

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, April 15, 2013, 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 before opening any of the Public Hearings scheduled for that night. He invited the public to ask questions or make comments.

With no participation from the public, the Mayor invited Village Consultant Stu Turner of the Turner Miller Group to come forward and present the first application for Public Hearing involving the discontinuance of Short Clove Road and related planning issues.

Stu Turner: Mr. Turner mentioned that this is a continuation of a hearing suspended in 2010. He explained that there was a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) done at that time with a list of actions to be addressed by the Village Board, which included the following:

- 1) The discontinuance of Short Clove Road as a Village Street.
- 2) The relocation of the boundary of the Mountain Protection Overlay (MPO) District.
- 3) An amendment to the Village Zoning Law to include a Planned Industrial (PI-2) Zoning District.
- 4) An amendment to the Village Zoning Map rezoning the project site to this new designation.
- 5) The reduction of the lands authorized by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for mining operations due to NYSDOT's acquisition of land by Eminent Domain.
- 6) Amendment to the Village's Waterfront Urban Renewal Plan to make it consistent with these changes by eliminating the project site as an area identified to be acquired and used for affordable housing because is no longer appropriate for that use.
- 7) An amendment to the Village's Master Plan to make it consistent with the proposed action.

Mr. Turner then stated that there was some flooding in that area recently and to be assured that there were no resulting environmental hazards, a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was prepared by Spectra Engineering who determined that the flooding was not a result of any action being proposed or any actions that had been taken.

The designated site involves the area surrounding the NYSDOT acquisition and ramp construction, bordered by the Hudson River on the east, US Route 9W on the west, the Harbors at Haverstraw property line to the north and a residential zoning district to the south. Using a map, he pointed out the different sections involved.

He then mentioned that this Public Hearing is a continuation of the original hearing and he would answer any questions or reply to any comments at this time. He explained that there is a 10 day comment period and once that

period has expired, the final document will be prepared for the Board's approval.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to reopen the Public Hearing consistent with Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

RESOLUTION #80-2013

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

He then invited the public to ask questions or make comments.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport asked about the streetlights still in that area and whether or not the Village is still paying for those lights.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he has already contacted O&R about those streetlights.

Fire Chief, Patrick McNamee: Chief McNamee informed everyone that the streetlights were turned off because it is now dark in that area when he drives to his home at night.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post questioned what Tilcon is planning to do by changing the zoning in that area.

Stu Turner: Mr. Turner understands that the purpose of the rezoning is primarily for storage. He also mentioned there are no proposals before the Board for any other usage.

Paul Sharlow, Tilcon: Mr. Sharlow stated that there is currently nothing proposed for that area; Tilcon simply wants to have options available to them.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if one of the options they might propose would be to create a storage area for more considerably large piles of "fines" than those already there.

Paul Sharlow: Mr. Sharlow stated that currently there are no plans for anything in that area, but could eventually be used for that purpose.

Mel Post: Mr. Post requested the Board to object to that part of the agreement, because of the immensity of the existing piles. The winds blow fine dust from those piles over the entire community and he feels it would be detrimental to the community to have additional piles. He took a tour of Tilcon with the plant manager, who stated that aesthetics are very important, however, Mr. Post feels that those piles are not aesthetically beautiful to anyone and just continue to grow higher and higher. Whatever the ability or inability is to sell this product, he feels they should be kept to a minimum and Tilcon should not be allowed to create a storage area for more of them.

Terence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson inquired if that area would be suitable for additional large piles, considering their closeness to the roadway, especially going into the residential area of Dutchtown.

Paul Sharlow: Mr. Sharlow responded that DEC regulates this and has set regulations Tilcon must abide by. He encouraged people to lodge complaints,

which DEC would then look into as part of Tilcon's mining permits, etc. He is aware that there have been complaints over the years that DEC is hoping to address.

Mel Post: Mr. Post has spoken to Tilcon about hydro-seeding the piles or to cut down the height of the piles so the upper winds would not carry that dust throughout the community, however, they did not seem to be agreeable to anything he suggested.

Paul Sharlow: Mr. Sharlow is hopeful that as the economy picks up, the piles will come down.

Mel Post: Mr. Post mentioned that Tilcon did say they would increase the watering of the piles, because for a long time they were not keeping the piles watered. He then mentioned that everything in the Harbors has a coating of this fines dust.

Theodore Best, 6 Mountain Court: Mr. Best reiterated those feelings stating that even living higher up on the mountain he feels the effects of the fines and does not think it is a good idea to give Tilcon an open permit for that area without some kind of restrictions.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Best that when it comes to mining, the Village has no control over Tilcon or any operation defined as "mining", which is strictly controlled by the State of New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

Mel Post: Mr. Post wanted to know who would be responsible for that.

Stu Turner: Mr. Turner responded not the Village Board. The only thing the Village can do is change the zoning. He explained that the only thing DEIS is doing is taking away the Mountain Protection Zone, which restricts the amount of coverage that can be on a property for building purposes. The Village would control that, however, the mining operations are controlled by the State.

Arti Taub, 3304 Leeward Drive: Mr. Taub inquired if the Board could stop any further contamination of the Harbors by not approving the zoning even though the State has the mining control.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that the only thing the Village owns on that property is the road, even though part of DEIS is for the abandonment of that road, with an arrangement being made between the Village and Tilcon, if they so desire, to acquire that road.

Larry Levine, 1414 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Levine inquired if any attention has been given to the aesthetics, which he feels could potentially damage the whole area, or the health issues that could potentially impact the community. He feels Tilcon has to understand that people live in this area and that the Board has to look to the future and the growth of the Village, which he feels will be impossible if Tilcon continues to dump on the community.

Mel Post: With respect to a change in zoning or land use, Mr. Post feels that before the Board makes any decision they should be aware of the company's intent.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that a company does not have to have a project in mind to change a zone.

Mel Post: If Mr. Post was a Trustee he would want to know exactly what an applicant was planning to do with a piece of property before changing any zoning or land use. He feels if Tilcon does have any plans that they be considerate of the residents of the Village, both health wise and aesthetically and should do something for the betterment of the Village.

With no further input from the public, Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing and leave a period of 10 days open for written comments addressed to the Mayor at the Village Hall.

RESOLUTION #81-2013

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

The Mayor informed the public that there is a copy of the document at the front desk, at the library and on-line for anyone wanting to review it during the comment period. All comments will be reviewed and taken into consideration by the Board and its consultants.

The Mayor announced the next Public Hearing on the Mayor's Proposed Budget for the 2013/2014 fiscal year, which was originally presented in March. The proposed budget called for raising taxes \$6,418,025.00 towards a total budget of \$8,691,538.00, which was an increase of 7.7639%. He read the following increases and decreases to the expense budget:

- 1) 2% increase for CSEA employees based on contractual obligations including the Associate Justice Court Clerk, a non-union employee.
- 2) Small increase to the salary of the Senior Justice Court Clerk to bring her up to standards now that she has more than 1 year of service with the Village.
- 3) No increases for elected officials, Judges serving the court, part time employees, Building Department and DPW department heads and the Clerk/Treasurer.
- 4) Decrease in the law line personnel services for the Village Attorney and Deputy Village Attorney.
- 5) \$10,000.00 increase to the Engineering line for upcoming projects, including Streetscape and the Quadracentennial Park, which will incur larger engineering fees.
- 6) Increase in fuel costs and repairs for the DPW.
- 7) Decrease in the gas & electric bills based upon actual usage and costs.
- 8) Increase amounting to \$35,000.00 in the cost of general insurance for the Village.
- 9) \$25,000.00 reduction in the judgment and claims line based upon a fewer number of tax certioraris and other cases before the Village.
- 10) Increase in the contingent overtime account by \$25,000.00.
- 11) Increase of \$17,000.00 in water rates for the water hydrant system.
- 12) \$20,000.00 increase in personnel services for the DPW - part time secretary to full time secretary during the course of the year.
- 13) Reduced contractual estimates for repairs to DPW equipment by \$15,000.00.
- 14) Ending contractual obligation to Scenic Hudson regarding property at Emeline Park. The Village was paying \$18,000.00 a year for 15 years.

- 15) \$50,000.00 increase in personnel services at the Community Center – an employee is no longer funded by a grant.
- 16) \$42,500.00 increase to the NYS Retirement Account.
- 17) LOSAP Program for the volunteer firefighters reduced by \$11,500.00.
- 18) \$20,600.00 increase in Social Security.
- 19) Workers Compensation increased by \$75,000.00.
- 20) \$10,000.00 increase in Workers Compensation for the Fire Department.
- 21) \$32,000.00 decrease in medical insurance premiums.
- 22) Changes in debt service totaling \$320,000.00.

Revenue increases or decreases:

- 23) \$8,000.00 decrease in utilities and gross receipts for gas & electric.
- 24) Rental income of real property has decreased with the loss of income from Civile's Restaurant at Emeline Park.
- 25) Fines and forfeitures decreased by approximately \$30,000.00.
- 26) Mortgage tax continues to go down by approximately \$9,000.00.
- 27) Revenue line from CHIPS increased, however, there are corresponding expenditures on the line where the money will be spent.

This \$500,000.00 increase in spending has caused the 7.769% tax increase.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing with regard to the 2013/2014 Proposed Budget.

RESOLUTION #82-2013

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Francisco Batista

Motion Carries: All

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport inquired if commercial taxes would also go up by 7.769%.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village does not differentiate between "homestead" and "non-homestead" properties as the Town does so yes, they would.

Magdalena Truchan, 1213 Round Pointe Drive: Ms. Truchan requested clarification on the 4.35% increase versus the 7.7% increase.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor requested Joe Modafferi, Village Accountant, to explain the increase.

Joe Modafferi: Mr. Modafferi explained that the 4.35% increase is in the actual amount taxes to be raised this year as compared to last year, and the 7% is an increase in expenditures. He used the large increase in debt services as an example to explain the increase, stating that the debt service did not go up but the debt service for a special taxing district at Harbors, taxed separately, will now be included in the budget. He explained that the 4.35% is the basic increase in taxes, but does not mean it is the percentage an individual tax will increase, as there was also a decrease in the base tax assessments, which also increases taxes.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor further explained that this year there were several large tax certioraris settled. He mentioned specifically, a large reduction of

more than \$100,000.00 in the assessment of the Bowline Power Plant property (NRG) along with other settlements, which reduced the assessed value from \$43,561,000.00 to \$41,926,000.00, a loss of \$1.6 million. To make up for the assessment loss, the tax increase would go from 4.35% to 7.769%.

Magdalena Truchan: Ms. Truchan inquired about the decrease in the Bowline assessment.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that the Village, Town and County all thought the issue was resolved at the end of last year, however, that resolution fell apart with the merger of GenOn and NRG and NRG has not yet come back to the table. He stated that the Board tried to bring down the Village assessment more in line with the Town's assessment, explaining that the Town has been reducing the Bowline assessment for years, which the Village had not, but is now being forced to do so to keep future settlements from hitting the Village as hard as it has in previous year.

Magdalena Truchan: Ms. Truchan then inquired about the retirement funds and if they continue to go up every year.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that the Village has to pay a portion of the retirement cost each year based upon what the NYS Comptroller instructs the Village to contribute, stating for years it was under funded. As the state cost went up, the retirement fund was not keeping up. The present Comptroller has taken a very strong position trying to get it properly funded so there will not be any shortfalls in future years. It would also rise as the number of retirees increase.

Joe Modafferi: Mr. Modafferi explained that the Village pays into the retirement fund according to the percentage of people in the Village's labor force. He mentioned that years ago it was at 20%, then went down to 1% and is now again at 20%.

Magdalena Truchan: Ms. Truchan inquired how they are allowed to do that.

Joe Modafferi: Mr. Modafferi explained that the current Comptroller has put in a "failsafe" system where it cannot go below 4%. The State dictates how much money to contribute to the retirement fund. New employees, however, are at a different contribution level and have to contribute a certain amount. Their benefits are not as good because the retirement system is set up in tiers; the State now has 6 tiers with the 7th being discussed. Over the past 2 years many changes have been made to the retirement system for new employees.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired about the debt service the Village is now carrying for the special taxation district, wanting to know if it is carried as a debt obligation of the Village, which he feels is totally offset by the residents of Harbors.

Joe Modafferi: Mr. Modafferi responded it still shows as a debt of the Village.

Mel Post: Mr. Post asked again that the Board consider friends, neighbors and the residents when making decisions with regard to taxes. He inquired if he could address each of the Trustees individually. He started with Trustee Bueno asking if he is happy with the way things have turned out or if he envisions anything in the budget that could be cut, something that he himself is unhappy with that would benefit the whole community. Mr. Post feels personally, it would be a wonderful thing if a positive article, such as

Haverstraw not raising taxes over the 2% cap, could appear in the newspapers, stating that the article about Haverstraw regarding the tobacco issue was extremely positive in the help it would have given the community.

Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno responded that the Board has tried everything, having had several meetings to review the budget and make cuts.

Mel Post: Mr. Post questioned the fact that there is absolutely nothing in the entire budget that they could cut. He mentioned that big corporations, the federal government, etc. are all cutting items from their budgets to reduce taxes.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez stated that they have been meeting for some time to review the Mayor's proposed budget and have intentions of cutting \$132,000.00 and are still working to see if and where more cuts can be made. The Board held this meeting to give the public the opportunity to express their concerns, and the Board does understand that things are difficult for everyone right now and they are trying to do their best for the residents. She also stated that the Village is under the 2% tax cap.

Joe Modafferi: Mr. Modafferi stated that the Village has been under the tax cap since it started and before that has kept it at less than 2%, with other Villages and Townships voting to go over the 2% cap.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista reminded everyone that the Village has lost a large percentage of revenue from the Bowline Plant, which the Village is trying to deal with. He feels the only way for the Village not to raise taxes is to cut services and have layoffs, which the Board is trying to avoid.

Mel Post: Mr. Post feels that sometimes an austerity budget is required for a few years and when things turn around the Village can be prosperous and move forward. He asked the Trustees their feelings because he did not have the opportunity to review the budget as the Board has. He again asked if there was anything in the budget the Board might consider cutting.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez stated that they have made cuts, as she mentioned previously, and they would be made at a future meeting. The Board will meet again to review the budget but are trying to avoid any layoffs, if possible.

Mel Post: Mr. Post felt the amount of overtime is extremely large.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez mentioned that was one of the places they cut, but they will review the budget again to see if there is any other place they can consider cutting. She then mentioned that Joe Modafferi has done a fabulous job, considering Haverstraw is one of the only Village's in the County that has an A- rating from Moody's.

Joe Modafferi: Mr. Modafferi mentioned that the only thing holding the Village back from a better rating is the surrounding area of North Rockland due to the school district and the Town having the Mirant issue to deal with.

Mel Post: Mr. Post felt that one of the major reasons for the Village's rating going up was because of Harbors.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated the Board is not disputing that. He mentioned that the Village came from a deficit period in 2002 to now, where there is no

longer a deficit. The Village's rating would have increased more if it were not for the Mirant issue.

Magdalena Truchan: Ms. Truchan inquired if the Village has to purchase their health insurance in New York State.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that the Village has contractual obligations through its Union contract to purchase health insurance from Empire/Blue Cross (New York State Health Insurance).

Magdalena Truchan: Ms. Truchan inquired if that will change under Obama Care.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that the Village has taken some strides with the Union contract, explaining that 2 years prior there was a 10% contribution required toward the first 10 years of an employee's employment. The current contract for the new employees has the contribution extended for the life of their employment.

Magdalena Truchan: Ms. Truchan wanted to know who controls mandating the cost of the insurance and how much it can go up.

Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio responded it is the New York State insurance division however, they do come up with statistics validating their decisions and they do negotiate with various companies. They do their "due diligence" to keep the rates as low as possible.

With no further input from the public, Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #83-2013

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

Mayor Kohut then entertained a motion to schedule a Special Meeting for Monday, April 29th at 6:00 PM for the purpose of adopting the budget.

RESOLUTION #84-2013

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that another Public Hearing was scheduled for that night to override the 2% tax cap, but upon the revision of the budget numbers the Village is substantially below that cap, therefore that Public Hearing is no longer necessary. The Mayor then continued with the meeting agenda for that night.

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 Treasurer's Report for the months of January, February and March, 2013:

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$2,427,280.00

TOTAL REVENUE \$ 550,800.00

Ms. Curcio had nothing further to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reminded everyone that an application was submitted by the owners of 14 Main Street to add two bedrooms on top of the existing two bedrooms on the third floor of their building, at the April 1st Regular Board Meeting. At that time, it was referred to the Planning Board for review. The Planning Board conducted a site visit on April 6th and has reported back with a favorable recommendation.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the application as stated above.

RESOLUTION #85-2013

Motion by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Abstention by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries by a majority vote.

The Mayor reported that the Village has obtained new flood insurance policies for the Department of Public Works building and the adjacent property, which are now in an amended flood zone making it mandatory for the Village to obtain these policies. The premium for the DPW building is \$7,454.00 and for the adjacent property \$858.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve payment of the flood insurance policies as stated above.

RESOLUTION #86-2013

Motion by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor received a letter from Brooker Engineering reminding the Board that the Village has continuing MS4 obligations to contend with, as well as its annual report to be filed with DEC. They are offering to prepare the documentation at an annual fee of \$1,200.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the proposal as stated above.

RESOLUTION #87-2013

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor received a proposal for a termite service agreement for the firehouse on Conklin Avenue amounting to \$425.00 for the present year.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the proposal as stated above.

RESOLUTION #88-2013

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

The Mayor announced that there is a Request for Proposal available for a license to conduct a food and beverage operation at 16 Front Street; the former Civile's property. There is a \$20.00 fee per application and any interested parties can pick up an application from the Village Clerk. The application requires submission of a proposal by May 31st. There will be a pre-proposal walk through on May 1st, 2013.

The Mayor then reported that a meeting was held recently with representatives from CSX, with government officials being invited from throughout the entire Mid Hudson region, who were informed that CSX will be doing work at railroad crossings in the region, which includes the Westside Avenue and New Main Street crossings in the Village. The work will begin in May with only one Village crossing worked on at a time for approximately three days. CSX also mentioned that there will be an increase in rail traffic by 20% to 30% because there are no pipelines to deliver oil from new wells in Montana to this part of the Country. CSX will be delivering that oil making it necessary to do upgrades to the system.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:
REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – **Trustee Rafael Bueno:** Trustee Bueno submitted the following application for admittance to the Haverstraw Fire Department:

Daniel Englishman Non-resident Relief Hose Co. #3

His application is complete and duly notarized.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept Mr. Englishman into the fire company of his choice.

RESOLUTION #89-2013

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

Trustee Bueno then advised the Board that the Annual Chiefs Convention was held on April 4th at Lady Warren Hose Co. #5, on April 4th and the following people were elected to the offices indicated for a term of one year:

Fire Chief	-	Albert Lynch
1 st Ass't. Chief	-	Robert Drexler
2 nd Ass't. Chief	-	Thomas Price
3 rd Ass't. Chief	-	John "Bart" Gordon
4 th Ass't. Chief	-	Perry Masiello

The letter was submitted by Andrew Connors, Secretary to the Convention requesting acceptance of the newly elected officers.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the newly elected Fire Chiefs as stated above.

RESOLUTION #90-2013

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 read the following report submitted by George White, Superintendent of Public Works, as of April 15th, 2013:

- 1) Repaired the walls and painted at #5's firehouse.
- 2) Repaired the Gateway sign on New Main Street.
- 3) Installed American Flags and spring banners throughout the Village.
- 4) Started work at the baseball field for the start of this season.
- 5) Cleaned out Civile's upstairs and downstairs.
- 6) Put up signs by the Harbors.
- 7) Demolished the building across from the DPW garage.
- 8) Started cleanup at Emeline Park, removing tree stumps and cleaning up the trees that fell, removing all debris.
- 9) Installed new signs coming down Short Clove Road.

Trustee Watson explained that Hurricane Sandy caused a lot of damage to the DPW building, making it necessary to have a major cleanup of the 1st floor of the building. George White, Superintendent of Public Works, received an estimate from Pemlyn Contracting of \$18,300.00 to repair the inside of the building, as well as replacing metal siding where necessary outside the building.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to repair the damage to the Public Works building as stated in the proposal.

RESOLUTION #91-2013

Motion by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez gave the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of March 28th to April 10th, 2013:

Reachout Counseling Services – The staff held counseling sessions for 49 individuals and their family members for group and/or family canceling.

Homework Program – The Center continues with its Homework Program for 70 children in grades 3 through 12 who attend on a daily basis. She also mentioned that there is a waiting list for the program and they are looking for volunteers to help with the Homework Program.

The Center hosted their first teen night basketball tournament the previous Saturday, having 46 participants.

She congratulated Marion Breland, Director of the Center, for her 40 years with the Village.

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista read the following report submitted by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of April 1st through April 12th, 2013:

Rental Registration	-	3
Municipal searches	-	3
Miscellaneous inspections	-	89
Construction inspections	-	9
Complaints	-	10
Violations & tickets	-	0
Permits	-	7

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

MINUTES: The Mayor presented the minutes of the March 4th Regular Board Meeting for approval by the Board. Not all of the Trustees have had the opportunity to review those minutes and they were tabled for the next meeting.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Dominguez thanked the DPW for the work that they have done at the ball field, which would be opening for the first game of the season the following day.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Arti Taub: Mr. Taub inquired if the Village will derive any benefit from CSX running more trains throughout the area.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded "NO".

Arti Taub: Mr. Taub then inquired if there was any way the Village could derive some benefit from CSX.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor again responded "NO". He went on to explain that approximately 150 years ago the Federal Government gave the railroad complete monopoly and that there is no control whatsoever by local municipalities.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine complimented the Board on the new sign coming off the overpass.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor thanked him and also mentioned that the Village will be landscaping around the sign.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then inquired if it is the responsibility of the Village to take care of the grass, etc. in that area.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that technically the Village is still awaiting documentation to take custody of the road, but in the meantime, will be taking care of the grounds in that area.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then inquired if anyone would be contacting Mr. Ginsburg with regard to removal of the porta-potties at 2 Dr. Girling Drive.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that there is a question as to whether storage would be allowed at that facility. He has, however, spoken with Andy Maniglia who will be taking care of that issue.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine thanked the Board for taking down the pump station and wanted to know what was going to happen to the hole that was left.

The Mayor explained that the Village still has more cleanup to do in the area, but eventually it will be turned into a parking area.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then requested the status of the Streetscape Project and the promenade at the Harbors.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that the engineers have almost completed the documentation for submission to the State for their review of the Streetscape Project. Orange & Rockland will be removing the utility poles downtown this year, 2013, so that construction can begin in the 2014 construction season, which is the goal for this project. With regard to the promenade at the Harbors, the Board has just recently received estimates from the Village engineer, which have to be submitted to FEMA. The proposal would be to install a new secured wall, replace bollards and ropes, etc. at an estimated cost of \$75,000.00. To the best of his knowledge, the Mayor stated that FEMA would only be restoring what was there. He also mentioned that Mr. Ginsburg wants to put up something more protective, but the Board has not yet seen any designs and does not know who would pay the cost of the undertaking.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine felt that the Village should let FEMA take care of their responsibility for the area and if anything else needs to be done Mr. Ginsburg can take on that responsibility. He feels it is a dangerous area right now and something needs to be done temporarily.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the Village is progressing and is attempting to get FEMA to sign off on restoring that area within the next couple of months. The Mayor then explained that FEMA has been replaced by the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO), who has been working very closely with the Village. As we submit documentation to them, they in turn inform the Village of their findings and any necessary adjustments needed to be made to the documents. The Board is hopeful that the process continues to move along smoothly and approvals and funding won't be delayed.

Mel Post: Mr. Post requested the Mayor to elaborate on what Mr. Ginsburg has planned for the flood zone area. He would also like to know if there is

anything in motion to resolve the issue of the water coming up on his side of the Clubhouse Building.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor has not seen anything from Mr. Ginsburg with regard to that issue or the promenade. Mr. Ginsburg has talked about one continuous barrier around the front, somewhat higher than the existing wall and raising the elevation behind it. It could be some sort of a block wall with earth behind it so it will not mar the vision, but will protect against the elements. The Mayor does not know what the plans are for the ferry area, which is private property, therefore, the Village has no involvement in what takes place in that area.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport mentioned that he saw the new "Welcome to Haverstraw" sign installed on Short Clove Road.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the sign has been up for approximately 5 months.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport inquired if the County is going to move forward with the "quiet zones" for the trains, especially with the increased train traffic mentioned previously.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor requested County Legislator Jay Hood, Jr. to speak about that issue.

Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood reported that the County is on board, but CSX had a lot of improvements to make to their rail lines, so the talk about installing new crossing guardrails to monitor the trains is still not a done deal. He also believes the Mayor heard something about a funding issue for the guardrails. He will see if he can get an update on where that stands.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that at the CSX meeting they mentioned that there is a funding issue regarding the guardrails, but also that there has been talk about not installing them on as large a scale from the southern tip of the County to the northern tip. CSX is thinking about doing pockets of specialized guardrails, which would make sense for residential areas along the lines.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport reported to the Board that the road around the catch basin in front of his store is sinking and he is concerned because it is a trip hazard.

Terence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson will have Mr. White look at it to see what can be done.

Theodore Best: Mr. Best remembered hearing something mentioned about bringing tourism into the Village at a meeting some time back and wondered if anything was happening with that.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the Village is always trying to bring in more tourism but there is currently nothing specific being done. He mentioned that the Village has a Marketing Committee who do their best with what the Village has to offer, and also that the Rockland County Office of Tourism promotes Village activities.

Magdalena Truchan, 1213 Round Pointe Drive: Ms. Truchan inquired if there is a link that anyone can go to for information on the former Civile's building. She wanted to know where to send people that might be interested in that site.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor instructed Ms. Truchan to have people call or visit the Village Hall for information, mentioning that anyone who is seriously interested can pick up a "Request for Proposal" at the Village Hall for a fee of \$20.00, with proposals being due back by May 31st. He mentioned again that there is a pre-proposal inspection of the site on May 1st.

Magdalena Truchan: Mr. Truchan inquired about the funding from the State.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that to get funding from the State of New York the Village had to submit 30% of the drawings to them, mentioning that the Village actually submitted substantially more. The drawings then sat in the engineering office in Albany with comments, corrections and changes for three or four years. They finally gave the Village the OK on the preliminary information and now the Village has to complete all the documents, update the estimates, etc. to forward to the State for final approval, which they have promised would be quicker than the last review. When the Village receives the final approval from the State, the documents will be readied to go out for bid. The Mayor explained that the State had layoffs in their engineering department which caused a lot of the backlog.

Magdalena Truchan: Ms. Truchan inquired if this would be a one shot deal or would the funding trickle down through the channels.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that the State pays the Village back for the funds spent. As the Village progresses with a project they can submit for their reimbursement. It will be a phased project so that the whole area is not torn up at one time; it will be completed one block at a time.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.: Counselor Hood spoke on behalf of the Board offering condolences and prayers to the people of Boston involved in yet another tragedy to hit the American people.

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 #92-2013

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift
Senior Steno Clerk
2013