

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Haverstraw on June 21, 2010, beginning at 8:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor opened the meeting with the first segment of Public Participation.

Laurie Scalley, 64 Sharp Street: Mrs. Scalley is concerned about the Tilcon Quarry. She mentioned that while she was hiking at High Tor she noticed that the back of the mountain was sheared away and she also heard that Tilcon has a 100 year lease which is about to expire.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mrs. Scalley that Tilcon owns the whole mountain, however, they cannot alter the face of the mountain but they can cut away the back of the mountain as long as it is not visible from the Hudson River and until it is no longer profitable for them.

Laurie Scalley: Mrs. Scalley asked if there is any point that someone would come in to make sure it does not disintegrate.

Mayor Kohut: They are controlled by the DEC and the Mining Board. They conduct safety inspections.

Jay Hood, Sr., Village Attorney: Counselor Hood informed Mrs. Scalley that the state does monitor Tilcon, making inspections, etc.

Gil Musinger, 1416 Round Point Drive: Mr. Musinger thanked the Mayor for getting the weeds cut down on Short Clove Road and 9W, therefore he feels a potentially serious accident has been averted at this time. He has heard that the Mayor has spoken to Post Master Torres about the appearance of the exterior of the Post Office. He hopes that the village will do their best to give them any assistance they need so the Post Office can appear to be exemplary as far as our community is concerned. Mr. Musinger also noticed the weeds have been cut at 14 First St. and he was happy to see the weeds cut. He informed the Board that many of the people from Harbors do walk through the village several times a week and they are still not happy with the general appearance of many of the areas, especially going towards First Street. They requested that they receive a monthly report from the Building Inspector listing the actions that he has taken with violators of village laws. They would like to know how many landlords have received letters, who they are and violations and fines that are given. He mentioned the Rockland County Health Department has monthly violation listings in the Journal News. It would be another step in moving the village to a more appropriate appearance. He has also been asked on behalf of the Harbors Club Condo Board of Managers to bring up the following having to do with the landscape appearance:

- 1) What is the status of the streetscape at the present time?
- 2) How ready are the plans. Is the village still working with one person who is the Grant Writer. It is the understanding of the Harbors Committee that \$3 million dollars was appropriated for the streetscape and that it is needed to recoup the money prior to 2011. What is the timeframe for that. He then asked if the village leadership was really interested in renewing Haverstraw. Information they have is that the plans are only 60% complete. He asked to receive a report on the status of the streetscape at every Village Board meeting for the next few months.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded firstly to the comment about the village leadership caring about renewing Haverstraw. He stated he was really offended by the question and of course the Village Board wants to see this done. He informed Mr. Musinger that the board is working very diligently and the reason for the 60% plan is because that is how it works. The village has to provide 30% plans, 60% plans, and then final plans. The village is working through the process. The money has not just been withheld from the village, but from many projects throughout the State of New York because they want to use all the available money, \$40 million this year, on one single project; a bridge in Westchester. He informed Mr. Musinger he can tell the Harbors Board that no-one is sitting on their duff and he is not going to report on a bi-weekly basis to them or anyone else about the status of the streetscape because the village has been working on it and will continue to work it. When there is any change to be made he will then announce the change. When it comes to his attention that the village project will be bumped back up into the queue to be ready sooner he will announce that because it will be something positive to announce. The Mayor then mentioned that he meets with Harbors Board quarterly and they can ask those questions at that time. The village works very hard to try to keep the projects moving forward and to please relay that message to the Harbors Board.

The Mayor then informed Mr. Musinger that the Building Department goes out and does inspections, etc. and gives Trustee Batista a complete report which is then read at the board meeting. The Building Inspector does not fine people; the Village Justice Court meets at the Village Hall for village code violations on the third Thursday of every month, which is open to the public. The Harbors Board is welcome to come to see who is being fined and what cases proceed to trial, etc. The Building Inspector presents a case to the judge; the judge makes a decision, unless it goes to jury trial, which is rare, the judge sets the fine, the fine is issued and it is up to the landlord to pay the fine or the village has to move further beyond that. These things happen on a weekly basis. If they wish to ask the Justice Court to issue a statement as to what fines are issued, etc. they can bring that up with the Justice Court and Judge DeCaprio. He advised them to send a letter to the Justice Court.

As far as the other work, Short Clove Road has been cut and is being maintained as have two properties where the owners are not maintaining the property. After exhausting all other resources the DPW has taken care of the properties and have prepared a bill, which will be submitted to the owners, and if it is not paid it will be added to their taxes, which was done this year with several properties from last year.

Gil Musinger: Mr. Musinger thanked the Mayor and the Board.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport just wanted to inform the Board that Donna Coene, owner of Soup Stone Café, was in a severe auto accident on Saturday. She was airlifted to Westchester Medical Center Saturday with many serious injuries. He asked that everyone keep her in their prayers.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor thanked Mr. Rappaport for the information.

Magda Truchan - 1213 Round Pointe Drive: She mentioned she has lived at the Harbors for four years and that the Mayor, Supervisor and Police were briefing the residents of what they could expect from the village in terms of crime, etc. When she moved here she thought there would be a bigger police presence in the village. From what she can see there is very little police presence in the village. She understands that the town has absorbed the village police and asked what can be done to see more police presence in the village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that it would be helpful if the residents would express their concerns to Supervisor Howard Phillips. He then mentioned that one of the officers who was a School Resource Officer was put on foot patrol in previous years in the business district and he is presuming that will be done again this year, however, he does not know that for a fact. There is also a special squad that is designated for the Villages of Haverstraw and West Haverstraw from 6:00 PM to 2:00 AM on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. They do some foot patrol but it is a function of availability. During the day they do not have enough cars on the road to dedicate officers regularly to foot patrol,

except in the summer when the School Resource officer is available. He again stated that any concerns that are brought up to the Supervisor would be very helpful.

Magda Truchan: She feels there is not enough enforcement or fines being given for noise pollution, speeding, etc.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed her that these things are being done to a certain extent. She can come to any court night, that they (Justice Court) were here from 5:30 until 11:00 PM last Wednesday and that was for all sorts of violations. He does, however, feel that more can be done. It is not an easy issue to resolve and they will be told that money is the biggest driving force. However, the more discussion the public has with the Supervisor and the Town Board, perhaps we would see more results. The Mayor then mentioned the Quality of Life Advisory Board that the village is developing to get repeat problems taken care of. The Village Board is planning to pass a resolution at this meeting to establish the board and then at upcoming meetings man the board. The District Attorney's Office is developing a Drug Market Intervention, which is to try to remove low level drug dealers from the streets of Haverstraw by doing an intervention with them. They identify non-violent, low level drug dealers and get them to meetings with the public, where the public can tell the drug dealers what affect they are having on them. The drug dealer in turn either gets the schooling required or they are given the outstanding arrest charges and go to jail. There are several different avenues all the various agencies are taking to try to improve everyone's quality of life.

There was no further public participation at this time.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Sr.: Counselor Hood giving credit to Jay Hood, Jr., read the Quality of Life Advisory Board resolution as follows:

Resolution of the Village of Haverstraw establishing a Quality of Life Advisory Board
WHEREAS, the Village Board seeks to address quality of life issues to improve the quiet and reasonable use and enjoyment of all properties within its borders, while helping improve and maintain community pride.

WHEREAS, citizen involvement in combating public nuisances is sired by the Village of Haverstraw and

WHEREAS, the Quality of Life Advisory Board shall interact with the residents to receive complaints and attempt to abate quality of life problems to provide a safe, clean and well maintained community for the enjoyment of all.

NOW THEREFORE, the Village Board of the Village of Haverstraw hereby resolves a five member advisory board is hereby created. The Board shall be made up of a Chairperson and four members, at least three of which must be property owners in the Village of Haverstraw. The other two members may consist of business owners within the Village of Haverstraw. Members shall serve without compensation and shall be appointed by the Village Board for a two year term. The Chairperson of the advisory board shall be chosen by the Village Board each year from its members. The Quality of Life Advisory Board shall carry out the following duties:

- 1) Create and maintain a list of public nuisances, which shall be addressed by the board.
- 2) Send out letters, signed by the Mayor, to persons committing public nuisance acts.
- 3) Conduct at least one meeting a month on the third Thursday at the Village of Haverstraw Village Hall at 7:00 PM.
- 4) To meet with residents with complaints and/or persons allegedly creating public nuisance.
- 5) Recommend to the Village Board public nuisance law suits against persons who continue to commit prohibited acts.

- 6) Where appropriate, the Quality of Life Advisory Board, will refer certain matters to Village, Town and County agencies for enforcement.
- 7) The Quality of Life Advisory Board shall create Rules of Procedure, which rules shall be approved by the Village Board of Trustees.

Counselor Hood asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

RESOLUTION #128 – 2010

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

As a part of the State crackdown on drainage items and where the water that is generated goes, Counselor Hood informed everyone that the state has put through a series of model laws that they are requiring the villages to pass, the third of which is to prohibit illicit discharges, activities and connections to separate storm sewerage systems. It is a mandatory law, which tightens how water gets discharged, who can discharge it, etc. It is very detailed and he asked the Board to schedule a hearing for a Local Law to Prohibit Illicit Discharges.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to have a Public Hearing regarding illicit discharges into the storm water system scheduled for July 12th.

RESOLUTION #129 - 2010

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Francisco Batista
Motion Carries: All

VILLAGE TREASURER, Judith Curcio: Mrs. Curcio reported for April and May of 2010. Total disbursements were \$1,053,000.00. Total revenue of \$905,665.00. Nothing further to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

As part of the continuing need for renovations to one of the firehouses to accommodate the new apparatus which will be delivered within the next few months, the village received a proposal from Dutchess Overhead Doors for the cost and installation of a new apparatus door on the firehouse amounting to \$3,925.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the proposal.

RESOLUTION #130 - 2010

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

The Mayor announced the Grand Opening/Dedication of the new ball field on July 4th at 12:30. Father Madden, of St. Peter's Church, advised the village that he will be performing a wedding ceremony on the same day at 4:30 PM, and requested the village to please be sure there will be no conflict with the parking.

Mayor Kohut informed the public that the village received one bid in the amount of \$15,125.00 from Haverstraw Transit for the Summer Camp transportation for the various trips the camp will be taking. All the necessary paper work is in order, therefore, the Mayor entertained a motion to accept the bid.

RESOLUTION #131 - 2010

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Francisco Batista
Motion carries: All

The Mayor then brought up the Deputy Clerk's position, which has not yet been filled. The village needs to fill this position for the remainder of this village year, which runs through the end of December.

The Mayor entertained a motion to appoint Damaris Torres to the position of Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer with a combined stipend of \$6,500.00

RESOLUTION #132 - 2010

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terrance Watson
Motion carries: All

As part of our ongoing need to upgrade the DPW fleet, the plan for this coming budget year was to purchase a new large truck and in order to do so there needs to be a BAN resolution for \$170,000.00. The General Fund would be lending the Capital Fund the money for this truck, which will allow the village to delay taking the BAN so the village can wait for the interest rates to drop and then the first payment on the BAN will come next year and be budgeted as part of the regular budget.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #133 - 2010

Motion by: Terrance Watson
Seconded by: Emily Dominguez
Motion carries: All

The Mayor then spoke of the proposal from the Meneve Group, which was approved at the last meeting for the pricing of utilities for municipalities. They have now provided the village with pricing for gas for the various village accounts at a fixed rate of .891 per therm, at this point, however it may drop below that.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the gas contract.

RESOLUTION #134 - 2010

Motion by: Francisco Batista
Seconded by: Emily Dominguez
Motion carries: All

The Mayor pointed out three samplings of the new banners that will be hung throughout the downtown area. There are four seasons of banners and they will begin hanging them within the next few weeks. The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

FIRE & ORDINANCES, Trustee Rafael Bueno: Mayor Kohut announced that Trustee Bueno had to leave the meeting due to an illness in the family, therefore, he went on to read the monthly report for the month of May of the Haverstraw Fire Department from the desk of Chief Patrick McNamee. There were 12 alarms with 325 responding for a total of 160 man hours and 2 training drills for a total of 92 man hours. These numbers do not reflect the time the company's spent cleaning their quarters and apparatus for the Village Board's inspection on May 15th. The department received 34 new Scott Air Packs as part of a grant the Fire Department received of \$172,000.00 which required only a 5% match from the village, or another \$9,000.00. On Monday, May 14th, 5 members from each company were trained by the vendor on how to use the air packs. These 5 members from each company are responsible to instruct the members of their company on the use of the air packs. Once they have been properly trained, 6 new packs will be issued to each company and 6 old air packs will be removed from service and kept as backups. Also during the previous week, 10 members completed the 8 hour Coast Guard Boater Safety Course and they will now be trained on using the department fire boat. On Tuesday, June 22nd the department will be meeting with the various emergency services organizations to review this years plans for the fireworks display in the town park. As usual, one of the village trucks will be assigned to the park [Bowline] for the duration of the fireworks and

there will be an additional truck at the Chair Factory property where the fireworks are now being set off. Both properties are located in the village making the Haverstraw Fire Department responsible for the safety of the event. On Wednesday, June 23rd, the following members will be graduating from the Rockland County Fire Training Center Firefighter 1 Class:

Gus Morell – Cosgrif Hose Co. #4
Angel Molina & Alberto Velasco, Jr. – Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. #1
David Rugg – General Warren Emergency Co. #2

The Mayor then announced that both David Rugg and Alberto Velasco, Jr. are multi-generational members of the department. David's great grandfather, Adam Hubner, belonged to Lady Warren Hose Co. #5 and his grandfather, Conrad Hubner, belonged to Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. #1. David now joins his dad and current Chief, Pete Rugg, who belongs to General Warren Emergency Co. #2.

Alberto's great grandfather and grandfather, George Oakley, Sr. and George Oakley, Jr. belonged to Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. #1 where his father, Alberto Velasco, Sr., is currently a member. Nothing further to report.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS Trustee Terence Watson: Trustee Watson wanted to add to the fire department report that both he and Trustee Bueno are second generation members of the department. DPW has cut the weeds and hedges on Short Clove Road and also on 14 First Street and 7 Van Houten Street. They also received a complaint about unsightly conditions on a street off of Middle Street, which they will get to as soon as possible. They also installed all new pipes and completed repair of a large drainage problem on 23 Coolidge Street. All the village streets and parking lots have been striped. Three new benches and two picnic tables were installed at the entrance to the Greenway Trail at the corner of Broadway and Jefferson, as well as some exercise equipment and a bench on the trail itself. The fence was repaired at the Community Garden and extra fencing was installed on top to prevent basketballs from going into the garden. Extra fencing was also installed at the Riverside Park to prevent basketballs from going into the river. They will be installing a new speed bump on Middle Street, where one previously existed. Nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES, Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez mentioned that applications are still being accepted for Summer Camp, at the Village Hall. She then informed the Board that some repairs are necessary for the basketball backstop in the gym. The repairs needed are the swing-up and side-swing of the backstop for a total amount of \$1,250.00. Trustee Dominguez entertained a motion to have those repairs done. Nothing further to report.

RESOLUTION #135 - 2010

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

BUILDING & CODE ENFORCEMENT, Trustee Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista read the Building Department Report for June 7th thru June 18th as follows: rental property inspections 5, municipal searches 36, miscellaneous inspections 19, construction inspections 9, complaints 8, building permits 6 and violations and ticketing 0. Nothing further to report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Kohut asked to have the minutes from the April 19th, May 3rd and May 24th Village Board Meeting Minutes approved.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION#136 - 2010

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

Mayor Kohut:
OLD BUSINESS: None.

Mayor Kohut:
NEW BUSINESS: None

Mayor Kohut:
SECOND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport was concerned about Jay Hood's Quality of Life Advisory Board resolution. He wants to change the words individuals to corporations as well, specifically Green Hills Home for Adults. The residents from there are always throwing garbage, etc. on the streets, pan-handling and he is constantly calling the police and has taken pictures. The police come and chase them, but they are back ½ hour later. What can be done about this problem with Green Hills? Mr. Rappaport is in the village all the time and sees this every day.

Jay Hood, Sr.: Counselor Hood stated that this may be the first test for the Advisory Committee, which is designed to pick up where the police leave off or cannot get to. That is a perfect situation where this committee, with guidance from the Board, can go after the management to identify the people that are causing quality of life problems in the village and remove them. In the past the village has been successful in this process, however, this will give the manpower to identify the problems, a place to go to make a complaint, but the public has to cooperate by bringing in the information and the committee will then go after them. The committee will be able to accomplish something that has not been accomplished before.

Julio Ortega, 23 Pratt Street: Mr. Ortega owns a business at 19 Main Street. He is a retired military officer and has a serious issue with the police. Every night there are patrol cars on Main Street, but feels the rest of the village is lacking in police patrols. He himself polices his own neighborhood. He feels it is human error and that the police should be able to identify which people on the streets are the criminals. These people run around with cutters in their back pockets and the drug dealers are right out there. If the police cannot identify these people, then they need some type of schooling to be able to identify criminals on the streets. The village is infested with drugs, with guns and gangs, etc. hidden in the village. He has gone to the police headquarters and the police officers behind the desk just laugh, until he shows his shield and then they want to talk. The police officers wear no vest when they are on the streets, showing people that they are comfortable with the community, enabling the gangs to do whatever they want to do. Officers must wear bullet proof when on duty. These officers run around here like they do not care and that is because they do not live in this community and if you complain about an officer it only goes as far as Chief Miller and Howard Phillips. If he, as a NYC officer, gets into a shootout in the village, he is allowed to sue the village for negligence by the police department. He feels that where he lives on Pratt Street is drug infested bringing in at \$15,000.00 a week. He, together with the Mayor, were able to completely close down that house, put the house into foreclosure and lock up the criminals involved. But, now, the village no longer has the task force and a complaint against the police officers goes nowhere.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor does not believe we lost the State Police, but only the officer that was in charge of it. He believes there is still cooperation between the agencies.

Julio Ortega: Mr. Ortega feels that now we have lost that close contact, the village is being taken over by this criminal element. He is going to do anything he needs to do to protect himself and it not going to allow any gang element to take over his neighborhood. The police officers, he feels, are just hanging out on the street corners unable to identify the bad element in the village or even taking care of people exposing themselves, etc. Looking out the window from his business, he can see and identify who is who on the street and yet these police officers cannot do the same. Being honest, Mr. Ortega stated, he is back from the military and is not going to sit back and watch the village go under. He inquired how we can push a task force or the police department to do their job. In NYC if he did not do his job, he got reported to a task force, where he had to explain to his commanders why he did not perform his job. There is no task force in this village and going to Supervisor Phillips does nothing; he just informs Chief Miller that Mr. Ortega of 23 Pratt Street complained. The police then go after his cars and now they stop his son, who then has to call him for help. Something has to be done?

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor agreed with Mr. Orgega that the way the structure of the police departments are in Rockland County there is no oversite. There is the Rockland County Drug Task Force, but they do not have control or supervisory authority over the different departments and it is limited at best.

Julio Ortega: Mr. Ortega always went to the task force commander because he felt there were leaks in the force or the criminal element would not know a week in advance about a raid coming down. He told the task force that whatever goes on at their meetings is going out on the streets. Pratt Street was not put out. Pratt Street was active due to the Board's help and the Building Inspector who did a great job. He feels there are too many leaks in the police department. He feels all the businesses are going to sink. He really cares about this village and there should be a way to police the illicit activities that go on in the village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor suggested Mr. Ortega express his concerns to Supervisor Phillips, however, he does not know what the answer is and it is hurting us in this village.

Trustee Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista felt that one person approaching the town is not going to do any good and attendance at the Town Board meetings is crucial.

Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez feels if more people from our village would attend town meetings, relaying their feelings and concerns to Supervisory Phillips is needed.

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

RESOLUTION #137

Motion by: Francisco Batista
Seconded by: Terrance Watson
Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Swift
Senior Steno Clerk