

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Tuesday, February 16th, 2016, beginning at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Batista	- Absent
	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 requested the status of the Village Streetscape Project.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village is waiting for a proposed contract from the Construction Administrator, which once received will allow the Construction Manager to start purchasing the materials, etc. that will be needed to start work on the project. The Mayor is still hopeful for an April start date.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then spoke about Public Relations, mentioning that there was only one item in the paper that week referring to Haverstraw. He simply feels more has to be done to get the word out to the public about what is happening in the Village and any activities taking place.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor was in complete agreement with Mr. Levine.

Kathy Galione(?), Program Director, Rockland County Environmental Corp. (RCEC): Ms. Galione attended that night's meeting for the purpose of thanking the Mayor and Village Trustees for their participation in this program over the last 10 years. She advised the public that this program provides environmental interns and volunteers to communities and non-profits with environmental services, pointing out that over 30 members have provided the Village with approximately 300 hours of service, providing assistance with storm water issues, streetscapes, beautifying parks including Emeline Park and the Jefferson Street Park, assisted with programs at the Community Center, and have bonded with everyone they have worked with. She also informed the public that most of the youth that have worked with the program are from the Village, with some from throughout Rockland County, who have all enjoyed their experiences with the Village and have gone on to serve other communities, even several abroad. She also mentioned that some have moved forward with their lives to become productive, honorable members of their communities as police officers, doctors, etc. She again expressed her thanks to the Mayor, the Board, the Village Clerk, the DPW staff, the Reachout staff, mentioning the difference that they have made in the lives of the youth engaged in this program as well as this community. The members and youth of the RCEC were very appreciative of the time that they have been given with the Village and definitely would like this work to continue.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor thanked Ms. Galione and the RCEC for allowing the Village to be a part of this great program which affords the youth of the Village opportunities that they might otherwise not receive. He would also like to see this program continue in the Village.

Betsy Rauschard, Open Arms Representative, Main Office-57 Sharp Street: Ms. Rauschard inquired about the status of the Open Arms application for a "Supportive Living Residence" to house up to 8 male residents at 28A Clinton Street.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Ms. Rauschard that the Board has had discussions on the matter but before they come to any decisions, they had several questions for Ms. Rauschard. He informed Ms. Rauschard that the Board has heard that Open Arms has found one or more locations for the "Supportive Living Residence". The Mayor is familiar with the site on Route 9W, to which the Board is very conducive to and believes would be a favorable location, particularly if Open Arms can acquire other services to go into that building and utilize the office space on the lower level of the building or even to occupy the space themselves.

Betsy Rauschard: Ms. Rauschard mentioned that Open Arms has been considering moving their offices into that building if that is where their residents will be located and they can handle it financially, however, she mentioned that Open Arms would have to go through another Public Hearing and she is just not sure about doing that again.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he is not positive on that matter and he would speak with the Village Attorney, Jay Hood, Jr. with regard to any legal steps that would have to be taken. He stated that the Board is having reservations about the Clinton Street property, but believes the Route 9W property would be a workable site for this entity.

Betsy Rauschard: Ms. Rauschard inquired about a date the Board would be ready to make a final decision.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that they will make an effort to have a decision rendered by the next meeting on March 7th.

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

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: In the absence of Counselor Hood, no report was given.

VILLAGE TREASURER, Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that the Village Board is currently looking into revamping and making the Village Website more user friendly, including better access to information, whether it be tourism, regular announcements, events, etc. He also mentioned that this revamp would also give the Village the ability to enter and update data, which it previously did not have. He pointed out, however, that the cost for this revamp might be a little high, but feels it would be worth it to bring the Village's Website up-to-date in every aspect.

The Mayor announced an increase in fees being considered for the Village Day Camp. He reported that this year camp will be 6 weeks plus an additional 3 days and that **all** children will receive **free** breakfast and lunch. He then explained the following 3 different tiers of fees for the children attending the Village Day Camp:

- 1) Children who receive free or reduced lunch through the school lunch program will be increased to \$275.00 per child and that does include all trips.
- 2) Children not receiving free or reduced lunch through the school lunch program will be increased to \$450.00 per child.
- 3) Children who do not reside in the Village (Non-resident) will be increased to \$650.00 per child.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to increase the fees per child for attendance at the Village Day Camp as stated above.

RESOLUTION #27-2016

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

The Mayor then pointed out to the public that the above fees are not enough to operate the Day Camp, therefore, the Village has to subsidize the camp as well. He also mentioned that high school students from the Village are hired as Counselors for the Camp, which is yet another benefit for the youth of the Village.

The Mayor received a request from Corinne McGeorge, a local historian who is creating an exhibit of Dutchtown and the Major Andre/Benedict Arnold treason site, to help defray some of the costs involved in bringing this exhibit to fruition.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to donate \$100.00 towards the expenses involved to create an historical exhibit as stated above.

RESOLUTION #28-2016

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

The Mayor reported that the Board has received final copies of the 2015 LOSAP Report from the 5 companies that make up the Haverstraw Fire Department. He explained that LOSAP is the "Length of Service Award Program" which gives service credits to volunteer firefighters who provide the Department with exceptional services throughout each year.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the final points for the year 2015 received by the volunteer firefighters of the Haverstraw Fire Department.

RESOLUTION #29-2016

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

The Mayor received a "Change Order" from SCS Engineering to add \$700.00 to their contract for additional continued litigation on the Manny Lopez Ball Field matter.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the Change Order for additional funds to continue litigation on the Manny Lopez Ball Field as stated above.

RESOLUTION #30-2016

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

The Mayor reported that 2 Bond Resolutions, some of which have expired and others that were not accurate due to the breakdown of the useful life of the improvements in the Streetscape Project, require approval by the Board. He explained that some of the improvements being done have a 10 year useful or reimbursable life, while others have 15 years. The Mayor read part of first resolution as follows:

- 1) A resolution authorizing the issuance of \$900,000.00 in Bonds of the Village of Haverstraw, Rockland County, New York, to pay the cost of various improvements to enhance the safety, utility and appearance of village streets and adjacent curbs and sidewalks, and drainage facilities on Main Street, New Main Street and Broadway, in and for said Village.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the \$900,000.00 Bond as stated above.

RESOLUTION #31-2016

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

Trustee Batista	- Absent
Trustee Bueno	- Yes
Trustee Watson	- Yes
Trustee Dominguez	- Yes
Mayor Kohut	- Yes

Judith Curcio, Village Clerk: Ms. Curcio announced the motion passes with 4 YES votes.

The Mayor then read part of second resolution as follows:

- 2) A resolution authorizing the issuance of \$1.6M in Bonds of the Village of Haverstraw, Rockland County, New York, to pay part of the \$5M estimated maximum cost of various improvements to enhance the safety, utility and appearance of village streets, curbs, sidewalks, traffic signals and signage, drainage and landscaping on Main Street, New Main Street and Broadway, in and for said village.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the \$1.6M Bond as stated above.

RESOLUTION #32-2016

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

Trustee Batista	- Absent
Trustee Bueno	- Yes
Trustee Watson	- Yes
Trustee Dominguez	- Yes
Mayor Kohut	- Yes

Judith Curcio, Village Clerk: Ms. Curcio announced the motion passes with 4 YES votes.

Mel Post: Mr. Post was under the impression that the Streetscape Project was totally covered by grants.

The Mayor informed Mr. Post that the grants unfortunately do not cover the entire cost of the Streetscape Project.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then requested the breakdown of what the grants covered and what the Village has to pay.

The Mayor responded that the Village received a grant in the amount of \$2.5M and also received some smaller grants totaling approximately \$100,000.00. He reported the bids for the Project came in at \$4.9M, mentioning that the Village knew from the start that it would have to match 33% because the grant is written in that way. Therefore, on the \$2.5M the Village would have to pay approximately \$800,000.00. With the bids coming in at almost \$5M the Village was aware that it would have to bond for the rest, therefore, the Village had previously approved several bonding resolutions in 2007 for this project but never borrowed the money, therefore, they are all being consolidated into these 2 bonds.

The Mayor received a letter from North East Electrical Inspections for approval to conduct electrical inspections within the Village of Haverstraw, for which they have already been approved by the County of Rockland.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to add North East Electrical Inspections to the list of inspectors for the Village.

RESOLUTION #33-2016

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

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

Overtime & Sick Bonus Adjustment
Fiscal Year 2015/2016
1st & 2nd Quarters (June – November)

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Debit/Increase</u>	<u>Credit Decrease</u>
Justice Court	1110.11	\$ 5,533.99	
Legal	1420.1	6,147.06	

Clerk/Treasurer Office	1410.11	2,272.51	
Reachout	9961.9	3,765.41	
Recreation	7140.1	3,853.15	
Building Department	3620.1	7,460.38	
DPW Laborers, etc.	5110.1	17,430.03	
DPW Clerical	5010.11	584.64	
DPW Administration	5010.1	8,238.61	
OT Contingency	1990.41		55,285.78

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

RESOLUTION #34-2016

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

<u>ACCT. #</u>	<u>ACCT. NAME</u>	<u>INCREASE</u> <u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>DECREASE</u> <u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>INCREASE</u> <u>REVENUE</u>
A3620.0400	Safety Inspector Contractual	\$ 3,800.00		
A1990.0400	Contingent		\$ 3,800.00	
A8160.0400	Refuse Collection	6,000.00		
A1990.0400	Contingent		6,000.00	
A1440.0410	Engineering Ferry	500.00		
A1990.0400	Contingent		500.00	

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

RESOLUTION #35-2016

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 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 16th, 2016:

- 1) February 9th, called out for snow storm.
- 2) February 16th, called out for icy road conditions.
- 3) Filled in potholes throughout the Village.
- 4) Finished the community room at the Haverstraw Center.
- 5) Fixed damaged fence in the West Street alley.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Francisco Batista: In the absence of Trustee Batista, no report was given.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez read the following report submitted by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of February 1st through February 12th, 2016:

Municipal searches	-	3
Miscellaneous inspections	-	56
Complaints	-	10
Construction inspections	-	7
Building Permits & C.O.'s	-	2
Violations	-	11

Trustee Dominguez then reported that she has been in contact with the Haverstraw Fire Department and the Quisqueya Club regarding scheduling dates for use of the Manny Lopez Ball Field this coming season. She also mentioned that the West Haverstraw Fire Department will be using the field this season as well.

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

MINUTES: The Mayor presented the minutes of the Regular Meetings of November 16th, December 7th and December 21st, 2015 for approval by the Board.

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

RESOLUTION #36-2016

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

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez reported that the Board has had several discussions with regard to the Mayor's salary and have determined that since the Mayor has basically been working full time for many years that he should receive an increase in salary in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno added that the Board feels the Mayor has been doing an exceptional job for the Village and for a very long time has been working full time hours and, therefore, deserves this increase in salary.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to increase the salary of the Mayor from \$40,000.00 per year to \$60,000.00 per year.

RESOLUTION #37-2016

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

The Mayor thanked the Board for recognizing the effort that he has put forth in his position and appreciated their vote of confidence.

Mayor Kohut:
2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mel Post: Mr. Post requested an update on the GDC matter.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that the Village received an unpleasant letter from Mr. Ginsburg, which the Board discussed at the last Executive Session. He reported that the Village has since reached out to him to schedule a meeting, absent counsel, to further discuss the issue at hand. He mentioned that a meeting was then scheduled, which he had to reschedule for the following week or so with the hope that this meeting will bring forth a closer resolution to the problem.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired who would be representing GDC at this meeting.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded Mr. Ginsburg would be at the meeting, along with his son and probably Andy Maniglia.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired if Mr. Ginsburg has made any applications to the Village to do any further construction at the Harbors.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that neither the Village Board nor the Building Department has received anything from GDC in that regard.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine advised the Board that while he was making a left turn off of Route 304 onto Route 9W that day, once he got around the bend in the road there was still a very large pothole in the center of the right lane which has been there for many months. He requested the Board to send a letter to the NYS Department of Transportation to do whatever they can to repair this pothole, which just continues to get bigger and bigger.

Mayor Kohut: With no further village business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting, but continue to sit until 8:00 PM for the Tax Assessment Grievance Meeting.

RESOLUTION #38-2016

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk