

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Haverstraw on Monday, November 1st, 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 Public Participation, inviting the public to voice their concerns or problems. He asked that the public not discuss the cell tower issues previously discussed at the Public Hearing.

Jonathan Solas, 220 Route 9W: Mr. Solas once again came before the board to request parking spots for their taxi business.

Judith Curcio, Village Clerk/Treasurer: Mrs. Curcio informed Mr. Solas that she looked into the current taxi vehicle and taxi driver permits and out of the eight vehicles their business currently uses, only one had a legal permit.

Jonathan Solas: Mr. Solas informed Mrs. Curcio that that would be one of the items strictly enforced by their company, especially since the drivers own their vehicles, stating that he would be certain to have all his drivers obtain their permits within the next two weeks.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Solas that the board has discussed their wish to open a taxi business on New Main Street, but has come to a decision that the village cannot provide parking in the area they requested. He then suggested that Mr. Solas look into an alternate site in the village for his business, perhaps the Miller and Miller location on Broadway. There is a possibility that some parking could be available in that area. The Board feels that the New Main Street/Maple Avenue intersection is too congested. Also, there is not sufficient parking now for the business community for parking either on the street or in the parking lots. They feel this would just add more problems to the congestion already existing in that area.

Jonathan Solas: Mr. Solas mentioned that the parking lot at the corner of Fairmount and Maple Avenues has empty spaces during the day and that they would be willing to pay for parking spots in that lot, or wherever the village can possibly provide spots for them. They have already found a good location to do business in the village and will save a lot of money with the move from 9W. Their goal is to give the best service they can to their customers.

Mayor Kohut: Once again the Mayor indicated that the Board feels this is not the appropriate spot for their business to operate. They will not consider approving any on street or off street parking in any of the lots in the area. They will also recommend that the Planning Board reject their "Change of Use" application because they feel there are other sites in the village that would be better suited for this type of business. The board feels there is just too much congestion and too much going on in this area. To date, this

board has seen far too frequently that the taxi drivers do what they want, when they want, wherever they want. The board understands that Mr. Solas wants to change the image of the business, however, the board cannot take a chance with his company and have a taxi business move in to that location and become an eyesore at the downtown entrance to our village.

Jonathan Solas: Mr. Solas then asked if they could perhaps get some parking spots in the Knights of Columbus parking lot away from the prime area of the village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor again pointed out that the taxi vehicle parking is the problem, giving an example of the other taxi companies in the village who abuse the opportunities that are given them. That corner of the village is too vital a spot to allow that type of abuse. The board just cannot risk this entry into the village being compromised in any way.

Jonathan Solas: Mr. Solas understands how the board feels because he has also seen the problems with the other taxi companies. He then asked the board what type of business they would like to see in that location because it is evident that the problem is not just the parking, but also the type of business. He inquired if a location on Broadway or Main Street would be feasible for their taxi business.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that either Broadway or Main Street would be a much better location for a taxi business.

Jonathan Solas: Mr. Solas then asked if they would be able to obtain parking spots if they set up their business in one of those locations.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that depending on the location, the board would have to check out what spots are available in the village lots near those areas.

Jonathan Solas: Mr. Solas asked if they could purchase permits for each of their vehicles to park in the village lots.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that the village lots are for use by residents for overnight parking, not taxi parking. He again stated that the board's decision to their current request is not to provide on or off street parking in the vicinity they are requesting. Secondly, they will be sending a letter to the Planning Board recommending denial of the Change of Use Permit. The Mayor once again mentioned they would have to look into the parking in any other location in the village where they may wish to open their business.

Terrence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson recommended that Mr. Solas speak to Miller & Miller to see about renting their space on Broadway.

Joe Mahoney: Mr. Mahoney inquired about the V.A. benefits.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that the board discussed the matter with the Assessor earlier that evening and are going to be scheduling a Public Hearing on the Alternative Veterans Exemption, which is applicable to veterans who have served during any wartime period designated by New

York State law. He also mentioned the alternative exemption would provide for a greater exemption than is currently provided under the V.A. loan exemption.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq., Village Attorney: Counselor Hood announced that the Public Hearing has been tentatively scheduled for 8:05 PM on Monday, November 15th, where there will be discussions about the law other municipalities are using, called the "Alternative Veterans Exemption". He will be drafting a law to present to the board, who, in turn will be required to hold a Public Hearing and then approve the new law as soon as possible.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport described the village as looking worse and worse every day. Buildings are boarded up on Broadway as well as the old Dodge dealership. He spoke about the area around 23 New Main Street where garbage, clothes, plastic bags, etc. are scattered all over the street and was even told that someone was selling used clothes two times last week in front of 23 New Main Street. He contacted the Building Inspector to investigate the matter. There are also furniture stores that have put mattresses, etc. in front of their stores, stating it does not look good for the village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Building Inspector has contacted the furniture stores instructing them that they cannot put anything in front of their buildings. He is also trying to contact the owners of the boarded up property on Broadway by Hornick's. In reference to the Dodge dealership, the Building Inspector has cited them.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport informed the board that Dr. Appleman owns the building on Broadway and he is currently in a nursing home and not doing well, which is part of the problem. He needs to find someone to take care of the building.

Cyril Kerr, 52 Broadway: He filled out an application to convert the three apartments above his commercial property into four apartments. When he bought the building in 1995 it was a four family unit. When he was having the building inspected he was informed it was designated for three apartments. Through another purchase, he now has the required off street parking for ten to twelve vehicles.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez inquired if the building is the one located next to Annabella's Restaurant.

Cyril Kerr: He responded yes, but Annabella's has their own off street parking.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that he would have to first appear before the Planning Board.

The Mayor entertained a motion to refer Mr. Kerr to the Planning Board for approval of his anticipated conversion.

RESOLUTION #210-2010

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

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood requested the board pass a resolution for the Village Assessor to determine what is required to combine the multiple lots that make up the Warren Court/Manny Lopez Ball Field. These were originally individually properties, which now should be converted to one.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to merge the lots at the ball field into one.

RESOLUTION #211-2010

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

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, November 15th at 8:05 PM to discuss the proposed Alternative Veterans Exemption.

RESOLUTION #212-2010

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

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

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor asked for the board's approval to appoint Elizabeth Morris to the position of Receptionists/Typist Spanish Speaking. This position would be "less than full time". She is currently in the position provisionally. This appointment will make her permanent.

The Mayor entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #213-2010

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terrence Watson, Jr.
Motion carries: All

The Mayor then asked for approval to appoint Paul Hylas and William Santiago to the position of Court Attendants in the Justice Court. They are presently working in the position of Constables, but for various reasons their titles have to be changed to Court Attendants. These positions had been created previously by the village and once the approval is received from Rockland County Personnel, this will place them in the proper position of Court Attendants.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #214-2010

Motion by: Terrence Watson, Jr.
Seconded by: Emily Dominguez
Motion carries: All

The Mayor discussed a grant application to the Office Court Administration received from the Village Justice Court, which is for the Justice Court Assistance Program, which will include computer upgrades, scanning technology, new furniture for the courtroom, etc. in the amount of \$30,000.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion authorizing him to sign the application.

RESOLUTION #215-2010

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

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno: In the absence of Trustee Bueno, Trustee Watson read the fire report from Chief Peter Rugg as follows:

- 1) They have begun issuing the new Scott Packs to the companies that have completed the training.
- 2) Bailout Ropes – Ten members receive training in the use of the bailout system who will now be responsible for training the rest of the department in use of the system.
- 3) Fire Prevention – They presented a fire prevention program at the Farmers' Market on Sunday, October 6th, as well as completing the program at the Haverstraw Middle School and Head Start. They still need to complete the program at Neary Elementary School and St. Peter's School.
- 4) Two applications were submitted for membership into the Haverstraw Fire Department:
 - a. Matthew Lorber of Haverstraw – General Warren Emergency Co. #2
 - b. John Heiloo of Garnerville – General Warren Emergency Co. #2Both applications have been fully completed and are in order.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept both applicants into the Haverstraw Fire Department assigned to General Warren Emergency Co. #2.

RESOLUTION #216-2010

Motion by: Terrence Watson, Jr.
Seconded by: Emily Dominguez
Motion Carries: All

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Trustee Terence Watson:

Trustee Watson reported that the DPW has recently done work on Broadway in the area of Lady Warren Hose Co. #5, where they will be installing a guardrail and Tilcon will be paving the area. They will be re-striping the yellow lines on Maple Avenue between Fairmount Avenue and Tor Avenue. They will also be removing the double yellow lines on Broadway. He continued to read the report submitted by George White, Jr., Superintendent of Public Works, as follows:

- 1) Painted the Brick Museum stairs
- 2) Cleaned all parking lots and parks of debris
- 3) Worked on the drainage at 16 State Street
- 4) Installed wheel stoppers at the Grant Street Parking Lot
- 5) Patched various potholes at Village On The Green
- 6) Cut grass at all village properties, parks and lots
- 7) Removed graffiti at the Gurnee Avenue tunnel
- 8) Continue to empty all public garbage cans at streets, parks and lots.
- 9) Picked up yard waste, construction debris and white goods.
- 10) Cut down high brush at Greenway Trail
- 11) Did work at parking lot #16
- 12) Planted flowers, cut back ornamental grass, cleaned pond at Gurnee Avenue tunnel.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Emily Dominguez:

Trustee Dominguez announced that they had over 100 kids participate in the Halloween Party at the center and thanked everyone who donated food and candy and helped with the party. She had nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Francisco Batista:

Trustee Batista read the following Building Department report for the period of October 18th thru October 29th:

Rental property inspections	-	37
Municipal searches	-	4
Miscellaneous inspections	-	61
Construction inspections	-	3
Complaints	-	23
Violations & tickets	-	192
Permits	-	15

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

MINUTES: The Mayor requested approval of the minutes from the meetings of October 4th and October 18th, with minor changes to October 4th.

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

RESOLUTION #217-2010

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

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez announced that the Warren Court/Manny Lopez Ball Field is now closed for the season.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No further public participation.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista inquired what is happening with the stretch of road on Broadway.

Terrence Watson: Trustee Watson explained that Street Opening Permits have been issued to Orange & Rockland for drainage work. He has spoken to the Superintendent on the job who informed him that they want the ground to settle for the next six months. The village can request that they seal the edges, if possible, but to go in now and grind up the road would be useless because it will still continue to settle. He felt it best to let it settle for the next six months.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor also mentioned that Orange & Rockland has not paid the permit fees. He has discussed this issue with them and the village has stopped issuing them permits for further work because of their outstanding bill with the village in the amount of \$24,000.00. Part of the reason for charging the fee is in the event they do not come back to complete their work the village would have the funds to have it completed. He is trying to resolve all the issues with Orange & Rockland, including fixing the roads they worked on.

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for a personnel matter.

RESOLUTION #218-2010

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terrence Watson, Jr.
Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Swift
Senior Steno Clerk