

Incorporated Village of Asharoken

Board of Trustees Meeting

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

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at Village Hall

Attendance on Call 18

Mayor: I would like to thank everyone for joining the meeting; this is the regular schedule Village of Asharoken board meeting for July 14, 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	Yes
Trustee Laura Burke	Yes
Trustee Mel Ettinger	Here
Trustee Ian Jablonski	Here
Attorney Bruce Migatz	Yes
Doug Adil, Superintendent of Buildings	Yes
Marty Cohen, Chairperson of the Conservation Committee	No (came on later)
Ray Mahdesian, Officer in Charge	Here
Bill Rasich, Emergency Manager	No
Harbormaster Joe Affrunti	No
Bradley Barry, Sanitation Operator	No

Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes for June 2, 2020 seconded by Trustee Burke.

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

Trustee Jablonski	AYE
Trustee Burke	AYE
Trustee Ettinger	AYE
Deputy Mayor Pierce	AYE
Mayor Letica	AYE

Motioned Carried

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

**Mayors Report:**

Mayor's Report;" The Village 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration went off well and safely. Although the cancellation of the fireworks muted the fun, the Village still had its traditional bonfires and Mother Nature gave us a lovely day to enjoy the beach. I would like to thank the residents for following the bonfire guidelines and keeping things safe. Additionally, I would like to thank Officer in Charge Ray Mahdesian and the Asharoken PD for another great job on another very busy day. Let's hope that next year we will be able to once again celebrate the independence of our nation with fireworks. The Village is soliciting bids to repair two groins in the beach lot area that have exposed metal. The Village had previously repaired several dangerous old groins in this area as well as few around 138 Asharoken Avenue.

53 I would like to thank resident Martin Richter for bringing this situation to the attention of the  
54 Village and Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce who is leading the effort to get the proposals and repair done.  
55 The Village finally received the application for the DASNY grant to repair the eroded dune in the  
56 beach lot area. Once the Village receives the final executed disbursement agreement it will begin  
57 the dune rehabilitation.

58  
59 National Grid has installed a new fence at the Sound View boat ramp to mitigate trespassing near  
60 the nature preserve. I would like to thank Joe Warren, manager of the NG power plant, and Dom  
61 Spada, head of Huntington Maritime Services, for working with Asharoken to come up with a  
62 solution to this long-time ongoing problem.

63  
64 Last month, the Village of Northport cleaned out Asharoken's catch basins. This is another example  
65 of shared services which help both Villages financially. Northport also helped the Village with the  
66 sign at the end of Ocean Avenue announcing the cancellation of the fireworks and reminder that  
67 there is no parking in the Village. Big thanks to Roland Buzzard and the Northport Highway  
68 Department.

69  
70 Unfortunately, the Asharoken holiday party, scheduled for early November, has been cancelled due  
71 to the COVID pandemic. Carole Casamassima, who has run the party for the last 10 years, assured  
72 me that a date has been reserved for 2021 and that next year's event will be the best one yet. Once  
73 again Carole will be ably assisted next year by Jean Bonawandt. Big thanks to Carole and Jean for all  
74 they have done to run this event, bringing residents together for a wonderful evening and raise  
75 money to support the fireworks.

76  
77 The Village received a very generous donation of \$7500 from residents' James and Diana Reilly  
78 requesting that the money be use to assist the police. As it turns out, Asharoken needs to replace its  
79 defibrillators and the cost of this upgrade should be covered by the donation. Thank you so much  
80 for your generosity it is very much appreciated.

81  
82 A quick update on the Village Plover/Osprey nesting season and other wildlife; the plovers had a  
83 good year and had five chicks. The last count of the Osprey revealed a minimum of eight chicks.  
84 The Osprey chicks should start flying soon. Thanks to Dee Lento, Judy Ross and Katie Burke for  
85 finding a large number of Ring Necked Pheasants on Bevin road. Recently we heard of a possible  
86 sighting of a coyote in the Village. Numerous foxes have also been seen as well.

### 87 88 **Trustees Report:**

89 Trustee Pierce, reported, "Good Evening everyone, hope all are doing well and families as well. I  
90 reviewed the minutes, payment abstract, village correspondence, police contract on COVID 19,  
91 police report, the proposed local law on parking and storage of trailers, commercial vehicles and  
92 construction Equipment on residential property, the IMA on recycling and the final draft on the  
93 hazard mitigation plan. I also met with two marine contractors on site to review the exposed groins  
94 at the end of Asharoken Beach.

95  
96 Trustee Ettinger; Good Evening Everyone, Firstly and foremost, let me state that I hope that each of  
97 you, your families and all your love ones are safe and healthy at this time.

98 Due to the pandemic, during the past month I have continued to self-isolate and have  
99 communicated with our Mayor, my fellow Trustees, and Officer in Charge Ray Mahdesian and with  
100 our police officers via emails, texts, the telephone and conference calls in order to minimize their  
101 risk of catching the virus. I am very happy to report that at this point, all of our police officers, our  
102 employees and their families remain healthy.

103 During the month, I have had numerous discussions and Zoom meetings with Officer-in-Charge  
104 Mahdesian and Mayor Letica regarding our plans and for the staffing needed for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday  
105 weekend, in order to insure a safe environment. Once again, a great deal of planning was done and

106 we considered every possible contingency. I'm happy to report that, once again, everything went  
107 extremely well on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Our police officers were busy and we did not have any major incidents.  
108 I want to give a special "Thanks" to Ray and the entire Asharoken Police force for all their hard  
109 work and for making the day go so smoothly.  
110 Starting tomorrow, we are scheduled to resume our Village Court sessions. As a result, I also spent  
111 time during the month speaking with OIC Mahdesian reviewing how we would manage these  
112 sessions, the manning that was required and the precautions we needed to take in order to  
113 minimize the risk of catching the virus. I believe we have a good initial plan in place.  
114 On July 13<sup>th</sup>, I participated in a SCOVA conference call regarding the required new Police Policies  
115 needed resulting from Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 203, together with OIC Mahdesian  
116 In addition, some other matters that I was involved in during the month were as follows:  
117 I reviewed some correspondence that we received from the Town of Huntington and the NYS  
118 regarding the Covid-19 virus,  
119 I also reviewed some correspondences that we received from some residents,  
120 I also reviewed some foils that we received,  
121 I also reviewed last month's BOT Regular Meeting's Minutes, and finally  
122 I also reviewed this month's Abstract for the Payment Vouchers.  
123 Let me end my report by wishing you all continued Good Health.

124  
125 Trustee Burke reported, Good evening all, during the past month I reviewed the minutes, vouchers,  
126 abstract, police report and village correspondences, proposed commercial code; the groin removal  
127 project and would like to extend my thanks to the police over the holiday weekend.

128  
129 Trustee Jablonski reported, this past month I reviewed the minutes, the abstract, the police report,  
130 fireworks press release, revisions to the police contract, revisions to the commercial vehicle law,  
131 correspondence on exposed groins and correspondence from residents. I participated in a police  
132 planning meeting for 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I took my annual training New York State Harassment &  
133 Discrimination training.

134 I reviewed engineering plans to resolve drainage issues at 103 and 164 Asharoken Ave.  
135 Discussed the plans with the engineer and also met with the residents at 103 with the engineer  
136 discussing revisions to the plans and obtained a quote for staking out the 2 sites  
137 Subsequently Nancy obtained 2 additional quotes one of which is a donation that we have a  
138 resolution to approve later in the meeting. Thank you very much Nancy for once again saving us a  
139 few thousand dollars.

140  
141 Mayor: Attorney Migatz can we have the village attorney, the zoning and planning board.

142  
143 **Village Attorney:** Thank you Mayor, I wish everyone good health. The Zoning and Planning Board  
144 did not meet in July. I am happy to announce that the zoning board will meet August 3<sup>rd</sup> in Village  
145 Hall with the appropriate social distancing. The dock appeal, the perfecting of appeals has been  
146 lifted by the appellate division and the applicants must perfect their appeals by September 9<sup>th</sup> 2020  
147 that means that they must file their record on appeal and file their briefs and then the Village has 30  
148 days to respond to that.

149  
150 Mayor: Treasurer Hayes can we have the treasurers report.

151  
152 **Village Treasurer:** The total vouchers in the month of June are \$61,078.18. Included in the  
153 vouchers are \$8,090.12 of vouchers relating to year end 5/31/20. Nothing unusual to report for the  
154 vouchers. There will be a separate resolution to approve the vouchers and budget transfers.

155  
156 Mayor: Thank you very much, Officer Mahdesian can we have the police report.

157

158 **Officer In Charge Ray Mahdesian:** Fourth of July was certainly different this year without the  
159 fireworks display. Officers conducted extra beach patrols and I am happy to report that there were  
160 no problems with fires or injuries. Residents and their guests followed guidelines provided by the  
161 village and fortunately no arrests were necessary. There were 17 summons issued in June and no  
162 arrests. The department issued 47 ski permits. I am happy to report that there were no burglaries  
163 reported in the village during the month. Court will convene tomorrow for the first time since Covid  
164 19 necessitated the shut-down several weeks ago.

165  
166 Mayor: Barry Bradley did you join us for the sanitation report, I don't think Barry joined.

167  
168 Mayor: Bill Raisch did you join, I don't think he joined, I will read his report.  
169 " I continue to monitor the wider public health and emergency management environments for  
170 information and resources relevant to the Village needs.  
171 I note that this remains a very dynamic environment as illustrated by the recent surges and in some  
172 cases resurgence of virus infection and resulting hospitalizations especially now in the younger 20-  
173 45 year old population".

174  
175 Mayor: Doug Adil can we have the Superintendent of Buildings report.

176 **Building Inspector Adil:** I continue to provide additional information and drawing details to a  
177 designer who is preparing a package for the ZBA for construction of a new pool and pool deck at a  
178 home on Asharoken Ave. I finalized communications with a homeowner on Bevin Road, facilitated  
179 by the Village Clerk, regarding overgrown landscape conditions. Homeowner addressed the issue  
180 with a landscape contractor. I provided a letter to a homeowner on Asharoken Ave. indicating the  
181 status of the application for a new septic system to be forwarded to the Suffolk County DHS.  
182 I reviewed construction plans for renovation of a cottage on Bevin Road. Plans were approved for a  
183 building permit.  
184 I reviewed plans for a PV solar installation at a home on Asharoken Ave. Plan review comments  
185 were sent to the homeowner and designer, and re-submittal is imminent. I provided information to  
186 a homeowner on Asharoken Ave, who wants to install a shed and needed to know what setbacks  
187 are to property lines. I also performed construction inspections.

188  
189 **Conservation Chair, Mary Cohen:** Yes, I have nothing to report.

190 Mayor: Harbormaster Joe Affrunti are you on the call? All right, so that will be the report of officials.

191  
192 Mayor: I would like Clerk Rittenhouse to go through the resolutions.

193 Village Clerk: Thank you Mayor. We will begin with;  
194

195 **Resolution (2020-58)** Be It Resolved, that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers for  
196 the month of June 2020 in the amount of \$61,078.18.

197  
198 Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

199 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

200 Trustee Jablonski AYE

201 Trustee Burke AYE

202 Trustee Ettinger AYE

203 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

204 Mayor Letica AYE

205 Motioned Carried

206

207

208 **Resolution (2020-59)** Be it Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the Budget  
209 Transfers for the month of June 2020.

210

211 Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

212 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

213 Trustee Jablonski AYE

214 Trustee Burke AYE

215 Trustee Ettinger AYE

216 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

217 Mayor Letica AYE

218 Motioned Carried

219

220 **Resolution (2020-60)** Be It Resolved, that the Village Board, does hereby authorize the allocation  
221 of the following funds (\$10,000.00 for Police General, \$15,000.00 for Highway, and \$10,000.00 for  
222 Unpaid benefits from our General Account) (Unreserved fund) to our money market account  
223 (Reserve fund) for fiscal year-end 5/31/2021.

224

225 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

226 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

227 Trustee Jablonski AYE

228 Trustee Burke AYE

229 Trustee Ettinger AYE

230 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

231 Mayor Letica AYE

232 Motioned Carried

233

234 **Resolution (2020-61)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Mayor to  
235 extend the base term of the Inter-municipal Agreement with the Town of Smithtown for Removal  
236 and Processing of Recyclable Material through November 20, 2020.

237

238 Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.

239 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

240 Trustee Jablonski AYE

241 Trustee Burke AYE

242 Trustee Ettinger AYE

243 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

244 Mayor Letica AYE

245 Motioned Carried

246

247 **Resolution (2020-62)** Be It Resolved, that the Village Board does hereby approve the Village Clerk  
248 and/or Court Clerk to prepare an application to the 2020-2021 Justice Court Assistance Program  
249 (JCAP) grant for funding of court furnishings and equipment, not to exceed \$30,000.00.

250

251 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Mayor Letica.

252 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

253 Trustee Jablonski AYE

254 Trustee Burke AYE

255 Trustee Ettinger AYE

256 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

257 Mayor Letica AYE

258 Motioned Carried

259

260 **Resolution (2020-63)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby accept the donation from  
261 Fauser Associates P.C. for retracing and setting stakes to determine the existing street corner  
262 property line for road improvements for the following addresses 103,105,106/164,166,168  
263 Asharoken Avenue.

264 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.

265 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

266 Trustee Jablonski AYE

267 Trustee Burke AYE

268 Trustee Ettinger AYE

269 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

270 Mayor Letica AYE

271 Motioned Carried

272

273 **Resolution (2020-64)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board determines that the rehabilitation of  
274 the sand dune needed to protect Asharoken highway is classified as a Type II action pursuant to  
275 Section 617.5 (C) (2) of the State Environmental Quality Review Act Regulations and is not subject  
276 to SEQR.

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

278 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

279 Trustee Jablonski AYE

280 Trustee Burke AYE

281 Trustee Ettinger AYE

282 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

283 Mayor Letica AYE

284 Motioned Carried

285

286 **Resolution (2020-65)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board authorizes the Mayor to sign the  
287 (SAM) State and Municipal Facilities program agreement (project ID #23855) for the restoration  
288 and rehabilitation of the sand dune needed to protect our main highway (Asharoken Avenue) the  
289 grant amount is for \$69,500.00.

290 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

291 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

292 Trustee Jablonski AYE

293 Trustee Burke AYE

294 Trustee Ettinger AYE

295 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

296 Mayor Letica AYE

297 Motioned Carried

298

299 **Resolution (2020-66)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board authorizes the Village Clerk to  
300 distribute RFP (Request for Proposals) for the removal of two exposed groins located on Asharoken  
301 Beach north of house number #413 Asharoken Avenue according to our procurement policy.

302 Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

303 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

304 Trustee Jablonski AYE

305 Trustee Burke AYE

306 Trustee Ettinger AYE

307 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

308 Mayor Letica AYE

309 Motioned Carried

310

311

312 **Resolution (2020-67)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby accept a donation from  
313 Msgr.P. Fursey P. O'Toole Trust, Inc. in the amount of \$7500.00 to help support the maintenance of  
314 the police department, this amount will be recorded as a restricted amount allocated to police  
315 expenditures.

316 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

317 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

318 Trustee Jablonski AYE

319 Trustee Burke AYE

320 Trustee Ettinger AYE

321 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

322 Mayor Letica AYE

323 Motioned Carried

324

325 **Resolution (2020-68)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the scheduling of  
326 a public hearing for August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to discuss a proposed local law Chapter 116 (Parking and  
327 Storage of Trailers, Commercial Vehicles and Construction Equipment on Residential Property).

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

329 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

330 Trustee Jablonski AYE

331 Trustee Burke AYE

332 Trustee Ettinger AYE

333 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

334 Mayor Letica AYE

335 Motioned Carried

336

337 Nancy: No more resolutions.

338

339 Mayor: Do any of the trustees have any new issues to bring up at this time? If not we will go into  
340 public session, three minutes per person, you do not have to identify yourself, the meeting is open  
341 to the public if you have questions or comments.

342

343 **Public Session:**

344 Snyder: Hi I am wondering what the \$15,000 highway is going to be spent on?

345 Mayor: That money is put aside in a reserve account for future repairs.

346 Snyder: When do you think the dune thing will be repaired?

347 Mayor: We have to get the final paperwork back from the State; maybe this fall but we have to get  
348 the paperwork back.

349 Snyder: Thank you.

350 Peter Aroniadis and Jim Ackerson: 540 and 516 Asharoken Ave: Thank you all for getting grant  
351 money for the Village. It's been a bit of time talking about the seawall subject. We understand from  
352 your letter in Feb. that the ACOE was walking away from the project.

353 Mayor: It definitely is on our radar. We did have a meeting in late March but it was cancelled due to  
354 COVID, Col Ashbury has left for another post; we are going to have to revise some things.

355 Congressman Suozzi is actively involved; I think we will be able to schedule that meeting and find  
356 out what kind of funding opportunities are available for the village. The village is still looking to get  
357 this area fixed, but it is going to be in expensive project. One of our residents Tony Evangelista  
358 works for Posillico Civil and he came up with an alternate plan to fix the seawall so we are looking  
359 at that as well. We are working on this but it is going to be slow process.

360 Ackerson: That's good that someone is thinking outside the box. Regarding the cost to replace the  
361 seawall and add the groins; are there other options put on the table? Is the seawall as important as  
362 putting the groins in place to keep the sand their so the erosion doesn't affect the seawall itself. Is  
363 this an option?

364 Mayor: Very reasonable and makes sense, the only issue you have to look is with the top of the wall  
365 which is corroding and some of the caps have fallen off; more will come off when we have more  
366 storms, not sure if we can ignore the wall; and hope to fix the solution by just putting sand in front  
367 of it but that certainly is an option. Maybe if you're not getting water overtopping the wall you can  
368 find other ways to mitigate the deterioration of the steel. You have to remember you had the sink  
369 hole; that was repaired two years ago with the town of Huntington. That has held up well your idea  
370 is reasonable but we have to look at the whole thing.

371 Ackerson: My point is, if the water never reaches the wall itself because the groins are put in place  
372 to capture the sand, it would keep the waves from coming over the road. I am personally interested  
373 because of the damage it does to my own property. If there is anything future wise that we can be  
374 involved in or have a separate board put together to make sure that progress is being made please  
375 keep us in mind.

376 Mayor: My Pleasure.

377 Aroniadis: Where are the grant funds being allocated?

378 Mayor: The dune area where it is being eroding; the dunes are substantially lower. The plan is to  
379 plant more beach grass and install a snow fence to help build up the dunes.

380 Aroniadis: One of the big issues in Asharoken is the Sewall, to spend \$70,000 to repair that area is a  
381 lot; there are a lot of residents living after the wall. I would think that there is police and logistics  
382 allocated to taking care of the seawall when a storm comes in; if any kind of grant or monies are left  
383 over these should be used to fortified the seawall area. \$70,000 is a lot to repair some dunes it  
384 would be nice to use those funds or any other future grants towards the seawall. I am hoping some  
385 funds go towards that.

386 Mayor: Certainly if we can get it; next year there is a budget crisis in NYS we will have a hard time  
387 getting grants; this grant for the dunes was from last year's budget. The thing is those dunes are  
388 just as important to keep the road open; just as the wall is; weakness in once spot is a weakness in  
389 the whole complex.

390 Aroniadis: Hopefully when we do get that grant we can apply to the appropriate area where it is  
391 affected.

392 Mayor: Thank you

393 Snyder: Planting the sea grass; is there a possibility of planting something else beach plums or some  
394 thing else that use to be there years ago, plants across from the houses near the sound side.

395 Mayor: Generally beach grass is what you plant; and than other stuff grows.

396 Snyder: I found that some of the grass is dead; which is why we should think about other plants.

397 Rittenhouse: We received the NYSDEC permit which specifies for American Beach grass; we cannot  
398 deviate, beach grass works well in dune areas along with a snow fence. Everything is very specific  
399 it's hard to make any changes.

400 Snyder: You are going to be putting a fence up.

401 Rittenhouse: We are only going to put the fence in that area; we have approval for that area 740LF.  
402 You are lucky that you are north of that area where it is not eroded. But in that area it is and we will  
403 be putting the fence there per the NYSDEC.

404

405 Mayor Letica made a motion to adjourn the public session, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

406 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

407 Trustee Jablonski AYE

408 Trustee Burke AYE

409 Trustee Ettinger AYE

410 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

411 Mayor Letica AYE

412 Motioned Carried

413

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

416



417 Mayor Letica made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

418 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

419 Trustee Jablonski AYE

420 Trustee Burke AYE

421 Trustee Ettinger AYE

422 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

423 Mayor Letica AYE

424 Motioned Carried.

425

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

427 Good night.

428

429 The July 14, 2020 Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at approximately

430 7:15pm.

431 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

432 Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk

433

434