

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 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.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post requested updates on the following items:

- 1) Discussions with Mr. Ginsburg regarding the settlement of the \$6.5M.
- 2) The letter the Mayor was supposed to receive from John Cooney of Tilcon.
- 3) Installing the large warning sign and "STOP" signs from the corner of Clove Avenue and New Main Street to the end of the overpass location.

Terrence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson informed Mr. Post that the DPW has installed new signs at the overpass location.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded with regard to the negotiations, they are ongoing. With regard to Tilcon, he sent Mr. Cooney an e-mail the previous week and he has still received no response. With no further input from the public, the Mayor moved forward with the meeting agenda, to continue the Public Hearing, which was tabled at the previous board meeting because of lack of public attendance due to the weather conditions. He reminded everyone that the Public Hearing was in regard to changing the start time for the Regular Board Meetings from 8:00 PM to 7:00 PM, inviting the public to ask questions or make comments.

Mel Post: Mr. Post feels it is very important to encourage people to attend public village meetings and he feels the earlier time would discourage people from attending, particularly those that work, because it would then make the workshop meetings even earlier. He inquired of the Board why they want to do this.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista feels that most working people come from their jobs around 6:30 or 7:00 PM, and it might be more convenient to just come to a meeting right from work. He pointed out that there were not very many people at that night's meeting and perhaps moving the time would attract more people.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor also mentioned when big issues are on the agenda, such as site plans for Harbors, etc., the meetings become very long extending into late hours of the night. He also mentioned that the Board has looked into starting times for other districts, mentioning that the Village of West Haverstraw starts their meetings at 7:00 PM and the School Board meetings start at 7:30 PM.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista really feels from the standpoint of the Board and the public that attending a workshop at 5:00 PM and then having to wait around for the start of a Board Meeting at 8:00 PM is a waste of people's time. The Board is trying to make it convenient for everyone.

Mel Post: Mr. Post feels the Board is trying to make it more convenient for themselves than the public. He is retired and has no problem making an earlier meeting, but the working class people that he knows from Harbors, and he is

sure many other village residents, many who work in Manhattan or elsewhere, have a long commute time and probably would not be able to make a 7:00 PM meeting.

Terrence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson stated that for the 8 years he has been a member of the Board, if the issues didn't affect the constituents pockets they were not going to attend a meeting anyway. He believes that many people come to a meeting at 8:00 PM just to find out what is going on throughout the Village, leaving attendance very low.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista feels that the 7:00 PM start time would be more suitable for the people Mr. Post knows. In his opinion, most people would rather get all their business done while they are out and then go home to relax and not have to leave again. He feels it is something that the Board should try and if it does not work out can go back to the 8:00 PM start.

Mel Post: Mr. Post feels a start time somewhere in the middle might work better; possibly a 7:30 PM start.

Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno feels the meetings should start at 7:00 PM and if that does not work, try 7:30 PM and if neither of those work, go back to the 8:00 PM start time.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #24-2015

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to begin the new start time of 7:00 PM with the April 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting for a trial period.

RESOLUTION #25-2015

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

Mayor Kohut:

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.:** Counselor Hood requested a Public Hearing be set for March 16<sup>th</sup> to review the following 2 sections of the Village Code violations:

- 1) 245-36: Failure to comply to a Building Inspector's directive.
- 2) 137-4 & 137-40: Failure to obtain a Building Permit when work is done on a property, having illegal apartments, etc.

He stated that the first change would be from a \$1,000.00 maximum to a \$10,000.00 maximum fine per incident. Each day that a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense and would require the Building Inspector to go out every day or week to issue a new violation. Counselor Hood also mentioned the reasoning for the change is due to some recent fires where many violations, some including illegal apartments, have been found. Counselor Hood also mentioned that currently the Building Department is only allowed to issue 1 ticket for a violation, some of which have been going on for years.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> regarding issues stated above.

**RESOLUTION #26-2015**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez  
Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.  
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 Haverstraw Brick Museum for rent reduction based upon lost income from the County, lost memberships, etc. The Board has discussed this request and decided to reduce their rent to \$500.00 per month, effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the reduction in rent for the Brick Museum as stated above.

**RESOLUTION #27-2015**

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

The Mayor received a request from the Union Restaurant to borrow a few of the Village's barricades to help control the crowds during their annual "We Care" event, which is being held February 23<sup>rd</sup> through February 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 8:00 PM.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to allow Union Restaurant the use of Village barricades as stated above.

**RESOLUTION #28-2015**

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

The Mayor received a request from Cosgriff Hose Co. #4 for use of the parking lot adjacent to the Knights of Columbus from April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup> to hold their annual carnival. Set-up will be April 29 with breakdown on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the use of the parking lot by Cosgriff Hose as stated above.

**RESOLUTION #29-2015**

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

The Mayor received a request from the Village Clerk to attend the Government Finance Officers Conference, in Albany, from March 24<sup>th</sup> through March 27<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$726.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the Clerk's attendance at a conference as stated above.

**RESOLUTION #30-2015**

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

The Mayor stated that as per the New York State Comptroller's Office, by doing a fiscal stress test on the Village finances and putting the Village into their system, they have determined that the Village is at the lowest threshold for fiscal stress, 3.3% when the rest of the Hudson Valley area are between 15% and 20%. He commended Judy Curcio, Village Treasurer and Shannon Modafferi, Village Accountant for keeping costs down.

The Mayor then presented the following budget adjustments submitted by the Village Accountant:

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Increase Appropriations</u>	<u>Decrease Appropriations</u>	<u>Increase Revenue</u>	<u>Decrease Revenue</u>
A1620.0420	Building Repairs	\$27,000.00			
A1620.0420	Building Repairs	45,000.00			
A1990.0400	Contingent		72,000.00		
A9720.0600	Statutory Bond		20,000.00		
A9720.0700	Data Processing	5,875.00			
A0000.599	Contingent				\$14,125.00

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

**RESOLUTION #31-2015**

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

**Mayor Kohut:**  
**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**FIRE & ORDINANCES** – Trustee Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno had nothing 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 February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

- 1) Snow removal of Broadway, Main Street and New Main Street.
- 2) Removed piles of snow at parking lots and various locations throughout the Village.
- 3) Removed piles of snow from the Harbors.
- 4) DPW men worked several snow storms that occurred within the past couple of weeks.

Trustee Watson read a Letter of Resignation from Frank Morales, a Laborer, seasonal PT employee, with his resignation effective February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the resignation of Frank Morales as stated above.

RESOLUTION #32-2015

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

Trustee Watson then read a letter of gratitude from Maribel Ward who stated that while she was shoveling snow the previous day, some of the DPW men came back and helped her remove the snow, which she took pictures of them doing. She was very grateful for all the help she received.

Trustee Watson then read a letter of gratitude from Glen Henshaw, Property Manager at Harbors. This was another letter thanking the DPW crew for assisting with the snow removal.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Francisco Batista:** Trustee Batista gave the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of January 31<sup>st</sup> thru February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

- 1) The Center will be holding a Financial Aid Workshop for high school students on Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.
- 2) The Center will be hosting a Teen Night on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Youth from the North Rockland High School are all welcome to attend.
- 3) The Haverstraw Collaborative met on February 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Trustee Batista was present at the meeting and informed the Board that he was very impressed with the cooperation extended by all the members of this board to help with all the special needs of the residents of the Village. He mentioned that they meet every month at the Center and do an amazing job. The next meeting will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM.
- 4) The Spanish Speaking Parents Group also met at the Center on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. He explained the purpose of this group is to allow Spanish speaking parents to be involved with their children's education.
- 5) Approximately 20 participants met at the Center for individual family counseling sessions.
- 6) Smokers Aftercare had 7 people participating in the program.
- 7) The Girls Life Skills Group held at Fieldstone meet for 2 sessions with 6 participants at each.
- 8) There was a meeting of the Boys Council/Clubs for boys ages 8 thru 10.
- 9) There was a Life Skills Group session held for boys ages 11 thru 14 for a total of 12 participants.
- 10) There were 2 sessions held for the Life Skills Transitions Group for high school students having 10 attendees at each session.
- 11) There were also 2 sessions held for Project Shift – A Call to Action with 12 people participating.
- 12) There are approximately 55 students who attend the Homework Help Program on a daily basis.
- 13) Late Night Fridays has approximately 40 participants in attendance.

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 February 2<sup>nd</sup> through February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

Miscellaneous Inspection	-	80
Construction inspections	-	51
Complaints	-	4
Violations & tickets	-	28
Building Permits/C.O.'s	-	6

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**Mayor Kohut:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mel Post: Mr. Post addressed his question to Trustee Watson, asking if anything is going to be done on the overpass where the truck accident left a huge gap in the road.

Terence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson informed Mr. Post that there will not be anything done at this time, but in the spring there will be some leveling done at the site.

Mel Post: Mr. Post also mentioned that he heard from several people that the overpass was extremely icy during the periods of time when the temperatures were very low. He suggested that the DPW do more salting in that area during these times with extremely low temperatures.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that due to the wind conditions the overpass is always the first location to freeze during the harsh weather conditions. He also mentioned that the overpass is the first place the trucks hit with the salt when leaving the DPW and that the trucks from the Town of Haverstraw also tend to that area. He then added that people should be taking it a lot slower on the overpass in bad weather due to the curves and downhill grade of the overpass.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the Village Board Meeting, informing the public that the Grievance Meeting will continue until 9:00 PM.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

**RESOLUTION #33-2015**

Motion by: Francisco Batista

Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk