

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, April 16th, 2018, beginning at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post mentioned that he read an article about a "License Plate Reader" in Piermont, which will read all the license plates on vehicles driving in and out of Piermont at a cost of \$26,000.00 per year. He wanted the Board's thoughts on this.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor thought that would be a great discussion to have with the Town Board for Police Department use. He believes it could be very beneficial because it would not be discriminatory and if the Town decided to do this the Village would support the idea.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq., Village Attorney: Counselor Hood mentioned that some of the Town Police vehicles already have a License Plate Reader that will read plates as they drive up and down the streets.

Stuart Suchotliff, 1413 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Suchotliff wanted to know the Board's feelings on the Stony Point Garbage Station.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village of Haverstraw and the Village of West Haverstraw, as well as the Town of Haverstraw, are all completely opposed to this transpiring, because it could generate up to 400 trucks a day traveling back and forth on Route 9W in this area, with absolutely no monetary benefit to any municipality except Stony Point. The Board feels this needs to be in an area that is not so populated and there are plenty of sites upstate that could be utilized for this purpose. He mentioned also that it would be a big problem in our area because it would be located right next to a school, a Senior Citizen complex and a minority community.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired about whom would have the final say in this matter.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) would have to do a review at the location to see if it is environmentally feasible and if they give it the OK it would then be in Stony Point's hands. The Board feels that Stony Point is only looking at the monetary aspect of this deal and the owner of the property, who unfortunately has a lot of "clout" in that municipality, is solely driven by the dollars and cents of the deal.

With no further input from the public, the Mayor continued with the agenda for that night's meeting, the Public Hearing for the 2018-2019 Village Budget.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #72-2018

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the proposed budget, with some revisions and changes in what the Village is contemplating, shows an increase of 1.89%. He then invited Joseph Modafferi, Village Accountant to address the budget changes.

Joseph Modafferi, Village Accountant: Mr. Modafferi reported that there are not many increases in the budget with the exception of the increases to the Village Debt Service, which will be offset by 2 loans that will be paid off. In order to keep the budget at a level stance, the Mayor has elected to take more from the fund balance than what was taken the previous year and stabilize the taxes over a period of years. Going forward, assuming everything stays the same, the Village Debt Service will drop by approximately \$700,000.00. Mr. Modafferi stated that the Board is trying to keep the budget at a reasonable number to keep the Village operations moving forward successfully.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor invited the public to make comments or ask questions at this time.

Stuart Suchotliff: Mr. Suchotliff referred to Page 10, Debt Service for 2018-2019 amounting to \$2.6M with the previous 8 month period posting \$3.3M.

Joseph Modafferi: Mr. Modafferi explained that was for the Chair Factory property and for this coming year it is included in a bond with some other items, however, he again mentioned that next year that number will drop because of 2 bonds the Village has held for many years being paid off.

Stuart Suchotliff: Mr. Suchotliff then referred to Page 12, Estimated Revenues, Account #2770.6 Harbors Haverstraw, and wanted to know what those amounts represent.

Joseph Modafferi: Mr. Modafferi responded it represents the money GDC gives the Village for the AAA Bond that the Village was negotiating payment arrangements with GDC. He explained that the Village did not budget as much as the previous year, because there is no written agreement yet with GDC, which has been an ongoing situation.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired if the Board is anticipating a 2% increase in taxes for the general public for the upcoming year.

Joseph Modafferi: Mr. Modafferi informed Mr. Post that after making the 2 amendments, the increase would be approximately 1.8%, which is below the required tax cap.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that where expense lines have decreased the budget has been reduced to be more in line with actuals. Other line items are increased because expenses go up each year, such as general liability insurance which is up 3%. Coverage for medical, dental and vision insurance for a full-time married employee is up to approximately \$31,000.00 per employee and continues to go up every January. The Mayor also mentioned that the Village has not gotten any increases to "Aid to Municipalities" from the State since the time that he has been Mayor. He also reported that Governor Cuomo just passed a "cancer liability insurance bill" for firefighters, mandating the Village pay this insurance coverage amounting to upwards of \$300.00 per firefighter for

approximately 80 to 100 active volunteer firefighters and therefore the Board is required to add this estimated fee to the Village budget.

Mel Post: Mr. Post brought up the previously thought about merging of the Village Justice Court with the Town Court and wanted to know if that would still be a possibility.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that the Village actually makes money keeping the Justice Court. He also mentioned that there is a very small staff, therefore, more revenue is generated than the expenses and fines and revenue from the Court do go up from year to year. Having a Village Court is also more beneficial to our residents.

Stuart Suchotliff: Mr. Suchotliff then questioned the Board with regard to #A3320.41, Parking Meters. He was under the impression that new meters were put in with the Streetscape Project.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Suchotliff that actually the old meters were put back, however periodically the Village will either add additional meters where needed or meters break and have to be replaced.

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

RESOLUTION #73-2018

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the 2018-2019 Village Budget with the following adjustments:

- 1) Increase - Revenue Line A1081, Payment in Lieu of Taxes, from \$337,841.00 to \$366,360.00.
- 2) Increase – Line A1910.4, Unallocated Insurance for the Firefighters Cancer insurance benefit, by \$10,000.00.

RESOLUTION #74-2018

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

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if the public can get copies of the Budget before the Budget meeting.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that his proposed Budget is available to the Board and the public on March 20th. The Board then reviews the budget, suggests any changes, which will then be discussed with the possibility of changes made to the Budget before the 2nd meeting in April.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood had nothing to report.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned the TV show "Rise" and is hoping that residents are watching this show because there are many scenes filmed here in the Village.

The Mayor then mentioned that the Brick Museum will be closed temporarily (several months) for some much needed renovations. He also announced that there will be a change in Leadership at the Brick Museum.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion authorizing him to sign the 2018 Stormwater Education Program Agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension in the amount of \$1,000.00.

RESOLUTION #75-2018

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion authorizing him to sign the "2018 SNUG Grant" with the County of Rockland in the amount of \$11,000.00 for this program held at the Community Center.

RESOLUTION #76-2018

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then entertained a motion authorizing him to sign the 2018 Project SHIFT contract with the County of Rockland, in the amount of \$22,000.00. This is another program presented at the Community Center.

RESOLUTION #77-2018

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

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

2017-2018 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS				
OVERTIME				
Acct. #	Account Name	Increase	Decrease	Increase
		Appropriations	Appropriations	Revenue
A1110.11	Justice Court	\$ 1,807.19		
A1325.1	Clerk/Treasurer's Office	\$ 6,352.14		
A1410.1	Clerk/Treasurer's Office	\$ 175.52		
A9961.9	Reach Out	\$ 3,199.07		
A7140.1	Recreation	\$ 3,199.07		
A3620.1	Building Department	\$ 2,514.51		
A5110.1	DPW Laborers, etc.	\$ 24,600.96		
A5010.1	DPW Administration	\$ 8,948.71		
A1990.41	OT Contingency		\$ 50,767.16	

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

RESOLUTION #78-2018

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

2017-2018 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS				
Acct. #	Account Name	Increase	Decrease	Increase
		Appropriations	Appropriations	Revenue
A5110.0400	Street Maintenance	\$ 10,000.00		
A5110.0410	DPW Clothing Allotment	\$ 1,500.00		
A1990.0400	Contingent		\$ 11,500.00	

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

RESOLUTION #79-2018

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve attendance at the Annual NYCOM Conference in Saratoga by Deputy Mayor Emily Dominguez for both meeting and hotel accommodations.

RESOLUTION #80-2018

Motion by: Joel I. A. Santana
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 list of newly appointed officers that were elected for a 1 year term, at the Haverstraw Fire Department's Annual Chief's Convention, held on April 5th, 2018 at the quarters of Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. #1 as follows:

Chief	-	Thomas Price
1 st Ass't. Chief	-	John "Bart" Gordon
2 nd Asst. Chief	-	Perry Masiello
3 rd Asst. Chief	-	Michael Begbie
4 th Asst. Chief	-	Joseph Drexler

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to accept the elected Chief and Assistant Chiefs for a 1 year term, as stated above.

RESOLUTION #81-2018

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

Trustee Bueno then mentioned that the Haverstraw Fire Department Chief's 15 year old vehicle is in need of replacement, therefore, he requested approval of the Board to purchase a 2018 Ford Explorer for this purpose.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the purchase of a new vehicle for the Haverstraw Fire Department, as stated above.

RESOLUTION #82-2018

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

Trustee Bueno had nothing to report.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Trustee Terence Watson: In the absence of Trustee Watson, Mayor Kohut reported that the DPW rebuilt the fountain adjacent to the Gurnee Avenue Tunnel and has also done work to the fountain at the entryway to the Village at the top of New Main Street. They have also worked on the garden areas of the Village Hall and done maintenance at the Manny Lopez Baseball Field for its opening this spring. They have also taken care of weather related issues and drainage issues throughout the Village. There was nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Joel Santana: Trustee Santana read the following report of activities at the Haverstraw Community Center from March 19th thru April 2nd:

- 1) The following programs continue to meet monthly at the Haverstraw Community Center:
 - a. The Haverstraw Collaborative
 - b. Celebrating Families
 - c. Strengthening Families Program
- 2) Jump Program & Homework Help Programs: These programs continue daily at the Center.
- 3) The Spanish Speaking Parents Group: This group met on April 11th at the Haverstraw Elementary School.

With regard to the Haverstraw Summer Camp, Trustee Santana requested approval to appoint Frank Vasquez as 2018 Camp Director at a salary of \$3,000.00.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to appoint the 2018 Camp Director as stated above.

RESOLUTION #83-2018

Motion by: Joel I. A. Santana
Seconded by: Rafael Bueno
Motion Carries: All

Also with regard to the Haverstraw Summer Camp, Trustee Santana requested approval to appoint Tim Sanders as 2018 Assistant Camp Director at a salary of \$1,500.00.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to appoint the 2018 Assistant Camp Director as stated above.

RESOLUTION #84-2018

Motion by: Joel I. A. Santana
Seconded by: Rafael Bueno
Motion Carries: All

Trustee Santana mentioned that this is a \$2,000 savings to the Village from what was paid previously.

Trustee Santana had nothing further to report.

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 April 2nd thru April 13th, 2018:

Deputy Mayor Dominguez thanked the DPW for all their help in getting the ball field ready for opening. She also mentioned that the field is officially open for the season and that there will be many teams utilizing this field every day throughout the season.

Miscellaneous inspections	-	34
Complaints	-	11
Municipal searches	-	7
Construction inspections	-	2
Building Permits & C.O.'s	-	3

Fines collected at Court: \$1,000.00

Deputy Mayor Dominguez had nothing further to report.

MINUTES: The Mayor presented the Minutes of the Regular Board Meetings of February 20th, March 5th, March 19th and April 2nd, as well as the Board of Assessment Review Meeting Minutes of February 20th for approval by the Board.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the above stated Minutes of the Board, as written.

RESOLUTION #85-2018

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

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mel Post: Mr. Post requested an update on the negotiations with GDC.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that they did have a meeting and are getting closer to a settlement than they have been in the past. The Mayor mentioned that a settlement with GDC involves other things that have to happen that the Village has no control over. If the Board can get those other things to transpire the Village would be much closer to a universal settlement and Mr. Ginsburg would be able to move forward with the 40 units at the Harbors, but it is somewhat contingent upon him being able to do the other units as well. The Mayor feels Mr. Ginsburg might move forward with it either way, but if everything were to break down, Mr. Ginsburg might not move forward with anything.

Mel Post: Reading over some of the contractual papers, Mr. Post seems to remember that if there was a problem with the Eminent Domain settlement that Mr. Ginsburg would make up the difference.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that in the original Contractual Agreement between the 2 parties, GDC was obligated to pay whatever costs were incurred for the condemnation of the various properties. When the condemnation did not work out as initially planned, in Mr. Ginsburg's mind, that would entitle him to not have to pay those costs. In the Interim Agreement, Mr. Ginsburg agreed to pay a certain amount toward that expense until a Universal Agreement was reached.

Mel Post: Mr. Post thought that if the settlement on that property was contested that there was some wording in the Contract that addressed Mr. Ginsburg making up the difference.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that Mr. Ginsburg is arguing that certain things happened that freed him of his obligation.

Mel Post: Mr. Post thinks it would be to the Village's advantage to bring that before a Court of Law.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that it would all depend on the lawyers and the Judge that would be proceeding over the matter.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.: Counselor Hood stated that in reality even though the Village has the Contract on its side, things could still go the other way and a law suit could take a long time to settle.

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting requesting everyone to rise for a moment of silence in memory of Al Kaiser, a longtime businessman in the Village who owned and operated Rockland County Auto Body for over 50 years.

RESOLUTION #86-2018

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk