

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Haverstraw on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010, beginning at 8:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Kohut:

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** The Mayor opened the meeting to the public, announcing that anyone with any questions, concerns or comments were welcome to do so at this time.

Gil Musinger, 1416 Round Point Drive: Mr. Musinger reported that he and four members of the Harbors Committee worked on cleaning up the estuary between Tilcon's property and Harbors property. They removed 24 tires, which Tilcon has been notified about, and hopefully will pick up and dispose of. For the record, he mentioned the following people who volunteered their time: Adam Stein, Heather Stein, Steve Moetzinger and Don Meyers. He then addressed the board about the general atmosphere in the village. At the previous meeting he spoke about the number of buildings on Main Street that he considers an absolute disgrace especially the area in front of the buildings. He recently walked through the area again and found no improvement. He informed the board that he has all the addresses, however, the basic area of concern was from about 28 Main Street to 84 Main Street. His question was "what is the Building Department doing about it?" He does not expect things to happen overnight, however he would like to see some changes occur. Mr. Musinger also brought up the fact that First Street has magnificent potential, which could be million dollar property within the next 10 to 20 years, however, he mentioned a new house at 14 First Street where the weeds and grass continue to grow and the property is basically not being taken care of. He worries about the impression these properties leave on an outsider traveling into our village. He then brought up the Post Office located in the same vicinity and stated that Haverstraw takes the #1 prize for being the worst kept Post Office in Rockland County. He stated that the Postmaster purchased a weed wacker on his own and has cut the weeds on the right side of the building, but a tremendous amount of work still has to be done. He, as an individual citizen, could write a letter to Postmaster General, however, he feels that the village could contact whoever is responsible for taking care of the building and grounds and perhaps we would see some improvement. Mr. Musinger firmly believes that all of these points have a definite impact upon the appearance, the economy and the future of this village. He requested the Mayor provide specifics as to what the Building Department has done about these situations in the village, such as sending violations letters and follow-up with fines if the property owner does not comply. He would like to see this village move ahead and become an outstanding community. He then thanked the Board.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Musinger that the Building Inspector does go out and inspect the village, first giving a Warning Order and if that is not complied with within a certain amount of time either a second Warning Order or a Violation Notice goes out. However, the most the village can do is fine them once it gets to court. The village cannot physically force someone to do something that they are unwilling to do, for example, the house on First Street is currently in foreclosure and the village cannot find out who is responsible for taking care of it. The Building Inspector has been trying to locate the bank or mortgage company or whoever will take responsibility for it, but has been unsuccessful in doing so. He speaks to the Building Inspector regularly and efforts are being made to correct these problems. Unfortunately, the process takes time, but the Building Department is working through the process.

Gil Musinger: Mr. Musinger is hopeful that by the next village meeting the Mayor can give a specific report as far as the improvements being made; how many people got letters, how many were brought to court, etc. He thanked the Board for their time.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Musinger that when Trustee Batista gives his report it states the specifics of what the Building Dept. has done. The Mayor suggested that Mr. Musinger come to the Village Hall on the third Thursday of any month, which is the Village ordinance night, when all the violations issued by the Building Inspector are adjudicated by the Village Court, so he can see for himself how long the docket is and how things progress.

Larry Levine, 1414 Rockland Drive - Mr. Levine requested the status of the highway garage and what is happening since the fire last year. He noticed that the driveway was paved, but nothing has been done with the building.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Levine that the "Notice to Bidders" is ready to go out to put the project to bid.

Larry Levine – Mr. Levine stated that the Mayor mentioned that a month ago.

Mayor Kohut – The Mayor responded that he had said the village was getting the bid spec's together a month ago and now the engineers have gotten the spec's together and the village is ready to go to the newspaper to advertise it for bid. Bids are due back on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The bids will be reviewed by the engineers at that point and the project will commence some time thereafter.

Larry Levine – Mr. Levine was pleased to hear things were progressing. He then mentioned that he also took a walk last weekend through the village and found the amount of litter on the sidewalks and the streets is beyond belief. He feels something has to be done with the aesthetics of the village so we can move forward instead of going backwards. His observation is that something drastic needs to be done. He then asked the Mayor to explain a misunderstanding that a lot of the people have who live in the Harbors regarding what areas the village is responsible for maintaining, including picking up driftwood, litter and things of that nature.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor requested Village Attorney, Jay Hood, Sr. respond to that question.

Village Attorney, Jay Hood, Sr. – Counselor Hood responded that the village has reported to Harbors many times over what the agreements are between the village, the developer and the various condominium boards. Presently the one thing that the village has taken over is the cove, walkway, etc., however, the village's responsibility takes effect after a period of five years or when the last unit is sold at Harbors. He believes that agreement is probably in its third year and at this point it is still the responsibility of the developer as far as the landscaping, etc. The village did take over the electrical lighting charge. There is also a grievance being negotiated for the rest of the public areas, which the village hopes to have done shortly.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then asked when the streets are going to be dedicated.

Village Attorney, Jay Hood, Sr. – Counselor Hood stated that as far as being dedicated there are many levels that need to be accomplished, the first being the acquisition and the other is the road reaching a point where it can be accepted for dedication. Top coating is required, which the village does not want to put down while there is still more building going on. It is being worked on and he believes it could be done in the not too distant future.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levin then asked for an estimated timeframe for the overpass being built on Rte. 9W being completed and what will happen with the overweight trucks, which he does not believe the overpass can handle.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Levine that the original date was June of this year, which is evidently not happening. The last time he spoke with the engineers about a date, which was in February, they thought by the end of this construction season which would be November or December. Governor Paterson then cut the funding for all road projects and even though ECCO kept working, they did lay off half their crew for this project. His guess was that completion of the project may not be until the middle of next year.

As far as the issue with Tilcon's overweight trucks, the village is still trying to resolve it with DOT and CSX. There was some hint to the fact that the weight limit on the bridge might be sufficient for those trucks otherwise Tilcon will have to figure what to do because the village does not want those trucks coming down Maple Avenue and up New Main Street. If that ever had to be a possibility, it would be limited to 2:00 AM or something similar.

Village Attorney, Jay Hood, Sr. - Counselor Hood stated that it is looking more likely that the crossing that is there now would be open to those trucks on a temporary basis. Tilcon has offered to do anything that CSX wants, however, CSX is resisting and so is DOT. The engineers are currently looking into that.

Irwin Scharf: Mr. Scharf spoke about beautification of the village. He mentioned that the Mayor and he spoke in previous years about the village having received a grant for the planting of trees. However, he has not seen any of this money being spent anywhere. He inquired if trees are going to be planted anywhere downtown.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that the trees will be planted once the streetscape has been completed because they are not going to plant trees this year only to have to dig them up next year. The village is also working on the beautification of our New Main Street entrance with new signage, plantings, etc.

Irwin Scharf: Mr. Scharf feels the village is moving too fast, putting the streetscape project first, because other than the bridge, the back streets or residential areas of the village have no signs of urban renewal; not even a plan of what to do next. He feels the village needs to put some money into the other areas of the village by planting trees along West Street leading to the Harbors and the new bridge. It would show a little headway with some tree lined streets. It should supersede the other visions that the board has at this point. He feels also that the village is at a standstill. He then thanked the board.

Gil Musinger: When traveling across the intersection of Rte. 9W and Short Clove Road, because the grass and the weeds have not been cut, it is extremely difficult for a driver to get a view of the traffic going south on Rte. 9W. Based upon his discussion with many people, this is an accident waiting to happen unless the grass and weeds are cut. He would do it himself except he cannot park his car in the area. This is a life threatening situation and he asked that the board take this into consideration and handle this problem.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that he drives a Jeep, putting him higher up in the vehicle, so he did not notice it. He will see that it is taken care of.

Steve Moetzing, 24 Harbor Pointe Drive: Mr. Moetzing noticed that the Village D.P.W. started sweeping the streets in the Harbors this year and he thanked the board for that. The residents have noticed however, that with the absence of alternate side of the street parking it is really not as effective as it could potentially be. He wanted to know if alternate side of the street parking could be put into effect at the Harbors or if the residents could be informed of the days that the D.P.W. would be cleaning the streets in Harbors so they could be alerted to park their cars elsewhere. He felt advance notice to the residents would work well for street sweeping in the Harbors.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor will get the street cleaning schedule to Mr. Moetzing so people can be notified in advance to park their cars off the street. As far as

implementing alternate side of the street parking the village cannot do that now because it is still private property.

Steve Moetzing: Mr. Moetzing felt that the village and Harbors worked well together last year in getting Ridge Auto Center on Rte. 9W cleaned up from the illegal dumping they had done. Unfortunately, he feels the property seems to have returned to a state of disrepair. They have a long stretch of parking bordered by a fence and that has become a debris retention field. It is overgrown and there are bags of debris that have accumulated in that area on the highway side of the fence. He is looking forward to seeing this good partnership continue to grow. He also mentioned that when the Hispanic Benevolent Association did their highway cleanup that section could not be taken care of because they are not allowed to go on private property.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport informed the public and the board that the Town of Haverstraw does go onto private property to cut grass, etc. if the owner is notified. He mentioned where he lives in the unincorporated area, that when a house was in foreclosure they cut the grass.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the D.P.W. has also cut the grass in several areas, as a last resort, but then the village has to find a way to put that charge on the tax bill. The village does try to exhaust everything short of that, as the village is short on manpower.

Mayor Kohut:

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY**, Jay Hood, Sr.: Counselor Hood had nothing to report for this meeting except that he did hear back from West Point regarding the cannon. He was informed that their supply of Revolutionary cannons ran out in World War II and had none available for the Benedict Arnold Memorial. He mentioned, however, that he was informed that there is a company that makes replicas and he would try to get that information in order for the village to restore that memorial.

**VILLAGE CLERK/TREASURER**, Judith Curcio: Damaris Torres, Deputy Village Treasurer, filled in for Judy Curcio at this meeting. She reported since switching payroll companies in January the village is saving an average of \$215.00 per month.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**: The Mayor mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce is interested in resurrecting the Farmers Market and keeping it in the village for the residents to enjoy. They would like to continue to hold the market on Maple Avenue. The Mayor entertained a motion for the Chamber to take over the Farmers Market and to close off Maple Avenue where it would continue to be held.

**RESOLUTION #118 - 2010**

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

The Mayor read a request from Supervisor Howard Phillips, Town of Haverstraw, to utilize the Chair Factory property to launch the fireworks for their annual Fourth of July celebration, which is scheduled for Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at Bowline Park. He will provide the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

**RESOLUTION #119 – 2010**

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

Mayor Kohut then read a letter from the Girl Scouts of the Hudson Valley requesting permission to use the Village Parking Lot as a bus stop for their day camp program as they have in the past summers. Day camp at Camp Addison Boyce will be in session Monday thru Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup> through August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #120 – 2010

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

The Mayor then discussed the need to go out to bid for transportation for our summer day camp. He entertained a motion authorizing the Village Clerk to put camp transportation out to bid.

RESOLUTION #121 – 2010

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

The Mayor then read a Notice to Bidders as follows: Please take notice that the sealed proposals will be received by the Village of Haverstraw on or before June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 11:00 AM. At such time they will be opened and read aloud for the renovation of 17 Dr. Girling Drive, the D.P.W. building. The scope of the project will consist of the structural replacement of the existing exterior wall and roof sheeting on the D.P.W. building due to corrosion and leaks. The major components will include new walls, roof sheeting, insulation, trim, gutters, downspouts and base angles.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the Village Clerk to advertise the Notice to Bidders.

RESOLUTION #122 – 2010

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

The Mayor received a request from the Dominican Cultural Association to hold their 17<sup>th</sup> annual parade and festivities. They will march from Emeline Park to Haverstraw Middle School. The parade is scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 1:00 PM with the festival to follow, ending at 8:00 PM. The Board discussed this at workshop and felt that 8:00 PM was too late and that the festival should not end any later than 7:00 PM. They also are suggesting that they start the parade at 12:00 noon and keep it to that allotted timeframe.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #123 – 2010

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

The Mayor will send a letter to the committee to that effect.

Another letter was received from the Haverstraw Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church, 95 Hudson Avenue, which is a follow-up to a letter they sent in April or May. They are requesting permission to march from their church, located on the corner of Hudson Avenue and New Main Street, down to Emeline Park and then to promote a Health and Anti-drug campaign for the youth of the village. They are requesting 90 minutes. Mayor Kohut will have this request sent to the Town Police Chief, however, he does not see a problem if they march on one side of the road and not shut down the entire road.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #124 - 2010

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

The Mayor informed everyone that the village engaged a utility rate procurement company to secure a quote for electric rates, which they have done. The company is now asking the village to go through them to arrange the purchase of electricity for all the various accounts that the village has, including the street lighting. With Liberty Power, a 12 month rate would be \$.08522 per kilowatt hours, which is less than what the village is currently paying.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to engage Liberty Power to provide the village with electricity.

RESOLUTION #125 – 2010

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

Mayor Kohut announced that the village has been re-rated by Moody's Investment Services and that it's investment rating improved from BAA2 to A1, which was a rather drastic **increase**, given the state of the current economy. The village is very pleased to have improved its credit rating.

Mayor Kohut received a thank you letter from Meals-On-Wheels for the \$4,000.00 allocation that the village has been making to their organization, which provides services to the senior program and the senior citizens of North Rockland and all of Rockland County.

The Mayor received a memo from the Village Clerk/Treasurer, Judith Curcio, requesting the board to pass a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the 2010 Sub Recipient Agreement between Rockland County and the village for the CDBG award. The award this year was \$110,000.00 for sidewalks in the village, \$25,000.00 for the small business loan fund and \$15,000.00 for gang prevention, targeted OUTREACH.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #126 – 2010

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

The Mayor announced that the first Dancing Under the Stars event is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>, to be held in front of Village Hall. The town stage will be set up for the band "The Groove Machine" which will play dance music from the 60's to the present. Lights will be strung across the street for dancing and several of the restaurants in the village will participate with "Dancing Under the Stars" dinner specials. The Mayor invited everyone to come and have an enjoyable evening.

The Mayor then announced that earlier in the evening the village held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Community Garden, located on the front lawn of the Haverstraw Middle School. There are 22 community plots, plus plots for the Haverstraw Middle School and Community Center children. There are still a few plots available for anyone interested in growing their own crops.

The Mayor reminded everyone that July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day, will be the grand opening and dedication of the new village ball field located below St. Peter's Parking Lot on McKenzie Avenue and Anthony J. Marino Drive. He invited the public to participate in this event and to come see how the village turned an EPA field into something spectacular.

Mayor Kohut:

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**FIRE & ORDINANCES**, Trustee Rafael Bueno: No report.

**PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**, Trustee Terrance Watson: Trustee Watson reported that two trees came down during the storm that occurred over the weekend. The D.P.W. removed trees from 44 Jefferson Street and Rte. 9W. There was a sewer blockage on 8 Orchard Street, which was taken care of. The village is installing the catch basin grates, which were previously approved. They will prevent any garbage, rubbish and leaves from falling into the sewer. A fan was installed at the Community Center but has not yet been electrified. The Gurnee Avenue tunnel was painted and Dowd Street was blacktopped. The D.P.W. is continuing to paint parking lines, hydrant locations and handicapped parking spaces. He then congratulated the D.P.W., stating the guys are doing a great job in helping with the beautification of the village. Within the next two week period they will be installing picnic tables and benches on the corner of Broadway and Jefferson Street, where people can go and enjoy the views of the Hudson and wander down the Greenway Trail. He had nothing further to report.

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES**, Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez thanked the D.P.W. for assisting with installing the fan at the Community Center. She discussed the children's talent show, which had over 20 acts performing. The children were all amazing and the staff was incredible. She thanked the Town of Haverstraw for the stage and everyone in the village who volunteered and donated food for the children to eat. It was a great event overall. Trustee Dominguez then commended and thanked the Assistant Director and the staff of the Community Center who really stepped up and did such a great job while the Director of the Community Center was out sick for the week. She had nothing further to report.

**BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT**, Trustee Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista announced that there were 22 rental property inspections, 3 municipal searches, 53 miscellaneous inspections, 6 construction inspections, 5 complaints, 4 building permits and 20 violations and tickets were issued. He had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Jay Hood, Sr., Village Attorney: Counselor Hood discussed establishing a Quality of Life Advisory Board. County Legislator, Jay Hood, Jr., gave him a proposed resolution for the Board to review. He noted that the initiation of problems and concerns will come from the board and members of the community but that the Village Board will have complete control over any decision making. When the rules and regulations are created they will be subject to board approval. Also, when the Quality of Life Advisory Board decides to take a particular action, it will be as a recommendation to the Village Board who will consider and approve whatever action they feel is necessary. Counselor Hood has reviewed the proposal and found it to be precisely what the board is looking for.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed the public that County Legislator Jay Hood, Jr. suggested that one of the ways to possibly assist the village in handling quality of life

issues, whether it be loud noise, people not taking care of their property, etc. would be to create a Quality of Life Advisory Board to handle such issues. He has given a proposed resolution to the Village Board for its review. The Advisory Board would consist of a five member panel of people from the community, either property owners or business owners. They would meet and listen to complaints and act on complaints, in an advisory role, by sending out letters informing people that there is a problem and it needs to be taken care of and then doing a follow-up. If the complaint is not taken care of it would be reported to the Village Board who would then initiate the appropriate action against the property owner. The board wants to review the proposed resolution and then hopefully act upon it at the next board meeting.

With regard to the New Main Street entrance to the village, a landscaper is preparing sketches for the board to look at and will have them to the board for review within a few weeks. They hope to have the weights and measurements for the new sign to the engineer for their review by the end of the week.

Mayor Kohut:

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

**2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: With regard to the new sign for the entrance to the village, Mr. Rappaport inquired what would happen to the existing sign at the entrance to New Main Street that the businesses paid for.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Rappaport that the new sign will be placed on the other side of the street where the existing Village of Haverstraw sign is.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport then questioned the board about approving a march down New Main Street on a Saturday. He did not think it would work on a Saturday because all the businesses are open, and with cars moving in and out of parking spots on both sides of the street he did not feel it was safe or a good idea. He feels it is a real concern for the business district because it would interfere with normal business activities.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Rappaport that it would be a group of people marching together at once, not a parade with floats, etc. In consultation with Chief Miller there will be a police car with the group. The Mayor felt the only other thing for the church group to do is to march on the sidewalks, which he will propose to the church.

Larry Levine: With regard to his tax bill, he noticed he could pay by credit card and inquired if there would be a fee.

Damaris Torres, Ass't. Village Treasurer: Mrs. Torres stated that there is a charge of 2.5% of the amount of the tax whenever using a credit card for payment.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed the public that the charge does not go to the village but to the credit card company.

Irwin Sharf 1115 Round Point Drive: He had a question about the Quality of Life Committee, which he stated sounds very commendable, but wanted to know how it would be compensated.

Jay Hood, Sr.: Counselor Hood informed Mr. Sharf that it is an unpaid committee.

Irwin Sharf: Mr. Sharf inquired if the legislation states it will be an unpaid committee and, he feels it sounds like a duplication of services giving examples of the Building



Department, Fire Department, appointed officials and anyone else who protects the quality of life. He has no objection to this committee being formed as long as there is no salary involved.

Jay Hood, Sr.: Counselor Hood assured Mr. Sharf that it will be stated in the agreement that it is an unpaid committee.

Steve Moetzinger, 24 Harbor Point Drive: Mr. Moetzinger commended the board for their outstanding effort with the dedication of the new ball field. He felt it was an amazing accomplishment. However, he stated that St. Peter's parking lot overlooks that area and that the fence and the vegetation that is there is a little unsightly, which hinders seeing it from Broadway. He inquired if there were any possibility of contacting the parish to see if they would do something about it.

Mayor Kohut: It is the Mayor's understanding that they are working on that, however, the village does not want a vista down into the ball field because then people will park in St. Peter's lot and take up parking for church goers. The Mayor has heard that the church is going to do something to clean up that area because of all the work that the village has done to beautify the area.

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

RESOLUTION #127 - 2010

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

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Swift  
Senior Steno Clerk