

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, December 2nd, 2019, beginning at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor opened the meeting with the swearing in of the following new and currently re-elected members of the Board by the Village Clerk, Judith Curcio:

Mayor – Michael F. Kohut
Trustee – Rafael Bueno
Trustee – Gil Carlevaro

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then spoke about a renewable energy project with the Mayor informing the public that this program would allow communities to obtain a less expensive energy source than O&R for their utility needs. The Mayor explained that if the Board passes this law, it would include the whole community, who would then get their energy source from a 3rd party supplier, who will always be cheaper than the O&R rate. Also, the benefit of 100% renewable energy would provide the Village 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. The Mayor then reported that there are 2 levels of green energy that power can be derived from, the 1st being the “Brown” source which is partially from “Green” sources (i.e. wind/solar) and the “Green” source being completely renewable sources. If approved, the Village would opt for the “Green” source meaning that anyone who currently has O&R as their power source would be automatically opted in to a company chosen by the Board as the Administrator, who would then seek the energy to be provided at the “Green” level.

The Mayor mentioned that the new “Village Comprehensive Plan” was funded by NYSERDA with the agreement that the Village would become more sustainable by reducing its “carbon footprint” thereby becoming “Green” and more energy efficient for the future. The next step would be to establish a “Community Choice Aggregation Law” for the Village and to choose 1 of the 2 companies to be the Administrator. He reported that everyone who is an O&R subscriber would be put into this program **unless they opt out**, informing the public that information would be sent to all O&R customers residing in the Village of Haverstraw explaining that unless a resident decides to “**opt out**” by a certain day, **all** residents will be lumped into the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). He then advised those people who have already made a switch to an alternate energy saving company that they can “**opt in**” to this new system as their energy choice. He then explained how the switch would be made from O&R to CCA and that the Board feels this is a win/win situation for the residents of the Village who will always receive cheaper rates than what O&R is presently providing or having to install costly “solar panels” on their rooftops, etc. in order to save money.

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

RESOLUTION #243-2019

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

Ray Mosquea, 84 Picarello Drive, Community Choice Aggregation Committee: Mr. Mosquea spoke about “renewable energy” for the Village, explaining that instead of a community being assigned a default provider of electricity such as O&R the community would have the power to choose their energy provider, where their energy would come from and what type of energy it would be. He mentioned that all information will be provided in both English and Spanish.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor interrupted at this point to ask if this offering was strictly for residential customers.

Ray Mosquea: Mr. Mosquea informed everyone present that this is strictly a residential offering and does not include any commercial properties.

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

RESOLUTION #244-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then entertained a motion to approve a Local Law to establish a “Community Choice Aggregation Energy Program” for the Village of Haverstraw.

RESOLUTION #245-2019

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor continued with the agenda for that night’s meeting which was the 1st Public Participation. With no input from the public, the Mayor continued with the meeting agenda.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood requested approval of the Board to sign a Tax Certiorari Agreement with “Jay Three Associates” in the amount of \$24,024.00 with authorization from Edye McCarthy, Village Assessor.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion authorizing the Village Attorney to sign a Tax Certiorari Agreement as stated above.

RESOLUTION #246-2019

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

Counselor Hood had nothing to report.

VILLAGE TREASURER, Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio requested approval of the Board to accept the “Year-end Audit” for the year ending May 31st, 2019 as prepared by Berard & Associates, the highlights being that at the close of the fiscal year the Village’s governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of

\$8.7M, a decrease of \$654,000.00 from the previous year, with the General Fund balance being \$4.7M.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to accept the "2019 Year End Audit" as stated above.

RESOLUTION #247-2019

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

Ms. Curcio had nothing further to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor read the following Village Reorganization Chart appointing village officials and terms of office:

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint J. Nelson Hood, Jr. to the position of Village Attorney for a term of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #248-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Dennis Michaels to the position of Assistant Village Attorney for a term of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #249-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Edye McCarthy to the position of Village Assessor for a term of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #250-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Judith R. Curcio to the position of Village Clerk/Treasurer for a term of 4 years ending November 30th, 2023.

RESOLUTION #251-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Isabel Gonzalez-Soto to the position of Deputy Clerk/Treasurer for a term of 4 years ending November 30th, 2023.

RESOLUTION #252-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Brooker Engineering as the Village Engineer for a term of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #253-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Stephen Cobb to the position of Village Historian for a period of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #254-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Ivonne Santos to the position of Acting Village Justice for a period of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #255-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Esther White to the position of Clerk to the Justice Court for a term of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #256-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Toni Jones to the position of Associate Justice Clerk for the term of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #257-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to appoint Fire Chief 4-1 to the position of Director of Disaster Preparedness for a term of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #258-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to appoint Assistant Fire Chief 4-2 to the position of Department Director of Disaster Preparedness for a term of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #259-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Judith Curcio to the position of Registrar of Vital Statistics for a term of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #260-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Isabel Gonzalez-Soto to the position of Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics for a period of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #261-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Diogenes Dominguez to the Planning Board for a term of 5 years ending November 30th, 2024.

RESOLUTION #262-2019

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Joseph Natale to the position of Planning Board Chair for a term of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #263-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to appoint Richard Santiago to the Planning Board for a term of 5 years.

RESOLUTION #264-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Edwin Rivera to the position of Zoning Board Chair for a term of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #265-2019

Motion by: Joel I. A. Santana
Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Andrea Cacca to the Architectural Review Board for a term of 3 years.

RESOLUTION #266-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Jacqueline Watson to the Architectural Review Board for a term of 3 years.

RESOLUTION #267-2019

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to reappoint Jean Gitlin to the position of Architectural Review Board Chair for a term of 1 year.

RESOLUTION #268-2019

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

The Mayor read his appointments for Commissionerships as follows:

Building & Code Enforcement Commissioner	-	Joel I. A. Santana
Fire Commissioner	-	Rafael Bueno
Public Works Commissioner	-	Emily Dominguez
Youth & Family Services Commissioner	-	Gil Carlevaro
Deputy Mayor	-	Emily Dominguez

The Mayor announced that he will continue with the “reorganization” at the next meeting and continued with that nights agenda.

The Mayor received a request from Robert Drexler, DPW Supervisor, for repairs to be made to the grand staircase railing leading down to Emeline Park. 2 bids were received and upon review it was decided to award the bid to Iron Age Construction, the low bidder, at a cost of \$1,400.00.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to authorize Iron Age Construction to make the repairs needed to the railing leading down to Emeline Park as stated above.

RESOLUTION #269-2019

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

The Mayor received an invitation from the Haverstraw Police Athletic League for the Board to attend the “41st Annual Holiday Celebration” to be held at the Knights of Columbus on December 14th from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. This is an event the League holds each year for needy children and their families. Last year they were able to provide gifts and a fun afternoon for approximately 300 children.

The Mayor informed the public that the fountain located in the Harbors is owned by the Village and is now in need of repair. He requested authorization of the Board to sign off on a proposal received from “American Pool” in the amount of \$3,472.29, including labor, to make the necessary repairs.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to authorize “American Pool” to make the necessary repairs to the fountain at the Harbors as stated above.

RESOLUTION #270-2019

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor informed the public that the Village was approached by the “National Fitness Campaign” (NFC), a non-profit organization that installs outdoor fitness courts around the nation. He mentioned that this will be free to the public and the interactive court and equipment will be permanently installed and will provide all the residents with cardio fitness equipment. The Village does not have the amount of land required for this fitness court, therefore, the Mayor spoke with the North Rockland School District who has the available land next to the Village community center which the Board feels would be a great location for the fitness court. The cost for the fitness court is \$130,000.00 and the NFC will provide the Village with a \$30,000.00 National Grant towards the cost. The Village and the North Rockland School District are going to partner to raise the additional funds. The NFC will also teach people how to be instructors for the Court, which will allow the residents to properly utilize the equipment. The goal is to get youngsters, adults, senior groups, etc. to get healthy and stay fit. In order to follow through with this the Board is required to pass a resolution showing its commitment to the program. The Mayor read the sample resolution, stating that the Village will make a \$15,000.00 match.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to adopt and allocate funds for an outdoor fitness court as part of the 2020 National Fitness Campaign as stated above.

RESOLUTION #271-2019

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the “2019 County OASAS Agreement” in the amount of \$222,292.00 to fund the Village of Haverstraw Reachout Center.

RESOLUTION #272-2019

Motion by: Gil Carlevaro
Seconded by: Emily Dominguez
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then entertained a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the “Compensation Alliance Participation Agreement” for worker’s compensation management at a renewal premium of \$151,144.00 for the year beginning January 1st, 2020 and ending on December 31st, 2020.

RESOLUTION #273-2019

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana
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
A1410.0400	Clerk Contractual	\$ 1,000.00		
A8120.0400	Sanitary Sewer	\$ 30,000.00		
A1990.0400	Contingent		\$ 31,000.00	

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

RESOLUTION #274-2019

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
 Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro
 Motion Carries: All

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 November, 2019, submitted by Fire Chief J. Bart Gordon:

Total Alarms	-	14
General Alarms	-	13
Special Calls	-	0
Mutual Aid Calls	-	1
Cooking Fires	-	1
Electrical Fires	-	2
Gas Leaks	-	2
Good Intent/Misc.	-	4
Power Outage Related	-	1
False Alarms	-	3

Total Manpower Responding - 253 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 December 2nd, 2019:

- 1) 173 Hudson Avenue - the sewer/catch basin was cleaned out and replaced and being low on the road, a riser was also added.
- 2) Installed new parking meter at 25 New Main Street.
- 3) Installed new signage at the Warren Avenue Pump Station “No Swimming, No Hookah, No Smoking”.
- 4) Repaired a damaged guardrail on Riverside Avenue.
- 5) A new traffic box was installed on Broadway & Lopez Way.
- 6) Installed TV brackets and shelving at the Community Center.
- 7) Repaired damaged traffic pole on the corner of New Main Street & Broadway.
- 8) Repaired damaged signage on Wayne & Clinton Streets.
- 9) Repaired damaged meters on New Main Street.

- 10) Blacktopped all catch basins that were repaired during the fall season.
- 11) Hot tarred all blacktop work that was done during the summer for the winter season.
- 12) Fixing blacktop trailer during the winter season; installing new boards and painting.
- 13) For reflective purposes, put heat tape on speed humps on Riverside Avenue and Picariello Drive.
- 14) Took down damaged basketball court at the Riverside Avenue Park.
- 15) On November 23rd, the department was called out for a power outage throughout the Village. Used light poles to power traffic lights on Route 9W.
- 16) Checked all Christmas lights in the Village for lighting.

Deputy Mayor Dominguez had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Gil Carlevaro: Trustee Carlevaro read the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of November 19th thru December 2nd, 2019:

- 1) **THANKSGIVING** - The Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon was held at Don Coqui for 80 youth and Center volunteers on November 27th. A complete turkey dinner was served and enjoyed by all. Thank you to the staff of Don Coqui, everyone who donated food and to "New York is a Nationality Company" for donating merchandise and videotaping the event.
- 2) **HOLIDAY PARTY** – The Annual Holiday Party is scheduled for December 23rd from 3:30 to 6:00 PM at the Center for participants of youth programs and their families. A full holiday dinner will be served along with a visit and presents from Santa. Anyone interest in helping with this event should contact Nikki Merriman at the Center.
- 3) **HAVERSTRAW COLLABORATIVE** - Continues to meet monthly at the Center to plan and promote activities for the betterment of the community. The next meeting will be held December 4th.
- 4) **LATE NIGHT FRIDAYS** - Staff member Tim Sanders runs this program for children grades 3 through 12 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. They will be able to play games, basketball, use computers all in the safety of the Haverstraw Center.
- 5) **THE SPANISH SPEAKING PARENTS GROUP** – will meet on Wednesday, December 4th, 6:00 PM at the Haverstraw Elementary School. The purpose of this group is for Spanish speaking parents to participate in a group for their population to address specific needs and to be involved in their children's educational needs.
- 6) **ALSO AVAILABLE TO THE YOUTH** – The Jump Program, Homework Help Program, Celebrating Families Program, Strengthening Families Program. Contact Nikki Merriman for more information.

Trustee Carlevaro thanked Marion Breland, Pete Fata and Tim Sanders for their time to get him acclimated with the happenings at the Center.

Trustee Carlevaro had 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 November 16th thru November 29th, 2019:

Rental registrations	-	1
Miscellaneous inspections	-	39
Complaints	-	7
Municipal searches	-	2

Construction inspections	-	13
Violations/Tickets	-	1
Building Permits & C.O.'s	-	4

Fines collected at court - \$4,750.00

Trustee Santana had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ray Mosquea – Mr. Mosquea inquired about the approximate time period for the Board to have the “Community Choice Aggregation Program” paperwork ready to proceed, to which the Mayor responded by the next meeting.

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

RESOLUTION #275-2019

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Joel I. A. Santana

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift, Senior Steno Clerk