

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 beginning at 7:00 PM.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Bueno	- Present
	Trustee Watson	- Absent (Sick)
	Trustee Dominguez	- Present
	Trustee Santana	- 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.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport inquired if the Board is planning on doing anything with regard to the narrowing of New Main Street. He feels the best solution would be to make New Main Street a one-way street, because the roadway is now 3 feet in width smaller and he believes it would be impossible for busses and other vehicles to maneuver through the smaller space.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Board has decided to restrict parking on the side of the street being worked on and all are in agreement that the Village cannot make this major street in the Village a one-way street. He believes it is shorter by 2 feet, however, whatever is widened on one side will later be reduced on the other side.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport then inquired if they will be planting trees on his side of the street.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Rappaport that they will be planting trees on his side of the street and everything has been designed accordingly. He mentioned that there will be a metal tree grate on the 3 foot square which can be walked upon and only the circumference of the tree is what will be dislodged.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport informed everyone that this will be his 50<sup>th</sup> year in business here in the Village. He really wants to see this succeed in the best way possible, but all he sees right now is bodegas, beauty parlors and barber shops and he would like to see other businesses open in the Village. He is really concerned because the current parking situation is not good. He also mentioned the Streetscape workers are taking up spots on the street.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the workers park in the Village lot and that once in a while the foreman may park his vehicle on the street, because he has tools in his truck that the workers use. He then pointed out that everyone was in favor of the Streetscape Project and getting it started, knowing that there would be inconveniences to deal with, and now to get complaints about being inconvenienced is very surprising.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport feels these are real problems now. He is very frustrated right now because he has lost a good deal of money over time due to the parking situation for his customers. He realizes that Verizon is the blame for a lot of the problems by not moving their equipment in a timely manner and it is creating problems for everyone. He is very anxious to see this project come to fruition because it will change the whole

atmosphere of the Village and make it very inviting to the public from the entire county.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the Board has been trying to get Verizon to move on what they need to do, however, he reiterated that the project is in the construction phase and the Board is trying to resolve the parking issue with limited parking because there is no way they can turn the main street of the Village into a one-way street.

Stu Suchotliff, 1313 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Suchotliff reiterated what Mr. Rappaport was saying, asking the Mayor how long the limited parking will be in effect.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded it would be until the other side of the street is widened.

Stu Suchotliff: Mr. Suchotliff inquired if there is somewhere else people can park to access the businesses in the downtown.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor pointed out that there is parking available in all the Village lots, some of which are not that far away from Mr. Rappaport's business.

Stu Suchotliff: Mr. Suchotliff then inquired if it would be possible for Union Restaurant to open their lot for day time parking to allow the public a closer access to the businesses.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez informed Mr. Suchotliff that the owner of Union Restaurant does allow customers from other businesses to use the parking lot during the day, unless he has a function going on. She then mentioned the businesses on that top portion of New Main Street talk to each other and support each other, which is why he has told those businesses they can utilize the lot as long as he does not have anything going on.

With no further input from the public, the Mayor continued with the agenda for that night's meeting, which is a Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing as stated above.

#### RESOLUTION #1-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor informed the public that the Federal Community Development Office annually accepts applications for funding grants. He explained that most of the Towns and Villages in the County apply for this funding, except for Upper Nyack who does not qualify for this grant and the Village of New Square who goes out on their own to fill their needs. He advised the public that there is a sitting committee who reviews applications to choose programs that meet the criteria for the Community Development process, which is to benefit low to moderate income families with affordable housing, etc. He reported that Rockland County received \$2.1M with the Village of Haverstraw receiving \$150,000.00 the previous year for sidewalk work,

which is now underway, and have been the recipient of approximately \$100,000.00 per year for many years prior, which has allowed the Village to repave dozens of streets and several blocks of sidewalks that otherwise would not have been possible under the Village's budgetary constraints. He invited the public to ask questions or make comments at this time.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport inquired if that included sidewalk improvements throughout the Village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded yes, many of which were done during Mayor Wasmer's term in office, but more are done annually. The Mayor mentioned that in last year's application the Village requested funding for new signage for the businesses in the downtown. He mentioned that some of the signage in the downtown is very nice but others are less so. He also informed the public that he and Trustee Dominguez have been working with a local sign company to come up with a "sign beautification program" that will allow both flat faced frontal signage and some perpendicular signs so people walking the streets are able to see the signage. The Board's intention is to start on the businesses that have already been beautified by the Streetscape, meaning Main Street and New Main Street and work with those businesses to see if the Village can get some of them to participate in the program. It will be a 50-50 match up to \$500.00 from the Village and \$500.00 or more from the businesses to install new signage that will hopefully improve the downtown. The Village would then like to continue to apply this in the coming year.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez mentioned that the goal of the Board is to unify the Village, especially now with the Streetscape in process. With new signage the Village can hopefully talk with the paint company on Route 9W to see if they can help with the building owners painting and cleaning up their properties. She believes that now that they see what is being done that they will want to get their buildings looking nicer. She feels once they start promoting it to the business owners they will comply.

Stu Suchotliff: Mr. Suchotliff referred to the signage on Route 9W and New Main Street wanting to know if it is owned by the Village and if that would be part of the upgrade.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Suchotliff that the signage at the entrance to New Main Street is owned by the Village, but will not be a part of the upgrade and any merchant wishing to advertise their businesses can buy into the sign.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Point Drive: Mr. Post recalls at one time discussing paint color coordination for the whole Village and wondered if that was still in the planning.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that there is presently a color scheme that is supposed to be followed for the painting of the buildings in the business district that the Architectural Review Board (ARB) does adhere to. The Board is also going to get the color scheme of acceptable sign colors. The Board does want some variety, but certainly does not want the colors to be a vibrant neon sort of coloring. There will be some consistency involved.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez stated that the Board feels this is the perfect time to get this started and they will be talking to the business owners soon.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #2-2017

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 he had the easement reviewed by the title company for Riverside Avenue which should be starting when the weather breaks. He sent the documentation to the homeowner for further review.

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

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

**MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut:** The Mayor reported that there will be an Executive Session following that night's meeting to discuss litigation.

The Mayor then requested an update from Deputy Mayor Dominguez on the Village Website.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez stated that the Mayor should have a report by the end of the week, at which time the Board can make any changes they feel necessary to hopefully have the Website up and running by the end of the month. Still to be figured out is the server and e-mails. She also mentioned that she never received the photos of the downtown which she requested for the home page.

Judy Curcio: Ms. Curcio mentioned that a gentleman came in who works for the County and informed Ms. Curcio that the Village has to assign an ADA Coordinator as well as put an ADA policy in place. She will forward Counselor Hood the e-mail which has several sample items for him to use in preparing the documentation.

The Mayor reported that the Village will be closed on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> due to the federal holiday, therefore, the next regular meeting of the Village Board will be held on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno:** Trustee Bueno read the following report of fire activity for the month of December, 2016, submitted by Fire Chief Robert Drexler, Jr.:

Total Alarms	-	18
General Alarms	-	18
Special Calls	-	0
Mutual Aid Calls	-	0
Structure Fires	-	2
Cooking Fires	-	5
Electrical Fires	-	2
Gas Leaks	-	2
Good Intent/Misc.	-	3
False Alarms	-	4

Total Manpower Responding - 435 members

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

**PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Trustee Terence Watson:**

In the absence of Trustee Watson, Deputy Mayor Dominguez read the following report submitted by Robert Drexler, Superintendent of Public Works, as of January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017:

- 1) Cleaned sewer pump station at the Harbors.
- 2) Checked and repaired all damaged signage where needed.
- 3) Blacktopped all potholes through the Village.
- 4) Installed alternate side of the street parking sign on Union Street.
- 5) Repainted roller #38.
- 6) Removed snow from the Village.
- 7) Repaired traffic light at the corner of Westside and Gurnee Avenues.
- 8) Painted and repaired all receptacle cans.

Mayor Kohut reported that the Village did expand alternate side of the street parking to Union Street before Christmas to alleviate the issue with St. Peter's closing its parking lot.

There was nothing further to report.

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Joel Santana:** Trustee Santana read the following report of activities at the Community Center:

- 1) The Haverstraw Center Holiday Party was held on December 19<sup>th</sup> for approximately 200 youth from the Center along with their family members.
- 2) The Haverstraw Collaborative continues to meet monthly at the Center.
- 3) Celebrating Families
- 4) The Jump Program
- 5) The Spanish Speaking Parents Group will be meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. The purpose of the group is for Spanish speaking parents to be involved with their children's education by participating in a group for their population that addresses specific needs that they encounter in their navigation of school bureaucracy.
- 6) Monthly Youth Celebration will be held on January 19<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Caught Being Good.
- 7) Other programs ongoing at the Center during this period are:

- a) Individual/Family Counseling/Assessments
- b) Managing Emotions
- c) Butts Out/Smokers Aftercare
- d) Project Shift (A Call to Action)
- e) Girl's Life Skills
- f) Homework Help
- g) Boy's Life Skills
- h) In the Bag

Trustee Santana then requested the Board approve consultant Diane Takeuchi being added to the Youth & Family Services (YFS) Celebrating Families Grant.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION # 3 – 2017

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

Trustee Santana had nothing further to report.

**BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT – Deputy Mayor Emily Dominguez:**

Deputy Mayor Dominguez read the following report submitted by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of December 19<sup>th</sup> through December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016:

Rental registrations	-	0
Municipal searches	-	4
Miscellaneous inspections	-	56
Complaints	-	7
Construction inspections	-	2
Building Permits & C.O.'s	-	4
Violations & Tickets	-	9

Deputy Mayor Dominguez reported that there were no court hearings for December. She also mentioned that the holiday bags were removed from the downtown meters therefore normal parking regulations are in effect, as well as overnight parking throughout the Village.

Deputy Mayor Dominguez had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

**2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport wanted to inform the Board that NYS is holding a public forum on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Village Hall in West Haverstraw, regarding replacement of the Samsondale Avenue Bridge by the State and County.

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting and move to Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter.

RESOLUTION # 3 -2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez  
Seconded by: Joel Santana  
Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk