

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, September 21, 2020 beginning at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then opened the floor to the public for the Public Participation portion of the meeting inviting people to ask questions or make comments.

With no 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 reported that the closing on the school property should be scheduled soon and they would transfer the property to the Village for the agreed price of \$20,000.

Mayor Kohut: Mayor Kohut stated that this is the property that will be used for the National Fitness Court.

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported on a proposal received from HDR Engineering for a revision of our cell tower law, to update our law and bring it in line with the upcoming explosion of 5G. The proposed cost of the modifications would be up to \$7,000.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to sign the proposal with HDR Engineering for modifications to our cell facility law.

RESOLUTION # 187 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor acknowledged that Village employee Tim Sanders is being recognized by the County of Rockland as Environmentalist of the Year for his work with our kids doing environmental projects like fall clean-ups, Miniseongo clean ups, the eel count etc. We compliment him on this honor.

Mayor Kohut: We had originally scheduled the Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing for October 5th but this will need to be postponed in order to get all of the details in place and accurate.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to postpone the Public Hearing until November 16th at 7:05 PM and to hold it at the Community Center.

RESOLUTION # 188 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: The public may have seen the article in the newspaper about the Village putting out an RFEI (Request For Expressions of Interest) regarding the Chair Factory property. This is to solicit ideas from Developers with the intent that all responses are due back in the Village by January 22, 2021. For more information you can find details on the Village website.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:
REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno: Trustee Bueno was absent therefore there was no report read.

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 September 18, 2020.

- Painted bridge by new DPW Building.
- Picked food (donations) for the Haverstraw Community Center Food Pantry.
- Put Signs up throughout the Village (Lake View Ct. & Middle Street)
- Installed NO Parking Signs on Lakeview Ct.
- Installed new meters from Second to Third St. on Main St.
- Currently prepping trucks for The Winter.
- Installed new sign for the new DPW Building on Samsondale Ave.
- Installed new roofs on the dug outs in the Lopez Field.
- Installed speed hump in front of 28 Middle Street.
- Getting prepared to have radios installed in all the trucks in the garage.
- Took down spring and summer banners and now putting up the fall banners.

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 ending September 18, 2020:

- The upstairs portion of the building, which is our OASAS/Reach Out section is now open to the public with limited capacity due to safety restrictions.
- Staff continues to give out food to the needy on Fridays
- The Haverstraw Collaborative will be meeting virtually on October 7th
- A “during school” program has been started which is working out really well. This addresses the time a child may be on the “home” day of schooling and sometimes a child is at home with no adult available

to look after them and it's not that safe. The Community Center is open for kids between 8 and 15 years old, it is capped at 50 kids and has a waiting list. Last week we had a total of 143 kids attend.

- The Monthly Youth Celebration is going to start up again at Sept. 29th
- Strengthening Families Program is scheduled to start virtually on October 14th and run for about 5 or six weeks.

Trustee Carlevaro had nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT – Trustee Joel Santana: Trustee Santanar read the following report submitted by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of Sept. 1st through Sept. 18th 2020:

- RENTAL REGISTRATIONS -- 1
- MISC. INSPECTIONS -- 91
- COMPLAINTS -- 9
- SEARCHS -- 13
- CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS -- 12
- VIOLATIONS/TICKETS -- 9
- PERMITS & C/O'S -- 12
- FINES COLLECTED AT COURT – \$0

Trustee Santana had nothing further to report.

MINUTES: The Mayor presented the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2020 for approval by the Board.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION # 189 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Dominguez reported that the Farmer's Market would be extended to November 15th and that there would be an outdoor Holiday Boutique on November 8th, in conjunction with the Farmer's Market.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Berta Morales, Best Footprint of the Immigrants: Just wanted to let the Board know that she and her group were attending the meeting so they could see what was going on in the community.

Mayor Kohut: Welcome.

Deputy Mayor Dominguez: Welcome

Keith Schiklowitz, Rockland County Times: Mr. Schiklowitz inquired as to the purchase of property that was mentioned earlier in the meeting.

Village Attorney Jay Hood: Counselor Hood explained that the Village was purchasing a piece of property next to our Community Center from the North Rockland School District to be used for the upcoming Fitness Court. The cost of the property is \$20,000. He also explained the grant funding available.

Keith Schiklowitz: Inquired as to the fitness court being inside or outside.

Mayor Kohut: Outside, known as the National Fitness Campaign and information can be found on the Village website.

Mayor Kohut asked the attendants in the back of the room if they were attending the meeting to get information on the ID Law. They responded yes to the questions and Mayor Kohut explained that the Village had passed the law and we were in the process of ordering the necessary equipment.

Berta Morales: Explained to the Mayor and Board that the community was very grateful about this because it has been very difficult for some people to get a picture ID.

Keith Schiklowitz: Questioned what the ID Law was.

Mayor Kohut explained that it was passed before the pandemic started and the details of the new law.

Manuel Daniel Santos, 64 Main St: Speaking in Spanish and translated by Deputy Mayor Dominguez; new owners of the building had raised the rents of the tenants multiple times and some of the tenants were raised as much as \$400. The manager of the property came to each door and asked them to sign a lease with the new increases or they will be out.

Mayor Kohut: Unfortunately there is no rent control or rent stabilization programs in the Village.

Village Attorney Jay Hood: Counselor Hood informed Mr. Santos that the landlord is supposed to give 90 days notice before he can have a tenant move out.

Manuel Daniel Santos: Mr. Santos said he paid the rent increase because he was afraid to be kicked out. He's been living in the apartment since 1999 and went from paying \$1,075 for 2 bedrooms to paying \$1,400 per month. Many of the tenants paid the first increase because they were afraid.

Village Attorney Jay Hood: Counselor Hood asked Mr. Santos for the landlord's name and phone number. He explained that there was nothing they could force him to do but he would place a courtesy call and explain the situation to the landlord.

Mr. Santos: They are all afraid they will be kicked out on the street.

Mayor Kohut, Jay Hood & Emily Dominguez: Asked the gentleman to provide the information to Isabel Gonzalez the next day (because he didn't have it on him) and Isabel would supply it to Jay.

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

RESOLUTION # 190 – 2020

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Judith Curcio, Clerk/Treasurer