

## Mayor's Report September 3, 2024

At the end of July Newsday reported that New York State awarded the Village of Baxter Estates, in Nassau County, 7.7 million dollars to prevent Manhasset Bay from flooding Shore Road. After reading the article and realizing the similarities between their problem and the Village's seawall issues I wrote to Governor Hochul requesting similar funding for Asharoken. I attached a copy of that letter to a previous email note to the residents. In the aftermath of the loss of Harbor Road and the Mill Pond in Stony Brook, I wrote a second letter to Governor Hochul requesting aid to fix the seawall. I stressed that we can't let what happened in Stony Brook occur in Asharoken. This letter was also sent to the residents. The Village is still awaiting a formal response from the Governor. I also wrote to all of the Village's local elected officials requesting that they write Governor Hocu supporting Asharoken's request for financial assistance.

Preliminary work on the seawall/beach restoration engineering work has begun. Surveying has been completed and four borings to a depth of forty feet were done to determine the soil composition.

In the middle of August, I had breakfast with Senator Mario Mattera and Assemblyman Keith Brown. At this meeting, we discussed the seawall. One suggestion they had was to consider relocating Asharoken Avenue between 501 Asharoken Avenue and Bevin Road to the south. They both believed that NYS would financially support this project. Moving the road south would create a large buffer between the Sound and the road. Additionally, the road could be elevated enough to make it more resilient to flooding from the wetlands during extreme high tides. Routine splash overs would essentially be a thing of the past and road closures should almost be eliminated. When coupled with the relocation of the utility poles there would be easy access to allow construction to the seawall without affecting traffic or requiring seaside access. As a follow-up to this discussion, I did the following:

1-Contacted the NYS Dept. of Homeland Security/Emergency Services and FEMA to see if the Hazard Mitigation grant could cover the costs to engineer this project. We have approved \$1,000,000 and expect to use only about \$300,000 for GEI. This leaves us \$700,000 to use for road engineering. They were amenable to this change to the grant. They requested engineering cost estimates, which I am collecting and a letter from the Village requesting this amendment to the grant. The Village has received cost estimates from H2M and Hayduk Engineering and pending Board approval this evening will proceed to amend the grant.

2-Arranged to have the NYS DEC come to the site and give us a preliminary assessment if they would allow moving the road. The Village will not proceed until we meet with the DEC and get their opinion on moving the road.

3-Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce and I met with GEI on Friday the 23rd for an onsite meeting and they thought that relocating the road was also an excellent idea. I also spoke with two other engineering firms, H2M and Hayduk, who both believed, that moving the road was an excellent idea. All three firms offered to give the Village engineering cost estimates that the Village needs to amend the FEMA HMG grant.

4-I spoke to PSEG yesterday to get an estimated cost to relocate the utility poles by the seawall. I was informed the poles belonged to Verizon. I contacted the Verizon rep and I am awaiting a cost estimate from them.

5-The Village has gotten letters of support for this project from Assemblyman Keith Brown, Huntington Supervisor Ed Smyth, Huntington Council members Mari, Lupinacci, Fero, Highway Supervisor Sorrentino, Suffolk Legislator Bontempi,

In addition, Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce and I met with a marine construction company, Chesterfield, on August 30 to see what can be done in the short term to shore up the most damaged 100 feet of the seawall. The Village has \$38,500 remaining in the \$50,000 grant that Assemblyman Brown got for us. I also had GEI draw up a conceptual sketch of their short-term fix and shared it with Chesterfield. We advised Chesterfield that the cost of the project should remain below the grant money available. They will get back to us.

National Grid has begun the final repair to two access holes Asharoken Avenue. In the next few weeks, there may be short traffic delays in the work zone. Please drive slowly and carefully. The Village did a shoulder cutback on Bevin Road.

Congratulations to the Village Photographer Dee Lento who was awarded the Grand Prize in the Nature Category from the Tiffen Sponsored Gurwin Photo Contest. Her work never ceases to amaze me.