

1 **APPROVED**

2 Incorporated Village of Asharoken

3 Board of Trustees Meeting & Public Hearing

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

5 Tuesday, May 4, 2021

6 Attendance was 23

7

8 Mayor Letica: Good evening, everyone. Welcome to the call. This is the regularly scheduled Village
9 of Asharoken Board of Trustees meeting for Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Before we get started, I would
10 like to ask everyone on the call this evening to please put your phone on mute if you are not
11 speaking. This way, there will not be any background noise during the meeting coming from your
12 call. So, we will start out with the Pledge of Allegiance this evening.

13

14 I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic which it stands,
15 one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

16

17 This is the regularly scheduled Village of Asharoken Board of Trustees Meeting for May 4, 2021.

18 Nancy, this meeting was properly published and noticed?

19

20 Clerk Rittenhouse: Yes, it was.

21

22 Mayor Letica: Let us do a roll call before we go into the meeting.

23 Deputy Mayor Pierce Present

24 Trustee Ettinger Present

25 Trustee Burke Present

26 Trustee Jablonski Present

27 Clerk Rittenhouse Present

28 Treasurer Emily Hayes Present

29 Village Attorney Migatz Present

30 Building Inspector Doug Adil Present

31 Officer-in-Charge Mahdesian Present

32 Emergency Manager Raisch Present

33 Harbormaster Affrunti Not Present

34 Conservation Chair Cohen Present

35 Sanitation Operator Not Present

36

37 Mayor Letica: Thank you very much. First order of business is to approve the minutes for the last
38 regular board meeting of May4, 2021.

39 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Burke.

40 Trustee Jablonski AYE

41 Trustee Burke AYE

42 Trustee Ettinger AYE

43 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

44 Mayor Letica AYE

45 Motioned Carried

46

47

48

49 Mayor Letica: I hope that you and your family are well. The COVID caseload in Suffolk County has
50 been steadily declining, and recently the village has had no new cases. The combination of people
51 who have been vaccinated and those who already tested positive are moving the county ever closer
52 to reaching herd immunity.

53 If you have not been vaccinated yet, you should do so as soon as possible. Based on the declining
54 numbers and new guidance from the New York State, the village is planning to go ahead with its
55 traditional Fourth of July fireworks display. Hopefully, Independence Day will be a start to a true
56 return to normal.

57 Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce is working with Congressman Tom Suozzi, using a member designated
58 project to get money to pay for the engineering and permitting for repairing the failing sea wall. I
59 would like to thank Congressman Suozzi for selecting the village for this support. As more
60 information becomes available, I will share it with you.

61 National Grid has started the gas main replacement. Presently, they are making openings in the
62 road to determine the exact position of the water and gas lines that cross the road. Once these
63 services are located, National Grid will be able to safely install the new gas main. I would like to
64 thank everyone for their cooperation and understanding during this complicated construction
65 project.

66 Finally, I would like to thank Carole Casamassima, Jean Bonawandt and Linda Letica for their hard
67 work to raise money to support the Fourth of July fireworks display. Carole and Jean raised \$9,500
68 by selling gift baskets and raffle tickets and Linda raised \$3,000 by selling a line of Asharoken
69 logoed clothing, tote bags, and wine glasses. Their donation will fully cover the cost of the barge
70 and tugboat for the display, and generally cover about 1/3 of the total cost of the fireworks, so just
71 another fantastic job by Jean, Carole, and Linda. We are just lucky to have these three residents
72 work as hard as they do to raise this money to support the fireworks.

73 Carole Casamassima also wrote me a little note that she wanted to read. It says we are happy to
74 announce that A.V. T-shirts and save the fireworks will be jointly donating \$12,500 to the Village of
75 Asharoken for the 2021 fireworks celebration. Thanks to all the wonderful and generous
76 Asharoken residents we have been able to do this with for over 10 years. We all love the holiday
77 party but due to safety restrictions and logistics brought on by the pandemic, we will not be having
78 our holiday party this year. But we would like to announce that we will be running a raffle this fall
79 to support the 2022 fireworks show. We look forward to your participation in the raffle.

80 Thank you to our wonderful Mayor and Board of Trustees for all you do for us. I am lucky to live in
81 such a beautiful place and safely enjoy this year's firework show. Sincerely, Jean Bonawandt, Linda
82 Letica, and Carole Casamassima. Thank you again ladies for just a fantastic job. And I will move on
83 to the Deputy Mayor's report.

84
85 Deputy Mayor Pierce: Thank you, Mayor, and good evening everyone. During the month, I
86 reviewed the minutes, vouchers, and abstract, the police report, the budget, and the storm order
87 report. As the Mayor mentioned, I worked on the federal funding for planning and engineering to
88 protect Asharoken Avenue from road closures, flooding, and hazardous driving conditions during
89 storms at the sea wall. I also worked with Clerk Rittenhouse, the Mayor, the Building Inspector
90 Doug Adil to complete the permit application for the repositioning of the boulders that have been
91 displaced on the seaward side of the sea wall. I think the permit has been in for a couple of weeks,
92 so we will be following up on that. And, as always, I participated in the COVID calls with the County.

93
94 Trustee Ettinger: Good evening, everyone. I hope that each of you and your families, as well as
95 your loved ones, are all well, safe, and healthy at this time.
96

97 During the month I had numerous conversations with Officer in charge Ray Mahdesian regarding
98 several police matters. Now that the pandemic has somewhat subsided, I am happy to report that I
99 have been visiting in person with Ray and some of our officers at the police station.

100
101 I am also happy to report that our police department continues to perform well, and that all our
102 officers remain healthy, and many of them have now received the COVID vaccine. During the month
103 I have also had numerous conversations with Mayor Letica and Officer in charge Ray Mahdesian
104 regarding Chapter 112 of our current village code concerning trees because of some issues that
105 occurred during the month with some residents.

106
107 Some other matters that I was involved in during the month were as follows, I reviewed the
108 evidence for annual storm water report, I reviewed some foils that we received. I also reviewed last
109 month's board of trustees regular meeting minutes, and finally I reviewed this month's vouchers
110 and abstract.

111
112 Trustee Burke: I reviewed the annual storm water report, reviewed the minutes, the vouchers, the
113 abstracts, and the police report. Greg, I thought you might mention the passing of Joy Newton, who
114 I think has been part of the village for over 60 years and raised her seven children in Asharoken.

115
116 Mayor Letica: Yes, I believe she was one of our oldest residents, and very long tenured family, and
117 sorry to see her go, and our condolences go out to the entire Newton family.

118
119 Trustee Jablonski: I reviewed the minutes the storm water report. Had some discussions with our
120 contractor regarding the drainage project site. He has one more test hole to dig at the next
121 appropriate high tide, and after that we will put together our plan with the appropriate drainage
122 rings and materials, and we will know the number and the sizes we will need. End of report.

123
124 Mayor Letica: Thank you, Ian. Good job. Again, can I ask everyone, please, if you are not speaking
125 to put your phone on mute. There is quite a bit of background noise on this call, and it makes it
126 very, very difficult to hear what is going on if your phones not muted. Thank you very much for
127 doing that, we appreciate it.

128
129 Attorney Migatz: The Planning Board and the Zoning Board did not meet in the month of April. We
130 do expect the zoning board to meet in May. I have nothing new to report on the lawsuit by the
131 villages of Huntington Bay and Lloyd Harbor against the Town of Huntington. Their motions are
132 still returnable by May 27th, and I understand they are still discussing a possible settlement, but
133 they have not spoken to me about that. I did draft proposed revisions to Chapter 112, the tree local
134 law which is the subject of a resolution this evening.

135
136 Treasurer Hayes: The highlights for the month of April, as far as revenues go, nothing unusual to
137 report. The vouchers for the month are \$54,920.78. Included in the vouchers is an invoice for
138 Grucci fireworks in the amount of \$7,969.00 which is half of the remaining balance due. There is a
139 separate resolution to approve the vouchers and the budget transfers.

140
141 Officer in Charge Mahdesian: I am happy to report that we are getting back into the normal
142 business of things and getting ready for the Fourth of July. I would like to thank Harbor Master Joe
143 Affrunti for helping us get the police boat ready for the season.

144

145 As far as in-service training goes, our officers are going back to the police academy on a staggered
146 basis to participate in what the Suffolk County Police Department is offering now in the way of de-
147 escalation training, brought about by the events of the last year.

148
149 We are also enforcing the traffic laws; I have noticed an increase in speeds. The police report
150 indicates that there were three speeds over 60 miles an hour, which is really a very dangerous
151 speed for our roadway. This past weekend we wrote a summons for somebody doing over 70 miles
152 an hour, and that is really a dangerous speed for the officer to have to catch up with a vehicle and
153 provide enforcement. There has been an increase in speeding tickets this past month. I do not
154 know why the volume has increased, but we are prepared to meet it. There were no arrests
155 necessary this month, no injuries, and the semi-annual firearms training was conducted, we are
156 doing everything on schedule. We are in good shape getting ready for our summer season.

157
158 Mayor Leticia: Great job. Learning that the department is taking a de-escalation training is
159 important component of this whole police reform initiative, it just shows that our police
160 department is staying on the cutting edge of doing the right thing. When it comes to training and
161 interacting with the public, so thank you again for that.

162
163 Mayor Leticia: Sanitation report, has Barry joined the call this evening? All right, it does not appear
164 that Barry's on the call.

165
166 Superintendent of Buildings: I performed various plan reviews, we had two applications come in for
167 installation of emergency generators, both of which were approved. We had inquiries from
168 homeowners and designers regarding new construction for two new homes. I reviewed
169 construction drawings for two new swimming pool projects, and reviewed addition and alteration
170 plans, which were approved for three different locations. In addition, I performed inspections at
171 155 Asharoken is ending electrical work is being finalized, so that should be completed soon. At
172 174 the house with the piles the concrete piles that are coming out of the ground, they are starting
173 to install girders, so you will see more of the structure taking place at that location as well. I did
174 perform inspections at other locations per my report, and it was a busy month.

175
176 Mayor Leticia: Thank you, you are doing a great job and it has not been just a busy month, it's been a
177 busy year. Thank you we really appreciate it.

178
179 Mayor Leticia: The residents appreciate it too, because in other communities you just don't get this
180 kind of response from the building department anywhere near as quickly as we get here. So great
181 job on your part and the residents really appreciates it.

182
183 Conservation Chairman: We visited three properties and issued permits for tree removal. In
184 addition, a little wrinkle this month. There were two properties where trees were cut down
185 without permits and I spent time with our district attorney for about an hour advising what I
186 thought would be the correct replanting instructions.

187
188 Emergency Manager: Emergency management continuing to work to update and, in this case,
189 simplify I think our emergency management plan. Learning from lessons from the pandemic and
190 monitor the public health status relative to any impacts on the Village.
191 As deputy harbor master I would like to share a project idea. We have opportunity for dual use for
192 our five mile an hour floating navigation signs throughout the Village. As many of you know, both
193 my wife and I have been oyster farmers. The oyster itself is a tremendously sustainable contributor

194 to both cleaner and clearer waters and water quality as well as various other elements inclusive of
195 capturing nitrogen and some other elements. Our five mile an hour signs are sufficiently configured
196 that we could add probably about 1,000 oysters in a containment area that we would put between
197 the two floats and we will have the opportunity for raising perhaps 6,000 oysters at minimum on an
198 annual basis and dispersing them to village waters. We have the backing subject to final approval
199 from Cornell Cooperative Extension. The NYSDEC is favorable to the concept. Again, we need to
200 move it through appropriate concurrences and permitting. I think we have a real opportunity here
201 to do something good with an existing structure which would allow juvenile oysters to grow out
202 from the small seas to a (spat), as they call it, to larger oysters and then be dispersed again in
203 Village waters. They also go through a reproductive stage spreading oyster seeds. I look forward to
204 providing a more detailed report on that to the trustees for their consideration but just wanted to
205 give you sort of the verbal summary up front.

206
207 Mayor Letica: That is a cool project you have got going there, Bill. Thank you. Just so you know, I
208 mean, we are close to getting the repair work down to the signs and we expect to be putting them in
209 the water soon.

210
211 Mayor Letica: We are going to move on now to the public hearing on the MS4 Storm Water Annual
212 report. I would like to ask the Village clerk, Nancy Rittenhouse, to please read the written notice of
213 the public hearing.

214
215 Clerk Rittenhouse: Thank you, Mayor. Please take notice that a public hearing will be held by the
216 board of trustees of the incorporated Village of Asharoken on Tuesday May 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via
217 teleconference to review the required draft presentation of the MS4 end report for the year 2021.
218 The meeting is being conducted in accordance with Executive Order 202.1. The public will have an
219 opportunity to state their comments at the hearing teleconference. The calling number 866-705-
220 2554 and the guest pass code is 137432. The draft report is available for review on the Asharoken
221 website at www.asharoken.com. And this is by the order of the Board of Trustees and the
222 incorporated Village of Asharoken dated April 6, 2021. This publication was dated April 19th, but it
223 was published on April 22, 2021.

224
225 Mayor Letica: Our Village policy is three minutes per person, and we would prefer if you stated
226 your name so we know who's speaking. So having said that, the public hearing is open for any
227 comments on the MS4 report.

228
229 No Comments during the public hearing.

230
231 Mayor Letica made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

232 Trustee Jablonski AYE
233 Trustee Burke AYE
234 Trustee Ettinger AYE
235 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
236 Mayor Letica AYE
237 Motioned Carried

238
239

240

241

242 **Resolutions:**

243 **Resolution (2021-42)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board approves the budget transfers for the
244 month of April 2021.

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

246 Trustee Jablonski AYE

247 Trustee Burke AYE

248 Trustee Ettinger AYE

249 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

250 Mayor Letica AYE

251 Motioned Carried

252

253 **Resolution (2021-43)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers for
254 the month of April 2021 in the amount of \$54,920.78.

255

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

257 Trustee Jablonski AYE

258 Trustee Burke AYE

259 Trustee Ettinger AYE

260 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

261 Mayor Letica AYE

262 Motioned Carried

263

264 **Resolution (2021-44)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Mayor to
265 sign the MS4 Stormwater Annual Report for year-end March 9th, 2021, subject to board's approval.

266

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

268 Trustee Jablonski AYE

269 Trustee Burke AYE

270 Trustee Ettinger AYE

271 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

272 Mayor Letica AYE

273 Motioned Carried

274

275 **Resolution (2021-45)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby appoint the following
276 election inspectors, Denise DeAcetis as Chairperson, Marian Milliken, and Hillary Candelora for the
277 June 15, 2021 Village Election.

278

279 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Burke.

280 Trustee Jablonski AYE

281 Trustee Burke AYE

282 Trustee Ettinger AYE

283 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

284 Mayor Letica AYE

285 Motioned Carried

286

287

288 **Resolution (2021-46)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby ratify the action of the
289 Mayor submitting a Letter of Support for engineer and planning design for the Restoration of the
290 Seawall and Asharoken Avenue; funding to be made available through Congressman Suozzi's
291 Member Designation Project fund.

292
293 Trustee Ettinger Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.

294 Trustee Jablonski AYE

295 Trustee Burke AYE

296 Trustee Ettinger AYE

297 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

298 Mayor Letica AYE

299 Motioned Carried

300

301 **Resolution (2021-47)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the scheduling of
302 a public hearing on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 6:30pm via teleconference on amending Chapter 112
303 "Trees" of the Village Code.

304

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

306

307 Mayor Letica: I am working on a modification to the code that we will distribute to the trustees this
308 month for review and comment and then we will hold the public hearing on it. Bruce has just been
309 working on some relatively minor changes that I think are important. I have spoken to
310 conservation chair Marty Cohen about this, and it was something that he had thought the village
311 should have done a long time ago.

312

313 Trustee Jablonski AYE

314 Trustee Burke AYE

315 Trustee Ettinger AYE

316 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

317 Mayor Letica AYE

318 Motioned Carried

319

320 **Resolution (2021-48)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the firearms
321 permit for Barry F. Bradley located at 67 Bevin Road for clay pigeon and skeet shooting off the
322 Sound Side Beach Lot.

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

324

325 Mayor Letica: Does Barry own a beach lot as well as 67 Bevin Road, is that correct Nancy?

326 Clerk Rittenhouse: Yes, he does.

327 Mayor Letica: This request for firearms, is for the beach lot?

328 Clerk Rittenhouse: Yes, that is what is stated on the application. It is specifically to be on the beach
329 lot, which is very similar to other firearm permits that have been issued to people who own beach
330 lots.

331 Mayor Letica: Thank you. Any other discussion on this one?

332 Trustee Jablonski: Usually we get the location. I do not know the location so I don't think we
333 should be approving it. And we are out of season now anyway, I think we got some work to do.
334 Right?

335

336 Mayor Letica: Yes. I mean we can table this until the fall if you want, because skeet shooting is not
337 allowed until the middle of October I believe. Then why don't we just table this for now and we can
338 revisit it if that is okay with the trustees?
339

340 Tabled-- resolution (2021-48)

341 Trustee Jablonski AYE

342 Trustee Burke AYE

343 Trustee Ettinger AYE

344 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

345 Mayor Letica AYE

346 Motioned Not Carried

347

348 **Resolution (2021-49)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby accept the donation from
349 "Save the Fireworks" committee in the amount of \$9,500.00 these funds will support the cost of the
350 barge and tugboat for the 2021 Fireworks Event.
351

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

353 Trustee Jablonski AYE

354 Trustee Burke AYE

355 Trustee Ettinger AYE

356 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

357 Mayor Letica AYE

358 Motioned Carried

359

360 **Resolution (2021-50)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby accept the donation from
361 "AVT-Shirts" committee in the amount of \$3,000.00 these funds will support the cost of the barge
362 and tugboat for the 2021 Fireworks Event.
363

364 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Burke.

365 Trustee Jablonski AYE

366 Trustee Burke AYE

367 Trustee Ettinger AYE

368 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

369 Mayor Letica AYE

370 Motioned Carried

371

372 **Resolution (2021-51)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for
373 Linda Lessman at 260 Asharoken Avenue from July 24th thru July 26th.
374

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

376 Trustee Jablonski AYE

377 Trustee Burke AYE

378 Trustee Ettinger AYE

379 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

380 Mayor Letica AYE

381 Motioned Carried

382

383

384 **Resolution (2021-52)** Be it Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Mayor to
385 sign the six-month extension for the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Village of Asharoken
386 and Town of Smithtown for disposal of recyclables, expiration date November 20, 2021, approved
387 as to form by Attorney Migatz.

388
389 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.

390 Trustee Jablonski AYE

391 Trustee Burke AYE

392 Trustee Ettinger AYE

393 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

394 Mayor Letica AYE

395 Motioned Carried

396

397 **Resolution (2021-53)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for
398 Emma Cox at 225 Asharoken Avenue from July 9th thru July 12th.

399

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

401 Trustee Jablonski AYE

402 Trustee Burke AYE

403 Trustee Ettinger AYE

404 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

405 Mayor Letica AYE

406 Motioned Carried

407

408 Mayor Letica: We have some new business which is sort of old business. As far as the drainage
409 goes, Ian, you've kind of given the whole report on the drainage situation earlier.

410

411 Trustee Jablonski: Yes. I will have more information, obviously, at the next meeting.

412

413 Mayor Letica: National Grid gas line replacement. I have been working with National Grid and their
414 construction workers and their supervisors. They have been making good progress and they have
415 been doing a very good job. They took this week off because they must go back to another project
416 and will commence work on Monday of next week.

417

418 Lastly, unless there is any other new business or old business that any other trustee would like to
419 speak about? Which there appears not to be, we can go into public session. As I said earlier, the
420 village policy is three minutes per person, and we would like to know who is speaking if you would
421 like to let us know who it is. So, at this point, the meeting is open to any comments, questions, or
422 concerns from the public.

423

424 No public session comments.

425

426 Mayor Letica made a motion to close public session, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

427 Trustee Jablonski AYE

428 Trustee Burke AYE

429 Trustee Ettinger AYE

430 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

431 Mayor Letica AYE

432 Motion Carried.

433 Mayor Letica: Before we adjourn the meeting, I just want to thank everybody who is on the call this
434 evening, we appreciate you listening in. And I would also like to wish a very happy Mother's Day to
435 all our mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers in the village. None of us would be here
436 without you.

437
438 Mayor Letica made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

439 Trustee Jablonski AYE

440 Trustee Burke AYE

441 Trustee Ettinger AYE

442 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

443 Mayor Letica AYE

444 Motion Carried.

445

446 The May 4, 2021 Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at approximately
447 7:20 pm.

448 Signed: _____

449 Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk

450

451

452