

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, April 6th, 2020, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Due to the 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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor opened the meeting with the following statement:

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 6, 2020 at 7:00 PM by Public Dial-In at 1-844-218-4530 and entering PIN # 1234.

Additionally, questions can be posed via email and sent to Emily.dominguez@vohny.com or at the Village of Haverstraw Facebook page, at 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 6, 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.

Denise Munoz, 56 Coolidge Ave.: Ms. Munoz asked where in the budget was the funding for the grant for the work on Hudson Avenue.

Joseph Modafferi, Village Accountant: Grants like that are taken care of in the Capital Budget and are not reflected in the General Fund Budget.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor announced that the Public Hearing on the Budget, along with the potential override of the Tax Cap should be opened before further discussion continues. The reason for the Tax Cap Override Public Hearing is more for safety's sake, in case there

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

RESOLUTION # 81 - 2020

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

The Mayor proceeded to explain the Proposed Budget. The Budget as originally submitted to the Board about 1 month ago, prior to the COVID-19 outbreak would have resulted in a 4.6% tax increase. Since then the world has changed and in the wake of this pandemic and the impact it is likely to have on the public the Board and the professional staff sat down with the Mayor and to revise the Budget downward, even though the original was very much a “living budget” and addressed the needs of the Village. We realized that in these times we will need to tighten our belts more into the foreseeable future.

The Mayor continued with the items that were revised.

- All proposed salary changes and increases have been removed for union and non-union members. There was a proposed 3% increase but the Mayor has spoken with the CSEA Union and believes they are in agreement with foregoing raises for this coming fiscal year. And that will be for Union, non-Union, elected officials and appointed employees.
- The health insurance budget line has been reduced, trimming about \$15,000 from that line.
- Budget lines for Roads & Sidewalks have been reduced by \$25,000 each
- Minor amounts have been trimmed from several other lines. A few thousand dollars in a few different areas.
- Unfortunately, sales tax revenue has been reduced. The original budget was for \$260,000 in sales tax revenue but in light of the current situation it's not likely that we would reach that. The sales tax revenue line has been reduced to \$220,000.
- Lastly, the Board has decided to increase the appropriations from the Fund Balance from \$500,000 to \$600,000. Our financial people still believe that this is still within a safe realm and in order to keep the pain of this budget as little as possible the appropriation line is being increased.

With all of these changes the overall budget increase will be 1.31% which is over 3.25% down from where we were one month ago.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor asked the public if anyone had any comments or questions regarding the Budget.

Denise Munoz, 56 Coolidge Ave.: Ms. Munoz questioned the use of monies from the Fund Balance and the whether the Board feels that over time they would be putting money back into the Fund Balance.

Joseph Modafferi, Village Accountant: Mr. Modafferi stated that over the past several years we have been able to put back into the Fund Balance. He believes there is adequate fund balance for the next few years and that, unless there is a drastic change in the economy, the Village should be able to put back into the Fund Balance at the end of the year.

Denise Munoz: Questioned the raises in the upcoming budget and how that would work with the union.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that there would be no raises for anyone in the 2020-2021 Budget and that he believes the Union is in agreement with zeroes at this time. There would be an additional year added on to the end of the negotiated contract which would extend the length of the contract. It

would be a 4 year contract over 5 years with only 3% increases in the years after 2020-2021.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor asked if there were any questions from anyone else regarding the Budget.

There were no further questions or comments from the public.

Mayor Kohut stated that under the current conditions it made sense to leave the Public Hearing open so that the public had the opportunity to review the Budget online and either call him or send any questions or comments to the Mayor, the Trustees or to Judy Curcio, Village Clerk/Treasurer. In this way we can give people a better chance at participating in the Public Hearing.

Mayor Kohut continued with the Public Hearing on the Tax Cap Override asking if anyone had any questions or comments about it, stating that the passing of the Tax Cap Override is more of a ministerial matter because the Village would not be going over the Tax Cap. However, for the purposes of protecting the Village against any future penalties for possible miscalculations of the tax cap or for reporting errors it's a smart idea to pass it.

No comments from the public regarding the Tax Cap Override.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing on the Tax Cap Override.

RESOLUTION # 82 - 2020

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

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

RESOLUTION # 83 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut stated that the Public Hearing on the Budget will remain open.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS- due to the current pandemic and conditions of the meeting Department reports were eliminated.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that it was necessary to pass a resolution appointing the members of the Climate Smart Community Committee. Those members would be:

- Raymond Mosque as Chairperson
- Luis Torres
- Gail Hovey
- Nina Aguilar

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to these four members.

RESOLUTION # 84 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that the Commissioner of Public Works, Bobby Drexler, has solicited multiple proposals to keep in good repair 2 of our older salt trucks. The estimates would be for sand blasting, primed and painting. The lower proposal from Painting and Sandblasting Inc of Suffern NY is for \$7,600.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the work to the trucks by Painting & Sandblasting @ \$7,600.

RESOLUTION # 85 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor continued with a second matter for DPW is that we would provide the primer and paint on the above work in order to avoid an additional mark-up from the contractor. A proposal was received from Sherwin Williams in the amount of \$2,428.25. The company doing the work has offered to purchase any leftover paint from us.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor entertained a motion to purchase the paint & primer from Sherwin Williams @ \$2,428.25.

RESOLUTION # 86 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: We would like to thank everyone for this first meeting via conference call. We will be fine tuning this as we go forward. I would like to thank the Town of Haverstraw and Supervisor Phillips for making this conference number available on such short notice which enabled us to hold this meeting.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor asked if there was anyone that wanted to make any comments or ask any questions for Public Participation #2.

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

RESOLUTION # 87 - 2020

Motion by: Rafael Bueno
Seconded by: Joel Santana
Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,
Judith R. Curcio