

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, April 15, 2019, 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 portion of the meeting inviting people to ask questions or make comments.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport informed the Board that Pat Gordon is retiring and since she has run the Brick Museum from the start, he felt it would be nice if the Village would present her with a plaque.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor thanked Mr. Rappaport for bringing the retirement to the Board's attention and they will act on his suggestion.

With no further input from the public, the Mayor continued with the agenda for that night's meeting, announcing the first Public Hearing of the night with regard to the "2019-2020 Tentative Budget".

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that even though the budget is currently below the Tax Cap, it is always wise for the Village to override the Tax Cap because some items that should be included or excluded can be adjusted by the NYS Comptroller's Office, which can throw off the Village calculations after passage of the Budget. Therefore, by passing the override the Village will not be penalized for any errors or changes in calculating the Tax Cap.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open both Public Hearings, "2019-2020 Tentative Budget" and the "Tax Cap" override, at this time.

RESOLUTION #100-2019

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

In regard to the Tax Cap override, the Mayor read the Local Law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit set forth in the General Municipal Law §3-C. In brief, it is the intent of this Local Law to allow the Village to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2019 that requires a property tax levy in excess of the Tax Levy Limit as prescribed in the law.

The Mayor then announced that he would give highlights of certain aspects of the Budget and then open the floor for public discussion on both Public Hearings. Items he highlighted were as follows:

- 1) Justice Court Contractual Expenses – Increase due to hand-held metering system and use of an interpreter, which is no longer paid for by the County.

- 2) Corresponding Increases & Decreases in Treasurer/Clerk Line – A more accurate reallocation of the money for the 2 department's personnel movement.
- 3) Law – Reduction due to a reduction in litigation charges.
- 4) Sewer Tax Village Property – One property removed from Tax Roll.
- 5) Contingent Overtime – Numbers have been adjusted upwards to cover some increases that are expected in overtime, buyouts for retirees, and other potential salary increases for the coming year.
- 6) Public Safety & On-Street Parking - Some increases and decreases in personnel services shifting between both items where people are serving as Crossing Guards or Parking Enforcers at any given time.
- 7) Medical for Firefighters – Increase in the cost of firefighter physicals and the number of volunteers required to have the physical.
- 8) Contractual Expenses Street Maintenance – Increased based on previous years expenses.
- 9) Contractual Expenses Salt – Reduced – Less salt being allotted and purchased for the season based upon usage over the past years.
- 10) Contractual Expenses Street Lighting – Reduced due to the anticipated reduction in cost of LED lighting.
- 11) Recreation & Parks – Reduction in cost of utilities at the ball field.
- 12) Community Services – In the process of preparing for the Village's Comprehensive Plan & Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan with some grants covering some items and others left to the Village.
- 13) Sanitary Sewers – Increase due to major sewerage repair on Grant Street at a cost of \$200,000.00 to replace line.
- 14) Refuse Collection & Disposal – Contractual expenses have gone up.
- 15) Employee Benefits – Substantial increases in Social Security & FICA lines, medical lines, glasses and dental. These are estimates, due to the rate changes in January of each year.
- 16) Statutory Bonds – Decreases due to bonds that have been removed from the Village books and an increase in the amount of interest due on remaining Bonds.
- 17) Revenues – Decrease in the PILOT line. Contractual arrangements between the municipality and the projects involved; i.e. Haverstraw Place and Northern Riverview which have now terminated.
- 18) Earnings Interest – Increase due to higher interest being paid by banks and Treasurer's due diligence maximizing those opportunities.
- 19) Licenses & Permits – Decreased due to difficulties with Taxi Permit enforcement.
- 20) Building Permits – Increased due to growth in the Village. GDC putting in more units and other projects in the pipeline.
- 21) Mortgage Tax – Increase in sales in Haverstraw and therefore an increase in the Mortgage Tax we receive.
- 22) State Aid & Planning – Increase in the funds coming back to the Village from State Grants for Comprehensive Plan and LWRP.
- 23) Appropriated Debt Reserve – Increased
- 24) Appropriated Fund Balance – Decreased

The Mayor then mentioned that there are several amendments that had to be made to the budget that night, which would leave the Village a little under the 2% Tax Cap. A copy of the 2019-2020 Village Budget is attached to these minutes.

The Mayor then opened the floor to the public for questions and comments.

Denise Munoz: Ms. Munoz asked when the public can get a copy of the rectified budget.

Emily Dominguez: The Deputy Mayor responded that this was the “Mayor’s Budget” that was being reviewed and the Board will meet with the Mayor and Village Accountant Joseph Modafferi to discuss adjustments to his budget to stay below the Tax Cap.

Denise Munoz: Ms. Munoz then inquired about salaries and addition of positions.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village would not be adding staff, but rerouting staff members where needed and are allocating salaries to reflect the positions they are being assigned to.

Judith Curcio: To give an example of the staff rerouting, Ms. Curcio explained that the Senior Accounts Payable Clerk in the Finance Department passed away and a member of the clerical staff from the Clerk’s Office was promoted to that position, at a lesser salary than the Senior Accounts Payable Clerk’s position, and moved from the Clerk’s line to the Treasurer’s line.

Joseph Modafferi: The Village Accountant informed Ms. Munoz that the 2% Tax Cap is not a true 2% as a homeowner would calculate it. There are other things that are involved in that calculation, including the Assessed Value of the properties, increases that the State allows, and although there are exclusions, the Village does not qualify for those exclusions. All things considered he feels the Village will be under the 2% cap.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post spoke again about the dissolution of the Village Justice Court, which he feels is not profitable for the Village and should be a part of the Town of Haverstraw.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that the revenues are listed under “Fines & Forfeitures” and for the past 12 months revenues for the Court amounted to \$264,707.00, which they expect to grow during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. In addition the Village has a large walking community and to have the Justice Court nearby is a public service to our constituents.

Stuart Suchotliff, 1413 Round Point Drive: Mr. Suchotliff inquired about the anticipated revenue from the Harbors for 2019-2020 which is blank.

Joseph Modafferi: Mr. Modafferi remarked that the number Mr. Suchotliff was looking at for the previous budget year was an estimated amount, which the Village had not received yet because the Village and GDC still had unresolved issues.

Keith Syckowitz, Rockland County Times: Mr. Syckowitz inquired if Haverstraw Place and Northern Riverview will be coming off the tax rolls.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that Haverstraw Place is a non-profit and the Northern Riverview Nursing Home is also going to non-profit status, however the Assisted Living portion of Northern Riverview is staying on the tax rolls. The Mayor explained that both places would still have to pay items such as the Sewer Tax, the Ambulance District, etc., which are all reflected in the Town of Haverstraw Budget not the Village. The Mayor further explained that if either facility were to do any kind of construction, etc. the Village Building Inspector would still have to be involved with inspections,

the Fire Department still responds to any alarms, but these are services the Village cannot charge for.

Keith Syckowitz: Mr. Syckowitz then requested clarification of the Debt Reserve and the Fund Balance.

Joseph Modafferri: Mr. Modafferri explained that when a Capitol Account is closed out, for example Warren Court, the remaining funds in that account are put into a Reserve Account, which is used to pay those debts associated with that particular project and cannot be used for anything else.

Denise Munoz: Ms. Munoz inquired if overriding the Tax Cap means the budget can go up past the 2%.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that would be a possibility, however, the proposed Board Budget as it stands at this time will not be above a 2% increase, unless there is a calculation error that would put it over the 2%. In that case, if the Village does not have a ruling to override the Tax Cap, upon State review of the Budget, the Village can be penalized for the overage and the State can also lower the Tax Cap for the Village the following tax year.

Joseph Modafferri: Mr. Modafferri commented that every State Conference he has attended, it was recommended that municipalities pass this law to protect themselves from being penalized if the cap inadvertently goes above 2%.

Mel Post: Mr. Post spoke about the expenses incurred from the Justice Court, including salaries, health insurance, etc. which he feels if deducted from what is taken in it would amount to a loss.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village may lose money some years and break even other years, however, for the time being, the Board still feels that because the Village of Haverstraw is largely a walking community it is still beneficial to provide this service to its residents. If the Board was to decide to disband the Court, it could not be done until the end of the Judge's term of office, which is this year, therefore, the next time this could be considered would be in another 4 years.

Denise Munoz: Ms. Munoz inquired about the allocation of Contingent Overtime.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded it is overtime to be utilized by various departments for the upcoming fiscal year.

Joseph Modafferri: Mr. Modafferri informed Ms. Munoz that by having a separate account for overtime it is easier for the Board and the Accountants to keep track of overtime, which could be anything from the DPW having to deal with snowstorms, flooding conditions, sewerage damage, etc., to staff members having to put in extra hours for anything else that may come up throughout the year in each and every department, as well as funds being paid out to retirees.

Zahira Rodriguez, 394 No. Little Tor Road, New City, NY: Ms. Rodriguez wanted to know where the funds are going and if they can be put back into the budget for the following year.

Joseph Modafferri: Mr. Modafferri responded that any funds that are left over become part of the Fund Balance and used for the following year.

Emily Dominguez: The Deputy Mayor gave an example explaining that if there is \$100,000.00 left in an account at the end of the fiscal year, it is put back into the General Fund for the upcoming fiscal year.

Zahira Rodriquez: Ms. Rodriquez inquired if there is any proof of that or does the money go into somebody's pockets.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor and Board were outraged to hear this accusation insinuating that any Village money would go into anyone's pockets.

At this point, Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #101-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then read the following amendments to the Mayor's Proposed Budget:

2018-2019 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS			
ACCT. #	ACCOUNT NAME	EXPENSES	ESTIMATED REVENUES
	VILLAGE JUSTICE COURT		
A1110.11	Court Clerk	\$ 1.00	
A1110.12	Court Attendants	\$ 1.00	
	CLERK		
A1410.11	Clerk	\$ 1.00	
	SPECIAL ITEMS		
A1990.41	Contingent Overtime	\$ 6,208.00	
	POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY		
A3320.1	Personnel Services	\$ 247.00	
	STREET ADMINISTRATION		
A5010.11	Clerk, Full-time	\$ (831.00)	
	STREET MAINTENANCE		
A5110.1	Personnel Services	\$ 10,001.00	
2770.6	Harbors Haverstraw		\$ 300,000.00

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

RESOLUTION #102-2019

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the Local Law for a 2% Tax Cap Override.

RESOLUTION #103-2019

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget.

RESOLUTION #104-2019

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

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 received a request from the North Rockland Community Family Day (NRCFD) Committee to help sponsor their 5K Run Event and family fun day.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to be a Bronze Medal Sponsor in the amount of \$250.00 for this event, as the Village has done in the past.

RESOLUTION #105-2019

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve a sponsorship request from the Haverstraw Brick Museum in the amount of \$500.00. They will be honoring the Haverstraw Fire Department and the Village of Haverstraw's 165th Anniversary.

RESOLUTION #106-2019

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion for early closure of 2:00 PM on Good Friday as has been done in the past in order for staff to attend services.

RESOLUTION #107-2019

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

The Mayor and Fire Commissioner Bueno received a letter with regard to the Haverstraw Fire Department's Annual Chiefs Convention held on April 4th, 2019 where the following were elected for a 1 year term to the offices indicated:

Department Chief.....John "Bart" Gordon
1st Assistant Chief.....Perry Masiello
2nd Assistant Chief.....Michael Begbie
3rd Assistant Chief.....Joseph Drexler
4th Assistant Chief.....Christian Delisio

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the newly appointed Chief and Assistant Chiefs as stated above.

RESOLUTION #108-2019

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the Village Clerk to go out for bids for the Village's Summer Camp transportation.

RESOLUTION #109-2019

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to award the bid for the 2019 Source Capture Exhaust Removal System at the various Haverstraw Fire Department locations throughout the Village to the Clean Air Company, the only bidder, at a cost of \$72,756.00.

RESOLUTION #110-2019

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

The Mayor reported that a DPW vehicle was involved in a minor accident that day and B&B Auto Body has agreed to repair the other vehicle involved at a cost of \$247.35 pending receipt of the Police Report.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize B&B Auto Body to repair a vehicle belonging to Mr. Cruz as stated above.

RESOLUTION #111-2019

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 had nothing to report.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Deputy Mayor Emily

Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez read the following report submitted by Robert Drexler, Jr., Superintendent of Public Works, as of April 15th, 2019:

- 1) Repaired damaged catch basins at Gurnee Avenue & Simenovsky Drive and at Gurnee Avenue & Hoover Court.
- 2) Completed further work on catch basins at Gurnee & Westside Avenues.
- 3) Repaired 2 damaged catch basins on Riverside Avenue.
- 4) Cleaned graffiti from the plaque at the bus stop on Broadway.
- 5) Once again had TAM brought in for cleaning of all catch basins on Dowd Street.
- 6) Cleaned catch basins along with Joint Regional Sewerage Board (JRSB) on State Street and the Hillside Avenue area.
- 7) Cleaned catch basins at the Manny Lopez Baseball Field.
- 8) Transported a load of paint to the Rockland County Fire Training Center.
- 9) Cleaned all alleyways of debris.
- 10) Put sealant on tile work in the Village Hall due to cracking.
- 11) Began cleaning the Manny Lopez Baseball Field for the opening of baseball season.
- 12) Replaced faded “bike signs” along the bike route in the Village.

Deputy Mayor Dominguez had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Terence Watson: In the absence of Trustee Watson, the Mayor read the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of April 1st thru April 15th, 2019:

- 1) Haverstraw Collaborative - continues to meet monthly at the Center. At its April meeting a presentation was given by Marie Pardi & Celia Solomita from Camp Venture on the Just a Buck Store in Garnerville, LaTeffaney Quarels-Scott from Peoples United Bank gave a presentation on financial literacy and a presentation was given by Hope Turbet from Legal Services of the Hudson Valley with regard to children’s advocacy and education. 53 members attended this meeting and the next meeting will be held on May 1st, 2019.
- 2) The Spanish Speaking Parents Group – will meet on Wednesday, May 1st at 6:00 PM at the Haverstraw Elementary School. The purpose of this group is to help Spanish speaking parents be better involved in their children’s education.
- 3) The Jump Program – is in need of Spanish and English speaking mentors. Anyone willing to volunteer should speak with Pete Fata.
- 4) Homework Help Program – This program is geared toward students up to and including 8th grade and has become very successful over the years due to the hands-on individualized help they receive from the student workers.
- 5) Celebrating Families – Staffed in conjunction with the Department of Social Services, a start date has yet to be determined. This is a 16 week program for families in which 1 or both parents who have a serious issue with alcohol abuse or drug problems and there is a high risk for domestic violence, child abuse or neglect. This program works with every member of a family from ages 3 thru adult to strengthen recovery from these problems and help break the cycle of addiction and increase successful family reunification.

- 6) Strengthening Families – This program, which ended on April 11th, is an evidence based program which runs in six week cycles in both the Spring and Fall and is offered in both English and Spanish.
- 7) Positive Alternatives – Staff member, Tim Sanders, provides the children with positive outreach and offers them the opportunity to learn about nature by being involved in the eel migration project each year. 12 youth participants caught over 450 eels.
- 8) Unity in the Community – This event is held every year during the North Rockland School District's spring recess (April 22nd thru April 24th) offering children in grades 3 to 8 an opportunity to attend recreational activities, educational workshops and other programs presented by the Haverstraw Collaborative and various organizations throughout the County for free from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM daily. The children also receive lunch and snacks.
- 9) For information on all other programs ongoing at the Center please contact the Haverstraw Center or visit the Village of Haverstraw website.

There was nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT – Trustee Joel I. A. Santana:

Trustee Santana read the following report submitted by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of April 1st thru April 12th, 2019:

Rental registrations	-	2
Miscellaneous inspections	-	21
Complaints	-	5
Municipal searches	-	3
Construction inspections	-	7
Violations/Tickets	-	14
Building Permits & C.O.'s	-	1

Fines collected at court - \$00

Trustee Santana had nothing further to report.

MINUTES: The Mayor presented the minutes of the Regular Meetings of February 4th and February 19th along with the Board of Assessment Review Minutes of February 19th for approval by the Board.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #112-2019

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana

Rafael Bueno abstained from the meeting vote for the Board of Assessment Review due to his absence from that meeting.

Motion Carries: All

At this time the Mayor thanked the Catholic Daughters, Court of St. Joan of Arc, for their huge donation of stuffed animals to the Village, which will be distributed to the children attending the Community Center after school programs.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor received a request to approve a 3 month unpaid maternity leave of absence for Jinet Remigio, Clerk/Typist Spanish-Speaking at the Haverstraw Center, starting April 24th and returning July 24th.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize an unpaid maternity leave for Jinet Remigio as stated above.

RESOLUTION #113-2019

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

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that at the opening day ceremonies for the Haverstraw Little League the Haverstraw Ambulance Corp. donated an AED machine for use at the Manny Lopez Baseball Field, which will help with any heart related injuries that may occur at the field. He and the Board were grateful for this donation and gave thanks to the Ambulance Corp. for this much needed item at the field.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport reported to the Board that there is a very sharp drop on Samsondale Avenue, in the area of the little bridge on the Miniseongo Creek and wanted to know if there was anything the Board could do about it

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor will contact the Village of West Haverstraw and mention this complaint to them.

Keith Syckowitz: Mr. Syckowitz asked if the Trustee adjustments were increases or decreases.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Syckowitz that all but 1 were additions. The subtraction was reduced by \$831.00 for the Clerk full-time under Street Administration.

Mel Post: Mr. Post requested an update on the Ginsburg matter.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor feels that the Village is currently closer to a settlement than in the past. Promises have been made and the Board believes that final resolution of all the outstanding issues may be forthcoming within the next 2 months or so, which will also set Mr. Ginsburg on his course for further development and the Village on a course to retrieve what is owed them.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired if the Village has the plans for "Site B" and the additional plans for "Site A" and if he could view the plans to be sure Mr. Ginsburg is adhering to them.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor is assuming that everything is in compliance, but informed Mr. Post that he would have to refer him to the Building Inspector for that information.

Mel Post: Mr. Post has visited the site and informed the Board that the site is a mess with garbage, etc. He did mention that some sticks were put in the ground with some black paper around them to hold back the garbage, which has been strewn all over the area. He would be very interested in viewing the Site Plans if possible.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that he has a copy of the plans in his office and he would be welcome to look at following this meeting.

Denise Munoz: Ms. Munoz inquired about when the 3 remediation sites on Maple Avenue will be completed. She stated that she visited the NYSEPA Site which stated that several areas were supposed to be remediated and wanted to know when this would be done, including the Superfund Site.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that he was not familiar with the areas Ms. Munoz referred to and that the only sites he is aware of are the area of the Watson property, which was previously remediated, and the Maple Avenue Apartments site. He also mentioned that there is no Superfund Site that he's aware of.

Denise Munoz: Ms. Munoz then inquired when the cleanup would be done on the 2nd and 3rd sites and when they would be completing the cleanup at the current site being remediated because she believes it was supposed to be completed in 9 months.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he has no information on any other sites being remediated at this time. The Board was informed that the current remediation would be completed by the end of this year, which is due to some delays caused by site conditions and which took far longer than originally anticipated. As for the 3rd site, there is no time frame on that due to a dispute between Orange & Rockland and the property owners.

Zhaira Rodriguez: Ms. Rodriguez stated that she was very sorry for the remarks she made earlier and apologized to the Mayor for accusing the Board of pocketing money.

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

RESOLUTION #114-2019

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk