

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, June 15, 2015, at 7:00 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.

Larry Levine, 1414 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Levine wanted the Board to be aware that the trees planted by the “Welcome” sign on Route 9W and the overpass are dead.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor was aware of the plant situation at that location, which he assured Mr. Levine would be taken care of when possible.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then mentioned that the street lines on Maple Avenue are in need of repainting, and also the Maple Avenue “Speed Hump” is in need of repair.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Board is aware of the street lines on Maple Avenue, which cannot be taken care of until the County truck is available to repaint the lines. With regard to the “Speed Hump”, he mentioned that it had already been repaired.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine feels it needs to be looked at again. He also reported to the Board that while reading the Rockland Review he noticed there was no mention of any news or happenings taking place in the Village.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez informed Mr. Levine that she did send them information about the Farmer’s Market, but had no idea why it was not mentioned.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then requested an update on the Streetscape Project.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that as of the previous week the documents were in the hands of the “Right-of-Way” office of the Department of Transportation (DOT) and once they sign off on them the Village can start the bidding process. He also reported that Orange & Rockland (O&R) is still in the process of moving their lines to the new poles, after which Cablevision, Verizon and the Village will have to move all their lines to the new poles.

Gil Musinger, 1416 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Musinger informed the Board that while traveling down New Main Street during the previous week there was garbage strewn all over the street and sidewalks. He feels something really needs to be done to force property owners to keep the areas in front of their property cleaned, possibly issuing violations or having the DPW take care of the situation. He feels it does not present the Village in a positive manner.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the street sweeper is out 6 days a week taking care of the Village roadways but it had not been working for the

past couple of weeks. During that time, however, the DPW staff has been sweeping the streets by hand and warnings and violations are being issued wherever necessary.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post commented sarcastically on the larger number of people attending the meetings since the start time was changed to 7:00 PM. He then inquired about the negotiations with GDC asking if Mr. Ginsburg has made any payments.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that the "Interim Agreement" has been signed and Mr. Ginsburg did make the first payment on time. He then mentioned that both parties are continuing the process to keep ironing out any problems and will be meeting regularly from now until December.

Mel Post: Mr. Post requested an update on the Tilcon situation.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that Mr. Cooney has not yet gotten back to him with a time when they can sit down and go over Tilcon's plans.

Mel Post: Mr. Post believes Tilcon is not taking any rules or regulations into consideration because they are still continuing to add to the highest pile, which is visibly getting higher and higher.

Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno mentioned that when he passed by the previous day there was a truck watering down the pile.

Mayor Kohut: It is the Mayor's understanding that Tilcon is going to berm the pile closest to Harbors with topsoil and then plant trees and shrubs. He also explained that there is still an issue between Tilcon and Mr. Ginsburg about purchasing some of the Tilcon property alongside Harbors, however, whatever issues he has with Mr. Ginsberg himself, Mr. Cooney keeps completely separate from the Village and Harbors.

Mayor Kohut: Moving on with the night's agenda, the Mayor announced a Public Hearing scheduled for that night with regard to amending Taxi Laws §218-4A, §218-15B and §218-16A. He requested Village Attorney, Jay Hood, Jr. to inform the public of the amendments to the law.

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.: Counselor Hood explained the amendments as stated below:

- 1) §218-4A, Taxi Driver Permits: To assure that no taxi be allowed to operate in the Village of Haverstraw unless the driver has applied to and been issued a permit from the Village Clerk's Office and said permit is in full force and effect.
- 2) §218-15B, Display of driver's photo and complaint notices – A notice shall be attached to the dashboard and back of the front seat of each vehicle stating that if a passenger has a complaint about the conduct of the driver or the operation of the taxi they can contact the Village Hall from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM and thereafter contact the Town of Haverstraw Police Department giving all the taxi driver and vehicle information and the substance of the complaint together with the passengers name, address and phone number.

- 3) §218-16A, Accidents involving for-hire vehicles: This section is being deleted from the Local Law because there is no longer a Police Department in the Village.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #106-2015

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor invited the public to ask questions or make comments at this time, mentioning that the changes will simply clarify the judicial oversight of taxi issues.

Name Not Clear on Tape: The gentleman inquired if the Village does periodic inspections of the cabs to be sure that they are safe enough to transport passengers.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village does a rudimentary inspection of each vehicle checking lights, seatbelts, tires etc., and that they comply with Village regulations for signage, etc. He also mentioned that the taxis have to pass DOT inspections annually. Other than that the Village is not equipped to do any other type of vehicle inspections.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez also mentioned that some of the companies have been purchasing new vehicles and all the companies have been complying with the standards the Village regulates.

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

RESOLUTION #107-2015

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above stated amendments to the Local Law regarding taxis.

RESOLUTION #108-2015

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

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.: Counselor Hood reported that a position needs to be created for the Commissioner of the Farmers Market, since the Village has had difficulty trying to find someone to run the Market the past few years. They would like to appoint a qualified person to run the market, including all the prep work that has to be done prior to the market opening.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to create a position for Commissioner of the Farmers Market.

RESOLUTION #109-2015

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Terence Watson, Jr.

Abstain: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if it would be a salaried position. He also asked how things have been going so far with the market.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that it will be a salaried position, which would be discussed next. He also stated that there are no results for the success of the market since it just opened the previous weekend.

Mel Post: Mr. Post wanted to know the current number of vendors attending the market.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez responded that there are currently 2 vendors, with a bread vendor coming on board this week and a couple of other vendors are lined up to start.

Mel Post: Mr. Post feels that to create a salary and an additional expense for the Village for something that has only 2 solid vendors is not justifiable. He also mentioned that the market has been open for several years and there have never been many vendors or a real interest in the market from the community.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez disagreed with Mr. Post, stating that last year there ended up being about 7 vendors and the market was always busy. She also mentioned the vendors were very pleased with the turnout and that some even left the Stony Point market because they made out better at the Village market.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired why there are only 2 vendors currently at the market.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez stated that 1 of the vendors moved south and another one recently had a baby and could not attend this year.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired about the thoughts for combining the Farmers Market with a Flea Market, which was brought up about 3 years ago.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez informed Mr. Post that a combined market is something she is working on, as well as being in talks with some people about doing healthy cooking classes at the market.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor feels that it not only brings people from outside the community into our Village, but it also provides benefits within the community for those who have a need to provide their families with fresh produce.

Judith Curcio, Village Clerk/Treasurer: Ms Curcio informed Mr. Post that Village residents have access to approximately \$30,000.00 in WIC checks that are distributed by County social service agencies to purchase fresh produce at the market. She then inquired if Mr. Post ever visits the Farmers Market.

Mel Post: Mr. Post responded he has gone to the market, but never felt there was enough there to keep him coming back every week.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez also mentioned that a lot of people attending last year's market came from the Pomona and Suffern area. Also, the Village has expanded its advertising for the market through a deal made with the Journal News and the Times.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then mentioned that Trustee Dominguez has been managing the Farmers Market for several years, working hard to make it a success each year.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to hire Emily Dominguez as Commissioner of the Farmers Market at a salary of \$200.00 per week for 18 weeks or a total of \$3,600.00 for the market season.

RESOLUTION #110-2015

Motion by: Rafael Bueno

Seconded by: Francisco Batista

Abstain: 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 Haverstraw Hispanic American Lions Club to use the Broad Street Parking Lot adjacent to the Knights of Columbus to hold their 14th Annual Fund Raising Carnival from July 7th through July 12th. The proceeds of the carnival will benefit all the charitable agencies that service the Village.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to allow the carnival trucks to arrive on July 7th with the carnival to run from July 9th through July 12th.

RESOLUTION #111-2015

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor reported that the Building Department received a letter from the Town of Haverstraw Zoning Board with regard to NRG Bowline LLC's request for a Special Permit for Temporary Trailer parking during their construction period. The Board reviewed their application and saw no problems with the temporary parking.

The Mayor received a request for Port-a-Potties on the Middle School field to be used by a local soccer team while school is not in session. He then mentioned that the Village will be removing the ones currently at the ball field.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to order 2 Port-a-Potties to be placed at the Middle School Field pending approval by the school district and at a location designated by the school.

RESOLUTION #112-2015

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

The Mayor received a request from the Village Fire Alarm Technician, Robert Sullivan, to purchase new alarm wire from D&G Electric to replace the existing wire in the downtown business district where the Streetscape will take place. The Village will have to relocate its existing wiring, including fire alarm wiring, security cameras and the electric power for the Christmas lights to the new poles. As part of that process the Alarm Technician has requested all the old wiring be replaced at a cost of \$3,922.97.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to replace the old wiring as stated above.

RESOLUTION #113-2015

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

The Mayor received a proposal from AAA Cooleration Service to replace the defective left side compressor (Circuit A) of the unit located at the Community Center at a cost of \$5,495.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to replace a defective compressor at the Community Center as stated above.

