

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, April 21st, 2014, 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.

Clemente Ferreira, Union Street: (Mr. Ferreira spoke in Spanish and had someone translating for him.) No-one in the community agrees with the increase in the taxes. He is not against the employees of the Village but he is proposing that the salaries of the Village employees be frozen for the next 3 years in order for the property owners to get a break in their taxes. It is unfair to the residents to have to continue to pay higher taxes every year and this year an increase of 7.9%. If these tax increases continue the people will start collecting signatures for a change to the Board in the upcoming elections. They will also be addressing the school and town Boards to stop the abuse put on the residents by their taxes. They have placed their trust in the Village government, but can no longer trust that the Village is doing the best they can for its residents. He then inquired what members of the Board are with them or against them.

Kelly Quesada, 42 Bridge Street, Garnerville, NY: Mr. Quesada stated that he is a Union worker who has barely anything left after he pays his mortgage and taxes. He is requesting the Board's help to look for ways to save money. He believes there should be a double check system for all projects and infrastructure improvements and jobs should be awarded to the person who can provide the Village with good quality work at a reasonable cost. If the Board does not do something about the tax situation he is not going to be able to afford to live here anymore. He volunteered to sit with the Board to see what can be done to bring in more revenue and keep the taxes low.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded to Mr. Quesada that living in Garnerville, he does not pay taxes to the Village of Haverstraw.

Kelly Quesada: Mr. Quesada then mentioned that he has family living in the Village. He does not want himself and his family to have to move to another state, where he would have to spend most of his life driving to and from work. He is looking to the Board to help the people by finding ways to save money.

Fulvio Ortega, 23 Pratt Street: Mr. Ortega owns property on New Main Street as well as his home on Pratt Street. He understands the taxes going up because there is nothing in the Village producing income; no factories, no jobs, nothing here that can put people back to work. He himself runs a very good business, but he is going to challenge the taxes that he feels are too high. With no income to be made here he feels it is impossible to live here.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that our village as well as the Village of West Haverstraw, the Town of Haverstraw and the school district just had another round of talks with NRG (formerly Mirant). He informed the public that the Village has lost \$250,000.00 per year in income because of Mirant and since expenses have not gone down by that same amount the Village has to make it up. He explained that

this and other tax certioraris are what is causing this tax increase. The Village is losing tax dollars. This was then translated to the public by Trustee Batista.

Fulvio Ortega: Mr. Ortega wanted to know who caused the whole problem with Mirant to bring this burden to the residents of our community.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor briefly explained that when municipalities accepted power plants, giving an example of Bowline 40 years prior, the municipality could charge those plants whatever they wanted in taxes. Then with the change in economies and O&R no longer owning any power plants, companies from outside NYS bought the plants that are now operating in our municipality. The Federal government then deregulated power operations, meaning there was more competition. These big outside companies did not like paying the taxes they were being charged before deregulation, giving Bowline as an example, which was originally assessed at \$900M and is currently assessed at approximately \$130M, leaving the Village without those tax dollars. The Village still has that eyesore and still has the smoke from the stacks and everything else involved, but does not receive the taxes it used to from this power plant, which he added, is the main reason for the tax increase to the residents. The Mayor stated that the Board has done whatever it can to stabilize taxes by reducing the number of employees, reducing expenses wherever possible but still maintain quality service for the residents, etc.

Fulvio Ortega: Mr. Ortega feels that people are going to fold on their mortgages and take whatever money they have and run, leaving a ghost town behind as a Village. He feels the crime rate is going up and so many other things that the residents are paying for without getting the services.

Luis Guzman, 51 Lincoln Street: Mr. Guzman feels the taxes are going up, but the Village is still doing the same thing it did many years ago. He feels 17 people working for the DPW is too many. He wanted to know how many Board members received increases in their salaries over the past 4 years and why salaries cannot be frozen.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor first stated that there are 12 employees in the Department of Public Works. He then explained that the Board has a contract with the CSEA to give union employees a 3% raise this year, mentioning that when the contract expires the Village can try to negotiate a new contract. As for the Trustees salaries, they have not had increases in many years.

Luis Guzman: Mr. Guzman thought when the police moved that the Village would save a lot of money and nothing is different than before.

Mercedes Guzman: Ms. Guzman has owned her house for 35 years with taxes increasing every year to the point of not knowing if she can pay her taxes any more. She mentioned that her husband had a heart attack in January and is not able to work anymore and that hers is the only income. She is afraid they may have to move because the taxes are too high. She understands that the Village has lost money but the residents also have financial problems and some have already lost their homes. She feels there has to be somewhere else for the Village to increase revenue besides burdening the residents with high taxes.

Luis Rivas, 61 Hudson Avenue: Mr. Rivas is also feeling the burden of the higher taxes and wants the Board to find another way to bring revenue back to the Village.

Antonio Lopez, Pomona: Mr. Lopez, speaking in Spanish with a translator, informed the Board he came here in 1978 and started working in a factory. His family had to move to Pennsylvania because it was too expensive for them to stay here. He does

not know how he is going to survive with just his pension. After what the Board told the public that night.... Inaudible due to loud applause.

Ramon Soto, 13 Broadway: Mr. Soto also spoke Spanish, with Trustee Batista translating, which basically had to do with his displeasure about the increase in taxes. He believes if a person loses their job everything in that household has to change for them, therefore, he feels it is time for the Village to make a change also by freezing the salaries of every village employee. He does not expect the employees to work for free, but feels the salaries have to be frozen and the Village has to find other types of revenue to help decrease the taxes.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista then spoke Spanish to the public and informed the Board that he said "the Mayor is the face of the Village, the one that is in the office most of the time. The Trustees support the Mayor and are called in whenever necessary because the Trustees all have their own jobs. He also informed the public that he is paid \$12,000.00 per year at the Village and has been at that rate for 5 years and he also has his own insurance and does not receive any benefits from the Village". He does not know how creative the Board can be at this point in time with further reductions to the budget.

Ramon Soto: Trustee Batista translated for Mr. Soto stating that he would like to see Trustee Batista be more active in the Village and let his face be seen.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista stated he lives in the Village and is around constantly.

Carmen Taveras, no address given: Ms. Taveras also spoke Spanish and translated to; she is proud to be a resident of the Village where everyone is united but she is very concerned about some families in the Village have nothing to eat because they have too many bills to pay. Many have worked very hard to purchase their homes only to have been forced out. They have traveled from their countries with a dream but some have to go back with empty hands and a nightmare. The people are willing to work with the authorities but they don't know what to do. She feels that the Board works for the profit of the community and also that the Board is against the Hispanic community, who has little money. She is very concerned about the future for the children.

Anderson DeLaCruz, Ferracane Place: Mr. DeLaCruz speaking in Spanish translated to; he is looking for a better life for himself and his family which is why he moved to the Village from the Bronx. He purchased a townhouse hoping to provide a better future for his children with better schools, etc. He received information on the taxes which was similar to what was being said by the Board, however, he feels the police are being overpaid and now he has heard two more officers have been hired. He feels the best way to respond to what is going on is by not voting. **Remainder inaudible due to Mr. DeLaCruz and the interpreter speaking at the same time along with loud applause.**

Felix Gonzalez, 3 Hudson Avenue: Mr. Gonzalez has been listening to all the concerns of the people who have spoken and at the same time has been watching the Board and he is not sure if the members of the Board are working with them or against them, which is how it looks to him. He stated the people cannot deal with the tax situation anymore and does not understand how the Board can think a 7.9% increase is reasonable.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Board does not want to raise the taxes 7.9%, but they have to balance a budget, provide services and make the Village work. He explained that the Board is not against any member of the public and that everyone on the Board also has to pay taxes just like any other resident. He stated

that the public elected the Board to represent them and run the Village the best they possibly can. He explained the Village has expenses that the public does not see and gave an example of the retiree pension payments.

Angel Santana, 35 New Main Street: Mr. Santana, speaking Spanish and translated to; he will start obtaining signatures from residents to re-elect new administrators for the Village. He feels the people are suffering and struggling to survive in the Village. He is being charged for parking when some village employees are receiving 2 or 3 salaries.

Pastor Domingo Rodriguez, 87 Main Street: Pastor Rodriguez is the pastor of the New Jerusalem Church in the Village. He inquired of the Board where they see this village in the next 5 years if things continue as they currently stand.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he did not know at this time because taxes continue to rise and there is a possibility that the Village may have to consolidate with the Town of Haverstraw. The Mayor, the Board, nobody knows what is going to happen in the next five years.

Pastor Domingo Rodriguez: Pastor Rodriguez finds it hard to believe that the Village administrators are working without any projection of where the Village will be in 5 years, which he believes is a huge fault.

Jose Munoz, 6 Ridge Street: Speaking Spanish and translated; Mr. Munoz felt it would be good for the Village to consolidate with the Town. He is not attacking the Board but is looking for a way to help solve the problems the Village is facing and perhaps this is the best way.

Juan Estrella, 9 Ridge Street: Speaking Spanish and translated; Mr. Estrella has lived in the Village for 36 years. Rents keep increasing for tenants because of the rise in taxes and people are not making enough money to keep up with all the increases. Also most residents are hired as temporary help so they do not receive benefits. He feels taxes should be based on what people can afford to pay.

Ramon Liza, 30-36 Broadway: Mr. Liza speaking Spanish and translated; he feels 80% of the people are losing their homes and the businesses are not paying their fair share of taxes, leaving it all on the shoulders of the homeowners. He wanted to know if there is any other solution to this tax situation. He is hopeful that the Board will consider lowering the taxes for the homeowners.... INAUDIBLE DUE TO LOUD OUTBURSTS. He feels people are going to have to move out if they cannot afford to pay their taxes. People who have been here for 30 or 40 years paying for their homes and with the increase in taxes are being forced out. His rent continues to rise to the point he does not know how he is going to pay it. He wanted to know what happened to all the money they previously paid in taxes.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that the money collected from taxes is used to provide services to the Village and the tax certiorari settlements had to be refunded to Mirant and its new ownership.

Jorge Padilla, 11 Partition Street: Mr. Padilla's life is here in the Village where he raised his children, purchased a home, etc. He now feels things have changed in the Village and nothing is getting done; roads and sidewalks are in disrepair and now the Village wants to once again raise taxes.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that over the past 7 years approximately 30 streets have been paved and sidewalks have been replaced in approximately 12 areas of the Village. He explained that money is limited, however, over the next year the Village plans on refurbishing the roads and sidewalks on Main Street and Broadway.

He stated that the Board is trying to make things better for everyone in the Village, and by repairing streets and sidewalks hopefully will attract new businesses into the Village.

Jorge Padilla: Mr. Padilla is still waiting for the streets and sidewalks in his area to be fixed.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that the Village does these things to try to improve the quality of life for its residents and to improve the image of the Village to attract new residents and new businesses into the Village.

Pablo Vazquez, 172 Broadway: Speaking in Spanish and translated; Mr. Vazquez feels they have to fight for their rights. Translator having problems translating... INAUDIBLE LOUD APPLAUSE.

Maria Last Name inaudible, 50 Third Street: Speaking in Spanish and translated to; she has owned her home for 17 years and her taxes continue to increase now by more than 5 times what she used to pay. Two times when the DPW was plowing snow they broke her sidewalk and twice she paid out of her pocket to have it repaired and the sidewalk is broken again for the third time this past winter.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor told her to be sure to call the Village Hall when anything like that happens and the Village will have it repaired. The Mayor then informed her that he will look into the situation.

Noel Rapport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport inquired what the tax increase would cost the average person.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded it would come to approximately \$12.00 per month.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport then inquired the salary of the previous mayor of the Village.

Judith Curcio, Village Clerk/Treasurer: Ms. Curcio responded \$53,000.00 with a car.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport inquired about the salary of the Mayor of Spring Valley.

Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio responded \$100,000.00 plus a car.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport remarked about the current mayor making only \$40,000. Mr. Rappaport feels that the public does not understand that this is probably the smallest increase to taxes considering the rest of the County and in reality it is the School Board and the Town that are burdening the people with high increases in taxes. He stated he is paying a lot more with the huge increases in school and town taxes than his village taxes.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then mentioned that the other tax that no-one ever looks at or complains about is the Library Tax, which is now over \$500.00 per year. He also explained it is a yearly budget vote that every resident can vote "NO" on, which would reduce taxes if it did not pass, but the people have to get out to vote.

Anderson DeLaCruz: Mr. DeLaCruz speaking in Spanish translated to; he heard remarks made by someone on the Board in 1995 that white people were afraid or would not invest in the Village because somebody would steal their car. He also believes the Police get paid too much money and remembers when trash was picked up twice a week instead of just once as it now is. He also stated that the politicians

are blaming the snow this winter for having to increase the budget but what happens to the money in the years when there is not a lot of snow.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor announced if someone new would like to speak that would be fine, if not he will continue with the night's meeting agenda starting with taking a vote on the 2014-2015 Village Budget. Before moving on, the Mayor thanked both of the women who were translating that night. He then informed the public that the Trustees and finance people have reviewed the budget line by line and have made the following changes to the Mayor's Proposed Budget:

- 1) All raises for non-union employees have been eliminated.
- 2) Reduced insurance line by \$2,500.00.
- 3) Reduced Contingent Overtime line by \$15,000.00.
- 4) Reduced equipment repairs by \$10,000.00
- 5) Increased money coming from Fund Balance by \$50,000.00.
- 6) Reduced the total budget from \$8,831,501.00 to \$8,742,588.00 bringing the total percentage of tax increase to 6.1%, which keeps the Village under the State Tax Cap and brings the final increase to approximately \$12.00 per month for each property owner.

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

RESOLUTION #111-2014

Motion by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Seconded by: Francisco Batista

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor announced that the 2014-2015 Budget has been adopted as stated.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood requested the Board to set a Public Hearing for 3 new Local Laws to help better control activities in the Village; Auctions, Alcoholic Beverages & False Alarms.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, May 5th at 8:05 PM for the reasons stated above.

RESOLUTION #112-2014

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Motion Carries: All

Counselor Hood then mentioned several Village Codes that Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, has requested the Village make changes to including #245 Zoning Code, #14-8 to change the language and lastly changes to Special Permits for trailers. He requested the Board to schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, May 19th, at 8:05 PM.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to schedule a Public Hearing as stated above.

RESOLUTION #113-2014

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor then addressed Edward Mandel regarding his proposed application informing him that the Village Board does not have the power to address his request to convert 46-48 Broadway into multiple apartments over a commercial space, which the Village Code does not allow. He informed Mr. Mandel that he would have to appear before the Zoning Board for a variance to allow 2 apartments above a commercial space and also that he would advise the Zoning Board that the Board would be changing that law within the coming months. He suggested to Mr. Mandel that he speak with the Building Inspector and get his opinion on which time factor would work out better for him.

Edward Mandel: Mr. Mandel asked if he would be able to begin work on the building.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor inquired if the building just requires renovations on the 2nd floor or if the 1st floor also needed to be renovated.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.: Counselor Hood does not see any reason why Mr. Mandel cannot begin work on the single apartment he wants to renovate, however, the Building Inspector would have to make that decision.

Counselor Hood then requested the Board pass a resolution to accept the County Map of the Village of Haverstraw, which will allow them to make changes to it, free of charge.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the County Map of the Village as stated above.

RESOLUTION #114-2014

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

Counselor Hood then requested a motion to declare the Village Board as Lead Agency for the Henry Hudson Quadracentennial Park Promenade.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to designate the Village Board as Lead Agency and to send out proper notices to the other agencies.

RESOLUTION #115-2014

Motion by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

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 the Hispanic American Lions Club to use the Village parking lot adjacent to the Knights of Columbus to hold their annual carnival fundraising event from May 22nd to May 26th, for which they have supplied the necessary insurance certificates.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the request of the Hispanic American Lions Club as stated above, with the stipulation that they not come in to set up until Monday evening since the seniors are utilizing that parking lot during the day and they also have to keep the roadway open for the school buses to pass through.

RESOLUTION #116-2014

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

The Mayor reported that there have been problems with the flooring in the Community Center which was damaged a couple of years ago from flooding and the tiles are now coming up. The Mayor has received a proposal from Carpets Replacement for the VCT tiles. They will be replaced with more durable and safer flooring from the lobby to the gym at a cost of \$2,150.00 and from the lobby to the back of the building at a cost of \$5,700.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve replace of floors in the Community Center as stated above.

RESOLUTION #117-2014

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

The Mayor announced that a letter was received from General Warren Emergency Co. #2 for a donation to their World War II Memorial Plaque Effort to honor 18 village residents who perished during this war. The Memorial Plaque will be placed in the Village Clock Park and will list all the names and ranks of those who died during this war. The dedication is scheduled for Memorial Day, May 25th.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to make a \$100.00 donation to this worthy cause.

RESOLUTION #118-2014

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

The Mayor received a letter from the Rockland County Department of Health to confirm that the Village of Haverstraw Community Center will be used in the event of any public health emergency-communicable disease declaration issued by the Commissioner of Health. The facility will be utilized for mass medication dispensing and mass vaccination of the public by the Rockland County Health Department until medication dispensing and vaccinations are complete.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the use of the Village Community Center as stated above.

RESOLUTION #119-2014

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

The Mayor received a Letter of Early Retirement from Peggy Koval who will be officially retiring from the Village in October, 2014.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the early retirement of Peggy Koval.

RESOLUTION #120-2014

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

The Mayor received the following budget adjustments to the 2013-2014 budget from Joseph Modafferi, Village Accountant:

Acct. #	Acct. Name	Increase Appropriations	Decrease Appropriations
A.1440.0420	Engineering Ferry	\$ 5,105.00	
A.1990.0400	Contingent		\$ 5,105.00
A.1620.0420	Building Repairs	11,100.00	
A.2770	Unclassified Revenue		7,400.00
A.4089	FEMA		3,700.00
A.7140.0400	Playground	3,200.00	
A.6797.0400	Other Economic Development	5,200.00	
A.3089.0000	Healthy Community Grant		8,400.00
A.5142.0400	Snow Removal	7,000.00	
A.1650.0400	Central Communication	3,000.00	
A.1620.0410	Fuel Garage		10,000.00

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above adjustments for the existing budget year.

RESOLUTION #121-2014

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

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:

Michael Young, Jr. - General Warren Emergency Co. #2

The application is complete and duly notarized.

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

RESOLUTION #122-2014

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 had nothing to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista gave the following report of activities at the Community Center:

April 3 - Sessions were held during school break for expectant family members.

Unity in the Community – Activities for the children took place along with many workshops provided for the children. It was a very successful form of activity.

Upcoming event – Wednesday, April 30 a monthly youth celebration for the youth of the community will be held at the Community Center followed by an awards presentation for the children that “Were Caught Being Good”.

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez read the following report submitted by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of April 7th through April 18th, 2014:

Rental property inspections	-	1
Municipal searches	-	5
Miscellaneous inspections	-	110
Construction inspections	-	14
Complaints	-	5
Violations & tickets	-	9
Permits & CO's	-	4

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

MINUTES: The Mayor presented the minutes of the Public Hearing of January 27th. These minutes were not reviewed by anyone except Trustee Dominguez therefore they were tabled for the next meeting.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Laurence Kigler, New City: Mr. Kigler and his son own the building at 10 Maple Avenue. He thanked the Board for changing the laws so they can get other tenants into that building. He has had a problem with the owner of the adjacent building, Luke's Auto Body, who continues to park vehicles on his property at 10 Maple Avenue in the area of the emergency exits. When his building was constructed it was mandated at that time that he have 2 emergency exits, with 3 feet between the 2 buildings, which is exactly how his building was constructed. He mentioned the New York State Fire Codes, Section 1028.3 – OBSTRUCTIONS OF INGRESS/EGRESS DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, pointing out that the law clearly states that entrances and exits are not to be blocked in any way and this also includes removal of ice and snow. Mr. Kigler explained that Luke's has cars parked in the emergency exits of his building mentioning that the only reason these exits exists is because the Village required it

at the time. He pointed out his site on a survey showing there is 3 feet alongside the building to exit his property. He does not understand why the Village is allowing this to happen or why the Village and Fire Inspector cannot have Luke's move the cars that are blocking his emergency exits. He does not want to create any problems he just wants the law enforced. He requested the Board have the Fire Inspector move forward with enforcing the laws of the State by having Luke's remove his cars from the 10 Maple Avenue property. He had pictures showing the situation Luke's has created which he considers to be a death trap for anyone inside his building. He asked the Board for help in getting Luke's to clear up the situation simply by abiding by the laws. Mr. Kigler cannot even talk to anyone from Luke's anymore because Luke has a restraining order against him.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained there was nothing they could do that night, but that they would look into the matter with the Village Attorney and the Fire Inspector to see what needs to be done legally to take care of the problem.

Clemente Ferreira, address inaudible: Mr. Ferreira asked why people should come to these meetings when the Board does whatever it wants to do anyway. He feels the Board does not listen to what the people want and that no new businesses will come to the Village because the taxes are too high. He believes the best thing for the Village would be to merge with the Town of Haverstraw.

Fulvio Ortega: Mr. Ortega feels that businesses are not coming to the Village because the rent is so high. There are empty spaces in the downtown, but the landlords are asking for outrageously high rents for a storefront. He feels the Village Board needs to establish some kind of rent stabilization for the commercial areas.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor does not believe that rent stabilization for commercial properties exists.

Fulvio Ortega: Mr. Ortega then talked about the Police Department. He feels a lot of the budgeting for the department is being run by civilians. He is a NYC Corrections Officer and was in the military and cannot imagine what civilians know about running a police department. He believes that to know what to do and what is required you have to have worked that job from the bottom up. He then mentioned that he walks the neighborhood during the night and recently found a window open at Neary Elementary School and called the Police. He was told they had no-one available to go check it out. So who do people call when you get that kind of response from the Police? He then mentioned that the Police finally came over a half hour later but nothing happened because he was there. His final thought to pass on to the Board was "**do not**" consolidate with the Town and let Howard Phillips run our Village. He also feels it is not just our Village that is having a problem attracting new businesses, but the entire state and now due to the tax situation throughout New York State most big corporations are moving out of state.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post asked if when Mr. Ginsburg constructs new buildings at Harbors, as he is now, does the Special Taxation District from years ago apply to and get divided into the new buildings and do they become responsible for a portion of that so it diminishes the taxes that everyone else has to pay.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that it diminishes Mr. Ginsberg's portion. If that was split by 500 units, and only 300 were built at the time, the homeowners paid \$300.00 of the 500 and Mr. Ginsberg paid \$200.00. He will be paying as a rental building, but if it is a condo each owner picks up 1/500th each. It would probably adjust to 1/550th.

Ramon Soto: Mr. Soto inquired who owns the Graziosi building and do they pay their taxes.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that Patrick Lynch owns the building and is approximately 1 year behind in tax payments. He explained that an owner has to be behind 3 years for the County to sell the building for back taxes.

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 #123-2014

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Francisco Batista

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift
Senior Steno Clerk