

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday April 17, 2023 beginning at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Bueno	- Present
	Trustee Carlevaro	- Present
	Trustee Santana	- Present
	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 presented 3 T-shirts to the Board from the first festival for "Revitalize Haverstraw". The Board members, after some conversation about them, thanked him for the T-Shirts.

Charles Acosta, 38 Leonard Street: Mr. Acosta remarked that there was an issue with commercial vehicles being parked in front of his home, without being moved and making it difficult for him to get in and out of his driveway, as well as blocking his mailbox.

Mayor Kohut asked Mr. Acosta if he had spoken to the vehicle owner. Mr. Acosta stated that he had but the owner said they had no place else to park.

Mr. Acosta also stated that he is reluctant to call the police because he doesn't want to make a bigger issue of this and the police have better things to do. He also remarked that emergency vehicles will find it difficult to get onto the street because of the parking.

Discussion continued regarding possible solutions and Mayor Kohut stated that the Board would look into it and try to get it resolved.

With no further input from the public, the Mayor continued with the agenda for that night's meeting.

Mayor Kohut stated that because there were not enough Board members present at the last meeting they were not able to finalize the Tax Cap Override and he then entertained a motion to approve the Tax Cap Override for the 2023-2024 Budget.

RESOLUTION # 92 - 2023

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

Mayor Kohut explained that they were also not able to approve the Budget at the last meeting and as a recap stated that the rate per thousand would go from \$196.95 to \$211.50, with the actual budget increasing from \$11,037,331 to \$11,996,244.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Budget.

RESOLUTION # 93 - 2023

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

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood had nothing to report.

VILLAGE TREASURER, Carmelina Palumbo: Ms. Palumbo had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that they had an estimate from Hush Electric for the replacement of utility poles and flood lights at Emeline Park, which had fallen down during this past winter. The estimate is to replace 2 poles and install an LED floodlight at a cost of \$24,750.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve this replacement and expenditure.

RESOLUTION # 94 - 2023

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the resignation, with regret, of Jonathan Polanco, Assistant Court Clerk as he's accepted a position at the DA's office.

RESOLUTION # 95 - 2023

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the request from Randy Taylor, Village Mechanic, to take a recertification test for Air-Cooled at a cost of \$175.

RESOLUTION # 96 - 2023

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the Village Clerk to go out to bid for the 2023 Summer Camp transportation.

RESOLUTION # 97 - 2023

Motion by: Rich Sena
Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the Village Clerk to go out to bid for professional and engineering services for the design of 2 basketball courts at 50 West Broad St.

RESOLUTION # 98 - 2023

Motion by: Rich Sena
Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut stated that they were nearly finished preparing the specs to go out to bid for sidewalk replacement on the West Side of Broadway between Orchard and Pratt Streets. They'll be ready to go out before the next meeting and Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the Village Clerk to go out to bid for this project.

RESOLUTION # 99 - 2023

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to engage Verizon for FIOS down at Emeline Park at a cost of \$270.99 per month.

RESOLUTION # 100 - 2023

Motion by: Rich Sena
Seconded by: Joel Santana
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut explained that the fountain at Harbors was the responsibility of the Village and the pump had died. Replacement of the pump is \$18,930 from New Jersey Pool Management and the Mayor entertained a motion to approve this expenditure.

RESOLUTION # 101 - 2023

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the request from DPW to purchase for \$2,200 a used Power Max45 Plasma Cutter, with accessories, from our DPW employee, Hector Torres. This would replace the torch machine we have that is not working for us at this point.

RESOLUTION # 102 - 2023

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

Attorney Hood stated, for the record, that the Board had received today, a copy of a lawsuit filed by Janice Dominguez against Mayor Kohut, Trustees Bueno, Santana and Carlevaro and Attorney Hood regarding the residence of Trustee Santana. The lawsuit has to be defended and it's been sent to the insurance company for review of coverage. However, if the insurance company will not provide an attorney to represent them, they will need to hire an outside attorney to do so.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the hiring of a law firm to defend them against the lawsuit if the insurance company does not provide one.

RESOLUTION # 103 - 2023

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the appointment of Jeremy Silva to the vacancy on the ARB

RESOLUTION # 104 - 2023

Motion by: Rich Sena
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 Sr.: Trustee Bueno read a letter from the Haverstraw Fire Department stating that they were advising the Mayor and Board that at the annual Fire Department Convention held on April 6th the following were elected to one year terms:

Michael Begby – Chief
Joseph Drexler – 1st Assistant Chief
Christian Delisio - 2nd Assistant Chief
Gary Nash – 3rd Assistant Chief
Richard Nieves – 4th Assitant Chief

These names are provided to the Board for ratification.

Trustee Bueno made a motion to install the above named individuals to the offices stated, as recommended by the Fire Department Council.

RESOLUTION # 105 - 2023

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

Trustee Bueno also stated that he had an application from Peter lanonne to be a member of Relief Hose #3. The application was in order and he made a motion to accept him into the Village Fire Department – Relief Hose #3.

RESOLUTION # 106 - 2023

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

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut announced that there were a series of brush fires, starting on Friday afternoon, from the West Haverstraw border to the Clarkstown border. The Village fire department was out for about 9 hours on Friday and another 6 to 8 hours on Saturday and then again on Sunday. The fires were caused by a CSX train. In a lot of ways they were lucky because the fires were primarily on the West side of the tracks otherwise all of the Village could have been compromised. CSX has owned up to it, DOT has owned up to the fact that they have neglected that stretch along the rails on Route 9W for 20 years and they have taken steps to remove all of the burned out trees and they know now that they have to get in there and do some serious work to protect the rocks and trees from coming down near the tracks. Some good has come out of it because there is now a good working relationship with various agencies around the County. Tilcon provided 3 – 4 water tankers for several days with four guys and they kept the fire from taking out the whole mountain. The plant manager just stepped up and Tilcon was a great neighbor. Tanker trucks from many Counties, including New Jersey were at the scene as well. Mayor Kohut stated that many thanks were due to a lot of people and a lot of other Fire Departments.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Deputy Mayor Carlevaro read the following report submitted by Robert Drexler, Jr., Commissioner of Public Works, as of April 17th:

TASK LIST

- Replaced rear springs on Truck #21
- Worked on drainage pipe on Greenway Trail
- Checked for 2 sewer problems at 241 Westside and 22 Riverside
- Put up “Do Not Enter” sign at Lot #8
- Moved debris from catch basis line near 164 Hudson Ave
- Black top curb and sidewalk on 3rd and South St

- Black top catch basin repair work in different locations in Village
- Put gutter pipe and drain at Lopez Field building
- Finished mulching all locations in the Village
- Started to clean up lots around the Village

Deputy Mayor Carlevaro had nothing further to report on DPW.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Rich Sena: Trustee Sena remarked that he wanted to acknowledge the Board’s honoring of the 50 years of employment of Marion Breland and their renaming of the center in her name.

Trustee Sena had nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT – Trustee Joel Santana: Trustee Santana read the following report submitted by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of April 3rd through April 14th 2023:

Rental registrations	-	0
Miscellaneous inspections	-	120
Complaints	-	4
Municipal searches	-	2
Construction inspections	-	11
Violations/Tickets	-	2
Building Permits & C.O.’s	-	9
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

None

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

RESOLUTION # 107 - 2023

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.

Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,
Judith Curcio