

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Haverstraw on October 18th, 2010, beginning at 8:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor opened the meeting with the first Public Participation, inviting the public to voice their concerns or problems.

John Solace, 220 Route 9W: Mr. Solace informed the board that they are looking to move their taxi business from Route 9W to 45 New Main Street. They were informed by the Building Department that they needed to speak with the Village Board about obtaining parking spaces for the vehicles used by their company before anything else could be done with their request.

Trustee Dominguez: Trustee Emily Dominguez inquired why they want to move their business from Route 9W to the village.

John Solace: Mr. Solace responded that there are several reasons, but most importantly because of the money that will be saved on overhead at the present location and most of their clientele live within the village, which would make it more convenient for them and allow them to provide better service. They also want to be a part of the village restructuring where they hope to attract more business.

Trustee Dominguez: Ms. Dominguez inquired how many taxi cabs the company owns.

John Solace: Mr. Solace responded that the company does not own any of the vehicles. There are currently a total of eight vehicles, however, they are all independently owned.

Terrence Watson: Trustee Watson inquired how many parking spots they would want.

John Solace: Mr. Solace stated that how ever many the village would give them, however, if they could have eight that would better fit their need, especially since they are trying to grow their company and those spots could handle the rotating traffic. He mentioned parking in front of 45 New Main Street so they would always have cars nearby.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez inquired why they were interested in that specific location, since there are parking lots in the downtown area. She is concerned with having taxis parking there because it is a busy traffic area, with buses every hour, school buses traveling in the area, people going to the bank, trucks being unloaded, etc.

John Solace: Mr. Solace replied that they would accept parking spots in any location and that they would be using the Maple Avenue entrance to the

building, which would mean the cars would be parking on Maple Avenue and not New Main Street. Since they do not own any of the vehicles, there would also be no overnight parking in the area.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor asked if there were any questions or concerns about this from the board or the public.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista is concerned about the taxi drivers hanging out on the corner, as it is the first spot seen when entering the village. At times when he has passed by any of the other taxi locations, there are always drivers just hanging around and although they are working and just waiting for their next customer, it will not appear that way to anyone coming into the village.

John Solace: Mr. Solace stated that they want to run their company in the best way possible and intend to be really strict with their drivers, as well as the appearance and safety of their cars. They plan on restructuring the inside of the building, designating a proper place for their drivers to wait for customer calls in the back of their building so that there will be no people hanging around the front doorway.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez inquired if they have a written plan for what they intend to do with the building.

John Solace: Mr. Solace stated they have many ideas, but until they find out what their next step is with the village, nothing is in writing yet.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor expressed his concerns, noting once again that it is such a vital corner in the village.

Trustee Dominguez: Emily Dominguez applauded the fact that they are looking to completely upgrade their company. As the board has expressed, her biggest concern is the drivers hanging out in this area, because people loitering and hanging out is one of the major problems deterring people from coming into this village.

John Solace: Mr. Solace replied that their drivers would have to follow strict orders and only hang out in the area designated for them in the rear of the building. He again mentioned that they are trying to grow their business and already have drivers from the other companies that want to join them, knowing that there are going to be certain restrictions in place. They too are also disgusted with the other companies; the appearance of their vehicles, the hanging out, etc. Their intention is to be more professional and with the overhead being a lot less, they will have the funds to invest in other areas of the company and make things much better all around.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez wanted to know how this company can guarantee the board that their plan will work.

John Solace: Mr. Solace responded that perhaps they can develop an agreement with the village to pay fines or whatever the village feels is necessary to keep the entrance to the village as beautiful and inviting as possible. Their drivers are being informed that anyone not following the rules will be dismissed. Their goal is to improve the image of their company and be a model taxi company. They want to fit in with all the changes taking

place in the village. They believe if they can get this particular spot they can resolve a lot of the taxi problems the village is currently facing. They are even willing to pay for some spots in a municipal lot close by if necessary.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed the board that Mr. Solace appeared before the Planning Board, and was informed that before they will entertain the project, the initial parking problem has to be resolved, which is the reason for them attending the meeting that night.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez inquired if the company has to be out of their current location at a certain time.

John Solace: Mr. Solace replied that they have 30 days to make the move. They are open to meeting any requirements that the village has to be able to make this move.

Mayor Kohut: Since this move cannot be made without the approval of the Planning Board, the Mayor stated that the board will discuss the parking issue and notify the company of their decision on what parking accommodations can be made at their next meeting of November 1st, before the next Planning Board meeting.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor announced that previously there was a Public Hearing held on the DEIS for the Short Clove zoning changes, which was continued to this date, however, at this time the board is going to extend that date to November 15th.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to extend the Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to November 15th.

RESOLUTION #200-2010

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

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood informed the board that a meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 20th at Harbors to discuss their issues of concern. He has also scheduled a meeting with Sonya Crannage regarding the Guzman legal matter referencing Local Law #1-2006 that will be going to trial in the near future. A "Quality of Life" meeting has also been scheduled for Thursday, October 21st where they are hoping to meet with management from Green Hills to address problems that some of their residents are causing in the downtown area. Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez inquired how someone would go about submitting a concern to the committee.

Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood stated that he is currently working on a complaint form, which will have several different categories, however, for the time being they can submit a letter to the "Quality of Life Committee" c/o

the Village Hall, explaining the details of the problem, which would then be addressed by the committee.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor brought up the streetscape project and specifically spoke about an outstanding issue involving DEC regulations, which has caused some consternation about stormwater management when the streetscape project continues. After much discussion with DEC, some modifications have been made to the village proposal to include some planting beds in the downtown area, which they believe will overcome the stormwater management issues. The village designer, Lucille Munz, is incorporating the changes into the report, which will be forwarded to DOT for ultimate approval on the plans.

The Mayor received a request for a handicapped parking spot from Milatos Gonzalez to be placed in front of her home at 45 Sharp Street in order to ease the process of transporting her physically disabled son. The village has not yet received a letter from the doctor, therefore; Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the placement of a handicapped sign pending a letter from the doctor and a copy of the handicap permit issued by the Town of Haverstraw.

RESOLUTION #201-2010

Motion by: Rafael Bueno
Seconded by: Francisco Batista
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor asked the board to pass a resolution establishing a position for Receptionist/Typist Spanish Speaking.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #202-2010

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

Mayor Kohut then discussed the bid for paving on Allison Street, from West Lincoln Street between Maple and Broadway, and also for the remainder of Wayne Avenue from Division Street to Clinton Street. Two bids were received for the project with Tilcon, New York being the low bidder with a bid of \$53,119.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the low bid from Tilcon.

RESOLUTION #203-2010

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

The Mayor then mentioned a cell tower application for 21 Broadway, which was previously presented to the both the Planning Board and the Village

Board. Prior to scheduling a hearing, the village is required to prepare a Negative Declaration under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) for notice of termination of non-significance. Mayor Kohut requested the Village Attorney to address this issue.

Jay Hood, Jr., Village Attorney: Counselor Hood stated that whenever an application of this type is received, the environmental impact must be considered. In previous years with this type of application, the effect on the airwaves as well as the waves on human beings had to be given the utmost consideration, however, this has since been dismissed by the Federal Government. What has to be considered at this point, is the effect on wild life, structural characteristics of the area, etc. He does not foresee any problems.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor announced that the village has found, through their consultants, a determination of non-significance for the variety of environmental and aesthetic considerations. To move the process along and schedule a Public Hearing, the board is required to pass a resolution for a negative declaration under the SEQRA Notice of Determination of Non-significant Act.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #204-2010

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

The Mayor announced that a joint Public Hearing must now be scheduled with the Planning Board, stating that the Village is the Lead Agency, but, the Planning Board has secondary approval of the project. He asked that the Public Hearing be scheduled for Monday, November 1st at 7:30 PM, before the regular board meeting, to discuss the application of MetroPCS for a special permit and site plan approval for cell antennas on the roof of 21 Broadway.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #205-2010

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

The Mayor then mentioned that the District Attorney's Office, together with the Town and Village of Haverstraw, has developed a program to stem drug dealing in the village. This pilot program, called the Drug Market Initiative, has been successful in two other communities; Hempstead, Long Island and originally in Highpoint, North Carolina. It is designed to make it uncomfortable for drug dealers to remain in a community and is basically an intervention. The community faces pre-selected drug dealers who have been caught on camera or by other means, who, if convicted of dealing, will be sent to prison for between nine and twenty-four years. Those dealers will be given the option of straightening out their lives and being given whatever Social Services or educational employment training they may need or having an arrest warrant executed against them, being prosecuted

to the full extent of the law and sent to state prison. This Drug Market Initiative is now moving forward with the first seven low-level drug dealers in the Village of Haverstraw, Thursday, October 21st at 6:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus. He invited everyone to attend this meeting.

The Mayor received a letter from the residents of Riverside Avenue complaining about a large amount of stray cats in the area. Through the efforts of the Town Animal Control Officer and the County Health Department, 15 cats have since been caught and taken to the Haverstraw Animal Shelter. The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno announced that the new firetruck for Rescue Hook and Ladder Co. #1 has arrived in the village. It is currently being outfitted with all the necessary equipment to productively fight fires and any other emergency in the village. He then discussed an application received for membership to the Haverstraw Fire Department by Isaac Cohen requesting membership in Cosgriff Hose Company #4. The application has been duly completed and notarized. Trustee Bueno entertained a motion to accept this application.

RESOLUTION #206-2010

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

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Trustee Terence Watson:

Trustee Watson reported that the village has made Santiago Avenue a one-way exiting onto Route 9W. More signage has to be installed to inform residents in the surrounding area about the change and the DPW has removed the gates. He then mentioned that the DPW continues to perform weekly cleaning and grass cutting at all village properties, as well as picking up white goods and yard waste, installed a catch basin at 16 State Street and a new door at Lady Warren Co. #5 firehouse. Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez reported that the gym was finally opened today following the flooding caused by a recent storm. She thanked DPW for all their help with the flooding. She announced that the center's annual Halloween Party and Parade will be held on Thursday, October 28th. Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Francisco Batista:

Trustee Batista announced that no report was received for this meeting due to the illness of the Building Inspector's mother.

MINUTES: The Mayor requested approval of the minutes from the meetings of September 7th and September 20th. Trustee Batista stated he reviewed the minutes and found them to be in order.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above mentioned minutes.

RESOLUTION #207-2010

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

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez stated that she and the Mayor met with Peter McQuire to go over the budget for the sign and also to schedule a date for the sign person to bring in samples for the new sign with the hope of having the sign installed before the end of the year, with landscaping to be completed later.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez announced that the Manny Lopez Ball Field was officially closed for the season Friday, October 15th.

Mayor Kohut:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Fire Chief Peter Rugg, Haverstraw Fire Department: Chief Rugg informed the board that the new truck is in the village, however, will not be put into service until all equipment is installed and training is complete.

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

RESOLUTION #208-2010

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

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Swift
Senior Steno Clerk