

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday April 3, 2023 beginning at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor opened the meeting with the first Public Participation of the night.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport asked about scheduled repairs at the train tracks and Mayor Kohut explained when they were planning on doing repairs. Mr. Rappaport also noted that it would be 50 years that he was doing business in the Village of Haverstraw and explained some of his history in the Village.

With no further input from the public, the Mayor continued with the agenda for that night's meeting and entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing on the Override of the Tax Cap.

RESOLUTION # 75 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.
Seconded by: Rich Sena
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut then entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing on the 2023 Village Budget.

RESOLUTION # 76 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.
Seconded by: Rich Sena
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut explained elements of the Budget to the public highlighting the following:

- Personnel increases in the budget are 3% because that is what the CSEA contract stipulates.
- On Page 3 – increase in the Law Contractual line is because there are, and have been, various cases where special counsels are required for personnel issues, condemnation cases, tax certioraris etc. so they are raising the budget from \$40,000 to \$100,000.
- Fuel line for DPW, for obvious reasons has to be increased to cover the cost. Last year \$55,000 was budgeted and for the 2023-24 proposed budget \$88,000 has been budgeted because the cost of fuel has gone up so high.
- The Water line is going up similarly and is going from \$140,000 to \$163,000, which is based on estimates going forward.

- Central Garage line is going up \$10,000 but later on in the budget there is a decrease on another line which is the result of going to a mechanic on staff. We're spending more in-house but spending less on outside repairs.
- Insurance costs are increased to \$281,237, up from \$245,000.
- Water- Fire Hydrant rental has been increased to \$286,200, a \$20,000 increase which is set by the water company.
- DPW Personnel service shows an increase of approx. \$75,000 which is the result of the 3% increase, as well as moving a Part-time position to a Full-time position.
- Contractual DPW expenses increase from \$220,000 to \$250,000 based on history of prior years and the expenses incurred.
- DPW Equipment Repairs is being decreased by \$30,000 which is because of the in-house mechanic and less outside repairs being done.
- Community center Personnel Services line is up by approx. \$60,000, in part because of the 3% increase but also because 2 Part-timers are being moved to Full-time positions but we're going to use only 3 student workers rather than 10.
- Fuel costs at the center are also being increased from \$16,800 to \$24,000.
- On the benefit lines everything is up, including a nearly \$100,000 increase on the Hospital/Medical benefits.
- The Retirement contribution line has decreased because the state was doing very well with their investments and hopefully it will continue in future years.
- Social Security is up \$20,000
- Worker's Comp is going down because of fewer claims.
- The Bond Anticipation Note for the Chair Factory property is being increased from \$39,000 to \$140,504. This is short term financing and with the sale of the property to the developer that number should go down in the next couple of years.

In summary, the Proposed Expense Budget is an increase from \$11,037,331 to \$11,996,244.

On the Revenue side of the Budget there are some positives and some negatives.

- Sales Tax has continued to climb over the years and is being increased this year to \$320,000, using a conservative approach due to the economic forecasts.
- Franchise fees are decreasing because people are stopping their cable subscriptions.
- Parking Meter fees are being increase to \$72,000
- Interest on earnings, which we were getting practically nothing, last year we budgeted \$7,000 but we've bumped it up to \$100,000 because rates are up to 4%.
- Rental of Property is going from \$88,000 to \$101,000 because of increases in rent on the restaurant and the Village Hall buildings.
- Fines & Forfeitures is being increased from \$180,000 to \$210,000 which is based on real numbers from the current fiscal year.

- Mortgage tax revenue is being increased from \$90,000 to \$110,000, but again being conservative based on economic forecasts.

This leaves the budgeted Revenue at \$3.14 million. Revenues deducted from expenses and based on Assessed Valuation leaves us with a tax rate going from \$196.95 to \$211.46 which is an increase of \$14 per thousand, or an 8% tax increase.

Mayor Kohut opened the meeting to the Public for comments and concerns.

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport asked how much was saved due to the mild winter.

Mayor Kohut responded that the savings would be in Overtime which goes back into the budget, and the savings anticipated for this fiscal year is approx. \$15,000, which may be low because there are still several months left to the year. The purchase of salt is based on a contract for a certain amount per season and whether we use it or not we get the contracted amount.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that for technical reasons they couldn't vote on the Budget at this time but they could address the Tax Cap Override and the Proposed Budget did go over the NYS Tax Cap amount by \$127.021.

Attorney Hood informed the Mayor and Board that they needed a Super Majority to vote for overriding the tax cap.

With no further questions or comments from the floor, Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearings for the Tax Cap Override and the Proposed Budget.

RESOLUTION # 77 – 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.

Seconded by: Rich Sena

Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood requested a motion to approve the Mayor's signature on a contract with Barton & Loguidice, consultant for the Route 9W Corridor Concept Development.

Mayor Kohut explained that this is for use of the TDI monies and the Villages of Haverstraw and West Haverstraw, along with the towns of Haverstraw and Stony Point will be working jointly to beautify Route 9W.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve his signature on the Barton & Loguidice contract.

RESOLUTION # 78 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.
Seconded by: Rich Sena
Motion Carries: All

Counselor Hood reported that the American Legion has requested the use of the second floor of the concession stand at the Manny Lopez ball field while they develop their new property. In lieu of rent they are going to fix up the second floor of the concession stand, including tiling and sheet rocking.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve his signature to a lease with the American Legion for use of the space as described by Attorney Hood.

RESOLUTION # 79 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.
Seconded by: Rich Sena
Motion Carries: All

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

VILLAGE TREASURER, Carmelina Palumbo: Ms. Palumbo gave the following Treasurers Report for the months of December 2022, January & February 2023.

Disbursements:

Operating Expenses.....	\$ 288,467
Regular Payroll.....	817,799
Bond Payments	925,048
 Total Disbursements	 \$2,031,314
 Revenue	 \$1,155,564

Haverstraw Harbors - AAA Bond	316,855
ARPA - TM Brennan HVAC	89,158
Court Fees/Fines	76,617
Gross Receipts - Tel, Gas & Water	37,859
Franchise	37,572
Rent	30,135
Building Fees	16,465
Meter Money	24,754
Insurance Contributions	12,141
Fines & Forfeited Bail	50,055

GRANTS

DASNY - SAM (Road Imprv.)	250,000
County of Rockland - OASAS	9,339
County of Rockland - SHIFT & SNU	6,035

Ms. Palumbo had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.

RESOLUTION # 80 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.

Seconded by: Rich Sena

Motion Carries: All

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that there had been a request from First Service Residential, the management company for Harbors, for some winter parking rules to continue year round, including some alternate side parking and no parking on certain streets on one side. Harbors HOAs will incur the cost of changing the signs.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the request.

RESOLUTION # 81 - 2023

Motion by: Rich Sena

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno Sr

Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the retirement notice of Robert Drexler, effective December 31, 2023. Retirement notices have to be made so far in advance in order for the employee to qualify for their separation buy out.

RESOLUTION # 82 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.

Seconded by: Rich Sena

Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the resignation of Alexandra Snyder-Rodriguez from the ARB.

RESOLUTION # 83 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.
Seconded by: Rich Sena
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the request from St. Peter's church for their annual Good Friday procession through Haverstraw.

RESOLUTION # 84 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.
Seconded by: Rich Sena
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the request from the Haverstraw Elementary School PTA to sponsor their end of school activities in the amount of \$500.00.

RESOLUTION # 85 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.
Seconded by: Rich Sena
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor read the following adjustments to the 2022-2023 budget year submitted by Shannon Modafferi, Village Accountant:

2022-2023 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS						
Acct. #	Account Name	Increase Apppr.	Decrease Apppr.	Increase Revenue	Decrease Revenue	Description
A..1001	Real property taxes				5,110.00	Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
a..1032	Special Assessments			2.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A..1081	Other Payments in lieu of taxes			4,033.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A..1090	Interest Real prop tax			498.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A..1230	Treasurer fees			1,611.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A..1255	Clerk fees			353.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A..1720	Parking permits			4,145.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A..1741	parking meters			4,628.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23

2022-2023 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS						
Acct. #	Account Name	Increase Apprpr.	Decrease Apprpr.	Increase Revenue	Decrease Revenue	Description
A..2401	Interest & earnings			95,274.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A..2501	Business Licenses			4,258.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A.2501.1	Filming			17,000.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A..2665	Sale of Equipment			8,325.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A..2680	Insurance Recovery			3,527.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A..2701	Refund prior year expenditure			8,249.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A..2705	Gifts & Donations			1,450.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A..2770	Misc revenue			1,125.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A..3005	Mortgage tax			55,017.00		Tie into actual as of 3/20/23
A1325.400	Treasurer Contractual	2,000.00				Over budget and a buffer
A.1640.200	Central Garage Equipment	395.00				Service contract not included originally
A.3620.410	Uniforms	276.00				Over budget
A.1990.400	Contingency	201,714.00				Balance to Contingency
A.7140.410	Buyout	1,000.00				Anticipating You are spending more
A.1990.410	Contingency		1,000.00			Anticipating You are spending more
CM.4210.490	Computer Repairs & Maint		4,680.00			Unity in the community trip
Cm.4210.400	Program Expenses	4,680.00				Unity in the community trip

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

RESOLUTION # 86 - 2023

Motion by: Rich Sena

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno Sr

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor stated that they would be setting the summer meeting schedule and his suggestion was meeting nights on Tuesday June 20th, Monday July 17th and Monday August 21st.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the above meeting dates.

RESOLUTION # 87 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.

Seconded by: Rich Sena

Motion Carries: All

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – Trustee Rafael Bueno Sr.: Trustee Bueno read the following report of fire activity for the month of March 2023, submitted by Fire Chief Perry Masiello.:

Total Alarms	-	21
General Alarms	-	17
Special Calls	-	1
Mutual Aid Calls	-	3
Structure Fires	-	0
Cooking Fires	-	5
Electrical Fires	-	1
Trash/Rubbish Fires	-	1
Gas Leaks	-	5
Pump Out	-	1
Good Intent/Misc.	-	3
False Alarms	-	2

Total Manpower Responding - 327 members

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the Fire Department Report.

RESOLUTION # 88 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.

Seconded by: Rich Sena

Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut remarked that this was Chief Masiello's last report as he was going out as Chief. The Mayor thanked him for his 10 years of service to the administration of the Haverstraw Fire Department. The Mayor also commented on "baby" Chief Gary Nash, who came upon a vehicle accident on the Palisades Parkway over the weekend and, with the help of another civilian, pulled the person out to safety and saved their life.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Deputy Mayor Carlevaro was absent and Mayor Kohut read the following report submitted by Robert Drexler, Jr., Commissioner of Public Works, as of April 3, 2023:

TASK LIST

- Fixed damage sidewalk and curb at South St and 3rd
- Removed all plows and sanders off trucks and readied them for summer
- Refilled doggie waste stations
- Salted on March 14th

- Cleaned trucks after salting
- Put shelving up at community center homeless shelter
- Repaired catch basins around the Village
- Put up banners around the Village
- Started spring clean-up and mulched around Village Hall

Mayor Kohut explained that Bobby Drexler had also requested to purchase a used forklift from Durante Rentals at a cost of \$31,946.90. The Village Clerk has obtained several comparable bids for the same model for \$32,000 and \$35,000 so the Durante Rentals is the lower bid.

Trustee Bueno suggested that they be sure there is a warranty of some kind on the forklift.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the purchase from Durante Rentals at a cost of \$31,946.90, contingent upon the warranty.

RESOLUTION # 89 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.
 Seconded by: Rich Sena
 Motion Carries: All

Nothing further to report on DPW.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Rich Sena: Trustee Sena had nothing to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT – Trustee Joel Santana: Trustee Santana was absent and no report was given.

MINUTES: The Mayor presented the minutes of the Regular Meetings of March 6th and March 20th 2023 for approval by the Board.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION # 90 - 2023

Motion by: Rich Sena
 Seconded by: Rafael Bueno Sr
 Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Noel Rappaport asked if there were any carnivals approved yet.

Mayor Kohut responded that carnivals had been approved, one in May and one in July.

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

RESOLUTION # 91 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno r.

Seconded by: Rich Sena

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,
Judith Curcio