

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, April 20, 2020, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic the meeting was held via conference call as well as in-person.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, on March 12, 2020 and in response to the current COVID-19 virus emergency, Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order 202.1 that suspended the Open Meetings Law requirement to hold in public in-person meetings and allowed official meetings to be held via telephone conference or similar technologies.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the public may access the teleconference public meeting on April 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM by Public Dial-In at 1-800-245-9874 and entering PIN #9917845.

Additionally, questions can be posed via email and sent to Emily.dominguez@vohny.com or at the Village of Haverstraw Facebook page, the Haverstraw Happenings page.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that a copy of the 2020-2021 Tentative Budget (which will be discussed during this meeting) are available to the public can be found on the Village of Haverstraw website (www.vohny.com) and click on Budget.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that public questions and comments can be emailed to the Village Clerk at Judith.Curcio@vohny.com and be read into the record of the April 20,2020 meeting during the audience participation portion of the Agenda.

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, specifically asking if anyone on the conference call would like to make a comment.

With no input from the public, the Mayor continued with the agenda for that night's meeting with the first item on the Agenda being the continuation of the Public Hearing on the 2020-2021 Budget and the Tax Cap Override.

Mayor Kohut gave a brief review of the information presented on the 2020-2021 Budget at the April 6, 2020 meeting, stating that the revised Budget had been reduced to a 1.31% increase of the Budget.

Mayor Kohut stated further that no questions or comments had been received via regular mail, email or through our social media page regarding the Budget and asked if anyone wanted to ask any questions or make comments at this time.

With no response from the public the Mayor entertained a motion to close the Public Hearings on the Budget and the Tax Cap Override.

RESOLUTION # 88 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to adopt the proposed Tax Cap Override.

RESOLUTION # 89 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to adopt the proposed 2020-2021 Budget with a 1.31% tax increase.

RESOLUTION # 90 – 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to adopt the 2020-2021 Salary schedule as included with the budget.

RESOLUTION # 91 – 2020

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

Mayor Kohut proceeded with the first Public Participation of the meeting asking if there was anyone who would like to make a comment or ask a question. With no response from the public the meeting continued.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood spoke about the proposed new law regarding the issuance of municipal ID's and that due to the COVID-19 situation it would be postponed to give the public a better opportunity to attend a Public Hearing and in order to limit foot traffic in Village Hall.

VILLAGE TREASURER, Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio requested the Board pass a resolution authorizing her to hire Danziger & Markoff for the actuarial services necessary to be in compliance with GASB-75 at a cost of \$3,050.

The Mayor entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION # 92 – 2020

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

Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio asked for the Board's authorization to use Springbrook/KVS at a cost of \$676.00 to provide the Village with a web portal with our accounting system to accept credit cards for tax payments.

The Mayor entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION # 93 – 2020

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

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor asked that the Board pass a resolution to surplus the 12 ft aluminum row boat that the Fire Department has used in the past.

RESOLUTION # 94 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor requested that the Board entertained a motion to sell the surplus fire boat to Robert Sullivan at a cost of \$100.00

RESOLUTION # 95 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor requested a motion to authorize the Village Clerk to go out for bid on the 2020 Road Improvement Program with return bids due back on May 15th.

RESOLUTION # 96 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to authorize his signature on the 2020 agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension for stormwater education at a cost of \$1,250.00. This is an annual contract and provides us with the necessary stormwater education required for our MS-4 compliance.

RESOLUTION # 97 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that due to the COVID-19 restrictions on regular and public meetings the summer meeting schedule would be moved to include May also.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to adjust the Board of Trustee schedule with the following meetings: Monday's May 18th, June 15th, July 20th and August 17th.

RESOLUTION # 98 - 2020

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Rafael Bueno
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 letter:

“This is to advise you that at the Haverstraw Fire Department’s Annual Convention, which was held via teleconference on April 9, 2020, the following were elected for a one-year term to the office indicated:

- Chief – John “Bart” Gordon
- 1st Assistant Chief – Perry Masiello
- 2nd Assistant Chief – Michael Begbie
- 3rd Assistant Chief – Joseph Drexler
- 4th Assistant Chief – Christian Delisio

We provide this to you for ratification at the next Village Board meeting.”

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the slate of officers for the coming year.

Resolution # 99 - 2020

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

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, Commissioner of Public Works:

- Put signs up at Dutchtown- location: turn around area. “Fire Lane” & “No Parking.”
- Put up “Park Closed” Signs throughout all Village Parks- due to the COVID-19 Virus.
- Put a Chain up at the turn around- Down at Riverside due to COVID-19.
- Put banners and flags up throughout the Village.
- Due To Storm- had multiple trees down- throughout the Village (different locations)
- Due to Storm- Flags and banners were also fallen and had to be repaired.
- Got called out for retrieval of a cell phone in a Catch Basin on Dowd Street- retrieved.

Deputy Mayor Dominguez had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Gil Carlevaro: Trustee Carlevaro read the following report of activities at the Youth & Family Services Center:

The Haverstraw Center is committed to doing what we can do to continue to serve our youth and families from our community during the coronavirus pandemic. Staff is onsite at the Center Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The building is closed to the public but help is available by telephone or email during those hours. Any questions please feel free to reach us at (845)429-5731. We have compiled a directory of local resources that the community can use during the coronavirus outbreak. Call the Center at Ext. 16 to hear a listing of some of these resources, or you may request a copy by calling Ext. 10.

During this time we continue to reach out to our children and families to tell them that we are still here, that they are not alone, to find out what their needs are and how we can help. Staff members have contacted hundreds of individuals and families to determine how to best meet their current needs, and have been referring the community to different places to get help (for food, transportation, testing, etc.), have distributed homework packets for students, provided access to Chrome books, etc. A total of 30 Chrome books and 15 homework packets have been distributed to our youth. Staff members are in touch with the principal from Theills Elementary to continue to distribute chrome books and to assist in making sure that the educational needs of our young people are met.

The Center has also been working with United Way and the Rockland County Department of Health on a COVID-19 Youth Awareness Group, working to dispel myths about the virus (such as that youth cannot get it) and to increase prevention/awareness to youth through social media. This has included creating posts using print and video projects posted on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Later on this week staff will be distributing bags of food to 50 Haverstraw Center Homework Help families from People to People's In The Bag program. Last but not least, the Village of Haverstraw, Haverstraw Collaborative, and NRSCD are working together to try and get a local hot spot that the youth will have access to so that they will be able to complete their schoolwork.

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 March 30th to April 11th, 2020:

Rental registrations	-	0
Miscellaneous inspections	-	125
Complaints	-	19
Municipal searches	-	11
Construction inspections	-	18
Violations/Tickets	-	21
Building Permits & C.O.'s	-	14

Fines collected at court - \$0

Trustee Santana had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:
2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments from the public.

Mayor Kohut stated that he had two announcements. First, that there had been several complaints that there was not adequate testing for COVID-19 here in Haverstraw and our state and local representatives have been in contact with the Governor's office in order to get testing more readily available here. Assemblyman Zebrowski and Senator Skoufis have also been working with Hudson Health Care trying to provide local testing. Although we don't have any definitive answers just yet we are all working toward that end. The second item I want to address is that the virus has impacted our community in many ways; economically, school closings and food supply issues. At this point we all know one or more people who have lost their lives due to the virus and tonight's meeting will be closed in their honor with a moment of silence.

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor reminded everyone that the next scheduled Board meeting was May 18th and then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

RESOLUTION # 100 - 2020

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Judith R. Curcio