

Incorporated Village of Asharoken

Board of Trustees Meeting

Due to the Corona virus the Board of Trustees held the meeting via Teleconference

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at Village Hall

Attendance on Call 20

Mayor: I would like to thank everyone for joining the meeting; this is the regular schedule Village of Asharoken board meeting for June 2, 2020. I would like everyone to say the pledge the allegiance.

I would like to have everyone put their phone on mute unless you are speaking.

Nancy we have proper proof of publication for this meeting and emailed the teleconference meeting information to the media.

Nancy: Yes we did Mayor.

Mayor: Let me take a roll call so we know who is on the call; we know the mayor and trustees are on the call.

Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk Yes

Emily Hayes, Treasurer Yes

Trustee Pierce Here

Trustee Laura Burke Here

Trustee Mel Ettinger Here

Trustee Ian Jablonski Here

Attorney Bruce Migatz Yes

Doug Adil, Superintendent of Buildings No Answer (attended the call later)

Marty Cohen, Chairperson of the Conservation Committee No Answer (attended the call later)

Ray Mahdesian, Officer in Charge Here

Bill Rasich, Emergency Manager Present

Harbormaster Joe Affrunti No Answer

We are going to start out with the Mayors report and then the rest of the official's reports.

Mayors Report:

Mayor's Report;" I have a few things to report this month.

During the month the COVID-19 pandemic slowly but steadily improved. The number of new daily cases has declined to under 100 recently. NYS opened Suffolk County for phase one. We were very fortunate in the Village with only six reported cases so far. I continue to hope that everyone stays well. I need to reiterate what I have often said; we are not out of the woods yet. Please continue to wear your mask, do proper hand hygiene and maintain social distance. Please do not let your guard down. National Grid informed the Village that the gas main replacement, scheduled to begin in about two weeks, will be postponed for a year. The tentative start date is March 2021. In conjunction with this, the Village will be postponing the road paving to next year as well.

On May 4th I wrote to the residents that the Village Election that was scheduled for June 16th has been rescheduled for September 15th by Governor Cuomo's executive order No. 202.26. In addition, circulation, filing and collection of any independent nominating petitions is postponed until further notice and shall be subject to a future Executive Order. The full Executive Order from the Governor was sent to the residents in the same email.

During the month I wrote to Governor Cuomo requesting that he allow the Village to give residents who have financial hardships caused by COVID-19 an extra 21 days to pay their taxes without interest or penalty. On May 21st Governor Cuomo issued executive order 202-32 granting this request. Pending board approval this evening, I will inform the residents of this change. Asharoken was only one of three Villages in Suffolk County who requested this extension to help their

53 residents in need. During the month I have continued to be on the daily conference call with Suffolk
54 Executive Steve Bellone and the M/W/F with the Village of Northport. I also worked with TOH
55 Huntington Director of Maritime Services, Dom Spada, to do everything possible to minimize people
56 going onto the beach from the Sound View Boat ramp. Dom did a great job and I would like to
57 thank him for his assistance. I would like to thank Village resident Tony Evangelista for coming up
58 with an engineering plan to restore the seawall area. Tony created a very well thought out plan and
59 a very detailed set of drawings. When the time comes to work on the seawall area this document
60 will be of tremendous help. Thank you Tony, you really did an amazing job.

61 On May 27th Village Attorney Migatz and I participated in a zoom conference with TOH Supervisor
62 Lupinacci and the mayors of Northport, Huntington Bay and Lloyd Harbor. The purpose of this call
63 was to discuss the proposed TOH mooring ordinance requiring a permit for any mooring placed on
64 Huntington land. The four villages all strenuously opposed this new ordinance. During the call
65 Supervisor Lupinacci did instruct the Town attorney to add a clause to the legislative intent section
66 to specifically exclude the Ida Smith property. This was one of Asharoken's objections to the law.
67 The call ended with the overall consensus of all parties involved that more discussion is need prior
68 to TOH going forward.

69 Thank you.

70

71 **Trustees Report:**

72 Trustee Pierce, reported, "Good Evening everyone, I hope everyone is well. During the month I
73 reviewed the abstract, minutes, police report and the village correspondences including the
74 proposal by Mr. Evangelista, and also participated during the month with the Suffolk County
75 teleconferences.

76

77 Trustee Ettinger; reported "Good Evening Everyone,

78 Firstly and foremost, let me state that I hope that each of you, your families and all your love ones
79 are safe and healthy at this time.

80 Over the past three months the Covid-19 Pandemic has changed our lives so dramatically and has
81 changed the way we all have conducted our lives and our daily routines. During the last three (3)
82 months, my wife and I have continued to self-isolate at home and have been cautious with our daily
83 routines. I am very happy to report that as a result, we are both well.

84 As a result of the pandemic, the Mayor and I, as well as our Trustees have continued to monitor how
85 all of our village employees and police officers conduct their daily business and routines, in order to
86 minimize their risk of catching the virus. I am very happy to report that at this point, all of our
87 police officers and our employees remain healthy.

88

89 Accordingly, we have all continued to observe Social Distancing during the past month. As such, I
90 have communicated by phone, email and text with the many members of our Police Department,
91 Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian, Mayor Letica, my fellow trustees and Village Clerk Nancy
92 Rittenhouse.

93 During the month our police have dealt with various issues of non-residents attempting to use our
94 beaches, and parking in the beach lots spots, especially on the weekends. We have had to increase
95 our patrols and diligence to help alleviate the problem.

96 In addition, I have had numerous discussions with Officer-in-Charge Mahdesian and the Mayor
97 regarding our plan for the staffing needed for the upcoming July 4th weekend, in order to insure a
98 safe environment. We will be finalizing our plans later this week.

99 During the past month I also participated on a Suffolk County Memorial Day Weekend Enforcement
100 Conference Call. The main subject that was discussed was the enforcement of social distancing in
101 parks and other public areas and the enforcement of non-compliance of our beaches.

102 In addition, some other matters that I was involved in during the month were as follows:

103 I reviewed some correspondence that we received from the Town of Huntington and the NYS
104 regarding the Covid-19 virus,

105 I also reviewed some correspondences that we received from some residents,

106 I also reviewed last month's BOT Regular Meeting's Minutes, and finally
107 I also reviewed this month's Abstract for the Payment Vouchers.
108 Let me end my report by wishing you all continued Good Health and a Happy and Safe July 4th
109 holiday weekend.

110
111 Trustee Burke reported, Good evening everyone, this month I reviewed the minutes, vouchers,
112 abstract, police report and village correspondences, I would like to thank the mayor for his
113 correspondences' on the virus; I would also like to thank the police, they have been very helpful to
114 many residents this month including myself.

115
116 Trustee Jablonski reported, this month I reviewed the minutes, abstract, police report and various
117 correspondences.

118
119 Mayor: Attorney Migatz can we have the village attorney, the zoning and planning board.

120
121 **Village Attorney:** "Yes Mayor it was a quiet month, I have nothing to report.
122 Mayor: Do we have any plans to resume our zoning meetings; we have a few outstanding cases.
123 Attorney: I am only aware of one case there may be more; and we have postponed that. I don't think
124 we are geared up to do a zoom meeting. As a private attorney I have participated in a few zoom
125 zoning and planning board meetings they are tricky but it can be done. You really cannot do it with
126 a teleconference since you have exhibits that you have to display. Unless there is a pressing zoning
127 case I would recommend that we continue to postpone those.

128 Mayor: No news on the appeal on the dock decision.

129 Attorney: No that time is still stayed; and there is nothing new happening there.

130
131 Mayor: Treasurer Hayes can we have the treasurers report.

132
133 **Village Treasurer:** "The total vouchers in the month of May are \$74,570.32. Included in the
134 vouchers are \$18,266.04 of vouchers relating to year end 5/31/21. Also included in the May
135 vouchers is the yearly insurance invoice in the amount of \$42,339.54. There will be a separate
136 resolution to approve the vouchers and budget transfers.

137
138 Mayor: Thank you very much, Officer Mahdesian can we have the police report.

139
140 **Officer In Charge Ray Mahdesian:** Certainly good evening everybody. The department has had to
141 deal with problems caused by a large influx of beach goers trespassing in Asharoken as well as the
142 surrounding areas. This appears to be the result of New York City beach restrictions due to COVID
143 19. We are working with Suffolk County Police and Town of Huntington officials to curtail
144 problems. The marine patrol successfully commenced the season on Memorial Day weekend.
145 Thanks go to Harbor Master Joe Affrunti for his assistance in preparing for the season. Thirty one
146 water ski permits have been issued thus far. Thanks again to Mayor Letica for picking up PPE
147 supplies. There were no reported burglaries in the village for the month of May. End of Report.

148
149 Mayor: Thank you can we have the emergency manager report from Bill Raisch.

150 **Emergency Manager Raisch:** I want to take a moment to applaud all the good efforts undertaken
151 by our own Asharoken Police Department in this crisis including our police commissioner, Trustee
152 Mel Ettinger, our officer-in-charge, Ray Mahdesian, and of course all our officers.

153 I also want to recognize our core essential workers including Nancy Rittenhouse, Emily Hayes and
154 Barry Bradley.

155 Finally, but certainly not least, all our elected and appointed officials have been remarkable, led by
156 our Mayor Greg Letica and Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce.

157 As both a resident and a professional in the emergency management field, it has been comforting
158 and inspiring to see that the heartbeat of our Village continues strong through this crisis.

159 In my own capacity, I am available to assist in any regard that I may be of assistance and will
160 continue to monitor the wider public health and emergency management environments for
161 information and resources relevant to the Village needs. I remain particularly focused on any needs
162 for home-bound area residents. End of Report.

163

164 Mayor: Doug Adil can we have the Superintendent of Buildings report.

165 **Building Inspector Adil:** During the month; I continued to meet with Asharoken Contractors to
166 monitor and enforce the State requirement regarding non-essential construction. I conducted site
167 surveillances following the shut-down to ensure compliance. I responded to a resident concern
168 regarding construction at a neighboring property, during the construction embargo. I determined
169 that the contractor was working without a permit and with too many workers. Halted the work, and
170 subsequently the owner obtained a building permit. Work resumed after the embargo was lifted on
171 5/27/20. I continued to provide additional information drawing details to a designer who is
172 preparing a package for the ZBA, for construction of a new pool and pool deck at a home on
173 Asharoken. I investigated concern regarding overgrown landscape conditions at a home on Bevin
174 Road. I performed inspections on various properties there were not a lot of inspections due to a
175 lack of construction during this month, this is my report for May.

176

177 Mayor: Marty Cohen can we have the conservation Report.

178 **Conservation Chair, Mary Cohen:** Yes, during the month of May the Conservation Board issued
179 two tree permits to homeowners, and that's it.

180 Mayor: Harbormaster Joe Affrunti are you on the call? Also Sanitation, Barry Bradley are you on the
181 call? All right, so that will be the report of officials.

182

183 Mayor: The next item of business is to approve last month's minutes of May 5th 2020. Due we have a
184 motion to do so.

185

186 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes for May 5, 2020
187 seconded by Trustee Burke. Are there any discussions on the minutes from last month.

188

189 As we did last month I will call the roll; Mayor Letica took a roll call.

190 Trustee Jablonski AYE

191 Trustee Burke AYE

192 Trustee Ettinger AYE

193 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

194 Mayor Letica AYE

195 Motioned Carried.

196

197 Mayor: I would like Clerk Rittenhouse to go through the resolutions.

198

199 Village Clerk: Thank you Mayor. We will begin with;

200

201

202 **Resolution (2020-54)** Be It Resolved, that the Village Board approves the budget transfers for the
203 month of May 2020.

204 Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Burke.
205 This money was used for the enclosure for the highway cones and other equipment that we have
206 down there.

207 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

208 Trustee Jablonski AYE

209 Trustee Burke AYE

210 Trustee Ettinger AYE

211 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

212 Mayor Letica AYE

213 Motioned Carried

214

215 **Resolution (2020-55)** Be It Resolved, that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers for
216 the month of May 2020 in the amount of \$74,570.32.

217

218 Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Burke.

219 This money was used for the enclosure for the highway cones and other equipment that we have
220 down there.

221 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

222 Trustee Jablonski AYE

223 Trustee Burke AYE

224 Trustee Ettinger AYE

225 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

226 Mayor Letica AYE

227 Motioned Carried

228

229 **Resolution (2020-56)** Be It Resolved, that the Village Board does hereby ratify and approve the
230 Mayor's request to the Governor of the State of New York for a 21 day interest-free extension for
231 the payment of Village property taxes.

232

233 Trustee Jablonski made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

234 This money was used for the enclosure for the highway cones and other equipment that we have
235 down there.

236 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

237 Trustee Jablonski AYE

238 Trustee Burke AYE

239 Trustee Ettinger AYE

240 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

241 Mayor Letica AYE

242 Motioned Carried

243

244 **Resolution (2020-57)** Be It Resolved, that the Village Board does hereby approve the street work
245 permit for a gas service install at 495 Asharoken Avenue.

246

247 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.

248 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

249 Trustee Jablonski AYE

250 Trustee Burke AYE

251 Trustee Ettinger AYE

252 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

253 Mayor Letica AYE

254 Motioned Carried

255

256 Nancy: No more resolutions.

257

258 Mayor: Do any of the trustees have any new issues to bring up at this time? If not we will go into
259 public session, you do not have to identify yourself, the meeting is open to the public if you have
260 questions or comments.

261

262 **Public Session:**

263 Snyder: Hi this is Jane also known as Snyder I would like to thank the Police force for the great job
264 they are doing for the past weeks with all the commotion at the beach lots, I would like to ask Ray
265 how many summonses did you give out?

266 Officer Mahdesian: Six summonses were issued for the month.

267 Ms. Snyder: So you are just giving warnings to them.

268 Officer Mahdesian: It's up to the officer's discretion.

269 Ms. Snyder: They have been doing a great job, especially Joey D. They were being dropped off and
270 setting up camp. He came down several times.

271 Thank you guys for that. Greg so that means the road is going to wait until next year. Because it's
272 getting really bad down there.

273 Mayor: Thank you for those kind words for the police. Anyone else like to speak.

274

275 Mayor Letica made a motion to exit public session, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.

276 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

277 Trustee Jablonski AYE

278 Trustee Burke AYE

279 Trustee Ettinger AYE

280 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

281 Mayor Letica AYE

282 Motioned Carried

283

284 Mayor: I would like to thank everyone for joining the meeting this evening, Look forward to having
285 you on the call next month.

286

287 Mayor Letica made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.

288 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

289 Trustee Jablonski AYE

290 Trustee Burke AYE

291 Trustee Ettinger AYE

292 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

293 Mayor Letica AYE

294 Motioned Carried.

295

296 Mayor: Thank you all again, everyone have a wonderful evening stay safe and healthy.

297 Good night.

298

299 The June 2, 2020 Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at approximately
300 6:58pm.

301 Signed: _____

302 Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk

303

304