

The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015, beginning at 5:30 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.

Pete Ronga, 38 Westside Avenue: Mr. Ronga expressed his concern about the increase of big truck traffic on Westside Avenue, which he has noticed since his retirement because he spends a lot of time on his front porch. He does not believe any of these trucks are traveling into the Village because the majority of them turn left onto Samsondale Avenue. He feels this is a safety issue as well as an environmental hazard for the Village. He has seen garbage trucks, none of which pick up for the Village, that he assumes are heading to the transfer station, container trucks and very large dump trucks loaded with gravel that also turn onto Samsondale Avenue.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that MCM, which is located down the hill from St. Peter's Church, has trucks going in and out of the Village, leaving the Village with full loads via Broadway or Westside Avenue, however, on their return trips their trucks are empty.

Pete Ronga: Mr. Ronga believes that the trucks heading south on Route 9W are now using the Village roads as a short cut.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor has noticed trucks with loads of blacktop driving through the Village but not much else. He questioned Mr. Ronga about the time of day he has been noticing the trucks.

Pete Ronga: Mr. Ronga replied that there are no specific times; it happens throughout the day, mentioning also the loud screeching noise, coming from the trucks because of their heavy loads, when they brake to stop or make turns. He also noticed that the Village of West Haverstraw has put up a "No Thru Trucking" sign on Tanneyann's Lane.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that there are several "No Thru Trucking" signs in the Village of Haverstraw as well, however, Westside Avenue is designated as a "through" road, meaning that it is open to all vehicles.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista asked how many trucks per day he sees.

Pete Ronga: Mr. Ronga responded approximately 30 to 40 trucks throughout the course of the day.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor will talk to the people at the Transfer Station to see if it would be possible to mandate that the garbage trucks use Railroad Avenue to access Route 9W instead of coming through the Village of Haverstraw. The Mayor also mentioned those particular trucks may have designated routes, meaning that if they are designated to use Westside

Avenue and they go a different way those truckers would be in violation. However, he will look into it.

With no further input from the public, the Mayor continued with the agenda for that night's meeting.

**Mayor's Report:** The Mayor announced that Orange & Rockland (O&R) has completed their portion of relocating wires to the new utility poles, however, before Cablevision and Verizon can continue, the Village needs to move the security cameras and fire alarm wiring onto the new poles. With that in mind, Tyco Integrated Security, LLC (formerly ADT) has given the Village a proposal of \$31,480.07 to transfer the existing 12 security cameras to the new utility poles, which would include rental of a boom lift for installation purposes, prevailing labor cost and programming/testing of equipment. That price does not include wiring for all the equipment for which the Village has received an estimate from Hush Electric Contracting. They will provide a truck with operator at a discounted fee of \$135.00 per hour, Journeyman hourly labor rate of \$95.00 per hour and Apprentice hourly labor rate of \$50.00 per hour, plus the cost of material and fuel.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez inquired if the existing security cameras are in good enough shape or need to be replaced.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor believes the existing cameras are in decent condition and should suffice. He explained that the issue is more than just the cameras because they are not dedicated lines. He also mentioned that the Town is looking into how to get better transmission to the Police Station. In reality however, this will be a temporary thing because with new technology the security cameras are actually going to be in the bulbs of the street lights, however this technology will probably be a year or so down the road.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez would like to hold off on transferring the existing security cameras and look into having this new advanced system installed, especially with the enormous price to switch the existing system.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor agreed to go along with whatever the Board decides it would like to do, however the cameras do have to come down, they cannot be left on the old poles. Unfortunately, this will leave the Village without any security cameras for approximately 1½ years. Hush Electric can probably take the cameras down if that is what the Board would like to do.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista thought it would be a good idea to get another estimate from another electrician.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor believes the rates that Hush Electric is quoting the Village are right in line with the market.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez agreed with the Mayor that 1½ years is a long time to go without security cameras. She suggested the Mayor speak to Police Chief Miller to get his feelings on not having security cameras in place for that amount of time. She also wondered how often they actually look at the film from the cameras.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that they do not look at the films all the time, however, if there is an incident reported they have the films available to check things out in order to take the proper steps to resolve a situation.

Francisco Batista: Trustee Batista felt no-one would even realize that the cameras were gone. Both the Mayor and Trustee Dominguez disagreed stating that they are in clear view and you can't miss seeing them and the fact that they are not there will clearly be evident to everyone.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez did mention that in the section of Broadway where she lives many of the businesses have been installing their own security cameras. She suggested the Village conduct a survey to see which businesses in the Village have security cameras that the Police could utilize until the Village is able to have the new devices installed.

Francisco Batista: Deputy Mayor Batista feels it would be impractical to spend all that money at this time if, in a year or so, the newer cameras could be installed.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated if that is what the Board would like to do the cameras can remain on the old poles until such time as the poles have to come down, however, there would be no power to the cameras since all the wiring will be relocated to the new poles.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez feels that if the cameras are not removed and are still visible to everyone people will think that the cameras are still operational and the Village would not have to spend that amount of money for something that is only going to be there for a short period of time.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor believes that the people will figure out very quickly that there is no power going to the cameras no matter how hard the Village tries to hide the fact that they are dummy cameras, especially the people that the Village wants to catch in the act of committing a crime on camera.

Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno suggested having the DPW staff do the transfers.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor would not put any of the DPW staff in harm's way by dealing with electrical issues and no staff members are qualified to do any of that type of work. It would not be a big issue for the DPW to take the cameras down once they are disconnected, but they cannot do any of the electrical work involved.

Francisco Batista: Deputy Mayor Batista suggested the Village hire Hush to do his part of the project, but not get involved with the camera issue at this time.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez suggested again that the Mayor speak with Police Chief Miller about this matter.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor will gladly speak with Police Chief Miller, but since he has been working on getting more dedicated lines to the Police Station, the Mayor does not feel he will go along with not having the cameras connected in the interim.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez inquired if the service would be better with the cameras once they are a part of the new lighting system.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor is not sure what the answer is to that question, however, he mentioned that the lighting gentleman will be coming back to the Village on August 5<sup>th</sup>, with the lights, so he can hopefully answer that question at that time.

Francisco Batista: Deputy Mayor Batista suggested having Hush attend that meeting, bringing his plans, so a possible decision can be made at that time. He would rather the \$32,000.00 be put towards the final installation with the new camera lights than wasted on a short term fix.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor just does not want to see the cameras off line for a year or more.

Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno suggested having Hush do the whole job.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that there are technical items involved that Hush cannot do, which has to be completed by a company experienced in this type of undertaking.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez suggested that she and Trustee Bueno do a walk through the Village downtown area to establish approximately how many security cameras are located in the businesses in the downtown area. She also stated that she feels it is a complete waste of money to spend \$32,000.00 at this time for something that is going to be replaced within a year or so.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor also feels it is a big expense and is a difficult decision to make, but does the Village want to put its security at risk. There is a lot to consider before making this decision.

Moving on with the meeting agenda, the Mayor reported that the pump motor for the fountain at Harbors is no longer working. He stated that the Village owns the fountain and the HOA maintains it. Mechanical failures are the responsibility of the Village. He reported that Tri-State Motors has rebuilt the motor before and has submitted an estimate of \$3,500.00 to rebuild the motor again. He mentioned that a new motor would cost \$4,944.86. The Mayor informed everyone that the existing motor was rebuilt 2 or 3 years ago and how long a new motor will last is unknown. The Mayor then read a portion of a letter from John Amoroso of Premier Aquatics who suggested that at this time that the motor be replaced, since it has already undergone repairs twice.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to replace the fountain pump motor at a cost of \$4,944.86.

**RESOLUTION #140-2015**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Francisco Batista

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor then mentioned that the upper portion of Fairmount Avenue, between Route 9W and Hillside Avenue, is in dire need of repaving, especially since actual pieces of the roadway are coming up. Tilcon has submitted a proposal to repave this portion of Fairmount Avenue at a cost of \$30,695.00, which includes all necessary labor, equipment and material to complete the job.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to hire Tilcon to repave Fairmount Avenue as stated above.

RESOLUTION #141-2015

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

The Mayor then brought up the settlement letter prepared by the Village Attorney, Jay Hood, Jr., Esq., which is an honest effort by the Village to settle the condemnation litigation with Ray River (Chair Factory Property). There was some discussion on the matter with some of the Board wanting additional items added to the letter in the form of lost taxes and fill material. The Board reviewed the incurred expenses, including the price to purchase both the Chair Factory and Damiani parcels. The Mayor will figure the values of the lost taxes and the fill material and add those figures to the incurred expenses as items 6 & 7. Following these amendments being added, the settlement letter will be sent to Goldstein, Rikon, Rikon & Houghton, Attorneys at Law to be presented to their clients.

The Mayor then reported that the operator of the new restaurant at 16 Front Street requested he be allowed to have live music performances in the Gazebo by the river on Friday and Saturday nights from 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM. He stated that in order for the restaurant to obtain approval from the NYS Liquor Authority, they would need to secure the area to control alcohol use from the rest of the park. He has requested, therefore, approval from the Board to block off the area with removable sides leading to the Gazebo to allow customers of the restaurant to walk there and consume food and liquor while being entertained. The Mayor mentioned that people visiting the park will also benefit from having the music to listen to and enjoy; it is just that the State requires the area by the restaurant be restricted. The Mayor suggested giving them permission for this 2015 season to see how things work out. The entire Board agreed that music in the park on a Friday and Saturday night would be a wonderful addition to the park's atmosphere for everyone to enjoy; restaurant customers as well as park goers.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve Mr. Milone's request to put up removable partitions on the nights the bands will be playing as stated above.

RESOLUTION #142-2015

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

Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno requested "Speed Humps" be installed instead of "Speed Bumps" on Union Street, behind St. Peter's Church. He has witnessed many cars and motorcycles speeding in that area. He mentioned that Father Madden approached him last year about putting in a "Speed Bump", however, Trustee Bueno feels a "Speed Hump" is necessary due to the heavy volume of traffic in that area. Since he has been riding his bicycle around the Village he has noticed things going on in different areas of the Village and he feels the speeding that takes place on Union Street is going to be the cause of serious accidents if nothing is done.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the installation of a “Speed Hump” on Union Street behind St. Peter’s Church.

RESOLUTION #143-2015

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

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

RESOLUTION #144-2015

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk