

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, beginning at 7:00 PM.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

|            |                   |   |         |
|------------|-------------------|---|---------|
| ROLL CALL: | Trustee Bueno     | - | Present |
|            | Trustee Dominguez | - | Present |
|            | Trustee Watson    | - | Absent  |
|            | Trustee Santana   | - | 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.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport was happy to inform the Board that he has actually observed Police Officers patrolling the streets of the Village and also stopping cars, which hopefully they are issuing violations for.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post noticed on the Village Website that day a blurb about the new restaurants but feels all the restaurants in the Village should be listed to entice people to visit the Village.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez informed Mr. Post that there is a page on the Website that does list all the restaurants as well as events taking place in the Village.

Mel Post: Mr. Post requested an update on GDC.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded there is currently nothing new to report, however, the Mayor believes his plan will be to build the next 47 units on the waterfront, which will be condominiums for sale.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired about the \$6.5M.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that Mr. Ginsburg wants to set up a meeting with the Board about that particular issue, but to date progress has been slow because he is looking for some tax relief.

Mel Post: Mr. Post requested an update on the \$3.5M Chair Factory settlement.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that the Village is awaiting the Judge's decision from the New York State Supreme Court, which could take upwards of 6 months due to the fact that there is only 1 court that handles condemnation cases.

Mel Post: Mr. Post pointed out to the Board that the wires were still not taken care of on the Promenade.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that the Superintendent of Public Works, Robert Drexler, was still waiting for supplies to be delivered to make the repairs. He believes the equipment may have come in, but, he will follow up with Mr. Drexler regarding this matter.

Mel Post: Mr. Post informed the Board that he has noticed fishermen and crabbers tying their gear to the upper wires along the Promenade. He suggested installing signage to deter them from using the wires for their poles, cages, etc.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor feels installing signs will not be beneficial because people won't read them or pay attention to them and would be an eyesore in the area of the promenade.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport was wondering if different businesses in the Village could be featured on the Website.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded to Mr. Rappaport that if the Village had a full time person for social media work it would be a great idea, but currently there is not enough staff to take on this additional responsibility.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez stated that if Mr. Rappaport would like to submit a detailed summary of his business, the Village might be able to do a blog, but an additional program would have to be created to do that.

Larry Levine, 1414 Round Point Drive: Mr. Levine reported that there are lights out along the promenade, inquiring if the Village is responsible for them.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village has an arrangement with the HOA and he is not sure who is responsible for the lights.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then inquired what work is being done currently on Route 9W and also if the area will be repaved.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Levine that they are replacing the rock wall which has completely deteriorated over the years and if they see repaving is necessary they will repave that section of the roadway. He also mentioned that most of the work will start to be done at night.

Mel Post: Mr. Post brought to the Board's attention that the walkway along the Promenade is cracking and he believes it is the Village's obligation to repair.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor is not sure whose responsibility that is, but did mention that the Village has not done any filling of cracks at the Promenade and perhaps the landscaper has been filling the cracks.

Mel Post: Mr. Post reported to the Board that he saw someone driving north on Route 9W and making a sharp left turn to go into the rock cut by the Shooting Range. He inquired about the legality of that action because there is no signage to that affect.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor instructed Mr. Post to contact someone at the Department of Transportation on Ridge Road in New City as they would be in charge of that 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 was attending a meeting at the County that night. In his absence, the Mayor requested authorization of the Board to go out to bid for the Henry Hudson Quadricentennial Park modifications and improvements; bids to be returned on or before October 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

### **RESOLUTION #162-2017**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Motion Carries: ALL

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

**MAYOR’S REPORT, Michael Kohut:** The Mayor reported that the Streetscape is progressing nicely with sidewalk replacement, mentioning that on Columbus Day, October 9<sup>th</sup>, when schools are not in session, Broadway will be shut down for paving. The following day Main Street will be paved and possibly New Main Street, however, both streets will be “one-way traffic only” during the paving process.

The Mayor received a proposal from HUSH Electric to reconnect the surveillance cameras in the downtown at a cost of \$2,750.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the proposal from HUSH as stated above.

**RESOLUTION #163-2017**

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the Village to hire Sealcoat USA, a state contractor, to do repair and crack sealing on village roads at a cost of \$29,750.00.

**RESOLUTION #164-2017**

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

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

**Mayor Kohut:**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno:** Trustee Bueno read the following summary of activity of the Haverstraw Fire Department for the month of August, 2017 submitted by Fire Chief Thomas Price:

|                           |   |    |
|---------------------------|---|----|
| Total Alarms              | - | 21 |
| General Alarms            | - | 14 |
| Special Calls             | - | 2  |
| Mutual Aid Calls          | - | 5  |
| Structure Fires           | - | 1  |
| Rubbish Fires             | - | 1  |
| Cooking Fires             | - | 2  |
| Assist Police             | - | 1  |
| Extrication Calls         | - | 1  |
| Gas Leaks/Odors           | - | 3  |
| Good Intent/Miscellaneous | - | 1  |
| False Alarms              | - | 5  |

Total manpower responding - 386 members.

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

**PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Trustee Terence Watson:** In the absence of Trustee Watson, Mayor Kohut read the following report submitted by Robert Drexler, Superintendent of Public Works, as of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017:

- 1) Replaced piping and repaired New Main St. fountain adjacent to the railroad tracks.
- 2) Painted lines at the basketball court adjacent to the Knights of Columbus.
- 3) Cut and trimmed all the alleyways in the Village and Emeline Park to allow for more light.
- 4) Cleaned the abandoned properties at McKenzie and the Graziosi building.
- 5) Assisted contractor with removal of large tree on Hudson Avenue.
- 6) Removed meters from West Street and reinstalled on Main Street.
- 7) Repaired catch basin at 6 Maple Avenue and 63 Piciarello Drive.
- 8) Fixed the damaged wall in the alley alongside the firehouse on Fairmount Avenue.
- 9) Installed fencing at the Lincoln Street Parking Lot and 2 signs at the Parking Lot across from Centro de Amigos.
- 10) Repaired wall going down to Emeline Park.
- 11) Cleaned out grates and window ceilings at the fire house on Maple Avenue.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES** – Trustee Joel I. A. Santana: 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 August 14<sup>th</sup> thru September 1<sup>st</sup>:

|                           |   |     |
|---------------------------|---|-----|
| Miscellaneous Inspections | - | 150 |
| Complaints                | - | 18  |
| Searches                  | - | 7   |
| Construction Inspections  | - | 19  |
| Building Permits/C.O.'s   | - | 8   |
| Violations/Tickets        | - | 24  |

Fines collected at Court: \$2,250.00

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

**NEW BUSINESS**

Deputy Mayor Dominguez congratulated the West Haverstraw Fire Department Baseball Team for winning the Championship game.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor announced the following events:

- 1) The Farmers Market continues through October on Sunday's and Wednesday's.
- 2) Dancing Under the Stars has been moved to Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 3) RiverArts Festival is Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Kohut:

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

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport inquired about the Henry Hudson Quadricentennial Park.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Rappaport that it is the promenade that will be running from Warren Avenue (the Greenway Trail) up and around the Chair Factory and connect to Emeline Park.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport wanted the Board to know what a great job the DPW does every day and that the crew is always working hard every day to keep the Village clean and keep up with all the necessary jobs that need to be done for the Village upkeep, because most people don't know what they do throughout their day.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor thanked Mr. Rappaport for acknowledging the work done by DPW and mentioned that most people are not aware that they are working with a very small staff maintaining all the streets, the alleyways, the parks, catch basins, etc. He stated that comparatively, the Town has a Highway Department and a Parks Department totaling a staff of 30 people, which doubles in the summer months, compared to the Village's staff of 10 people with 2 additional workers for the summer.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport inquired about the status of the Village Street Sweeper.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Rappaport that he expects the Sweeper to be back some time during the upcoming week, mentioning that West Haverstraw did come into the Village several times to help maintain the streets.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired about when the Henry Hudson Quadracentennial Project is supposed to begin.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that they may start the work sometime over the winter and into the spring, otherwise there is a period of time when they cannot do work because of spawning in the Hudson, however, they will take advantage of the windows of opportunity where they can proceed working on the project.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired if this is being paid for through a grant.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that there are some add-ons to the grant depending upon how the proposal comes in from the Contractor. This work will improve the portion from Warren Avenue to Liberty Street and then depending on what is done with the Chair Factory the Village would apply for further funding to complete that section of the Park.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired what work is left to be done with the Streetscape Project other than the lighting and trees.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that the garbage cans and traffic light are left to complete. He does not believe benches are a part of the project, but the Village may ultimately install some.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if anything is going to be done to upgrade the facades of the storefronts.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that the Village currently has an historical color pallet that businesses need to adhere to if they are going to be repainting their storefronts. He mentioned that the Board will be meeting with Sherwin Williams to discuss a program that the merchants or property owners can buy into for discounted paint and products if they chose to redo the facades of their buildings, which the Village is trying to encourage. He also mentioned that the Board is thinking about year round banners or lights for the poles and asking the merchants if they would be interested in sponsoring the poles in front of their businesses.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez pointed out that in the business district the owners have to get a permit and approval from the Architectural Review Board to change the facades of their buildings in any way.

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

RESOLUTION #165-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Motion Carries: ALL

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk