

Incorporated Village of Asharoken
Board of Trustees Meeting
Public Hearing
Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 6:30pm
Village Hall
Approximate Attendance (15)

APPROVED

Officers Present:

Greg Letica, Mayor
Pam Pierce, Deputy Mayor
Melvin Ettinger, Trustee
Ian Jablonski, Trustee

Officials & Appointees Present:

Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk
Emily Hayes, Treasurer
Raymond Mahdesian, Officer-in-Charge
Doug Adil, Building Inspector
Bill Raisch, Emergency Manager

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.
Publication of meeting was confirmed.

Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes for April 5, 2022,
seconded by Trustee Jablonski.

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

Motioned Carried.

Mayors Report: Mayor Letica reported, "On Monday, April 16th the Village had a relatively strong Nor'easter. The sheet steel at the seawall sustained additional damage and at this time it is my opinion that the wall has failed. The Village is working with our local elected officials to secure funding to rebuild the wall as quickly as possible. In addition, the snow fence that was placed in the newly restored beach lot area was taken down by the storm and some of the new dune was eroded. It is ironic that the Village went through an entire winter without a major eroding storm event until just after the dune project was completed.

As I just mentioned, the Village applied for seawall repair funding from the offices of both Senator Chuck Schumer and Congressman Tom Suozzi. Asharoken requested \$14,500,000 from Senator Schumer and \$1,000,000 from Congressman Suozzi. The \$14,500,000 is a sum that would rebuild the seawall and the \$1,000,000 would be used to repair the seawall also it was the maximum we could apply for actually the maximum was \$1,200,000 per Deputy Mayor Pierce. I would like to thank both the Congressman and the Senator for including us in their requests for federal money to fix the failed seawall. In addition, I want to thank Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce for an incredible job she did putting together the two packages for funding with very little lead time. The applications were complicated and required letters of support from many people: including Northport Police Department, Northport Fire Department, Eaton's Neck Fire Department, Northport School District, NYS Senator Schumer, NYS Assemblyman Keith Brown,

51 Huntington Supervisor Ed Smyth, Suffolk Executive Steve Bellone and others. Despite being under a
52 severe time crunch Pam came through and got everything in on time. Really an amazing job. The
53 Village has not heard anything about the BRIC grant it applied for.

54 During the month the Village also applied for a DASNY grant through the office of Senator Gaughran in
55 the amount of \$110,000. If the Village gets the grant \$40,000 is allocated for a new police car and
56 \$70,000 for a guide rail across from the seawall.

57 The drainage project at 103-105 Asharoken Avenue was completed this month with the repaving of the
58 shoulder. Again, thanks to Trustee Ian Jablonski who worked very hard to get this project done.

59 The bid package for repaving Asharoken Avenue is almost done and I hope to have this project completed
60 by the end of June. The section from Village Hall to 285 Asharoken Avenue will be paid for by National
61 Grid and the section from 355-501 will have the bulk of its cost covered by a \$70,000 Multimodal grant
62 and CHIPS money.

63 I attended the Northport Fire Department installation dinner and thanked out outgoing Chief Dennis
64 Sheridan for the terrific job he did over the last 2 years.

65 **Trustees:**

66 Deputy Mayor Pierce: During the month participated in two webinars given by Suffolk County
67 regarding upcoming Hazard Mitigation grants and completed the applications as the Mayor just
68 noted. Reviewed the stormwater report, police report, minutes, payment vouchers and met with a
69 property owner regarding exposed metal on the sound side east beach.

70
71 Trustee Ettinger: During the month I had discussions with Officer Mahdesian regarding police
72 matters. During this past month two of our officers had COVID, both officers stayed home in
73 isolation for the required period. During the month on April 18th, we monitored the storm that came
74 through, we had a telephone pole come down and PSEG came immediately to repair the pole and
75 wires. We did have to close the road for a significant period. I reviewed the payment vouchers,
76 stormwater, correspondences, FOIL's, and minutes.

77
78 Mayor Letica noted that he called the Government Affairs of PSEG and complimented the crew that
79 came out and repaired the damage pole and lines.

80
81 Trustee Jablonski: During the month; I reviewed, the minutes, payment vouchers, police report,
82 stormwater report and various correspondences.

83
84 **Attorney Migatz:** Mayor Letica reported for Attorney Migatz who was unable to attend. Nothing to
85 report on the zoning board and planning board.

86
87 **Village Treasurer:** Emily Hayes reported for the month of April. Payment vouchers totaled
88 \$107,752.70. Included in the vouchers this month was a bill from All Shore Excavation Inc for
89 \$36,500 for the drainage project and the workers compensation insurance bill for \$25,140.80.
90 There will be a separate resolution to approve the vouchers and budget transfers.

91
92 **Police Report:** Officer Mahdesian reported 41 summons and one arrest. He noted that in the past
93 few months there has been an increase in car thefts along the north shore, no car thefts recently in
94 the village. He discussed how these criminals operate, they work in groups and travel up and down
95 the streets until they find a car that is unlocked, they don't necessarily break into cars. We did have
96 an incident a few years ago. This individual came into the village with a stolen vehicle, the car
97 became disabled the individual then proceeded to check each car along Asharoken Avenue until he
98 found a car with keys in it. He noted that on April 19th a pole come down and the road was shut
99 down for several hours. Several residents needed to get through, but we couldn't move the repair

100 vehicles out of the way until the repairs were complete. Some of these individuals called Ubers and
101 were escorted across the down pole area so they could get to their destination. The road at times
102 closes and we need to prepare for these things. We also had one person stick a gun in the back of
103 another for fun, that person was arrested. Other than that we are doing well.
104

105 Mayor Letica noted that you can follow the village on Twitter we make real time postings on road
106 closures and reopening's as well.
107

108 **Superintendent of Buildings:** Doug Adil reported the following: issued denial letter for a
109 homeowner seeking to build an addition in the rear yard, plans have been referred to the zoning
110 board for a variance. Inspected a new driveway on Asharoken Avenue that turned out to be re-
111 paving of an existing driveway. Met with a homeowner to discuss specific generator location
112 requirements. Reviewed construction drawings for a new residence on Asharoken Avenue,
113 returned the plans for corrections. Discussed flood plan requirement for a third new home.
114 Provided information to a homeowner who wants to install a new swimming pool and issued a
115 letter in lieu of a C/O for an existing home at 238 Asharoken Avenue and performed 17 inspections.
116

117 **Emergency Manger:** Bill Raisch noted that he began an outreach for contacts needed for an
118 emergency response if we lose the roadway.
119

120 **Public Hearing: Stormwater Annual Report for year-end 3/9/2022.**

121 Clerk Rittenhouse read the publication.

122 Mayor Letica noted the following.

123 Every year the Village must file an annual Stormwater report called an MS4, the annual reports'
124 year end is March 9th.

125 MS4 is a (small municipal stormwater sewer system). The MS4's is regulated under EPA's Phase II
126 stormwater rule, along with the NYSDEC. The MS4 program is to develop a stormwater
127 management program that will help reduce the number of pollutants carried by stormwater run-off
128 into our water bodies (our bay, sound and wetlands). The program has six elements call minimum
129 control measurements.

130

- 131 • Public Education/outreach
- 132 • Public Participation/involvement
- 133 • Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- 134 • Construction Site Runoff control
- 135 • Post construction Run-off control
- 136 • Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

137

138 When implementing these measurements together they are expected to result in lower or reduced
139 pollutants into our waterways. The goal is to improve water quality and recreational use of our
140 waterways. A public hearing and approval to sign the MS4 annual report is required and must be
141 filed by June 1st to the NYSDEC office, Division of Water.

142 **Ways our Village has made progress in satisfying the control measurements over the past several**
143 **years.**

144 We installed two catch valves in our main drainage pipe behind village hall to mitigate flooding
145 from Northport Bay. During exceptional tides the tide water would rise enter the leaching pool and
146 fill up the drainage pipe and catch basins on Asharoken Avenue causing saltwater flooding. By
147 installing these catch valves once the water rises to a point the valve closes preventing any salt
148 water from entering the drainage pipe and therefore the roadway.
149

150 Recently we installed several catch basins and drywells to reduce water collecting on Asharoken
151 Avenue by 103-105 Asharoken Avenue, the cost \$36,500.

152
153 Every year our drywells and catch basins are cleaned out to maintain clean basins for the collection
154 of stormwater runoff.

155
156 Our Building Department continues to educate our contractors and residents of the importance of
157 minimizing stormwater runoff, by having the necessary stormwater control measures put in place
158 such as hay bales and slit screening. Our building department continues to review applications for
159 driveways and aprons and incorporate proper drainage systems to avoid stormwater runoff.

160 Mayor Letica opened the public hearing.

161 1. A residents noted correction to the minutes, Mayor Letica noted this is a public hearing
162 for the stormwater annual report.

163 No comments on the stormwater annual report.

164 Mayor Letica made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.

165 Trustee Jablonski AYE

166 Trustee Ettinger AYE

167 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

168 Mayor Letica AYE

169 Motioned Carried.

170
171 Mayor Letica introduced Carole Casamassima Chairperson for Save the Fireworks and Linda Letica
172 chairperson for AVT-Shirts; Jean Bonawandt was unable to attend but is a Co-Chair with Carole
173 Casamassima. Both committee chairs presented the village with a check in the amount of \$13,000 to
174 towards the cost of the barge, tugboat, and fireworks event.

175
176 Mayor Letica thanked the committees for all their hard work and generous donation. It is amazing
177 effort and gets better every year.

178

179 **Resolutions:**

180
181 **Resolution (2022-46)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board approves the budget transfers for the
182 month of April 2022.

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

184 Trustee Jablonski AYE

185 Trustee Ettinger AYE

186 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

187 Mayor Letica AYE

188 Motioned Carried.

189
190 **Resolution (2022-47)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers for
191 the month of April 2022 in the amount of \$107,752.70.

192
193 Trustee Jablonski made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

194 Trustee Jablonski AYE

195 Trustee Ettinger AYE

196 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

197 Mayor Letica AYE
198 Motioned Carried.
199
200 **Resolution (2022-48)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Mayor to
201 sign the MS4 Stormwater Annual Report for year-end March 9th, 2022, subject to board’s approval.
202
203 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.
204 Trustee Jablonski AYE
205 Trustee Ettinger AYE
206 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
207 Mayor Letica AYE
208 Motioned Carried.
209
210 **Resolution (2022-49)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby appoint the following
211 election inspectors, Hillary Candelora as Chairperson, Debbie Manning, Mary Brabender and
212 Barbara Raisch for the June 21, 2022, Village Election from 12 Noon to 9PM.
213 Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.
214 Trustee Jablonski AYE
215 Trustee Ettinger AYE
216 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
217 Mayor Letica AYE
218 Motioned Carried.
219
220 **Resolution (2022-50)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby accept the donation from
221 “Save the Fireworks” committee in the amount of \$11,250.00 these funds will support the cost of
222 the barge, tugboat and the 2022 Fireworks Event.
223
224 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
225 Trustee Jablonski AYE
226 Trustee Ettinger AYE
227 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
228 Mayor Letica AYE
229 Motioned Carried.
230
231 **Resolution (2022-51)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby accept the donation from
232 “AVT-Shirts” committee in the amount of \$1,750.00 these funds will support the cost of the barge,
233 tugboat and the 2022 Fireworks Event.
234
235 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
236 Trustee Jablonski AYE
237 Trustee Ettinger AYE
238 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
239 Mayor Letica AYE
240 Motioned Carried.
241
242 **Resolution (2022-52)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for
243 David & Jeannine Halpern located at 3 Clam Shell Lane from May 19, 2022, thru May 24, 2022.
244 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.
245 Trustee Jablonski AYE
246 Trustee Ettinger AYE
247 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
248 Mayor Letica AYE
249 Motioned Carried.

250 **Resolution (2022-53)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for
251 Elizabeth Gold located at 205 Asharoken Avenue from June 24, 2022, thru June 27, 2022.

252

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

254 Trustee Jablonski AYE

255 Trustee Ettinger AYE

256 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

257 Mayor Letica AYE

258 Motioned Carried.

259

260 **Resolution (2022-54)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the budget
261 adjustment for 5/31/2022 to increase Public Works-Catch Basin A1490.400 for \$36,500.00 and
262 increase Start up Income (A1000.00) for \$36,500.00.

263

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

265 Trustee Jablonski AYE

266 Trustee Ettinger AYE

267 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

268 Mayor Letica AYE

269 Motioned Carried.

270

271 **New Business:**

272 Mayor Letica brought up any new business to the board, Trustee Jablonski noted when we plan the
273 guide rail project, we should allow space for a payload to get through.

274

275 Mayor Letica opened Public Session:

276

277 Public Session:

278 1. A resident noted that he wanted the minutes to reflect accurately a name that was
279 mentioned during last month's meeting. Line item 155 and 165 a name was mentioned by
280 the mayor which both my wife and I avoided mentioning. If there is an issue down the road,
281 we would have that as recourse regarding the law. For the record we would ask that the
282 name be inserted.

283 Same resident, Regarding the Seawall. The resident noted this is a concern for his family and
284 noted that there is an outstanding bill from the NYSDEC for \$292,000.

285 Mayor Letica noted that the village has a feasibility reserve set up but added that the village
286 received a letter from the DEC approximately a year ago noting the outstanding balance. We
287 wrote the DEC back indicating that we are not responsible for the outstanding balance
288 because the feasibility study was never produced or completed. We believe that the DEC
289 will not follow up with the outstanding bill since the study was never completed.

290 The same resident asked about the BRIC grant and how much the village will have to
291 contribute if the grant is awarded and why a resolution was not approved.

292 Mayor Letica noted that a resolution is not necessary at this point only an application for
293 the BRIC was submitted. Nothing has been awarded at this time. If we are awarded the
294 grant and there is a local share attached to it, I will do everything I can to have the Town of
295 Huntington partner with the Village.

296 Same resident: As far as the Feasibility Study and the \$292,000 how much of it has to do
297 with the Town of Huntington.

298 Mayor Letica noted this predates our partnership and was originally incurred under former
299 Mayor Kelly.

300 Same resident: Do we have any commitments from the Town of Huntington?

301 Mayor Letica noted that we are not responsible for 5 cents; the DEC is not trying to collect
302 the outstanding invoice since they did not provide the study. As far as the BRIC grant we

303 always have the option we want to commit or not. We have the Feasibility Study reserves
304 fund put aside which can be repurposed for design and planning for the seawall.
305 We just applied for over \$15,000,000 million dollars and are looking for other grants as
306 well. We are working on the new HMGP grant which includes the COVID relief funds.
307 Same resident, he noted that he is concerned about the seawall.
308 Mayor Letica noted that if the wall fails the USACOE is responsible to fix the wall at that
309 point in time.

310
311 2. A resident discussed the condition of the beach after LIPA deposited the sand. This fall we
312 should be getting sand again. He explained that he separated the sand out of a 10-pound
313 sample. He noted that a significant amount was rocks and not sand. We are missing more
314 sand which was substituted with rocks. We would need 28,400 of there fill to get 45,000CY
315 of sand. This should be raised in October with National Grid. Is there some way to audit?
316 Mayor Letica noted that we are considering working with an engineering company to verify
317 the material and amounts. We also have copies of the delivery tickets to verify the tonnage.

318
319 3. A resident noted that maybe we can find a different time of the year where we would have
320 fewer storms.
321 Mayor Letica noted that there are restrictions on the time of the year because of the piping
322 plovers.

323
324 4. A resident commented on the placement of sand. Suggested that the sand should be placed
325 closer to the preserve property since it will travel down the beach anyway.
326 Mayor Letica noted that the sand is supposed to placed 1,000 from the jetty. We will discuss
327 this with National Grid.

328
329 Mayor Letica made a motion to exit public session, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

330 Trustee Jablonski AYE
331 Trustee Ettinger AYE
332 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
333 Mayor Letica AYE
334 Motioned Carried

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

336 Trustee Jablonski AYE
337 Trustee Ettinger AYE
338 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
339 Mayor Letica AYE
340 Motioned Carried.

341
342 The May 3, 2022, Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at approximately
343 7:05pm.

344 Signed: _____
345 Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk