

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, August 15th, 2011, 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 ask questions or make comments.

Gil Musinger, 1416 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Musinger thanked the Board for their rapid response in getting the sidewalk installed between Short Clove Road and Main Street. He then mentioned, what he considers to be, a serious erosion problem occurring along Dr. Girling Drive, on the left side of the road going towards the river. He felt with the heavy rainfall of late and predictions for more, it could be severely undermined and cause severe problems in the future if it is not tended to now. He then asked about the status of the Chair Factory property.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor credited Trustee Watson and the DPW crew for the installation of the sidewalk. With reference to the Chair Factory property, he informed Mr. Musinger that discussions are still ongoing between the Village and the developer. The Board does expect to hear more from the developer over the next few weeks. At the present time, no decision has been made on how the property will ultimately be developed.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport spoke about the traffic lights on Broadway, thanking the Board for having them replaced. He then inquired how long the burned house on Maple Avenue will be able to remain there in its current condition. He feels it is a real eyesore to the community.

Trustee Watson: Trustee Watson responded that the homeowners have informed him that they will be tearing the house down soon.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport then inquired if there is a time frame in which it has to be taken down.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that it is an insurance issue with the homeowner who is waiting for the insurance proceeds to come through. The Village has, in the past, taken houses down and then billed the insurance company, however, there is currently no money built into the budget to handle something like this; therefore, it remains in the hands of the insurance company.

Larry Levine, 1414 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Levine complimented the Board on the installation of the sidewalk. He then spoke about installing "STOP" signs at that corner or possibly speed bumps, which he feels is a necessity, because most drivers coming down from Route 9W are driving over the speed limit in that area, which in itself is a major safety factor. He then inquired when the DPW building would be painted and also mentioned

he has not yet seen any change to the lighting situation at the DPW, which affects the residents of Harbors.

Terence Watson: Trustee Watson responded that they would have to look further into installing "STOP" signs or speed bumps in that area. He would check to see if the new lights came in yet and if so will have them installed. With regard to painting the building, George White has received a verbal price from a contractor, however it was a very high estimate. He mentioned that the DPW staff is very capable of painting the building, and he is considering that, however, there is currently not enough time in the schedule for this project, but in the near future he feels this is a project they can handle.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then inquired if the garbage area is open to anybody because last week garbage sat in that area from Thursday to Monday.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated it is supposed to be picked up and put into the trailer on Friday's and it is not open to anybody who feels like dumping.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post previously had a brief conversation with the Mayor regarding his part time hours and inquired how that came about because, as of the May 25th minutes, there was nothing mentioned about reducing the hours for the Mayor's position. He also inquired what the actual hours are and if these hours will reflect on future Mayor's in years to come. Mr. Post also inquired if this was done with the consent of the Trustees. Mr. Post then inquired if anything could be done to keep the minutes on the Website more current.

Mayor Kohut: With regard to the Mayor's position, the Mayor informed Mr. Post that the decision to make this position part-time was done after discussions with the Board and was promulgated through the budget. The Mayor's salary line was reduced as part of the budget process. He is here two to three full days a week; Monday and Friday, plus evenings and weekends whenever necessary. This action was discussed in workshop and with the consent of the Board was finalized through the budget process. He then explained to Mr. Post that the salary increased over the years, but it was never established as a full-time position. He also stated that any future Board can decide whether to make the Mayor's position full-time or part-time.

Judith Curcio, Village Clerk/Treasurer: With regard to the minutes, Ms. Curcio informed Mr. Post, and the public, that the minutes are available in DRAFT form, within two weeks following a meeting, but are not put on the WEBSITE until they are approved. She also stated that anyone can request a DRAFT copy of the minutes if they wish to review them before being approved.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired about the status of the Streetscape project and if there will be any kind of meeting to explain the details to the public. He then mentioned reading about all the grant money being held for New York State and wondered how active the Village is in trying to obtain some of these funds for different Village projects.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that he periodically gives updates on different projects at Board Meetings. He did mention, however, that the final data for the Streetscape (known as DAD) had previously been submitted to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and is currently in their hands. At this time, the Village is simply awaiting their approval on DAD, which is the precursor for the Village to prepare construction documents and go out to bid on the project, which the Board is hoping will be soon. He also mentioned, however, that with the current state of affairs involving hundreds of retirements and layoffs throughout the state, including DOT, that there may be delays getting to all the projects.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if the problem with the engineering plans could be a holdup on the project and asked if they were 100% finished.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the engineers have completed 60% of the required documentation, which is where they are supposed to be at this point for the DAD report to be finalized by DOT. Unless DOT wants changes made to the DAD documents, the landscaping architects and the engineers have it within their ability to finalize everything in time for a winter contract.

Don Cranston, 131 Broadway & 2 Hillside Avenue: With regard to the upcoming elections in the fall, Mr. Cranston has noticed some candidates are not following procedures in their advertising campaigns. He had pictures depicting Ricky Sanchez leaving his vehicle, with his sign on board, parked in a "No Parking Zone". He also mentioned his signs say nothing but VOTE; they do not say what he is running for. He also noticed that a lot of the signs are not to code; they are much larger than what is allowed. He wanted to have this addressed at this public forum.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that a vehicle being parked in no parking zone should be getting ticketed. He agreed with Mr. Cranston that many of the signs are oversized. He explained that there are 1st amendments rights which may or not be affected by what the Board decides to do.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq., Village Attorney: Counselor Hood does feel it is risky and would not be worth it to have an extensive law suit over a few oversized signs.

Terence Watson: Trustee Watson suggested the Board look into the political signage laws in the surrounding areas to bring the Village codes into conjunction with the surrounding areas.

Coleen Schepis, 2 Hillside Avenue: Ms. Schepis inquired if the political signs have to specify what position a person is running for.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq: Counselor Hood mentioned a suit involving some friends of Mr. Sanchez who put his signage on their front lawns ahead of the allotted time. These friends were not cited but were simply asked to remove the signs until the appropriate time, which resulted in a lawsuit. The Village actually changed its signage laws based on that lawsuit. He does not feel it would be beneficial to the Village to pursue this matter and end up in litigation again.

Coleen Schepis: Ms. Schepis wanted the Board to be aware that people in her area have been using the cemetery to walk their dogs.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the property belongs to St. Peter's Parish and it is up to them to maintain the property and set any rules and regulations. He did mention that the Village could put up a sign, but would have no way of enforcing or controlling the situation.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista recommended they call the Town Police and have them speak to Father Madden.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood had nothing to report.

VILLAGE TREASURER, Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio gave the following report for the month of June, 2011:

Revenue	\$5,609,870.00
Disbursements	\$ 843,912.00

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut:

The Mayor and the Board recently had a discussion with Virginia Norfleet of Clinton Street about Jefferson Street Park. The community would like to install a Memorial Park for the African-Americans who have been in Haverstraw for many decades; some as slaves, others to work in the brickyards. The Board has given their approval, in concept, to a Memorial Park reflecting the African-American Heritage in our community and are happy to do so because the African-American people have a long, rich history in our village.

The Mayor received a request from the Rotary to establish a more proper and fitting World War II Memorial to replace the present monument located on the corner of New Main Street and Maple Avenue. Former Mayor "Bud" Wassmer is heading up the committee for the new monument and they are requesting permission to install the monument in the Village Clock Square directly opposite the clock behind the pine tree. It would be black stone with etchings depicting various WWII scenes and would have the names inscribed of the 17 veterans from the Village who were killed in WWII. It would be an opportunity for other veterans or people to buy paving stones that would lead up to the memorial and give the Village a proper World War II Memorial. The Rotary needs to raise approximately \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 for this project. They would like to have this completed by December 7th, the 60th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. They have also asked for help from the DPW to install the footing needed for the stone as well as any pavers.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the Rotary to establish the building funds for the monument and to place the monument in the Village Clock Square with the help of the DPW.

RESOLUTION #173-2011

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

The Mayor received a proposal from New York Communities for Change seeking to penalize Chase Bank for their failure to properly address the mortgage crisis and the needs of their mortgage holders who are trying to rework their mortgages. They would like to address the Board with regard to this problem. The Mayor requested the Village Clerk to schedule them to appear before the Board at the second regular meeting in September.

The Mayor mentioned that the Village was a participant in a municipal consortium in fighting the last Orange & Rockland (O&R) utility rate increase request. There were approximately 15 municipalities in Rockland and Orange counties that banded together to stop this request. The municipalities were not successful in defeating their request, but were however, able to keep the amount of the increase significantly lower than O&R was requesting. The consortium is still litigating parts of that request to get the rates even lower. He then mentioned that O&R is now looking for another increase in utility rates; a 3 year increase of 7% per year. The attorney who led the consortium in the previous O&R battle would now like to once again lead the consortium to fight this increase. They are asking for a maximum village contribution of \$2,000.00. The Mayor stated again that they were successful in keeping the utility rate lower on O&R's previous request and feels we need to continue the process of lowering their utility rates.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to participate in the consortium to fight O&R in getting another utility rate increase.

RESOLUTION #174-2011

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

The Mayor pointed out that many of the barber shops in the Village, totaling 5 or 6 at this point, have been painted "red, white & blue" and are getting more and more lavish, which many residents are criticizing. The Village does not have a building code that deals with colors of paint being used in commercial or residential properties. It was suggested that it be limited to historical paint schemes. He feels this is something that needs to be addressed, therefore he requested a meeting be scheduled with both the Building Department and the Village Attorney to fully discuss this issue. He scheduled the meeting for Monday, September 12th at 6:00 PM.

The Mayor stated that the Village has to go out to bid for replacement of sidewalks on the west side of the Gurnee Avenue tunnel, to be completed with Community Development funds. The Village is also going out to bid for milling and paving of Clinton and Division Streets to include the installation of speed humps on both roads, which will be done as part of a budgetary

line item. The Mayor explained the difference between speed bumps and speed humps. The Mayor is asking for a quick return date in order to get the projects under way as soon as possible.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to go out for bid on both projects with a return date of September 1st for all bids.

RESOLUTION #175-2011

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

The Mayor requested fire hydrant approval for a hydrant to be installed in the area of 9W and Short Clove Road. The Village will pay the rates. The Mayor explained that United Water is requiring this installation on Route 9W, west of the new bridge over the railroad tracks.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #176-2011

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

The Mayor scheduled the next Regular Board Meeting for Tuesday September 6th, due to the Labor Day Holiday which falls on Monday, September 5th.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #177-2011

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

The Mayor announced that the Village has received a Gang Prevention Grant from the County of Rockland in the amount of \$6,306.00. The Mayor requested the Board's approval to sign off on the documents needed to obtain the grant funds.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #178-2011

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

The Mayor received a request from Ruben Berrios, Building Inspector, to attend the NYS Builders Conference in Niagra Falls, September 13th to 16th. This will give him hours needed for his continuing education requirements. Since Mr. Berrios is a delegate of the Rockland County Chapter, they will reimburse the Village for any expenses incurred.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #179-2011

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

The Mayor announced that the termite problem on the wood floor at Relief Hose Fire Company quarters has been corrected. In order to prevent this problem from reoccurring, the floor needs to be treated. To do the proper treatment the cost would be \$1,870.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the expenditure.

RESOLUTION #180-2011

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

The Mayor announced amendments to the budget as follows:

Decrease Exp. Act.	A1990.41	Contingent Overtime	\$139,765.01
Increase Exp. Act.	A1110.11	Personal Justice Court	4,648.54
Increase Exp. Act.	A3320.1	Personal Bldg. Dept.	6,803.36
Increase Exp. Act.	A5110.1	Personal DPW	70,143.61
Increase Exp. Act.	A5110.1	Personal DPW ADM	20,156.00
Increase Exp. Act.	A9961.9	Transfer Reachout	22,839.42
Increase Exp. Act.	A7140.1	Personal Recreation	9,973.52
Increase Exp. Act.	A1324.1	Personal Clerk/Treasurer	5,200.56

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

RESOLUTION #181-2011

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

The Mayor announced that "Movies In The Park" had to be cancelled this past Saturday due to rain; no new date has been scheduled.

The Mayor announced the following activities that will be taking place in the Village over the next few weeks:

- 1) Dancing Under the Stars - Friday, August 19th from 8 to 10 PM, outside the Village Hall.
- 2) Latino Parade & Festival - Sunday, August 21st, parade starting at 1:00 PM at Emeline Park, proceeding to Middle School field where the festival will continue until 8:00 PM.
- 3) Back-to-School Backpack Family Event – The Haverstraw Holiday Meal Committee will provide filled backpacks to 200 children. The event will be held at Emeline Park on Saturday, August 27th from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. There will be music, arts and crafts and refreshments will be served.
- 4) Annual Street Fair – Sunday, September 25th
- 5) Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride - Sunday September 25th.

The Village received a "Thank You" note from Reverend Tyree of the Bricktown Gospel Church for once again allowing them to host their annual "Rockland Street Kids Fair". Up to 300 children enjoyed carnival games, a bounce house, petting zoo, arts and crafts, refreshments, etc. The event was well staffed, safe and fun for all. He again thanked the village for permitting the event and supplying the barricades.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – **Trustee Rafael Bueno:** Trustee Bueno submitted the following report of activities submitted by Fire Chief Patrick McNamee for month of July:

Fire alarms	28
Structure Fire	0
Special Calls	2
Boat call	1
Extrication Calls	0
Mutual Aid	2
(including Marine unit to assist Stony Point)	
False alarms	6
Total members responding -	734

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – **Trustee Terence Watson:**

Trustee Watson read the following report submitted by George White, Superintendent of Public Works, for the period ending August 15th:

- 1) Crew continues maintenance of all Village properties, parks and lots.
- 2) Picked up yard waste, construction debris and white goods.
- 3) DPW crew cut down brush at Greenway Trail hill.
- 4) Cleaned up after various rain storms.
- 5) Worked on GDC sidewalk on Riverside Avenue.
- 6) Line striped parking lot spaces and parking zones throughout the Village.
- 7) Paved storm damaged streets.
- 8) Televised the sewer line on Fairmount Avenue that runs between Clove and Hudson Avenues and discovered there were 12 severe separations in that sewer line. Also repaired a sewer line on Leonard Street.

- 9) Blacktopped the street in the area of 68 Hudson Avenue with the Town Highway Department.
- 10) Worked on the Maple Avenue sidewalk, which was completed.
- 11) Fixed the sinkhole on New Main Street by Rappaport Locks.
- 12) Started setting back the fence at Jefferson Street.
- 13) Cleaned up all debris, due to the flooding, in the basement of the Village Hall.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez announced that summer camp has just ended, having 180 campers. She mentioned that this was the largest number of children since camp began and they were still able to cut costs compared to last year. She stated that camp was a huge success and they all had a great summer. With the new exhaust fan in the gym they were able to provide many more activities on-site. The center also continued with alternative summer programs and offered a summer counseling program, which they are working on with Judge Grant. Trustee Dominguez then mentioned that through the DMI program, the center was awarded a contract with the Rockland County District Attorney's Office to host and oversee the drug market initiative program in Haverstraw, which began last year and will be starting up again in the fall. With regard to staffing, she stated that Peter Fata has been completing his assigned tasks as Director-in-Training, while continuing to work as full-time Ass't. Director of the center and a full evaluation will continue through the end of summer. The center continues to post its newsletter and weekly schedules on the WEBSITE. Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista read the following report submitted by Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios for the period of July 8th through August 12th:

Rental property inspections	-	26
Municipal searches	-	7
Miscellaneous inspections	-	268
Construction inspections	-	152
Complaints	-	34
Violations & tickets	-	54
Permits & CO	-	13

Parking report:		
Tickets issued in July	-	315

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

MINUTES: The Mayor presented the minutes of June 6, June 20th and July 11th for approval.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #182-2011

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
With a change to the last page of June 20th
Seconded by: Francisco Batista
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport thanked Bobby Drexler and the DPW crew for their prompt attention to repairing the sinkhole in front of his store. He then inquired if the Village was going to do anything about the telephone pole on Gurnee Avenue by the tunnel that appears to be unstable.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that there has been some work done on the pole. O&R has moved their lines, as well as Cablevision. Verizon still has to move their lines, however, they are on strike at the present time.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport then mentioned the problem with Chase Bank and suggested that the Village advertise the meeting to be scheduled with the New York Communities for Change to put more pressure on Chase.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor will request New York Communities for Change to do some advertising about the meeting.

Pete Rugg, 64 Hudson Avenue: Mr. Rugg wanted to let the Board know that the Building Department shut down the scrap metal business at 68 Hudson Avenue. He appreciated their quick response to the problem. He then informed the Board that he and his wife spoke with the landlord, who told them there were too many rules and regulations in the Village and perhaps he and his family should move. Mr. Rugg asked for the Board's help in enforcing the laws and keeping these problems from existing in the Village.

Gil Musinger: Mr. Musinger talked about the Chair Factory and the waterfront development. He urged the Board to make a decision in favor of a lease and not a purchase. He stated that the greatest asset the Village has is the Hudson River and the waterfront property, which will increase in value tremendously as the years go on. He suggested the Village follow Nyack's approach in leasing the property to restaurants, marinas, etc. He also feels the residents should have some input in the Streetscape,

mentioning that many people have various ideas for the Streetscape that he feels should be heard before any decisions are made and documentation sent out. He mentioned in Nyack there was a big Public Hearing before moving the Streetscape ahead. He stated that many of the residents would like to see what is being presented for approval and possibly make a few suggestions.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Musinger that the Village held several Public Hearings and public meetings with regard to Streetscape.

Kenny Sturnoft, currently homeless: Mr. Sturnoft explained to the Board that he attended the Farmer's Market one Sunday and was asked to remove his carts with all his belongings. He thought the Police were going to bring them to the Community Action Center on Clove Avenue and was assured they would be safe. Afterwards he went into the hospital and upon being released, found that his carts and all his belongings were gone. He feels he deserves some compensation for his belongings; clothes, gift certificates, etc.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that it was the Town Police Department and that they simply patrol the Village. He suggested that he bring this problem to the attention of the Town Board, but that he would ask someone from the Town Police to speak with him about his missing items.

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #183-2011

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift
Senior Steno Clerk
August 23, 2011