

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, May 21, 2018, beginning at 7:00 PM.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Bueno	- Present
	Trustee Watson	- Absent
	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.

Casey Conlin, Ass't. Director, Haverstraw Kings Daughters Library: Mr. Conlin is the new Ass't. Director of the Library and wanted to let everyone know about the great summer programs currently being offered, especially for the children, at both the Garnerville and Haverstraw locations. He mentioned there is a Reading Club, which will help the children keep up with their reading skills, a Science Program, a Stay Healthy Program, plus many more. The kids also get to win prizes through some of the programs. He has also spoken with staff at the Haverstraw Center to see if they can make a Library trip a part of their camp day during the week, which again, he feels would be so advantageous to the children during the summer months.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez mentioned that people from the Library are also at the Farmer's Market every Sunday with activities for the children.

Radames Abreu Pena, 3 Main Street: Mr. Pena spoke Spanish, which was interpreted by the Deputy Mayor. He was speaking on behalf of himself and his neighbors, a community of working people, about the bar in their area. The bar is supposed to close at 3:00 AM, however, after the bar closes many people who are intoxicated, continue to hang around on the street and the loud music and disruptive noise continues long after. He also showed the Board pictures of the garbage left in the area after these people finally leave, which is sad for the neighborhood, especially since the Village has done so much to make the Village look beautiful. He informed the Board that he and his neighbors are constantly calling the Police, but when they come they do nothing, even when the drunken people get in their cars to leave.

Roger Gonzalez, 54 Forest Drive, Garnerville, NY (Also present: Hector Sotomayor & Mandy (last name not given)): Mr. Gonzalez spoke for the group. They are trying to acquire a piece of property to re-establish American Legion Post #46, which was established in the Village in 1919. Through his research, he discovered that young men from the Village of Haverstraw started serving in the military so far back in time that some even served under Teddy Roosevelt. The Village has always been a big supporter of the Armed Forces and there has always been such a large number of young men and women from the Village who proudly served our country. Currently there are 388 young men & woman from Haverstraw that are serving in the Armed Forces. He mentioned the 2 young men from the Village, Howard Hall and Manny Lopez, who fought and died in 2 different wars, and it is for them and all the young men & woman of our Village that continue to serve, that they wish to return American Legion Post #46 to its

rightful home. There are currently 46 active members in this Post, however, they are afraid that they will start losing members if they don't have an official meeting place that they can call their own and then be able to apply for government grants and hold fundraisers to assist all the Village Veterans. They are currently meeting at the Knights of Columbus, but they are in desperate need of their own home. They are looking at a property on McKenzie Drive, which is appropriate because it is adjacent to the Manny Lopez Baseball Field.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor has been working with this group trying to get some funding to move forward with this worthwhile project for our village Veterans. He explained the property is part of a contaminated site, as was the ball field. Without cleaning up the site there is no way they can get any government help. They also went to Rockland County Executive, Ed Day, who informed them he could not simply give the property away as there was still \$60,000.00 in back taxes due. To sell or transfer this property an Environment Study has to be done.

Roger Gonzalez: Mr. Gonzalez reported that they did go out to bid for the cost of the testing. They received 2 responses and choose SCS Engineering to do the testing because they did the original testing in that area. He is very happy to report that the Town of Haverstraw has offered to pay the \$14,000.00 to have the study done. With that being done, Senator Larkin is willing to help with grants to fund the work to construct a building at this site. They would like to put up a pre-fabricated unit to start and are asking the Village Board to consider leasing the property to the American Legion once the Title change is received from the County to the Village. They want to work with the Village to remove the eyesore and help establish a well deserved home base for our Veterans, past, present & future.

Mayor Kohut: So there is no doubt about this request, the Mayor reiterated that they want the Village to take Title of the property and lease it to the American Legion.

Roger Gonzalez: Mr. Gonzalez responded "Yes" and their thoughts on leasing, if possible, is \$1.00 per year for 100 years. This way they can apply for grants and funding to help support the construction of the building.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor thought that the suggestion Executive Day made was for a 60 year lease at \$1,000.00 per year.

Roger Gonzalez: Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that was Executive Day's suggestion for a mortgage on the property, but they can't do that because the Vet's cannot own the property. Mr. Gonzalez stated that they are willing to work with the Village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that Mr. Gonzalez previously met with him to help with some fundraising opportunities to help them. He informed Mr. Gonzalez that the Little League is not going to continue running the Concession Stand and maybe the Legion could operate the stand to help bring in some revenue. The Mayor then asked if the \$1,000.00 payment per year for 60 years would be transferable to the Village.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.: Counselor Hood believes the County might want the money from the Village and then the Legion gets paid back. He feels that since \$14,000.00 has been paid out already for the testing, that amount should be deducted from the \$60,000.00.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the Board would have to discuss this further because the Village cannot just lay out \$60,000.00 for this project.

Roger Gonzalez: Mr. Gonzalez also mentioned that the County also received a \$10,000.00 deposit on the property when they were trying to sell it which should also be deducted from the \$60,000.00.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez feels with the deductions from the \$60,000.00, that \$36,000.00 would be a more manageable amount for the Village to consider and both she and Trustee Bueno agreed that Mr. Gonzalez and his team should move forward with this project.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor agreed if the County would be willing to make a deal for the debt to be paid off over a certain number of years than that would be more manageable for the Village. The Mayor verified that helping our Veteran's has always been a part of the Village's history and is something the Village will always continue to do. In order to move forward with this however, the Village would have to bring in another Attorney to work on this matter, since Counselor Hood is also a County Legislator and would be working on this matter for the County. The Mayor stated that the Village Board would love to help make this happen and to once again establish American Legion Post #46 in the Village of Haverstraw. He suggested that Mr. Gonzalez and his team meet again with the County Executive, mentioning to him the \$24,000.00 reduction in the back taxes due of \$60,000.00 as was discussed at this meeting. The Mayor also stated that if the County requires an agreement that the Village will not sell the property in the future for profit then the Village is agreeable to that.

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 that the Village, as Lead Agency for the Waterfront Development, refer the Site Plan Application for Admiral's Cove to the Planning Board for their review, which will include all other projects within that plan.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to refer the Waterfront Development Plan to the Planning Board as stated above.

### **RESOLUTION #93-2018**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Motion Carries: All

Due to the attendance problem with members of the Zoning Board, Counselor Hood requested that the Village Board schedule a Public Hearing regarding the addition of "Alternate Zoning Board of Appeals Members" §254-33(A)(4) to the ZBA Local Law for Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 PM.

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

RESOLUTION #94-2018

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 due to illness and Isabel Gonzalez, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer had nothing to report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor received a request from Rockland County Pride to hold a flag raising ceremony at the Village Hall on Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to hold a flag raising ceremony as stated above.

RESOLUTION #95-2018

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

The Mayor received a request from Ruben Berrios, Building Inspector, to have repairs done to the 2009 Dodge Durango used by the Ass't. Building Inspector. He submitted an estimate from B&B Auto in the amount of \$762.00 to repair the damage to the vehicle.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to have a Building Department vehicle repaired by B&B Auto as stated above.

RESOLUTION #96-2018

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

The Mayor also received a request from the Building Inspector to engage Goosetown Communications, at a cost of \$2,980.36, to remove old antennas, cables and other obstructions from the roof of the Municipal Building at 25 Fairmount Avenue in preparation for necessary roof repair.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above request as stated.

RESOLUTION #97-2018

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the Agreement with the County of Rockland for Celebrating Families in the amount of \$34,950.00.

RESOLUTION #98-2018

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

Mayor Kohut then entertained a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the County of Rockland Agreement for OASAS funds in the amount of \$217,026.00.

RESOLUTION #99-2018

Motion by: Emily Dominguez  
Seconded by: Rafael Bueno  
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
A1620.0420	Building Repairs DPW	\$ 5,000.00		
A1620.0422	Building Repairs DPW		\$ 5,000.00	
A1110.0400	Justice Contractual	\$ 500.00		
A3320.0410	Meter Replacement	\$ 200.00		
A3620.0400	Safety Inspector	\$ 500.00		
A1620.0410	Building Fuel		\$ 1,200.00	

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

RESOLUTION #100-2018

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

The Mayor announced the following events taking place in the Village during the month of June:

- 1) Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Food Crawl in the downtown business district.
- 2) Sun. June 3<sup>rd</sup> & Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> – Farmers Market start-up.
- 3) Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup> – Raising of the Pride Flag at 5:30 PM in front of Village Hall.
- 4) Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> – “Dancing Under the Stars” at the corner of Broadway and Lincoln beginning at 7:30 PM with the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Streetscape Project and rededication of the Park.
- 5) Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> – Juneteenth Celebration on Clinton Street.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

**Mayor Kohut:**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**FIRE & ORDINANCES** – **Trustee Rafael Bueno:** Trustee Bueno reported that the Haverstraw Fire Department held its Firemen’s Memorial Parade on

May 19<sup>th</sup> with each company presenting wreathes at the Fireman's Memorial at the cemetery on Route 9W.

**PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** – Trustee Thomas L. Watson,

Jr.: In the absence of Trustee Watson, Deputy Mayor Dominguez read the following report submitted by Robert Drexler, Jr., Superintendent of Public Works, as of May 21, 2018:

- 1) Replaced damaged fence on Leonard Street.
- 2) Installed a new pad at the Bus Stop on Broadway.
- 3) Installed new flower beds on Jefferson Street & Broadway.
- 4) Mulched all village properties.
- 5) Cut & trimmed all village properties.
- 6) Cleaned, cut trees and cleared debris on vacant lots on Allison Avenue.
- 7) Staff was called out on May 15<sup>th</sup> for a downed tree due to storm.
- 8) Cleaned up storm related downed trees and debris.
- 9) Removed old sidewalk at Community Center and replaced it, as well as installing a new driveway.
- 10) Cleaned debris from all village alleyways.
- 11) Painted "No Parking" lines on Coolidge Street adjacent to the Little League Field and also on Dowd Street.
- 12) Installed new Parking Sign and painted parking spots in new lot at Broad and Liberty Streets.

There was nothing further to report.

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES** - Trustee Joel Santana: No report was given in the absence of Trustee Santana.

**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 May 7<sup>th</sup> thru May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018:

Miscellaneous inspections	-	59
Complaints	-	4
Municipal searches	-	10
Construction inspections	-	13
Violations/Tickets	-	37
Building Permits & C.O.'s	-	11

Fines collected at court - \$3,000.00

Deputy Mayor Dominguez then thanked the staff of the DPW for taking such excellent care of the baseball field due to all the rainfall in the Village over the past several weeks.

The Deputy Mayor had nothing further to report.

**MINUTES:** The Mayor presented the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 16<sup>th</sup> for approval by the Board.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #101-2018

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

Mayor Kohut:  
**OLD BUSINESS**  
None.

Mayor Kohut:  
**NEW BUSINESS**  
None.

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

None.

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

RESOLUTION #102-2018

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk