

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 floor to the public for the first Public Participation portion of the meeting inviting people to ask questions or make comments.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport informed the Board that there was a large bird flying around in the Village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed the public that there was a large parrot or macaw in a tree in the Village parking lot that day, who would actually respond hello to people talking to him.

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.:** Counselor Hood had nothing to report.

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

**MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut:** The Mayor requested authorization of the Board to sign a contract with JFM Reliable Contracting, Inc. to do repair work at the Lady Warren Hose Co., #5 firehouse on Broadway (including removal and replacing of damaged sheetrock, painting, secure staircase and replace broken step, replace windows and re-tar lower back roof) at a total cost of \$2,750.00, which includes labor and materials.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with JFM Reliable Contracting as stated above.

## RESOLUTION #223-2019

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor received a proposal from "ARIS WIND" to purchase wind and solar powered LED lighting units to be installed at Emeline Park. He reported that these units would provide 80 watts of LED power as well as USB charging ability, cameras, local Wi-Fi and air quality sensors. They would also eliminate the need for underground trenching and hookups for

electric wiring and provide from 3 to 5 days of stored energy for those days when there is no wind or solar power.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the purchase of 3 “remote power units” at a cost of \$50,000.00.

RESOLUTION #224-2019

Motion by: Rafael Bueno  
Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana  
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor requested approval of the Board for the Mayor to sign the Haverstraw Fire Department Service Award Program Agreement (LOSAP) with Penflex, Inc. at a cost of \$7,100.00 for Distribution Services Fees, \$495.00 to complete the NYS LOSAP Audit Package and \$950.00 to complete the GASB 73 Package.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2019-2020 LOSAP Service Fee Agreement as stated above.

RESOLUTION #225-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to appoint Rolanda Sand to the permanent position of “Payroll Clerk & Data Entry Operator”, effective immediately.

RESOLUTION #226-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the request from the Village Clerk, Judy Curcio, to attend a seminar on the “Essentials of HR Law 2020” on December 17<sup>th</sup>, in New York City, at a cost of \$149.00.

RESOLUTION #227-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then entertained a motion to approve the request from Judy Curcio for herself and Rolanda Sand to attend the NYS Government Finance Officers’ Association (NYGFOA) Conference in Albany from March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 through and including April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. The cost has yet to be determined.

RESOLUTION #228-2019

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

The Mayor read the following adjustments to the 2019-2020 budget year submitted by Joseph Modafferi, Village Accountant:

2019-2020 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS				
Acct. #	Account Name	Increase	Decrease	Increase
		Appropriations	Appropriations	Revenue
A9040.810	Sanitary Sewer	\$ 900.00		
A1990.0400	Contingent		\$ 900.00	
A5110.0100	Street Maintenance	\$ 833.00		
A7310.0120	Summer Camp	\$ 16,950.00		
A0000.3089	State Aide			\$17,783.00

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

**RESOLUTION #229-2019**

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

The Mayor advised the public that the current "Cascade System" compressor utilized by the Haverstraw Fire Department is no longer usable and needs to be replaced. He explained that this system is used to refill Scott Air Pack bottles that are utilized by firefighters at a fire scene to go inside a burning structure. The new "Cascade System" will cost the Village \$17,000.00. Also needed are 4 new larger size bottles at a cost of \$4,400.00.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the purchase of this much needed Fire Department equipment as stated above.

**RESOLUTION #230-2019**

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

The Mayor then made the following announcements:

- 1) Reminded everyone to vote.
- 2) Public Information Meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center with regard to Affordable Housing.
- 3) Village closings for the month of November – Election Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day & the day after.
- 4) Holidays in Haverstraw – December 7<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Holiday Concert at the Central Presbyterian Church, 2:00 PM
  - b. Village Tree Lighting 4:30 PM in the Village Clock Park.
  - c. Dinner with Santa – at the Community Center following the Tree Lighting.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

**Mayor Kohut:**  
**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno:** Trustee Bueno read the following report of fire activity for the month of October, 2019, submitted by Fire Chief J. Bart Gordon:

Total Alarms	-	23
General Alarms	-	18
Special Calls	-	5
Mutual Aid Calls	-	0
Structure Fires	-	1
Brush Fires	-	1
Trash/Rubbish Fires	-	1
Gas Leaks	-	2
CO Alarms	-	1
Pump Outs/Water Leaks	-	1
Extrication/Accident Calls	-	1
Good Intent/Misc.	-	7
Assist Police/Other Agencies	-	1
False Alarms	-	8

Total Manpower Responding - 357 members

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

**PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Deputy Mayor Emily Dominguez:** Deputy Mayor Dominguez read the following report submitted by Robert Drexler, Jr., Commissioner of Public Works, as of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019:

- 1) Took down wooden fence at church on Warren Avenue and replaced it with wooden guard rails.
- 2) Catch Basin Repairs done at Hudson Avenue & New Main Street, Hudson & Fairmount Avenues, West Lincoln & Sharp Street and Dr. Girling Drive.
- 3) Repairing and replacing damaged meters throughout the Village.
- 4) Repaired damaged fence in Emeline Park.
- 5) Removed gate from 9-11 Park due to dogs urinating and leaving feces inside the park; owners not cleaning up after their dogs.
- 6) Repaired damaged pole on Broadway & Division Street.
- 7) Repairing a sinkhole at 33 Hudson Avenue.
- 8) Repaired sewer manhole on Highland Avenue & Route 202.
- 9) Callout for fallen tree on Westside & Hudson Avenues during a storm.
- 10) Took down 3 trees located at 2 Hudson Avenue, West Broad Street by Monument, and 24 West Street.
- 11) Put down millings in all alleyways covering potholes in preparation for winter season.
- 12) Blacktopped all catch basins that were repaired.
- 13) Began crack sealing at the Harbors on the Promenade.
- 14) Transported a load of pain to the Fire Training Center.
- 15) Docks at Emeline Park taken out for the winter season.
- 16) Installed signage “No Parking Here to Corner” on both Hudson Avenue and Prospect Street.
- 17) The County Highway Department painted all of the double yellow lines on the main roadways throughout the Village.
- 18) Removed the “Handicapped” signage at 2 Broad Street.
- 19) Installed a “Do Not Enter” sign in the alleyway off of West Street.

- 20) Due to recurring accidents with parking barriers, moved the signage on New Main Street by stop light one space over.
- 21) Removed dead animal from catch basin in back of 27 Victor Avenue.
- 22) Sent barricades for the filming of the TV show on Fairmount & Maple Avenues.
- 23) Installed new cameras at the Manny Lopez Baseball Field.

Deputy Mayor Dominguez had nothing further to report.

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Terence Watson:** In the absence of Trustee Watson this report of activities at the Community Center for the period of October 21<sup>st</sup> thru November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 was read by Trustee Joel Santana:

- 1) Thanksgiving Luncheon – The Center will host this annual event for the children of the Center on Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at Don Coqui. Donations are welcome and can be dropped off at the Center by Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Holiday Party – The date has yet to be set for this annual party at the Center. This party is geared toward participants of youth programs at the Center and their families.
- 3) Haverstraw Collaborative - Continues to meet monthly at the Center. The next meeting will be held November 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 2:00 PM.
- 4) The Spanish Speaking Parents Group – This group will meet on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Haverstraw Elementary School.
- 5) The Jump Program – This program is in need of Spanish and English speaking mentors, which runs in conjunction with the school calendar. Anyone willing to volunteer should speak with Pete Fata.
- 6) Homework Help Program – There are currently 65 students enrolled. This program could still use additional volunteers. Contact Nikki Merriman for further information.
- 7) Strengthening Families – This program runs in 2 – 6 week cycles. The fall cycle began on October 9<sup>th</sup> with a total of 11 families and is offered in both English and Spanish. For more information contact Nikki Merriman at the Center.
- 8) Positive Alternatives – A total of 23 youth attended Late Night Fridays on October 25<sup>th</sup>. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 15 youth from the Center attended basketball drills.

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 19<sup>th</sup> thru November 1<sup>st</sup>., 2019:

Rental registrations	-	0
Miscellaneous inspections	-	47
Complaints	-	2
Municipal searches	-	4
Construction inspections	-	16
Violations/Tickets	-	9
Building Permits & C.O.'s	-	5

Fines collected at court - \$00

Trustee Santana had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**Mayor Kohut:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport informed everyone that he contacted Channel 12 News to complain that they report all the good things happening in other municipalities, but whenever something good happens in the Village of Haverstraw there is never a word mentioned or a reporter sent to the scene. He informed them that everything was reported on the Halloween paintings by students from high schools in Westchester, but there was not one mention or photo taken of all the efforts that were put forth at the same time by the North Rockland High School art students.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor thanked Mr. Rappaport for his efforts, but unfortunately it seems like the same thing is happening with the Journal News. Nothing good is ever printed about the wonderful events and progress being made in the Village of Haverstraw.

Arty Taub, 3304 Leewood Drive: Mr. Taub inquired if the lights for Emeline Park could be provided on a trial basis for free with the hope of obtaining more for the whole Village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor pointed out that "Aris Wind" is an established company and this is not a "Pilot Program". They don't need to provide free service for a trial run.

Mel Post, 1422 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Post inquired if the Mayor or any Board member has actually seen any of these power units because Mr. Post feels it is a lot of money for 3 units.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that there is one at a school in Nanuet. He reported that there is a wind turbine at the top along with a solar panel, which together provides the lighting as well as an outlet at the base for use by anyone in the park for charging phones, tablets, etc. He explained that the Board is looking into this type of energy because it is something new and creative and will help the Village in its attempt to become a "greener" and "climate smart" community. All this type of new envisioning will also help the Village in the future with attaining grants for a fully developed promenade around the Chair Factory property and extending to Warren Avenue where these lights could be utilized without having to install electricity. If this program is a success for the Village it will

help towards any grants applied for in the future towards a “greener footprint” in the Village.

Mel Post: Mr. Post was interested in knowing what happened to the Orange & Rockland (O&R) structure on Maple Avenue.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that O&R are the owners of that property and since they are close to completion on that project they have begun cleaning up the site. He advised Mr. Post and the public that O&R is simply going to restore the property, but the restoration will not happen at this time because it is too late to do any planting, etc. until the spring. Currently their intention is to hold on to the property and in the future when they move the cleanup to across the street under the Maple Avenue Apartments they will have that property available for the cleanup as needed for equipment, materials, etc. The Mayor then advised the public that he has sent O&R a letter asking them to allow the Village to have 1<sup>st</sup> preference in obtaining that property when it finally becomes available and has different things in mind for that property including park space or a parking lot for revitalizing the Maple Avenue corridor.

Mel Post: Mr. Post inquired if it would bring more income into the Village.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that depending on what the Village decides to do with the property it could bring in some income to the Village, but if the Village decides it would be a beautiful park in that area by the river, there would be no income to the Village. The Mayor also explained that when these types of properties are remediated multi-family housing could also be constructed there, however, single family housing would not be allowed.

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that there has been no change with the GDC issue.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired if the Village has to pay any part of the extended election days for early voting.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Towns and the County share all the fees involved in the early voting process. He feels they will probably evaluate the numbers to see if it is worth repeating for future elections.

Mel Post: Mr. Post requested the Mayor to look into the Minutes of the ARB, Planning and Zoning Boards to see how far behind they are with their Minutes.

Keith Shikowitz, Rockland County Times: Mr. Shikowitz questioned how much the Village would save in electric costs by using the new solar lighting.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that currently there are no lights to compare the costs to.

Keith Shikowitz: Mr. Shikowitz then inquired if these lights would have a battery pack, to which the Mayor responded “yes” and he actually had the copies of the specs for the new lighting if Mr. Shikowitz was interested.

Mel Post: Mr. Post then inquired about the length of time it would take for the Village to actually make their money back on this lighting.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Mr. Post that he really does not think it will make money, firstly because the lights are not designed for that purpose and is not why the Village looked into this type of lighting.

Jay Hood, Esq.: Counselor Hood pointed out that the savings would be the costs to install these lights compared to the costs of regular street lights.

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 Thomas F. Watson Sr., an honored and respected gentleman who served this Village in so many different capacities throughout his lifetime including Mayor, Village Trustee, Planning Board Chair, 50 year member of Rescue Hook & Ladder Fire Co. #1, Trustee of the Calvary Baptist Church and many other organizations too numerous to mention.

RESOLUTION #231-2019

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk