mr. Ginsburg.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista didn't think a hearing should be schedule since Mr. Liz does not have a lease for the shop, to which the Mayor was in agreement. Trustee Batista explained that to Mr. Liz who will get in touch with Mr. Ginsburg.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

### **Mayor Kohut:**

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

**PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** – Trustee Terence Watson: Trustee Watson read the following report submitted by Robert Drexler, Maintenance Supervisor, Department of Public Works, as of March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016:

- 1) Repaired damaged sewer line on Fairmount Avenue.
- 2) Cleaned out the sewer lines and catch basins throughout the Village.
- 3) In the process of preparing the Manny Lopez Baseball Field for the spring season.
- 4) Repaired various potholes throughout the Village.
- 5) Repaired 6 damaged catch basins in the Village.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES** – Trustee Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista read the following report submitted by Mariaon Breland, Director of the Haverstraw Center for the period of March 7<sup>th</sup> thru March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016:

March 21<sup>st</sup>, the youth from the Center, led by Tim Sanders, will be given the opportunity again this year to help out with the conservation of local wildlife, by assisting with the collection of data on the “glass eel”, as well as cleaning and resetting the nets.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- 1) March 30<sup>th</sup> the Center will be hosting their **Monthly Youth Celebration** in conjunction with **Caught Being Good**. The **Haverstraw Collaborative** is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 2:00 PM.
- 2) The **Spanish Speaking Parents Group** is set to meet on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Haverstraw Elementary School.
- 3) **Unity in the Community** – This is an annual event held at the Center during the North Rockland School District's spring recess which is April 25<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup>. This program offers the children of the community, from grades 3 thru 8, an opportunity to attend recreational activities, educational workshops and other programs presented by member s of the Haverstraw Collaborative and various organizations throughout the County, for free, from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM daily. The children also receive lunch and snacks.
- 4) **Individual/Family Counseling** – 35 participants.
- 5) **Anger Management** – 2 participants.
- 6) **Butts Out/Smokers Aftercare** – 15 participants.
- 7) **Project Shift (A Call to Action)** – 5 participants.
- 8) **Girls Life Skills (ages 11-14)** – 14 participants, 2 sessions.

- 9) **Girls Life Skills (ages 8-10)** – 16 participants, 2 sessions.
- 10) **Homework Help** – 65 participants daily.
- 11) **Sharpshooter** – 27 participants, 2 sessions.
- 12) **Late Night Friday** – 45 participants, 2 sessions.
- 13) **Boys Life Skills (ages 11-14)** 16 participants.
- 14) **North Rockland High School Extension in collaboration with YMCA Fitness Program** – 150 participants.

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 7 thru March 18<sup>th</sup>:

Rental Registrations	-	17
Miscellaneous Inspections	-	66
Searches	-	5
Construction Inspections	-	5
Building Permits/C.O.'s	-	2
Complaints	-	3
Violations/Tickets	-	12

Trustee Dominguez also reported that the Building Department collected \$9,200.00 in fines as of Thursday due to violations for loud noise and litter.

Trustee Dominguez then informed everyone that overnight street parking ends on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor advised everyone that he has submitted the Mayor's Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2016/2017 to the Trustees for their review and revisions as they see fit. His proposed budget totals \$9,985,851.00. As it stands now, that is a tax increase of 3.1%.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for the proposed budget for Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 PM.

**RESOLUTION # 64 - 2016**

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

Mayor Kohut:  
**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Kohut:  
**NEW BUSINESS**

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista wanted to make the Board aware that he will not be present at the next meeting due to Parent/Teacher Conferences at his school.

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

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport inquired about the tickets that were given out for the loud noise in the community.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez explained that several weeks back the NYS Liquor Authority visited the Village bars with the Police and the Building Department issuing many tickets for loud music.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport reported he had a problem reaching the DPW that day.

Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio informed Mr. Rappaport that there was a problem at the DPW with Verizon claiming that there were complications due to the FIOS lines, which were switched that day.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport then informed the Board that there seemed to be a problem with the storm drain in the area of 37 Clove Avenue.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if he could possibly receive a copy of the proposed budget and if it will become available to the public before the Public Hearing to which the Mayor responded YES to both questions.

With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

RESOLUTION # 65 - 2016

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk