

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, December 18th, 2017, beginning at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Bueno	- Present
	Trustee Watson	- Present
	Trustee Dominguez	- Present
	Trustee Santana	- Absent
	Mayor Kohut	- Present

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor opened the floor to the public for the Public Participation portion of the meeting inviting people to ask questions or make comments.

With no input from the public, the Mayor continued with the agenda for that night's meeting, announcing the first Public Hearing with regard to Section 191-4, Solid Waste. The Mayor invited Village Attorney, Jay Hood, Jr. to present on this issue.

Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood reported that this Public Hearing is to add §191-1(N) and to amend §191-4, Solid Waste. This will allow the Village to issue violations to anyone using public garbage containers for household and commercial garbage and the fine for this violation will begin at \$250.00, but not more than \$1,000.00, for anyone found in violation of this Local Law.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #232-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

With no comments from the floor, Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #233-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the amendments to Local Law regarding Solid Waste §191-1(N) and §191-4.

RESOLUTION #234-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

Before proceeding with the next Public Hearing scheduled for 7:10 PM, the Mayor moved forward with that night's agenda.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood requested the Board to authorize the Mayor to release \$3,000.00 for the settlement of a lawsuit regarding sewer lines on Fairmount Avenue and the Taco Restaurant on the corner and together with the \$3,500.00 that will come from a homeowner this will settle this lawsuit.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to release funds as requested above to settle a lawsuit.

RESOLUTION #235-2017

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

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

VILLAGE TREASURER, Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio was absent from the meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor received a request from Carmen (Nelly) Villegas, a long time employee of the Village, for an unpaid Leave of Absence from her position at the DPW. She requested a 6 month leave, however, the Board decided on a 2 month leave, amounting to 60 calendar days.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to grant a 2 month Leave of Absence to Ms. Villegas, as stated above.

RESOLUTION #236-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor mentioned that while making the official appointments at the previous meeting he neglected to mention the Deputy Mayor, therefore, he did so at this meeting, appointing Emily Dominguez for this position for a 1 year term.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to schedule a Public Hearing with regard to the Community Development Block Grant for February 5th at 7:05 PM.

RESOLUTION #237-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor reported that he received a proposal from SCS Engineers for the testing and monitoring of the Manny Lopez Ballfield, which is required by the DEC because the site was previously contaminated. He explained that the site was closed by NYSDEC Municipal Brownfields Assistance Program and must be inspected annually.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the proposal from SCS Engineers to perform the 2018 monitoring and inspection of the ballfield at a cost of \$6,300.00.

RESOLUTION #238-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor announced that one bid was received from TomCo for the Henry Hudson Quadracentennial Park Project (HHQP) and that the Village has received approval from DEC to proceed with the project. He reported that this is the first phase of the waterfront promenade project, which will extend from Warren Avenue to the Chair Factory property, with the Base Bid being \$638,000.00.

Mayor Kohut then entertained a motion to award the Contract for the HHQP as stated above.

RESOLUTION #239-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut then entertained a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Barton & Loguidice to create a digital 3D concept model of the proposed Downtown Waterfront Development at a cost of \$10,000.00.

RESOLUTION #240-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor read the following adjustments to the 2017-2018 budget year submitted by Joseph Modafferi, Village Accountant:

2017-2018 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS				
Acct. #	Account Name	Increase	Decrease	Increase
		Appropriations	Appropriations	Revenue
A1310.0400	Accounting	\$ 225.00		
A1440.0410	Engineer Ferry	\$ 6,000.00		
A1440.0400	Engineer	\$ 10,000.00		
A1990.0400	Contingent Account		\$ 16,225.00	

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above budget adjustments.

RESOLUTION #241-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor announced that, through the efforts of Assemblyman Kenneth Zebrowski, the Village will be receiving a grant in the amount of \$125,000.00 for the construction of a new handicapped accessible playground at Emeline Park and the purchase of some fire equipment for the Village Fire Department. On behalf of the Board, he thanked

Assemblyman Zebrowski for all the efforts he has put forth on behalf of the Village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then announced the 2nd Public Hearing for the night, the addition of Village Code §133 with regard to “Feral Cats”. He again invited the Village Attorney to present the law.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.: Counselor Hood explained that through this new law the Village will work with the Animal Control Officer of the Town of Haverstraw to implement and administer this article in consultation with community cat welfare experts and animal welfare agencies. He explained that this law will deal with both domesticated and community cats and will allow someone in the Community to have the homeless or stray cats spayed or neutered and then returned to the colony. The cats will also be ear tipped, so residents will be aware of which cats have been treated.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that this came about as a result of the growth of feral cat colonies which has been increasing throughout the Town of Haverstraw and the fact that the Animal Control Officer can no longer continue to bring feral cats to the Hi-Tor Animal Shelter and expect them to take care of them. In conjunction with the Animal Control Officer and certain advocate groups, the Village has introduced this legislation to help manage the problem.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing with regard to Feral Cats.

RESOLUTION #242-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor then invited the public to ask questions or make comments with regard to this matter.

Tina Traster, 506 Mountainview Avenue, Valley Cottage, NY: Ms. Traster is a member of the Community Cats Initiative. She explained that they are trying to help municipalities in Rockland County find a way to manage the over population of feral cats. She commended the Village and feels they are doing the right thing for these cats, as well as setting an example for other municipalities. She and everyone else involved in the initiative agrees that no-one wants all these cats roaming around, however, trapping and killing them is not an option, taking them to the Hi-Tor Animal Facility is not an option, but “TNR” (Trap, Neuter, Return) is an option that has been tried and is working throughout the Country. Therefore, they as a group would like to work with the community to advocate and educate residents to get their approval for Population Control Legislation. She is also hoping to partner with the Board to do a “Public Information” campaign. She feels it is important to have the backing of the municipalities for the “TNR” campaign to work.

Kathy Liam, President, TNR Community Cats Initiative, 116 Hillcrest Lane, Peekskill, NY: Ms. Liam concurred with everything Ms. Traster said. She feels working together is the only solution. She stated that they need people in the communities to help with feeding, monitoring, etc. because the more the communities get involved the better the cat situation will be. Her main concern was to have people in the community step up because they

are here every day whereas their TNR trappers and staff are not. She feels this team approach is the only way to reduce and possibly eliminate the problem.

David Roosa, 243 Westside Avenue: It has come to Mr. Roosa's attention that the Animal Control Officer is being accused of trapping and killing cats.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor has never heard anything like that.

Judy Dorothy, Pearl River, NY: Ms. Dorothy did her college thesis on "Feral Cat Management" and has worked with the "Four Legs Good" organization doing TNR for 15 years. She just wanted people to know that TNR works and every colony that they have worked with has shrunk gradually. She feels it is the only solution to solve this problem. She commended the Board for seeing a better, more enlightened way to resolve this issue. The more communities and people that get involved, the more this issue can be resolved for the betterment of the animals and the residents.

Terrance Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson inquired about the meaning behind TNR.

Judy Dorothy: Mr. Dorothy explained that the cats are humanly trapped, taken to a spay/neuter van where the process is done under completely sterile conditions. At the same time, their left ear is clipped to show the process has been done to that particular cat. Following this process the cats are returned to the colony where they were found. This process alone will instantly prevent the colony from growing and the cats have been found to be calmer after this process.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #243-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the proposed law regarding Feral Cats.

RESOLUTION #244-2014

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:
REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Trustee Terence Watson:

Trustee Watson read the following report submitted by Robert Drexler, Jr., Superintendent of Public Works, as of December 15th, 2017:

- 1) Replaced faded signs throughout the Village.
- 2) Installed an additional 10 parking meters in the downtown business district.
- 3) Staff was called out on December 9th and 17th for storm related issues.
- 4) Repaired spinner motor on sander.
- 5) Collected leaves throughout the Village.
- 6) Paved alleyways on Gurnee Avenue and Coolidge Street.
- 7) Milled alleys on Simenovsky Drive and Terrace on the Hudson.
- 8) Filled potholes with coldpatch throughout the Village.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Joel Santana: In the absence of Trustee Santana, Mayor Kohut announced that the Holiday Party at the Center will be held on December 21st at 4:00 PM.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT – Deputy Mayor Emily Dominguez:

The Deputy Mayor read the following report submitted by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of December 4th thru December 15th, 2017:

Rental registrations	-	0
Miscellaneous inspections	-	109
Complaints	-	5
Municipal searches	-	5
Construction inspections	-	4
Violations/Tickets	-	4
Building Permits & C.O.'s	-	2

Fines collected at court - \$0

Deputy Mayor Dominguez reminded everyone that Holiday Parking is free until January 2nd, with a 2 hour limit.

Deputy Mayor Dominguez had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor made everyone aware that the Building Inspector has sent out notices with regard to “satellite dishes” reminding the public that these dishes cannot be in the front of any building in the Village. The public has until June to relocate their dishes to the side or rear of their buildings.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez entertained a motion to reappoint Mayor Michael Kohut to the JRSB Board for another 5 year term.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that Deputy Mayor Dominguez is simply making a recommendation to the Sewer Board, the Town of Haverstraw and the Village of West Haverstraw, who all have to approve the appointment, which was properly moved and seconded by these municipalities. He thanked everyone for their confidence in him.

MINUTES: The Mayor presented the minutes of the Regular Meetings of October 23rd, November 1st and November 6th for approval by the Board.

Deputy Mayor Dominguez mentioned that November 6th Minutes was not a part of their package.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 23rd and November 1st.

RESOLUTION #245-2017

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting, wish everyone a happy holiday season.

RESOLUTION #246-2017

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk