

TOWN BOARD
GARNERVILLE, NY
OCTOBER 11, 2011

The Town Board of the Town of Haverstraw met at a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Town Hall, One Rosman Road, Garnerville, New York.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On Roll Call the following members answered to their names:

Supervisor	Howard T. Phillips, Jr.
Councilman	Isidro Cancel
Councilman	Vincent J. Gamboli
Councilman	John J. Gould
Councilman	Hector L. Soto

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Soto offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Gould, and on roll call unanimously adopted.

353-11 RESOLVED, that bills numbered 3,825 through and including 3,950 in the amount of \$264,708.39 be and they are hereby paid; and Highway Vouchers numbered 547 through and including 562 in the amount of \$12,177.45 audited at this meeting, be and they are hereby paid.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Councilman Gould offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Gamboli, and on roll call unanimously adopted.

354-11 RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED AND IS HEREBY ACCEPTED: POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2011.

AUTHORIZATION FOR TOWN ASSESSOR TO ATTEND NYS OFFICE OF REAL PROPERTY SERVICES APPROVED SEMINAR

Councilman Cancel offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Gamboli, and on roll call unanimously adopted.

355-11 RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW, HEREBY GRANTS PERMISSION TO DAVID ADAMS, ASSESSOR, TO ATTEND A NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF REAL PROPERTY SERVICES EDUCATION SEMINAR ENTITLED, "FOREST LAND VALUATION," WHICH IS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN ASSESSOR CERTIFICATION, ON OCTOBER 28, 2011 AT THE RAMADA INN IN FISHKILL FROM 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM AT A COST OF \$95.00.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FOR PERIOD ENDING 9/30/2011

Councilman Soto offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Gamboli, and on roll call unanimously adopted.

356-11 RESOLVED, THAT THE SUPERVISOR IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FROM THE GENERAL FUND (A) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$238,000.00, PART-TOWN FUND (B) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00 AND HIGHWAY OUTSIDE VILLAGES (DB) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$136,000.00 PURSUANT TO THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE FOR THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW FOR THE PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011. (SEE ATTACHED BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS.)

AUTHORIZATION TO DONATE POLICE SURPLUS VEHICLE

Councilman Gould offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Cancel, and on roll call unanimously adopted.

357-11 RESOLVED, THAT BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF CHIEF CHARLES MILLER, THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE FOLLOWING SURPLUS VEHICLE FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO BE DONATED TO THE VILLAGE OF HAVERSTRAW:

2005 FORD CROWN VICTORIA – VIN #: 2FAHP71485X146493.

RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW AND ASSETWORKS APPRAISAL

Councilman Soto offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Gamboli, and on roll call unanimously adopted.

358-11 RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE SUPERVISOR TO RENEW THE AGREEMENT WITH ASSETWORKS APPRAISAL TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL INVENTORY SERVICES TO PERPETUATE THE FIXED ASSETS DATA FROM PREVIOUS INVENTORIES AND PROVIDE UPDATED REPORTS FOR ACCOUNTING COMPLIANCY TO THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW FOR A PERIOD OF (3) YEARS 2011, 2012 AND 2013 AT A COST OF \$3,500.00 PER ANNUM.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Supervisor Phillips and the Town Board members honored and recognized several outstanding Hispanic citizens of the Town of Haverstraw for Hispanic Heritage Month. The following individuals were presented with proclamations: Deacon Jorge Estele of St. Peter's Church in Haverstraw; Lt. Michael Greco of the New York State Police, Nam Knights, Rockland County Police Hispanic Society and Rockland Road Runners; Heriberto Pichardo, Activist; Hilda Cusick, Treasurer of West Haverstraw Senior Citizen and Long Time West Haverstraw Resident; Mayra Cespedes, President of the Quisqueya Sports Club and First Female Elected President; Esther Vargas, Active in St. Peter's Church; Ramon Liz, Activist; Kathy Urena, Community Leader and Kenya Serrano, Community Leader & United Latin Festival.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Alejandro Echevarria, 52 Roosevelt Drive, W. Haverstraw stated that on July 1, 2011 a police officer hit his car. He complained that he received a letter that police officers were immune from accidents and wanted to know if the village was responsible for paying for the damages that were done to his vehicle.

Supervisor Phillips stated that we were in touch with you and that the police officer had a completely different version of what occurred.

Alejandro Echevarria, 52 Roosevelt Drive, W. Haverstraw stated that he did not speak to any Chief and that he called the Mayor's Office. This has been going on too long. I don't have a car and have to take the bus or taxi. I already lost one job because of this and have been waiting three months.

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Supervisor Phillips stated that the police officer's version is completely different as to what happened. I apologize for any confusion but the officer's statement is completely different. If you are looking to make a claim against the Town it has to go through the insurance company. After the meeting, I would like you to sit down and talk with the Chief about the matter.

Diego Aviles, 18 Jacobs Road, Thiells, NY stated that he was concerned with the proposed budget and asked about the 2% tax cap. He further stated that he knows that town taxes only represent a small amount of his taxes but wanted to know if the Town will override the tax cap?

Supervisor Phillips stated that they were greatly disappointed when they heard that a certain person stated that the budget was over 9%. It is a tentative increase of 4.1% as we would love to get it down lower. The person who stated that the tax increase was over 9% pays a total of \$545.00 on their Town tax bill! We are a little disappointed to say the least. It's painting a false picture. The state placed a 2% tax cap to the towns. Yet they increased the mandated bills that far exceed the 2% tax cap. We are the most fiscally conservative Town. When the school taxes went wild we were prepared and planned. The Town of Haverstraw has the lowest sewer taxes in the state of New York. With the 2% tax cap they have given us bills that far exceed that. The County Exec has just announced that he is will no longer include the Intel Officer or the Narcotic Officer in the County budget.

The Town budget hearing will be on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The same person said that we adopted the 2012 Town budget – we did not. They don't understand the process of Town government. This person is lying to the people of Haverstraw and we will not give you a false budget with revenue or expenditures that are not true. Here is what we have done. Five years ago when Mirant hit, we went to short term bonding and saved the taxpayers 3.7 million dollars. We combined all of the parades in the villages and town saving anywhere between \$80,000 to \$100,000 in policing services. We put a freeze on hiring and reduced summer working hours, reduced the police fleet and have the same number of employees at Town Hall since 1980. We are not going to lie to you. You cannot pass on a 2% tax cap and then hit municipalities that far exceed the tax cap. It is also time we do something with the Taylor Law and binding arbitration.

A taxi driver from the Town was concerned about other taxis from Westchester coming into Rockland County and asked if the Town Board could pass a law for them to go to Westchester also.

Supervisor Phillips stated that this has been going on for years and asked if he contacted the County Legislator. It's ridiculous that they cannot have taxis transport to Westchester and it should not be a problem. It is time to have a unified law that covers everybody in the state of New York. The two villages have the taxi law. If we cannot get them together, the Town Board will enact legislation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town of Haverstraw Halloween Festival is on Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 12 pm-4 pm at Bowline Park. Children must be 12 and under, accompanied by an adult and North Rockland residents only. There will be a haunted hayride, costume contest, inflatable rides and refreshments. Supervisor thanked all of the businesses that contributed to the Halloween Festival to help offset the cost. Rain date is Sunday, October 30 same time and place.

Halloween House Decorating Contest will take place again this year. We would like to thank Tilcon and Haverstraw Marina who will provide the gifts this year's winners of the house decorating contest.

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ADJOURNMENT

359-11 A motion was made by Councilman Soto, seconded by Councilman Gould to adjourn the Town Board Meeting.

RAQUEL VENTURA
First Deputy