

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, November 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 meeting with the first Public Participation of the evening welcoming any questions, comments or concerns from the public.

John Sullivan, 12 Bridge Lane: Mr. Sullivan, speaking on behalf of many residents of Harbors, explained that the ongoing parking issues could be addressed by implementing a rule change regarding overnight parking and possibly including Harbors in a plan to not move vehicles unless there is a snow or ice forecast. Mr. Sullivan expressed that he wasn't looking for any special treatment for Harbors but he was hopeful that the Board could consider this.

Mayor Kohut: Mayor Kohut explained that the Board had received several complaints regarding overnight parking and several requests for the Board to try out the plan West Haverstraw implemented last year. A pilot program on a few streets in the Village's downtown was scheduled to be started and if the Board felt that it was successful there was certainly a possibility that they would expand the program. Mayor Kohut thanked Mr. Sullivan for coming to the Board meeting, for understanding the situation and assured him that the Board was looking for possible solutions to the parking issues.

Gil Carlevaro: Trustee Carlevaro let Mr. Sullivan know that he had erroneously told him earlier that he could park in the Ferry Lot but that was not actually sanctioned. People still park there and although they risk being ticketed there is no ferry activity going on at this time.

Victor Ferrera, 23 Broad St: Mr. Ferrera raised an issue about a garage on Division Street that is falling down and in very bad condition. It poses a danger to him and his family.

Mayor Kohut: Mayor Kohut responded that although Village Hall was closed the following day he would relay the message to Ruben Berrios, Building Inspector, and have him address the situation.

Rafael Santos, 148 Clove Ave.: Mr. Santos explained to the Board that he has been a resident of Haverstraw for 37 years and this is the first time he has found it necessary to come to the Board with an issue. He feels the new parking lot on Clove Avenue doesn't belong there and is an eyesore. Clove is a residential neighborhood and it is his opinion that everyone on Clove has a driveway and doesn't need the parking. Also, there are children playing in the area and this lot will be very dangerous.

Mayor Kohut thanked Mr. Santos for his comments.

With no more comments from the public the Mayor continued with the Agenda and a Public Hearing for a Local Law amending Section 132-5.1; Payment of Fees.

Jay Hood, Village Attorney: Mr. Hood explained the law stating that the applicants for Special Permits, Certificates of Occupancy, building variances or the like will not be able to attain any of these without first paying any outstanding fees owd to the Village. These fees would include project consultant fees, taxes, building fees etc.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing regarding the Local Law amending Section 132-5.1:

**RESOLUTION # 218- 2020**

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then opened the floor to the public for questions or comments about the matter.

With no questions or comments from the floor, Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

**RESOLUTION # 219 - 2020**

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the Local Law amending Section 132-5.1 Payment of Fees:

**RESOLUTION # 220 - 2020**

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

Mayor Kohut:

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.:** 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 that a proposal from Hush Electric had been received for replacement of a light pole that had come down in a storm during the summer. The light pole was on First St and the proposal was for replacing the lightpole and the 3 heads with LED so that they are matching the surrounding lights. Labor and materials at \$7,802.75.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the proposal and have the work done.

**RESOLUTION # 221 - 2020**

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.  
Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro  
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the resignation of Angel Mercado, Parking Enforcement Aide; with thanks and appreciation.

**RESOLUTION # 222 - 2020**

Motion by: Gil Carlevaro  
 Seconded by: Rafael Bueno Sr.  
 Motion Carries: All

The Mayor read the following adjustments to the 2020-2021 budget year submitted by Joseph Modafferi, Village Accountant:

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS				
Acct. #	Account Name	Increase	Decrease	Increase
		Appropriations	Appropriations	Revenue
A.6989.4	Other Economic Devel.	25,000		
A.1440.42	Engineer Contractual	2,500		
A.1440.42	Engineer Contractual	13,879		
A..1289	Other Govt. Income			2,500
A..1289	Other Govt. Income			13,879
A.3320.4	On-Street Parking	500		
A.1990.4	Contingency		25,500	

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

**RESOLUTION # 223 - 2020**

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

The Mayor reminded the public that the coming Sunday, outside in the parking lot across from Village Hall, the Village would be holding a Harvest Fair with approximately 50 vendors and everyone was welcome.

The Mayor also reminded the public that 2 weeks from this meeting, Monday Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, there would be a Public Hearing, held at the Community Center-50 West Broad St, regarding the Village Comprehensive Plan and he encouraged all to attend. The Public Hearing was scheduled for 7 PM.

Mayor Kohut explained to the public that, due to COVID, it became necessary to establish a policy for employees to follow during these crazy times. Village government is considered “essential workers” and we cannot close so this policy is for our employees and how they can navigate their time at work in the event they are sick, they are quarantined, they have traveled outside of the metropolitan area etc.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to adopt the COVI employee policy.

**RESOLUTION # 224 - 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 October 2020, submitted by Fire Chief John “Bart” Gordon.:

Total Alarms	-	19
General Alarms	-	11
Special Calls	-	6
Mutual Aid Calls	-	2
Cooking Fires	-	1
Dryer Fires	-	1
Trash Fires	-	1
Pump Out	-	2
Gas Leak	-	1
Accident Call	-	2
Stuck Occupied Elevator	-	1
Good Intent/Misc.	-	1
False Alarms	-	7

Total Manpower Responding - 305 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 November 1, 2020:

- Put Plows on trucks for the winter season.
- Cleaned out 2 Catch Basins on Pratt Street/ Archer Street.
- Fixed damaged curb at 17 Pratt Street.
- Painted window sill at Conklin Ave by Fire House.
- Emptied truck for Food Pantry Pick UP at St. Peters Church.
- Picked up food for the Community Center food pantry.
- Cleaned and cut dead end of Allison Ave.
- Put new wood on trailer for Fire Department
- Took Truck 4-97 out of service- body rotted out.
- Picked up abandoned boat- located in Hudson Ave Alley.
- Put roof on garbage bin at restaurant in Emeline Park- Don Coqui.
- Put in Parking lot on Clove Ave Lot #19
- Sewer Job on 149 Broadway – Heavy Grease – Joint Regional Sewage Board.
- Sent men to help at Fire Training building to install walls and doors from training
- Replaced Refrigerator in 4-EM Vehicle with new refrigerator and repaired broken step.

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 October 19<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup> :

Staff will now distribute bags of food to our community members, including dry goods and fresh produce on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Since

the Center's feeding program began this spring, more than 17,000 meals have been distributed to our community members in need.

The Haverstraw Collaborative continues to meet on Wednesday Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> from 12 PM to 2 PM

Our Positive Activities for Youth include the Fall-Winter Program which is for youths age 8 to 15 and include things like homework help and when school is closed they have a place to go to do their homework and to participate in "virtual" school.

The monthly youth celebration called Caught Being Good continues. 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. The recent celebration was called "Say Boo To Drugs" and a nice meal was provided for the participants.

And a thank you to Heter Torres from DPW for decorating his truck for the Halloween festivities at the community center.

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 October 19<sup>th</sup> through October 30<sup>th</sup> 2020:

RENTAL REGISTRATIONS - 0  
MISC. INSPECTIONS - 70  
COMPLAINTS - 14  
SEARCH - 8  
CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS - 22  
VIOLATIONS/TICKETS - 8  
PERMITS & C/O'S - 5  
FINES COLLECTED AT COURT – \$0

Trustee Santana had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that he had 2 other items he wished to bring up. First was a thank you to Jackie Watson and her group for holding a Halloween give-away on Saturday for the local children. Mayor extended his apologies for not being able to make the event.

Mayor Kohut then spoke about the new policy for overnight parking that was being implemented on Broad and Clinton Street where parking would be allowed overnight unless there was a forecast for snow or ice. This would provide nearly double the parking for the area unless there is snow or ice and then vehicles must get off the street. This is a pilot program and there is clearly interest in other parts of the Village. If it doesn't work in this area it won't work anywhere else.

Mayor Kohut added that several weeks ago Jackie Watson had coordinated a clean-up with volunteers, residents and the local police along the Greenway Trail. It turned out very well with an exceptional turn out and thanks go again to Jackie for her coordination of the event.

**MINUTES:** The Mayor presented the minutes of the Regular Meetings of September 8<sup>th</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup> for approval by the Board.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

**RESOLUTION # 225 - 2020**

Motion by: Gil Carlevaro

Seconded by: Emily ominguez

Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut:

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mayor Kohut:

**NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Carlevaro mentioned that a Blood Drive was scheduled to be held at the Knights of Columbus on November 8<sup>th</sup> and it would be running simultaneously with the Village's Harvest Fair. Senator Skoufis was sponsoring the blood drive.

**Mayor Kohut:**

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

Mayor Kohut invited the public to raise any concerns, comments or complaints at this time.

Jackie Watson, 22 Ridge St.: Ms. Watson asked the Board what was the status of her request to have a dedicated park.

Mayor Kohut responded that the Board wanted more information on this request and suggested that Ms. Watson comes in and sits with the Board at the Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> workshop to discuss it.

Jackie Watson: Ms. Watson asked the status of her job application as a Crossing Guard.

Mayor Kohut and Clerk/Treasurer Curcio responded that it was being processed and when that was complete they would be in touch with her.

Denora Rijo, 25 Broad Street: Ms. Rijo wanted to thank the Board for the changes they made to the parking regulations in her neighborhood.

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

**RESOLUTION # 226 - 2020**

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno Sr.

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,  
Judith Curcio, Clerk/Treasurer