

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, April 16, 2012, beginning at 8:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor opened the meeting with the first Public Participation inviting the public to ask questions or make comments.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport mentioned that there are four or five streetlights on the old Short Clove Road and wanted to know if there was any way to get Orange & Rockland (O&R) to take them over.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that O&R was notified. O&R has access to that area because they supply power to Tilcon. O&R is trying to get Tilcon to lay a rock path in the area to make it more accessible to them. The Mayor has notified O&R that they have to get the power turned off to those lights.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport then inquired if O&R will be resurfacing the road in the area of Samsondale and Westside Avenue.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that they had to let the pavement settle over the winter after working on a project, therefore, they will be coming back this year to complete the job.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post was wondering if the Mayor wrote the article he had asked him to write regarding the Harbors and the tax situation for publication in both the Journal News and the Spanish newspapers.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that he just finished the article that day and had it e-mailed to the Journal News. He has not yet sent it to the Spanish newspapers.

Mel Post: Mr. Post suggested that the Mayor also forward the article to the Rockland County Times and the Rockland Review.

Mayor Kohut: With no further input from the public, the Mayor requested Village Attorney, Jay Hood, Jr. Esq., to continue the discussion of the proposed new Local Law with regard to the display and sale of tobacco to minors.

Trustee Terence Watson arrived at the meeting.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.: Counselor Hood explained that the Board reviewed the proposed Local Law and requested some language changes, specifically the menu cover page, which he has completed. He also obtained opinions from several of the County attorneys who felt the law was well written and was a great idea that they might initiate on the County level as well.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor announced the continuation of the Public Hearing on the advertising and sale of tobacco products to minors inviting the public to make comments or ask questions.

Marion Breland Oswald, Director, Haverstraw Center: Ms. Oswald thanked the Board for moving forward with this law. She stated that with this move the Board is showing the residents of the Village that they are concerned and care about the well being of the families and especially the youth of our community, which she has had the privilege of working with throughout her 39 years at the Community Center.

With no further input from the public, Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing on tobacco products as stated above.

RESOLUTION #95-2012

Motion by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Motion carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the proposed Local Law with regard to the advertising and sale of tobacco products to minors.

RESOLUTION #96-2012

Motion by: Francisco Batista

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Motion carries: All

The Board received a round of applause for passing this law.

Mel Post: Mr. Post wanted to know what was covered by the new law.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.: Counselor Hood explained that under this new law, businesses will not be allowed to have a "Power Wall", which is a colorful display of tobacco advertisements that attracts young people. This law would mandate all advertisements be out of sight, either behind the counter or any other obscure place. He also mentioned that there can only be a list of products that could be given to adult customers. He feels this law will be beneficial to all the families and youth of our village, by hopefully, cutting down on smoking by minors.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if the law would require all businesses to avoid advertising and selling to minors.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded, all businesses within the Village limits. He also mentioned that with all the research prepared by Denise Hogan, Pow'r Against Tobacco, only two businesses in the Village were found to have "Power Walls".

Denise Hogan: Ms. Hogan mentioned that she went to all the bodegas recently and most were all for the new law, even asking for help on how to cover up their tobacco displays. She stated it was a good experience and they were pleased they visited the bodegas. Ms. Hogan also stated that they would be willing to go to the stores and help them with any information they may need.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that once the law has been filed with the state, letters will be sent to all the businesses to detail the parameters of the law.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport mentioned the Hookah shop in the Village and wanted to know if the law would affect them.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that they sell equipment, but he does not believe they sell tobacco.

Denise Hogan: Ms. Hogan stated that the Rockland County Health Department mandates that if they sell tobacco they are required to post a sign saying "18 years or older", which they now have.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

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

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

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor received a request from the Dominican Liberation Party (DLP) to use the parking lot at the corner of Broad Street and Broadway. After discussions with the DLP, the Board has agreed to allow them use of the parking lot on Sunday, May 6th from 2:00 to 6:00 PM for political campaigning purposes. They will provide the necessary insurance documents prior to that time.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #97-2012

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Francisco Batista

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor mentioned that they have looked at both Verizon and Sprint for comparing costs of cell phones for Village officials and essential personnel. Verizon will provide monthly service for ten telephones, at a cost of \$499.90 per month, and were the most reasonable offer received.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to go to contract with Verizon for cell phones as stated above.

RESOLUTION #98-2012

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Francisco Batista

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor received a request from Cosgriff Hose Co. #4 to hold a car show on the day of the Street Fair and to use the parking lot across from the firehouse on Fairmount Avenue for the event. The Board is in favor of the car show, however would like for them to utilize space in the parking lot next to the Municipal building.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #99-2012

Motion by: Francisco Batista
Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor announced that there is a vacancy in the Parking Enforcement Department and after interviewing candidates, they agreed to hire Narcisso Peralta to fill the position.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #100-2012

Motion by: Rafael Bueno
Seconded by: Francisco Batista
Motion Carries: All
Abstain: Terence Watson, Jr.

The Mayor announced that the motion passed by a vote of 3 Yes and 1 abstention.

The Mayor was advised by the Village Clerk that the Pitney Bowes Postage Machine contract is up for renewal and through her efforts she has managed to get a reduction in the monthly fee from \$216.00 to \$180.00 a month. The Mayor mentioned that the Village has been lucky enough to see reductions in the fees for both the copy machine and now the postage machine.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to renew the contract with Pitney Bowes as stated above for a term of two years.

RESOLUTION #101-2012

Motion by: Terence Watson, Jr.
Seconded by: Francisco Batista
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor received a letter from Brooker Engineering informing the Board that it is time for next year's MS4 reports to be prepared, which is the storm water management plan for Municipal Sewer Systems required each year by the State of New York. It has to do with how the Village manages the storm water system and keeping the storm water that enters the Hudson River clean. The fee for this is \$1,200.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to have Brooker Engineering prepare this report as stated above.

RESOLUTION #102-2012

Motion by: Francisco Batista

Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor mentioned that each year the Village contracts with the County of Rockland to participate in the Americorp program. These young people work with the DPW on a variety of projects that are agreed to between the Village and the County on environmental and character building projects through the Department of Public Works. The cost per student is \$1,500.00 and in the past the Village has taken three students and would like to do the same this year.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to participate in the Americorp Program for 2012 hiring three students at a cost of \$1,500.00 per student.

RESOLUTION #103-2012

Motion by: Terence Watson, Jr.
Seconded by: Francisco Batista
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor mentioned that some time in 2010 the Village was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1 million from the Department of State for designing a promenade from Emeline Park north to Warren Avenue. The Board has gone through the process to select an engineering group for this project. The Citizens Committee, consisting of both Village residents and members of the Board, reviewed ten applications, which were then narrowed down to five. Those five applicants were interviewed and a decision was made to hire McLaren Engineering to design the project.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to award the promenade project to McLaren Engineering of West Nyack, subject to signing a contract with them.

RESOLUTION #104-2012

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

The Mayor informed the public that the site of the Cpl. Manny Lopez Ball Field was a Brownfield site with wallboard contamination. As part of the rectification of that site to erect the ball park and remediate the odors caused by sulfur dioxide, the Village installed a filtration system that pulls the air out of the ground and sends it to the system to be filtered. The Mayor explained that those canisters have to be replaced periodically and the Board has received a quote of \$2,210.00 from Dave Hiner Associates, who supplied the original canisters. They have also offered to train the DPW personnel on how to operate the system, change the canisters, etc. The cost of this training is \$650.00. The cost to deliver the canisters is \$230.00, for a total of \$3,090.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize Dave Hiner Associates to execute this project, as stated above.

RESOLUTION #105-2012

Motion by: Rafael Bueno
Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor announced upcoming events for the month of April as follows:

- 1) Saturday, April 21st at 9:00 AM - construction kickoff for the concession stand at the Cpl. Manny Lopez Ball Field.
- 2) Saturday, April 21st at 12:00 PM – CASH MOB. As seen on Facebook, are people gathering together to support and spend money at businesses in the community. Everyone will meet at the Village Clock and then proceed to shop or indulge at the many restaurants in the downtown.
- 3) Thursday, April 19th at 7:30 PM – First Time Home Buyers meeting and credit counseling seminar presented by the Rockland County Housing Action Coalition; a good source of information for anyone currently attempting to purchase a home.
- 4) Wednesday, April 25th - Meeting of the Drug Market Initiative (DMI) Project about keeping low level drug offenders out of the system giving them a chance to restore their lives and become helpful, productive citizens once again. The District Attorney provides all the services that will help these people succeed, including meetings, classes, etc. They have to sign a contract, however, if they breach the contract, a warrant will be issued for their arrest and they will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
- 5) New Business – B.J.'s Ice Cream Store located on West Street in the old newspaper store, selling both soft and hard ice cream. Those who have tried it said it was clean, the people were friendly and the ice cream was very delicious. The Mayor urged everyone to give them a try.

Mayor Kohut had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno read the following report submitted by Fire Chief Patrick McNamee:

The annual Chief's Convention was held on April 5th at the quarters of Relief Hose Co. #3 with the following people appointed to their positions with the Haverstraw Fire Department for a one year term:

Chief	-	Patrick McNamee
1 st Ass't. Chief	-	Albert Lynch
2 nd Ass't. Chief	-	Robert Drexler
3 rd Ass't. Chief	-	Thomas Price
4 th Ass't. Chief	-	John Bart Gordon

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the appointments of the Chief and Assistant Chiefs as stated above.

RESOLUTION #105-2012

Motion by: Rafael Bueno
Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.
Motion Carries: All

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, as of April 16, 2012:

- 1) Repaired the broken door to the sewer pump station at the Harbors.
- 2) Built a canopy at the Harbors to protect the pump station central panel.
- 3) Prepared the baseball field for the April 14th opening.
- 4) Repaired damaged manhole on Grant Street.
- 5) Continue to clean-up the DPW yard.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez was absent from this meeting, therefore, there was no report given.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Francisco Batista:

Trustee Batista read the following report submitted by Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios for the period of April 2nd through April 16th:

Rental property inspections	-	0
Municipal searches	-	1
Miscellaneous inspections	-	118
Construction inspections	-	11
Complaints	-	6
Violations & tickets	-	29
Permits	-	7

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

MINUTES: The Mayor presented the minutes of the regular meetings of February 6th and February 21st and the Board of Assessment Review Minutes of February 21st, 2012.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above minutes as written.

RESOLUTION #106-2012

Motion by: Francisco Batista
Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mel Post: Mr. Post mentioned seeing the large flag pole at the Village of Wesley Hills with the flag flying very beautifully from it. He discovered it was actually a cell tower, which he had never seen before. He thought it was very smart to have something like that on their property gaining revenue. For future reference, he believes it would be a great thing for the Village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned there is one located in North Rockland at the Town Police Station. He then stated that the Board has looked into the same thing whenever a company has applied for a tower in the Village, but it didn't work out to have something like that installed.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired whether or not all the things happening in the Village are publicized or even mentioned on the Village Website. He thought that all those things would be advertised as a public service free in all the newspapers.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that all the items he mentioned were on the Village Website, except the Cash Mob information, which they just received that day. He also stated that many of the items mentioned were sent to the Journal News. As events are brought to the Board's attention, they do try to get them published in newspapers and on the Website.

Mel Post: Mr. Post noticed on the Village Website that the Farmer's Market would be starting up, with the restaurateur from Civile's doing a cooking demonstration. He then realized it was the 2011 schedule. He thinks that should come off the Website and then asked where the Village stands with the Farmer's Market for this season.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Board is working on getting the market up and running for this year, but there are some obstacles that they need to overcome. The current ad will be replaced once they configure everything for this year's market.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired as to when the market will be opening because it is usually open by now.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that last year they did not open the market until June because there is really nothing available for sale except floral plants. No local produce is obtainable until June.

Mel Post: Mr. Post has been to many markets outside the Village that are combined with antique shows, flea markets, etc. which attract many hundreds of people who will also spend time shopping in the township. He feels that is something that should be looked into for our Farmer's Market.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport felt that if the market were held on a Saturday instead of a Sunday that it would be more beneficial to the local merchants. Sunday's people visit the market and then tend to leave the Village. He then mentioned the cell phones that were approved at the meeting, which he thought the Supervisors, etc. already had.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that they do, but the contracts are coming up for renewal. He also stated that it is not ten additional phones, it is the same phones currently in use.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport then wanted to know what is happening on Dr. Girling Drive with the landscaping business and whether or not the Village has taken title of the property.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the property was obtained by the Village thru eminent domain and then sold to Ginsberg as part of the whole Ginsberg project. The landscaper has now vacated the premises and part of the property still belongs to the Village, which is being used to help clean up the DPW property.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport inquired about moving the pump station.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the pump station has been upgraded, at Ginsberg's cost, for the existing building across the way.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport inquired about the movement of the DPW to another location.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded they would not be moving any time soon and again it all depended on the economy. He then responded to a previous inquiry by Mr. Rappaport about Provident Bank closing on Saturdays. They have rescinded that idea and will remain open on Saturdays.

Before closing the meeting, the Mayor asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence in honor of Mayor Dennis Kaye of Airmont who passed away suddenly on Saturday, stating he was well admired and did a lot of good work for the Village of Airmont.

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #107-2012

Motion by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Seconded by: Francisco Batista

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift
Senior Steno Clerk
May 21st, 2012