RESOLUTION #114-2015

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

The Mayor reported that the 2015 Summer Camp Transportation bid is now due. The sole bidder was Haverstraw Transit with a bid of \$14,358.00 for the season.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to award the transportation for summer camp to Haverstraw Transit, as stated above.

RESOLUTION #115-2015

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

The Mayor scheduled a Public Hearing for July 13th at 7:05 PM with regard to the Annual MS4 Report.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #116-2015

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

Jay Hood, Jr. Esq.: Counselor Hood asked to also have a Public Hearing scheduled for that night with regard to amending the Zoning Law.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #117-2015

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

The Mayor received a Letter of Resignation from Kim Saucier, Justice Court Attendant.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the above resignation with regret.

RESOLUTION #118-2015

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

The Mayor also received a Letter of Resignation from Anibal Lima, Jr. from his position on the Village Planning Board, effective June 4th, 2015, due to his relocation to Florida.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept Mr. Lima's resignation with regret and wished him luck in his future endeavors.

RESOLUTION #119-2015

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

The Mayor then made the following announcements:

- 1) The County Executive announced that the Village will be awarded \$100,000.00 from the Community Development Block Grant, which will be applied to the Streetscape Project.
- 2) Dancing Under the Stars will be held Friday, June 19th.
- 3) Saturday, June 20th will be the Habitat for Humanity Walk-a-Thon.
- 4) The Independence Day Celebration with fireworks will take place at Bowline Park on Thursday, July 2nd, the rain date being Friday, July 3rd.
- 5) In accordance with Federal Law, Village Hall will be closed on Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day.
- 6) The Haverstraw River Arts & Music Festival will take place on Saturday, July 11th at Emeline Park. Rain date is Sunday, July 12th.

The Mayor then invited the members of the Board to attend a Downtown Turnaround Initiative Seminar being offered at RCC on Tuesday, June 23rd at 8:30 AM. The fee for the seminar is \$35.00 per person.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve attendance at this seminar for any member of the Board wishing to attend.

RESOLUTION #120-2015

Motion by: Rafael Bueno
Seconded by: Francisco Batista
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:

Noah Swanson as a Junior Firefighter – Lady Warren Hose Co. #5

Mr. Swanson's application is complete and duly notarized.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept Mr. Swanson into the Haverstraw Fire Department and Lady Warren Hose Co. #5 as a Junior Firefighter.

RESOLUTION #121-2015

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 June 15th, 2015:

- 1) Installed "No Parking" signs on Riverside Avenue.
- 2) Installed pavers at the baseball field concession stand.
- 3) Installed chain link fence at the African American Monument Park on Clinton Street.
- 4) Installed "Handicapped Parking" signs in front of Village Hall.
- 5) Worked on sewer blockage at the NSA Supermarket on Route 9W.
- 6) Repaired playground equipment at the Community Center.
- 7) Due to the street sweeper being broke, the DPW staff has been hand sweeping the business district and various village streets.
- 8) Hauled mulch for playground bedding.
- 9) Picked up debris from recent storms.

This was all done in addition to the department's routine daily tasks.

Trustee Watson then mentioned that there is a part-time position open for a seasonal laborer and Mr. White would like to hire Ramon Taveras to fill this position for 130 days at a salary of \$12.00 per hour, starting July 6th, 2015.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to hire Ramon Taveras as stated above.

RESOLUTION #122-2015

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

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 May 18th through June 15th, 2015:

- 1) The Center hosted its end of the year celebration on June 5th, which included volunteer recognition and the monthly youth celebration.
- 2) On June 13th youth from the Center, along with staff members, spent the day at Harriman State Park, where they learned about the Miniseongo Creek and also had the opportunity to observe the local wildlife.
- 3) Upcoming events are as follows:
 - a) June 23rd – Youth from the Center will be receiving certificates and T-shirts for their participation in the Eel Migration Study.
 - b) July 1st – The Haverstraw Collaborative will meet from 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM.
 - c) July 6th – The summer youth program for teens entering the 9th through 12th grades will begin to meet. This is an alternative program for youth who either have summer school or cannot find employment. For more information people should contact Tanya Soto at the Community Center.
 - d) July 6th – The Village of Haverstraw Summer Camp Program will begin. Registration is well under way and applications are available at the Village Hall or on the Village Website. Camp will end Friday, August 14th.

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 May 18th through 2015:

Rental property registrations	-	9
Municipal searches	-	7
Miscellaneous inspections	-	134
Construction inspections	-	111
Complaints	-	23
Violations & tickets	-	17
Permits	-	9

Trustee Dominguez then gave her report on the Farmer's Market informing everyone that the market had its official opening on June 14th and the market will continue to be open until October 11th.

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

MINUTES: The Mayor presented the minutes of the Regular Meetings of March 2nd, March 16th, April 6th, April 20th, of 2015 and the Special Meeting Minutes of April 27th, 2015 for approval by the Board.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above stated minutes.

RESOLUTION #123-2015

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

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor received a letter from a young girl named Rosa Seca, who wrote about her admiration for Mrs. Harrison, who has been the Crossing Guard in her area for many years. She then mentioned that Mrs. Harrison's hand-held STOP sign is very old and worn and fears that she may get hurt if she continues to use that sign. Therefore, she would like for the Village to purchase a new STOP sign for Mrs. Harrison.

Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio mentioned that the young girl, approximately 10 years old came to the Village Hall with her father, who spoke no English, to deliver the letter.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez requested the Mayor to contact the New York State Office of Court Administration for the purpose of conducting a full investigative audit of all administrative practices of the Village of Haverstraw Justice Court. She then read the following motion:

WHEREAS, constituents have expressed concern about irregularities in the Village of Haverstraw Justice Court regarding the administration and follow-up of vehicle, traffic and parking tickets issued in the Village of Haverstraw; and

WHEREAS, these irregularities consist of mailing of vehicle, traffic and parking ticket notices that are either mailed late or in some instances notices are not mailed at all; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Haverstraw relies on the Village Justice Court to mail all notices and collect all fines in a responsible, efficient, timely and effective manner; and

WHEREAS, members of the public have an expectation that all vehicle, traffic and parking ticket notices will be mailed on a timely basis.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to have the Village contact the NYS Office of Court Administration for the purpose of conducting an administrative audit of the Village of Haverstraw Justice Court.

RESOLUTION #124-2015

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

Mayor Kohut:
2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine inquired if Tilcon has ever contributed anything to events held by the Village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Levine that Tilcon has contributed to events held by the Village, mentioning that they contributed to the RiverArts & Music Festival last year and several years back they repaved the entire roadway in Dutchtown. He also mentioned that Tilcon has made contributions to the Town of Haverstraw as well.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine made this inquiry because, at a recent Harbors meeting, Supervisor Philips mentioned that the Town has received contributions from Tilcon. He was wondering, therefore, if in reality, that contributing aspect is actually hindering the attempts by the Village to get their problems with Tilcon resolved. He still feels this problem with the dust and debris is becoming a huge health risk to the residents of Harbors and the Village itself.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor does not feel that any contributions made to the Village or Town by Tilcon in any way hinders the current problems facing the Village. As Mayor, he has an ongoing relationship with Mr. Cooney which he would like to maintain by not having to resort to litigation, etc. to resolve issues. He also mentioned that Tilcon pays taxes just like every other property owner in the Village.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine found it very interesting to learn that Tilcon's tax rates are significantly lower than other property owners because all the buildings on that property are temporary.

Mel Post: With regard to the Farmer's Market, Mr. Post inquired about the \$30,000.00 mentioned by the Village Clerk wanting to know where it comes from, who receives it and if it has to be spent in a particular place.

Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio responded that the funds come from Social Services through state funded programs, that Social Services determines who gets the funds and yes, there are restrictions on how it is spent.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez explained that low income people are issued a card or a WIC check, which can only to be used at a Farmer's Market to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, etc. to provide healthy snack and meal alternatives for their children and families. She also mentioned that veterans and seniors receive some funding as well from different government agencies.

Mel Post: Mr. Post was not aware that they had to spend the funds at a Farmer's Market, which he noted was a pretty good start-up for any Farmer's Market. As he told the previous paid manager, he feels there should be some sort of performance evaluation for any paid manager, where the quality of products, the number of vendors, etc. are reviewed, because sometimes the market is successful and other times it fails miserably. With the influx of

\$30,000.00 worth of funding to be spent strictly at a Farmer's Market, he feels there should be a larger number of vendors at the market and any salary should be predicated on performance.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the Board has had continuing discussions as to whether or not to continue the Farmer's Market and are giving it another year to see how things go. The Board's decision was based on last year's market performance, which was very successful, however, the Mayor agrees that from one year to the next no-one knows what the outcome will be.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez expressed her feelings that the Village Market cannot be compared with Nyack, who always has many, many vendors. The Village market brings people from within the Village and localities close by, which does not warrant that huge a presence of vendors. She is hopeful that this year's market does as well as last year, which was a success and all the vendors were very pleased with the outcome.

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 #

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk