

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday March 2, 2020, beginning at 7:00 PM.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Bueno	- Present
	Trustee Carlevaro	- Present
	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.

Ignassio Acevado, 133 Washington St., Newburgh: Mr. Acevado introduced himself as a community organizer who is attending this Board meeting with a group of Haverstraw residents who want to get involved in their community, find out how local government works, meet their representatives and they would like the Board to consider implementing a Municipal ID program.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor encouraged the group to get involved in the community and stated that they would be a good addition to the programs we have. He asked if they were aware of any of the programs being run at the Community Center.

Ignassio Acevado: Mr. Acevado repeated the Mayor's words to the group in Spanish and he received a "no" answer to the question of their knowledge of existing programs.

Trustees Dominguez and Santana: Responding to Mr. Acevado, in Spanish, explained to the group what programs are available throughout the Village and specifically for their involvement at our Youth & Family Services Center.

Alberta Forester, Haverstraw: Ms. Forester spoke about how important an ID is for her and others in the community. She explained that without a picture ID parents cannot pick their children up from school. She recently tried to pick up her daughter from the highschool and because she didn't have a driver's license or other picture ID she wasn't able to.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor asked if the school district would accept the Municipal ID and Mr. Acevado responded that the school would have to be agreeable for the program to be of benefit. Mayor Kohut also asked if they had spoken yet to the Town and the Village of West Haverstraw. He stated that while the Board would be in favor of such a program it would have to be researched and it would take some time before it could be implemented.

? Gonzalez, Broadway, Haverstraw: Mr. Gonzalez explained to the Board how difficult it was for people who didn't have a driver's license and therefore no picture ID to be able to do many things that are taken for granted, such as picking their sick children up at school. He stressed that an ID program would be a very big benefit to many in the community.

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

## **REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.:** Counselor Hood requested permission for him to sign the Settlement Agreement with 34 Main Street, owned by Jay Three Associates and issue a tax refund in the amount of \$346.26

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained the motion to have Jay Hood sign the Settlement Agreement.

### **RESOLUTION # 55 - 2020**

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

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

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Kohut explained that there was a sewer main back-up on Coolidge Street that required some emergency repairs. He asked the Board to declare the issue an emergency so that repairs could begin immediately.

The Mayor entertained a motion to declare the sewer main break an emergency.

### **RESOLUTION # 56 - 2020**

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

Mayor Kohut then requested that the Board hire King & Sons to perform the work necessary to repair the sewer.

### **RESOLUTION # 57 - 2020**

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

Mayor Kohut presented the Board with a letter from Rafael Bueno Sr. regarding his 2019 LOSAp points. The letter stated that due to health matters he was unable to make his 50 points of service for the year. In order to make his points he would have had to respond to 16 fire calls during the year and he was able to respond to 14. Rafael Bueno is asking for consideration from the Board to grant him the points necessary for the year due to his lengthy health problems.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the request of Rafael Bueno Sr.

### **RESOLUTION # 58 - 2020**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez  
Seconded by: Joel Santana  
Motion Carries: All  
with Trustee Bueno abstaining from the vote.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the Firefighter Service Award Program record for the 2019 year.

RESOLUTION # 59 - 2020

Motion by: Emily Dominguez  
Seconded by: Joel Santana  
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained the National Fitness Campaign project that the Village and school district has been working together on. For a variety of reasons it will be easier for the school district to sell the property adjacent to our Community Center to the Village and they have had the ½ acre of property appraised at \$20,000.

The Mayor entertained a motion to purchase the property for \$20,000.

RESOLUTION # 60 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor read a letter from our Village Engineer regarding the bids for the 2020 Curb & Sidewalk replacement program for Hudson Avenue. There were 2 bids submitted by Belville Landscaping and MFD Quality Construction. The lower bid was from MFD Construction with a base bid amount of \$96,010.74 and the alternate bid amount of \$88,324.50. We are currently working with MFD Construction on the 2019 Curb & Sidewalk Program and we find that they perform in a good and businesslike manner with quality work therefore our Engineer is recommending we award the bid to MFD Quality Construction for the base amount of \$96,010.74 and the alternate bid of \$88,324.50 for a total of \$184,335.24.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the recommendations of the Village Engineer and award the bid to MFD Quality Construction.

RESOLUTION # 61 - 2020

Motion by: Emily Dominguez  
Seconded by: Joel Santana  
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut: Lastly, from our accountant we have budget adjustments to be made as follows:

Increase Appropriations to A.9010.8 NYS Retirement in the amount of \$4,075.00; Increase appropriations to A.1910.4 Unallocated Insurance in the amount of \$2,200; Increase Appropriations to A.9950.91 Contingent Capital Fund in the amount of \$19,532; and decrease appropriations to A.1990.4 Contingent account in the amount of \$25,807.00.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the budget adjustments as read.

RESOLUTION # 62 - 2020

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 2020, submitted by Fire Chief J. Bart Gordon:

Total Alarms	-	12
General Alarms	-	8
Special Calls	-	3
Mutual Aid Calls	-	0
Cooking Fires	-	4
Gas Leaks	-	1
Pump Outs	-	1
Good Intent/Misc.	-	1
Power Outage Related	-	1
False Alarms	-	3

Total Manpower Responding - 213 members

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut reported that the Fire Department was called out for a man was stuck on the side of the mountain yesterday. The gentlemen had gone out for a hike and found himself in a precarious situation. One of our Fire Chiefs climbed the mountain and got in very close proximity to him but couldn't get any closer due to safety issues. The Fire Department, in addition to using drones to assess the situation, contacted the Rockland County Tactical Rescue Team which came to the scene and, from the back of the mountain, sent a guy in on ropes and rescued the man. The whole rescue effort took about 2 hours. Everyone did a good job under difficult circumstances. Fortunately the man wasn't hurt. These are the kinds of things the Fire Department gets involved with besides fires.

**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 2020:

**Repairs/Installations:**

- Continuation of Catch Basin Repairs throughout the Village.
- Repaired 4 Damaged meters- on Main Street/ Broadway
- Installed fence guards on the new fence that was installed in Emeline Park.
- Repaired damaged sign @ Prospect/ Hudson Ave.
- Repaired damaged street sign on George/ Conklin Ave- that was hit by a car.

**Other:**

- Put down millings throughout all of the Village- alleyways, where needed.
- Cleaning up The Greenway Trail- removing all garbage and debris.
- Finishing up Project- Greenway Trail- Resolving Drainage problem.
- Drainage problem arose @ Emeline Park- now resolved and completed.
- Filled up all the Dog waste stations throughout the village with the dog waste bags.
- Continuing working on MS4 Work throughout the Village.
- Had and resolved a Sewage Problem @ 130 West Street.
- Boarded up The Graziosi Building, (due to broken windows)
- T.A.M. is here this week of 3/02- doing preventive maintenance on our sewers

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 thru 2020:

1. **Haverstraw Collaborative:** The 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 on March 4, 2020 from 12:00 to 2:00 pm. All are welcomed to join.
2. **Legal Aid Society of Rockland County- FREE Bi-lingual Legal Clinic at Haverstraw Center twice a month-** The Legal Aid Society of Rockland County has provided free, confidential bi-lingual legal services for those without financial means for more than forty years. The services are available to anyone who meets the income eligibility standards, REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

In order to better serve residents of Haverstraw by being more accessible, the Legal Aid Society, through a grant from Senator James Skoufis, has expanded their outreach services, and are now accepting bi-lingual intakes at the Haverstraw Center twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 3pm to 7pm.

For more information, please contact Norma Nieves at the Legal Aid Society- 845-634-3627, or email her at [nnieves@legalaidrockland.org](mailto:nnieves@legalaidrockland.org).

3. **Mid-Winter Recess:** From 02/18/2020 to 02/21/2020 the youth was off from school for mid-winter recess. The Haverstraw Center invited the youth to come and participate in various activities that were held during the week. A drone workshop was held on 02/18/2020 from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm, a Science Paper workshop was held in the multipurpose room from 12:00 – 1:00 and a movie was shown at 3:00 pm, and a game day was held on 02/21/2020. Local artist Kevin Rodriguez was with us painting a mural throughout the week.
4. **Monthly Youth Celebration/Caught Being Good:** Haverstraw Center has a monthly program to honor all Center participants who have been “caught being good” during each month. To be “caught”, a young person must do something to show improvement in behavior or grades, or to help out in one of the Center’s activities. The staff prepares dinner for the group, speakers on various topics may come in, and fun activities are provided. February’s monthly youth celebration went well. A total of 95 youth attended.

Strengthening Families, Late Night Fridays, Spanish Speaking Parents Group, JUMP Program, Homework Help Program, Celebrating Families and Positive Alternatives are some of the other programs available to our community.

Anyone interested in information regarding any of these programs can visit the Village of Haverstraw Website or can contact any staff member at the Haverstraw Center.

Trustee Carlevaro had nothing further to report.

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

Trustee Santana had no report.

Mayor Kohut:

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**Mayor Kohut:**

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

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

Mel Post, 1422 Round Point Dr.: Thank you to Gil for an excellent report. Also, any update on the agreement between the Village and GDC, plus their original plan from Site B they were looking to add a floor to each building. Any updates on that.

Mayor Kohut: The latest site plan that we have seen is for 3 buildings with 4 stories and 1 building with 5 stories. This is the original plan. And the update on our negotiations is that there is progress but no major changes yet. We are inching along on many fronts towards a resolution soon. They are continuing to build the DPW site.

Gil Carlevaro: Requested to add to his report that the 2 women who were very instrumental at the Community Center with cooking and donating food are Connie Kerns and Cindy Blackwell and he'd like to publicly thank them for all they do for the Center.

With no further business or public participation the Mayor entertained a motion to close the meeting.

**RESOLUTION # 63 - 2020**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Joel Santana

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,  
Judith Curcio