The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday April 7, 2025 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 and there were no participants.

Mayor Kohut opened the first Public Hearing of the evening, for the 2025 Community Development Block Grant. This is an annual grant for funding of community projects. The mayor entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION # 74 - 2025

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

Mayor Kohut explained that the CDBG program has historically provided the Village with several million dollars for sidewalk improvements, road improvements, bathrooms and playground at Emeline Park, other facility upgrades, façade program, etc. This past year $240,000 was received for sidewalk improvements. There's also an opportunity for non-profit agencies to receive funding for programming, ie the Arts Alliance. The mayor invited the public to ask questions or make comments.

No responses from the audience.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION # 75 - 2025

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

Mayor Kohut explained the second Public Hearing; a proposed local law to rescind and replace §80-5 and §157-11.

Village Attorney Jay Hood spoke about the proposed local law, explaining that these changes to the 2 laws, open containers and prohibited noise, will include jail time up to 15 days. Although nobody goes to jail for these types of offenses without this in the law the Judge has to dismiss the case if the defendant doesn't show up in court. Adding this back to the law will prevent the judges from doing that and allow the police to get a warrant for arrest of the person violating the law. Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION # 75 - 2025

Motion by: Gil Carlevaro
Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut invited comments from the public of which there were none. He proceeded with entertaining a motion to close the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION # 76 - 2025

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to adopt the 2 proposed local laws amending §80-5 and §157-11.

RESOLUTION # 77 - 2025

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

Mayor Kohut:
REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood reported that he was in need of setting a Public Hearing for amendments to Chapter 132 regarding Fees charged.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to set the Public Hearing for this matter for May 5th at 7:05 PM.

RESOLUTION # 78 - 2025

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

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

VILLAGE TREASURER, Alicia Boudreau: Ms. Boudreau had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported he had received a request from DPW for a tarp to cover the infield at Manny Lopez ball field and new mesh for the batting cages. The 2 items would be purchased from Beacon Athletics at a cost of $4,543.07

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the purchase.

RESOLUTION # 79 - 2025

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to sponsor the North Rockland Rotary Club's Day of Service Dinner Dance for members of group homes which is being held on May 17th at 5 pm in the amount of $250.00.

RESOLUTION # 80 - 2025

Motion by: Gil Carlevaro
Seconded by: Joel Santana
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut announced that the opening day Little League parade and ceremony was scheduled for Saturday April 26th starting at 9 am in the Knights of Columbus parking lot.

He also announced that the Garner Arts Center had requested the Village to provide shuttle service on May 17th and 18th from the ferry to the art center for their annual art fair. The cost is estimated at $630 per day.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve this request, noting that Village residents would get free access to the fair.

RESOLUTION # 81 - 2025

Motion by: Gil Carlevaro (only if the ferry is running)
Seconded by: Joel Santana
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize his signature to the 2024 MS-4 Storm Water Education Program agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

RESOLUTION # 82 - 2025

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the request from DPW to have 6 employees attend a Chain Saw Safety & Productivity Seminar at the Rockland County Highway Facility on April 16th and 17th at a total cost of $425.

RESOLUTION # 83 - 2025

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept the MS-4 Annual report submitted by Weston & Sampson Co.

RESOLUTION # 84 - 2025

Motion by: Gil Carlevaro
Seconded by: Joel Santana
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion for the Treasurer to sign an agreement for the new Brinks safe in the office.

RESOLUTION # 85 - 2025

Motion by: Rich Sena

Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to authorize the Treasurer to sign the proposal with DTM for monitoring of the Briks safe at a cost of $1,562.00.

RESOLUTION # 86 - 2025

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion authorize his signature on the grant's agreement on the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update-Completion in the amount of $50,150.

RESOLUTION # 87 - 2025

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

Mayor Kohut announced that the coming Saturday was the Keep Rockland Beautiful clean-up in the Village, starting in front of the clock from 10 am to noon.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve a $500 silver sponsorship of the 20th Annual North Rockland Community 5K Run/Walk being held on Sunday June 8th at 9:30 AM at Bowline Park. This year there are 3 people in the community that the proceeds will benefit.

RESOLUTION # 88 - 2025

Motion by: Rafael Bueno
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 announced that he received a letter from the Secretary to the Fire Convention that at the Annual Fire Chiefs Convention held on April 3rd the following were elected for a 1-year term:

Chief	-	Thomas Price
1st Assistant Chief	-	Gary Nash
2nd Assistant Chief	-	Richard Nieves
3rd Assistant Chief	-	Gerald Crowley
4th Assistant Chief	-	Michael Melita

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to ratify the election.

RESOLUTION # 89 - 2025

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

Also, Trustee Bueno read the following report on fire activity for the month of March 2025:

Total Alarms	17	
General Alarms		12
Special Calls	5	
Mutual Aid Calls		0
Structure Fires		0
Cooking Fires	2	
Electrical Fires		1
Vehicle Fire		1
Gas Leak		1
CO Alarm		1
Pump Outs/Water Leaks	2	
Extrication/Accident Call	1	
Elevator Call	2	
Good Intent-Misc		2
False Alarms	5	

Total Manpower responding = 243 Members

Nothing further to report.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Deputy Mayor Carlevaro read the following report submitted by Osvaldo Reyes, Commissioner of Public Works, as of March 24, 2025:

TASK LIST

- Cold patched potholes throughout the Village
- Painted Fire House #1
- Jeffry, Victor, Brandon, Kelvin, Luis, Alfred went to Cornell Safety Class on 3/4/25
- Jeffry, Kelvin, Alfred, and Ramon went to UDIG Spring Safety class on 3/26/25
- Replaced 10-ton signs on First St and from the back of St. Peter's church
- Installed handicap signs in front and back of St. Peter's church
- Leveled the ground behind the Community Center for new container
- Cleaned and restarted water fountains on New Main and Gurnee Ave

Deputy Mayor Carlevaro had nothing further to report on DPW.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Rich Sena: Trustee Sena reported on the following activities at the Community Center:

- Programs continue; Project Embrace, Strengthening Families, Homework Help, Positive Activities for Youth, Monthly Celebrations etc.

- Haverstraw Collaborative met on April 2nd with 60 members in attendance. May 7th is the next scheduled meeting
- Unity in the Community will be held at the center from April 14th through April 18th. Any youth participating in all 3 days of the program will be eligible for a trip.
- Know Yor Rights presentation, regarding immigration rights, will be held at the center on April 28th

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 March 17th through April 4th 2025:

Rental registrations	-	0
Miscellaneous inspections	-	241
Complaints	-	7
Municipal searches	-	7
Construction inspections	-	12
Violations/Tickets	-	3
Building Permits & C.O.'s	-	45

Fines collected at court - $4,000

Trustee Santana had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut reminded everyone that on Thursday from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM there is a meeting scheduled in the community center under the rubric Haverstraw Forward, with 5 different programs in the Village to be discussed.

Mayor Kohut explained that there would now be 2 Public Hearings operating simultaneously regarding the annual Village budget and the Tax Cap Override law. He further explained that the Village does not intend to override the tax cap, however, it is suggested to hold this Public Hearing in the event they do go over the tax cap or through some erroneous calculations the State finds them to have gone over, there would be no penalty for the override.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open both Public Hearings.

RESOLUTION # 90 - 2025

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

The mayor explained that the total proposed budget, starting on June 1st, 2025, was 12,617,683, which is approximately $200,000 more than last year's budget. He commented on several items that are driving the increases:

- Gas & Electric is going from $152,500 budgeted in the current fiscal year to $185,000 in the upcoming budget
- Water at $13,000 in the current budget is being raised to $27,000
- Insurance expense, budgeted at $281,000 in the current year, is being budgeted at $295,000
- There's a 3% increase in employee salaries

- Employee benefit costs are increasing
- Street lighting has gone up again
- For the first time, included in the budget, will be a Capital line item in the amount of $75,000 towards the fire department for the purchase or overhaul of fire apparatus

These are some of the larger changes in the budget. Overall, this budget proposal is a 2.13% increase from the prior year's budget.

The mayor invited anyone to come forward with questions, comments or complaints regarding the budget.

There were no participants coming forward.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to lose both Public Hearings.

RESOLUTION # 91 - 2025

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

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to override the tax cap.

RESOLUTION # 92 - 2025

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

Cora Carter asked about the override and CPA Shannon Modafferi and Mayor Kohut responded that they had no intention of overriding it but this was a precautionary measure.

Mayor Kohut:
OLD BUSINESS

None

Mayor Kohut:
NEW BUSINESS

None

Mayor Kohut:
2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cora Carter, 38 Robbins Court: Ms. Carter asked about the override and asked for clarification about how it worked.

Mayor Kohut and Ms. Modafferi explained in detail how it was part of the budget process, the input from NYS and the reasons for passing the override even though they have no intention of the tax rate going over the tax cap.

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

RESOLUTION # 93 - 2025

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Judith Curcio