

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, September 17th, 2018, beginning at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Bueno	- Present
	Trustee Watson	- Present
	Trustee Dominguez	- Present
	Trustee Santana	- Present
	Mayor Kohut	- Present

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor opened the meeting with the first Public Participation inviting people to ask questions or make comments.

Stuart Suchotliff, 1413 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Suchotliff inquired about the safety conditions at the Harbors construction site.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Suchotliff that the Village understanding of the situation is that there is a temporary work stoppage and that the site is being secured for safety purposes.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post requested information with regard to the Special Assessment District.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that if before the next taxable status date, 1 of the buildings was constructed, the original 490 units would become 508 and he would be paying 1/508th instead of 1/490th.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport inquired about the tree removal and bulldozing being done at Mt. Repose Cemetery. He is afraid it may become a drainage issue for the Sons of Jacob Jewish Cemetery since it borders Mt. Repose.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that he was not aware of anything transpiring in that area but he would check with the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, to see if he is aware of anything taking place there.

Mayor Kohut: With no further input from the public, the Mayor continued with the agenda for that night's meeting with 2 Public Hearings, the first for Amendments to Chapter 245; Zoning Board, Planning Board and Architectural Review Board (ARB), followed by amendments to Chapter 1887; Smoking & Vaping. He invited Village Attorney Jay Hood to present the amendments to the public.

Jay Hood: With regard to Chapter 245, Counselor Hood informed the public that the attorney who works with the Zoning and Planning Boards requested appointing alternates to these boards to fill in during vacation times, illnesses, or any other absence of a regular Board Member. He stated that the amendments refer to the "Administrative Provisions" of Chapter §245-33 which will allow up to 2 "ALTERNATE" members for each board who will be appointed by the Mayor and must meet all the eligibility requirements of regular board members, including training classes and attendance at all meetings. He reported that the current board members have attended training, but the training requirements will now be a part of the Law. The alternates will be allowed to join in discussions, however, will only be allowed to vote when a regular board member is absent or if there is a conflict of interest with a regular board member.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing, inviting the public to ask questions or make comments.

RESOLUTION #179-2018

Motion by: Terence Watson
Seconded by: Emily Dominguez
Motion Carries: All

Stuart Suchotliff, 1413 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Suchotliff inquired if only the Mayor would decide who will be appointed to any of the Building Department Boards.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that it is an appointment by the Mayor, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees. He also mentioned that back in the 1960's when the Zoning Board was established, the Planning Board was never officially established and although it has operated for the past 50 years it was not in the statute, therefore, this also provides all the legalities required for the Planning Board to continue its operations.

With no further input from the floor, Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing with regard to Chapter §245.

RESOLUTION #180-2018

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to adopt the Amendments to Chapter §245 as stated above.

RESOLUTION #181-2018

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

Jay Hood: Counselor Hood then reported that the wording "no smoking within a village vehicle" is being added to Local Law Chapter 187-1, entitled "Smoking on Village Controlled Property" and the wording "including public streets and sidewalks" is being removed from the Local Law.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing inviting the public to ask questions or make comments.

RESOLUTION #182-2018

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana
Motion Carries: All

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport asked about smoking in public buildings.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Rappaport that the ban includes all Village owned buildings.

Jay Hood: To clarify buildings for Mr. Rappaport, Counselor Hood read the list of buildings from the Local Law, as follows:

“Indoor and outdoor property including buildings, structures, playing or athletic fields, parks and other open spaces”.

Mel Post: Mr. Post questioned the Village property aspect of the Law and does not feel “streets & sidewalks” can just be deleted because they indeed are village property. He feels the wording presents a conflict and should possibly read “with the exception of streets & sidewalks”

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated it was originally in the Law as “public streets and sidewalks”, but the Board felt it is unenforceable and too broad.

Larry Levine, 1414 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Levine was interested in what the penalty would be for not obeying this law.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez informed Mr. Levine that the fines would start at \$200.00 and go up if the same offense was committed repeatedly and no more than \$500.00 would be charged for each violation.

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

RESOLUTION #183-2018

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the wording to the ordinance as stated above.

RESOLUTION #184-2018

Motion by: Emily Dominquez
Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: 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 proposal in the amount of \$4,850.00 from P&D CONSTRUCTION to repair the old Police Department locker room on Maple Avenue for use as a gym for the Haverstraw Fire Department members.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the refurbishing of the Police Department quarters on Maple Avenue as stated above.

RESOLUTION #185-2018

Motion by: Rafael Bueno
Seconded by: Emily Dominquez
With a recommendation of a \$500.00 donation from each company.

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor informed everyone that the Village Justice Court would be closed from Monday, September 17th thru Wednesday, September 19th, while the staff is attending a mandatory training session in Lake Placid.

The Mayor then announced that the Haverstraw Fire Department has been awarded a \$180,000.00 grant, through FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, to be used over the course of 4 years for recruitment and retention of firefighters. He explained that the goal of the Fire Department is to provide in-house training for "Firefighter 1" courses. He explained that the Department has been having difficulty getting members into the classes at the Fire Training Center and/or to complete classes due to timing commitments; work, school, etc. by the recruits. This will enable recruits to get the necessary training at a Village firehouse by Village Training officers. The Fire Training Center would still be used for training with actual fire simulations, etc.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the FEMA Fire Department Award.

RESOLUTION #186-2018

Motion by: Emily Dominquez
Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to adopt the Rockland County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazardous Mitigation Plan as this jurisdiction's hazard plan and resolves to execute the actions of the Plan.

RESOLUTION #187-2018

Motion by: Emily Dominquez
Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor reported that there is a need for an additional Justice Court Attendant for the Village Court due to the lack of availability of attendants when different courts are in session throughout the County. This would be a part-time hourly position.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to create a part-time position for a Justice Court Attendant as stated above.

RESOLUTION #188-2018

Motion by: Emily Dominquez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut then entertained a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the Justice Court Grant application.

RESOLUTION #189-2018

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

The Mayor read the following adjustments to the 2018-2019 budget year submitted by Joseph Modafferi, Village Accountant:

2018-2019 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS				
Acct. #	Account Name	Original	Corrected	Results
A1990.0410	Contingent Overtime	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
A9060.0800	Health Insurance	\$ 1,317,663.00	\$ 1,257,663.00	\$ 60,000.00
A8020.0410	Comprehensive Plan	\$ 132,000.00	\$ 111,082.00	\$ 20,918.00
A000.3902	State Aid	\$ 108,900.00	\$ 82,500.00	\$ 26,400.00

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

RESOLUTION #189-2018

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

The Mayor reported that one of our longtime village residents, Americo Sanchez, will be turning 100 years old on Saturday, September 22nd. He gave a brief synopsis of Americo's life as follows:

“Americo was born in Puerto Rico in 1918 and moved with his wife and family to the United States in the 1940's eventually moving to the Village of Haverstraw where he has spent the majority of his life. Americo joined the U.S. Army serving in World War II and for his bravery and courageous service to our country was awarded numerous medals. He still attends services every Sunday and is an Elder in his church congregation where he enjoys his time with family and friends. Americo still cooks and takes care of himself and only recently gave up his driver's license.”

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that the Village of Haverstraw is proud to honor Americo Sanchez on this milestone in his life and for being an outstanding model to everyone he has touched during these 100 years. He therefore entertained a motion to proclaim Saturday, September 22nd, 2018, “Americo Sanchez Day” in the Village of Haverstraw.

RESOLUTION #191-2018

Motion by: All
 Seconded by: All
 Motion Carries: All

The Mayor mentioned that the Riverwide Arts Festival was held the previous Saturday at Emeline Park and was another successful event for the Village.

The Mayor then announced the following events taking place in the Village:

- 1) Friday, October 19th – Halloween window painting in the Village.
- 2) Sundays – the Farmer's Market continues thru the 3rd week in November.

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 Robert Drexler, Superintendent of Public Works, as of September 17th, 2018:

- 1) Repaired damaged fence at Emeline Park.
- 2) Repaired damaged monument honoring Jay Hood, Sr. at Emeline Park.
- 3) Repaired and replaced damaged rope at the Harbors.
- 4) Continue to paint speed bumps, crosswalks, stop bars throughout the Village.
- 5) Painted stop bars and parking lines at Riverside Park.
- 6) Trimmed and cut grass at Emeline Park in preparation for the River Arts Festival and set up and cleaned up following the festival.
- 7) Worked on sewer blockage at 100 Halgren Crescent and 169 Hudson Avenue.
- 8) Continuing with crack sealing throughout the Village.
- 9) Working on tile project from River Arts Festival to be hung at the Village Hall.
- 10) Cleaned catch basins on Highland and Hillside Avenues, Middle Street, Overlook and Emeline Park.
- 11) Rescued 4 kittens stuck in a fence on 7 VanHouten Street.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Joel Santana: Trustee Santana read the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of September 4th thru September 17th, 2018:

- 1) The Haverstraw Collaborative continues to meet monthly at the Center.
- 2) The Homework Help Program began on September 4th.
- 3) Spanish Speaking Parents Group will meet on October 3rd at 6:00 PM.
- 4) Late Night Fridays a program run by Tim Sanders will begin on September 28th from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.
- 5) Strengthening Families program will begin on Thursday, October 4th.
- 6) Monthly Youth Celebration will be held on September 25th along with "Caught Being Good".

For information on these and other programs at the Center people can go to the Village Website or call the Center.

Trustee Santana had nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT – Deputy Mayor Emily Dominguez: The Deputy Mayor read the following report submitted by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of September 3rd through September 14th, 2018:

Miscellaneous inspections	-	125
Complaints	-	11
Municipal searches	-	1
Construction inspections	-	11
Violations/Tickets	-	18
Building Permits & C.O.'s	-	3

Deputy Mayor Dominguez had nothing further to report.

The Mayor then mentioned an article in the Journal News with regard to a parcel of land being purchased by the Village on McKenzie Avenue for the purpose of establishing a new home for the American Legion. He informed the public that the Village acquired this property for \$30,000.00 (back taxes due) not \$50,000.00 that was reported in the Journal News. He reported this was a collaborative effort between the Village, the Town (who paid to have the property tested for contaminants), and the County of Rockland. The Village will make arrangements with the American Legion to either buy the property from the Village over time or rent the property to the Legion. The Legion intends to demolish the existing building and rebuild a new legion hall for the Harold Holt & Manny Lopez Post. The Mayor informed the public that the Harold B. Holt Post #46 is one of the oldest American Legion Post in the Country, which unfortunately went dormant for many years and is now being revived with the hope of attracting younger Vets from Vietnam to the current wars that our young men & woman continue to battle. The Post will be built adjacent to the Manny Lopez Baseball Field and will be beneficial to all our Vets, young and old alike.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport has noticed Orange & Rockland is doing a lot of work on a Maple Avenue lot. He was wondering what is going to happen to that property after remediation.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Rappaport that the Village is hoping that O&R will turn the property over to the Village, but they have not yet made a decision as to what they will do with it. He mentioned that the Village would like to utilize the space for either a park or an additional Village Parking Lot. He then informed the public that the property was originally used as a manufacturing gas plant, which created a coal/tar bi-product, contaminating that property and traveling under Maple Avenue contaminating properties along Maple Avenue as well.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine inquired of the Board the best way to go about having paving or repair work done to the roadways, not only the Village, but throughout the County, where all the roads are in extremely bad condition.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Levine the best way would be to first find out who is responsible for the roadways in a certain area and then go directly to the County or Township responsible. He mentioned that the strip from New Main Street south on Route 9W to Terrace on the Hudson was supposed to be paved the previous week, which was not done. He is hopeful that it will get done some time during the upcoming week.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine feels the entire distance of roadway on Route 9W is in dire need of repair.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that Route 9W is a State highway that the Village cannot touch. He also informed Mr. Levine that Robert Drexler, DPW Superintendent, is constantly calling the State to get them to repair or repave the roadway. He mentioned also that if the TDI Transmission Lines come through, that the State will repave Route 9W the entire distance.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport has heard that the State does not think Route 202, which is full of dangerous potholes, etc., needs repaving.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Rappaport that he believes Route 202 is scheduled to be repaved some time in 2019. He also mentioned that he spoke to someone at DOT about the terrible job the State did on the roadway by the cemetery and he was informed that it was done by someone the State contracted, however, the State will be coming back to redo the roadway in that area before the onset of winter, so they are aware and also embarrassed by what was done there.

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that there has been no change since the last meeting.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired how long the Board will let this continue.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that the Village is trying to negotiate with GDC, however, GDC will either have to make a deal soon or end up going to court.

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

RESOLUTION #192-2018

Motion by: Emily Dominquez
Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana
Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk