

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, October 21, 2019, beginning at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor opened the meeting with a Public Hearing regarding property located at 2-4 Main Street.

Jay Hood, Esq., Village Attorney: Counselor Hood informed the public that the original application for this property was for 9 residential units above commercial property which requires a Special Permit. This application was referred to the Planning Board, who upon review, recommended it be reduced to 7 residential units. Upon approval of the revised application it will be returned to the Planning Board for Site Plan review and recommendations.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #217-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the application for a Special Permit to Israel Miller for the revised application of 7 residential units above commercial at 2-4 Main Street.

RESOLUTION #218-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then invited Ray Mosquea of Climate Smart Communities (CSC) to address the Board and the public.

Ray Mosquea, 84 Picarello Drive: Mr. Mosquea introduced Peggy Gurte of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) and attorney Glen Weinberg. Mr. Mosquea spoke about "renewable energy" for the Village, explaining that instead of a community being assigned a default provider of electricity such as Orange & Rockland (O&R) the community would have the power to choose their energy provider, where their energy comes from and what type of energy it would be. The benefit of 100% renewable energy would provide people with the resources and steps to move forward with a "Green Plan" for a more sustainable future and carbon footprint for the Village, while still reducing costs.

At this time, Trustee Bueno left the meeting for another appointment.

Mr. Mosquea explained that by pooling electricity needs, communities use bulk purchasing power to obtain a fixed and lower rate with a provider of renewable energy such as wind, solar or hydropower. He mentioned that

O&R would still serve as a distributor of this energy, mail your bills and repair service interruptions and then explained that the steps to move forward would be to pass a resolution, followed by a Public Hearing.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor asked if this is exclusively an “opt-in program”, to which Mr. Mosquea responded “opt-out program”. Therefore, if a person does not have a specific provider such as O&R they would get Joule. The Mayor then inquired what would happen if a person already has a provider.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez inquired about how many years a person would be locked in.

Mr. Mosquea responded that a consumer is not locked in at all. They can opt in and out of the program at will. There are no fees or penalties involved. The consumer can chose the default rate or can choose to opt-out of the program.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominquez inquired if this is being done in other communities.

Peggy Gurte: Ms. Gurte informed the public that CCA currently has customers in 8 states, serving 5M people and has been serving 54% of Westchester communities since 2016. She mentioned that 100% of the communities who participated in the first round have chosen to continue in the program. She mentioned that the Town of Hastings saved approximately \$100,000.00 by participating in the program and that municipalities are also welcome to join the program with a rate that is guaranteed for the term of the Contract. She mentioned that there are currently “CCA” groups forming, including 3 Nyack villages which have completed the first 3 steps and Orangetown. Clarkstown has taken the first step and would be voting the following night, at which time the “CCA” group will be ready to begin the launch process.

Glen Weinberg, Esq.: Counselor Weinberg informed the public that the Municipality first has to pass enabling legislation giving the Village the authority to start the process if the Municipality finds a deal that works for them. They then have to select an Administrator, such as Joule, who already has an implementation plan on file with the New York State Public Service Commission, which the other municipalities of the Lower Hudson Valley have done. The Village would be required to first decide on a source (i.e. 100% renewable), define a set term or terms, set a benchmark price based on the historical average for the utility’s basic service and then put it out to bid, which can be no higher than the last couple of service years from Orange & Rockland (O&R). They do not guarantee savings throughout the term of the contract; they use an average historical rate and use that rate for a period of 2 or 3 years. The municipality then moves into the launch phase; a 60 day mandatory outreach period which includes the Village holding 2 public events at which time the company would make a presentation to the public in order for them to decide if they would be interested in signing on to this program. The next step would be every homeowner would receive a letter (printed in both English & Spanish) explaining the whole program including pricing, opting out, etc.

Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez mentioned that many of the people in the downtown area don’t always read everything that comes in the mail and since this is for both residential and small businesses, she felt the best way to reach the downtown would be to “walk the Community” .

Glen Weinberg, Esq.: Counselor Weinberg agreed and would take her suggestion into consideration.

Peggy Gurte: Ms. Gurte also thought that churches, community centers, the Harbors, etc., would also be places that might want to get involved in this program. She mentioned that they did canvas the Upper Nyack community due to the small size of that municipality and they could do the same here.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then questioned if hydro power is simply pulled off the grid from anywhere.

Glen Weinberg, Esq.: Counselor Weinberg informed the Board that the Contract they have with the group from Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Dutchess & Putnam County's are receiving 100% New York State renewable energy, which is largely hydro. He mentioned they are building a lot of solar and wind energy facilities upstate, however, at the current time hydro is what is mainly available, but will change as the other options become available for the NYS grid.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor inquired if the prices will change when the other alternatives become available.

Glen Weinberg, Esq.: Counselor Weinberg responded that pricing would be determined by several things, including subsidizing on a state and federal level. He mentioned that with the subsidies the pricing would drop and would continue as long as those incentives remain.

Joel Santana: Trustee Santana inquired if the notices that are sent to the residents would include pricing for that individual resident or the Village as a total.

Glen Weinberg, Esq.: Counselor Weinberg responded that each customer would basically receive the same average rate, but they do also show a weighted average, which is rate by consumption at the municipality level.

Peggy Gurte: Ms. Gurte also mentioned that when a resident receives this letter they have 3 options; to opt out and stay with O&R, they can do nothing and default, or they can opt down to the least cost option which would be a mix of fossil fuels and some hydro with the difference in options being approximately \$1.50 per month.

Glen Weinberg, Esq.: Counselor Weinberg also mentioned that when hydro does become available the customer would receive an approximate 10% reduction in cost. The contract would be for 2 years, however, if within that time period more of the community sign up, the Village and its residents would receive a better price in the competitive market. Once the Contract is signed, that is the price for the 2 years, however, there could be other communities that sign on to that contract, but that will not bring the price down and if the market goes up in price, they would not get a better price.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor requested Counselor Weinberg to forward him a copy of the Local Law used by other communities that the Village can use to move forward with the CCA program.

Peggy Gurte: Ms. Gurte mentioned that they have a “Tool Kit” filled with information and templates the Village could use for various items, which they will forward to the Mayor and Village Counsel.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor mentioned that Monday, November 18th would be the earliest a Public Hearing could be scheduled for this presentation.

Mayor Kohut: With the completion of this presentation, the Mayor opened the floor to the public for the first Public Participation portion of the meeting inviting people to ask questions or make comments.

With no 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.: Counselor Hood informed the Board that he did not receive any other information from residents of Pratt Street that might be having problems in the neighborhood, therefore, he was not able to do anything further.

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

VILLAGE TREASURER, Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio was absent from the meeting. Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Isabel Gonzalez had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor announced a “**Public Meeting**” has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 12th, 7:00 PM at the Community Center with developer, Wallison Corp., with regard to the proposed development of housing over 2 Village parking lots. He mentioned that this is **not** a Public Hearing, but an informational meeting.

The Mayor received a request from the residents of Riverside Avenue to hold a “multi-family yard sale” in the Village Park adjacent to that location, on Saturday, November 2nd from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve this request as stated above.

RESOLUTION #219-2019

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor informed the public that the “Holidays in Haverstraw” is being split into 2 weekends this year due to scheduling problems. The free Holiday Concert at the Presbyterian Church given by the “Rockland Pops Orchestra” will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, November 30th. The “Village Tree Lighting”, “Santa Dinner” and special restaurant offerings will be held on Saturday, December 7th starting at 4:30 PM.

The Mayor then mentioned that on Tuesday, October 29th there will be filming taking place at multiple locations in the Village for a new TV show titled “Ray James”.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno: No report was given in the absence of Trustee Bueno.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Deputy Mayor Emily Dominguez: Deputy Mayor Dominguez read the following report submitted by Robert Drexler, Commissioner of Public Works, as of October 21st, 2019:

- 1) Replaced fence at Warren Avenue, with a wooden guard rail.
- 2) Trimmed trees on Hillside Avenue and the alleyway off New Main Street.
- 3) Cut dead trees on Lot #9 off of Main Street as well as those on West Broad Street by the Monument and in the Dutch Town area.
- 4) Blacktopped Main Street where sewer pipes were previously replaced.
- 5) Continue to fill potholes throughout the Village in preparation for the winter months.
- 6) Put together a new “hot tar trailer” for sealing once the blacktopping in the Village is complete.
- 7) Installed 2 new signs on Clinton Street.
- 8) Shut down the fountains on both Gurnee Avenue & New Main Street for the winter season.
- 9) Picked up new plow and installed it on Truck #18 and began to install plows on the larger Village trucks.
- 10) Put a new garbage can by the new benches on Warren Avenue, near the river.
- 11) Put up banner on New Main Street.
- 12) Took down a pair of sneakers stuck high on a wire on Division Street.
- 13) Continuing to do MS4 Work collecting data for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.
- 14) Truck #40 passed its yearly inspection.
- 15) Boarded up the Graziosi Building on West Broad Street as a preventive for ongoing vandalizing and breaking into premises.

Deputy Mayor Dominguez requested approval to replace several cameras at the Manny Lopez Baseball Field that are out. She has received a proposal from DTM Installations to replace 4 bullet cameras at a cost of \$1,518.00, which includes total parts and labor.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to replace broken cameras at the ball field as stated above.

RESOLUTION #220-2019

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

Deputy Mayor Dominguez then requested approval of the Board to have Northern Tree Services trim a maple tree on West Broad Street and remove a maple tree on Hudson Avenue at a total cost of \$1,350.00.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to retain Northern Tree Service for work to be done as stated above.

RESOLUTION #221-2019

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

Deputy Mayor Dominguez then mentioned that the ball field would be closing for the season the following week.

Deputy Mayor Dominguez had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Terence Watson: In the absence of Trustee Watson, Trustee Santana read the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of October 7th thru October 21st, 2019:

- 1) Haverstraw Collaborative - continues to meet monthly at the Center. The next meeting will be held November 6th from 12:00 to 2:00 PM.
- 2) Late Night Fridays - This program began on Friday, September 27th from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.
- 3) The Spanish Speaking Parents Group – will meet on Wednesday, November 6th, 6:00 PM at the Haverstraw Elementary School. The purpose of this group is for Spanish speaking parents to be involved in their children’s educational needs.
- 4) The Jump Program – This is a mentoring program for Spanish youth and is in need of Spanish and English speaking mentors. Anyone willing to volunteer should speak with Pete Fata.
- 5) Homework Help Program – Began September 3rd with 65 students enrolled from grades 3 through 8.
- 6) Celebrating Families – The Center’s staff in conjunction with the Department of Social Services started this program on September 5th and is currently in its 8th session.
- 7) Strengthening Families –Began on October 9th with a total of 11 families and is offered in both English and Spanish.
- 8) Positive Alternatives – On October 9th, Tim Sanders took 7 youth from the Center to put up flyer for “Healthy Haverstraw Family Day”. 41 Center youth attended a presentation on overcoming adversity. 15 Center youth attended Sharp Shooter’s Academy and collected donations for Family Day and also helped set up for Healthy Haverstraw Family Day which was attended by 300 people.

There was nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT – Trustee Joel I. A. Santana:

Trustee Santana read the following report submitted by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of October 5th thru October 18th, 2019:

Rental registrations	-	3
Miscellaneous inspections	-	32
Complaints	-	8
Municipal searches	-	10
Construction inspections	-	13
Violations/Tickets	-	11
Building Permits & C.O.'s	-	9

Fines collected at court - \$00

Trustee Santana had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of 2 Haverstraw Veterans, Joseph Gordon, also a 65 year member of the Haverstraw Fire Department and Ed Price, a resident of Coyne Drive.

RESOLUTION #222-2019

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk