

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013, beginning at 8:00 PM.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Batista	- Present
	Trustee Bueno	- Present
	Trustee Watson	- Absent
	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.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post inquired whether or not the Mayor had looked into the meeting that was being held the following day in Orangeburg with regard to infrastructure and storm water management.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he did review the information in the flyer but did not feel it involved anything sufficiently appropriate for the Village at this time. From what he read, he felt it was geared to larger development issues, specifically undeveloped tracks of land, storm water development and infrastructure issues. Since the Village does not have any infrastructure projects scheduled, no-one would be attending.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired if there is anything in the Streetscape Project for storm water management.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that there are some storm water items in the Streetscape Project and that the Department of Transportation (DOT) is satisfied with the way the Village is handling the storm water issues.

Mel Post: Mr. Post mentioned that there is still a big problem with the dust and debris falling off the trucks from Tilcon.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that the Village will be meeting with representatives of Tilcon sometime in the near future. He did mention, however, that the Village does request, on fairly regular basis, that they police the area more efficiently, sending their sweeper out and keeping better control over the trucks leaving their property.

Mel Post: Mr. Post spoke again about vehicles coming off the overpass and not stopping before entering Riverside Avenue. He mentioned that his wife, who was stopped at the "STOP" sign, was hit again. He feels it is a real hazard to the community with drivers speeding down that hill with evidently no intention of stopping. He also stated that he spoke with Police Chief Miller who told him he would discuss the matter with the Mayor. He is aware that they do sometimes put patrols in the area, but not at the right times, which would be rush hour traffic from 6:00 PM on. He really feels something serious is eventually going to happen at the end of that exit ramp.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that he did meet with Police Chief Miller recently, but that issue was never discussed. At this point, the Mayor is not sure if there is anything further the Village can do.

Mel Post: Mr. Post informed the Board that the Policeman that investigated his wife's case, after being struck from behind the second time, suggested that maybe a traffic light would be useful in that area. Mr. Post realizes that would involve a huge amount of money, but feels that something has to be done.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that when the overpass was being considered that State sent in their best engineers to design it and the Village is not in a position to do any redesign.

Mel Post: Mr. Post suggested putting in additional signage or even a fake camera, because the real thing would cost too much money, and something has to be done.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: With regard to the issue Mr. Post spoke of, Mr. Rappaport wanted the Board to know that he did see two police cars in that area on Saturday around 2:00 PM.

Arti Taub, 3304 Leewood Drive: Mr. Taub, speaking about the same issue, inquired if the Village could apply for a grant to install a traffic light for public safety.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he did not know of any grants for traffic lights, mentioning also that grants are few and far between right now. He does not believe a traffic light is the answer.

Arti Taub: Mr. Taub then inquired who currently has control of the exit ramp to which the Mayor responded, the Village.

Mel Post: Mr. Post suggested perhaps having a meeting with some residents, the Board, the Police Chief and the DOT, might be beneficial to solving this problem.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor will look into the matter.

Arnold Fortgang, 3307 Leewood Drive: Mr. Fortgang mentioned that he resides in the area located near the 4-Way stop signs and from what he can see, no-one stops at those signs. He inquired if it would be possible to put speed bumps in that area that would at least make drivers slow down.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that it is the Harbor's residents that use those roadways and should be aware of the "STOP" signs.

Arnold Fortgang: Mr. Fortgang mentioned that there are other people driving in that area including renters and business people. He feels something has to be put down in front of the signage to make drivers slow down.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that whether you own your property or rent it everyone living there is a part of the Harbors and should be aware of the signage.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor announced the next order of business to be a Public Hearing for a proposed change to Local Law #218-1&2 (aka: Taxi Law). He then requested Counselor Hood to present the proposed changes.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq., Village Attorney: Counselor Hood explained that currently a taxi is allowed to drop off passengers in the Village without the need for a Taxi Permit. The proposed amendment is as follows:

- 1) All taxies dropping off or picking up passengers within the Village limits must have a Village issued Taxi Permit for the current year and must adhere to all the rules and regulations required by the Village.
- 2) The taxi driver and/or the company would be obligated to pay the current taxi fee for a permit to do business within village limits.
- 3) The taxi driver will be required to display this permit while doing business within the Village, dropping off or picking up passengers.

Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing with regard to the Village Taxi Law:

RESOLUTION #203-2013

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor invited the public to ask questions or make any comments at this time.

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

RESOLUTION #204-2013

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the proposed change to the Taxi Law as stated above.

RESOLUTION #205-2013

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

Mayor Kohut:

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.:** Counselor Hood requested approval from the Board to sign a settlement agreement between Manuel & Anita Sanchez and the Village of Haverstraw, which will settle the taxes for the years 2010 through 2013. A refund will be issued amounting to approximately \$96,000.00. Counselor Hood went over the appraisal with the Village Assessor, Edey McCathy and going forward the assessment will also be reduced. Both the Village Assessor and Counselor Hood are satisfied with the assessment.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to allow Counselor Hood to sign off on the Tax Certiorari settlement documents with Green Hills as stated above.

RESOLUTION #206-2013

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

Counselor Hood then requested the Board to approve an easement for the DPW site as seen on the maps. Mr. Ginsburg and the Harbors of Haverstraw will be responsible for the environmental clean-up in the area of the easement. They will also be responsible for monitoring the clean-up going forward.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to grant the Board of Trustees the authority to approve an environmental easement to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

RESOLUTION #207-2013

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

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 Haverstraw Bay Liquor for a "5 MINUTE PARKING" sign at the corner of Broadway and Partition Street.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above sign.

RESOLUTION #208-2013

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

The Mayor requested a Special Meeting be held on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM to discuss NYS Municiple Group for Worker's Compensation Insurance.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to

RESOLUTION #209-2013

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

The Mayor received a request from a property owner in the downtown area to consider a change to the regulations for the Central Business District (CBD) to add a use, by Special Permit, for auto body and mechanical repair.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to send this request to the Planners and Engineers for consideration.

RESOLUTION #210-2013

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

The Mayor reported that Rockland County Personnel has requested that the Board officially establish the position of Deputy Village Clerk/Treasurer.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

**RESOLUTION #211-2013**

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

Mayor Kohut then entertained a motion to appoint Isabel Gonzalez-Soto to the position of Deputy Village Clerk/Treasurer at a salary of \$45,665.00.

**RESOLUTION #212-2013**

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

The Mayor spoke about the holiday season in the Village regarding eliminating the parking meter fees in the downtown area from December 16<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

**RESOLUTION #213-2013**

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

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

**Mayor Kohut:**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**FIRE & ORDINANCES** – Trustee Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno had nothing to report.

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

In the absence of Trustee Watson, Mayor Kohut read the following report submitted by George White, Superintendent of Public Works, as of November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013:

- 1) Started picking up leaves for the 2013 leaf season.
- 2) Installed a catch basin at New Main Street and Conger Avenue.
- 3) Assisted Tilcon in the repaving of Grant Street, Maple Avenue intersection, Conklin Avenue intersection and Warren Avenue.
- 4) Blacktopped and patched various locations throughout the Village.
- 5) Completed all of the above in addition to regular work maintenance.

George White requested that a "STOP" sign be placed between Third Street and Middle Street due to the fact that the newly paved roadway may encourage speeding and will make the area safer for the residents.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

**RESOLUTION #214-2013**

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

There was nothing further to report.

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Emily Dominguez:** Trustee Dominguez gave the following report of activities at the Community Center:

November 13<sup>th</sup> - In collaboration with the Town, the youth of the center participated in the Rockland County Coalition for Drug Free Schools and the Community Youth Forum, which focused on the challenges teens face in their lives. A new MSW intern from Fordham University will be added to the Community Center staff for 21 hours internship credit, for a total of 3 interns now helping out at the Center.

Upcoming events - The annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be served to the children and their families, by invite only, on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>; a complete turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be served. 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 November 4<sup>th</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013:

Rental property inspections	-	3
Miscellaneous inspections	-	54
Construction inspections	-	6
Complaints	-	4
Building Permits & CO's	-	2

Trustee Batista reminded everyone that overnight parking regulations are in effect.

Mayor Kohut informed everyone that the Building Inspector's father passed away in Puerto Rico recently, therefore the Building Inspector would not be available for a couple of weeks. On behalf of the Board, the Mayor offered their condolences.

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:  
**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Kohut:  
**2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport reminded the Board to advertise the free parking in the Village for the holiday period, which they normally do. He then spoke about the taxis and asked if the Board was going to give them any privileges if they abide by all the rules and regulations in effect because from he can see most of them are not. They still double park, park in areas specified for other vehicles, etc.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the taxis have never been given any favors and would not be given any in the future. The Mayor also mentioned that the speed bumps are being taken up for the winter.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport noticed that a new speed bump was put down on West Street.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Rappaport that speed humps were installed on West Street, which will remain in place all year; speed “bumps” have to be taken up, but speed “humps” can remain in place year round.

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting in memory of Angel Berrios, asking the public to stand for a moment of silence.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #215-2013

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift  
Senior Steno Clerk