

Draft

**Officers Present:**

Greg Letica, Mayor  
Melvin Ettinger, Trustee  
Laura Burke, Trustee  
Ian Jablonski, Trustee

**Officials & Appointees Present:**

Michelle Glennon, Village Clerk  
Bruce Migatz, Village Attorney  
Emily Hayes, Treasurer  
Raymond Mahdesian, Officer-in-Charge  
Doug Adil, Building Inspector

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

Trustee Jablonski made a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes for March 19, 2024, seconded by Trustee Burke.

Trustee Jablonski	AYE
Trustee Burke	AYE
Trustee Ettinger	Abstain
Mayor Letica	AYE

Motioned Carried.

Trustee Burke made a motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes for January 16, 2024, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

Trustee Jablonski	Abstain
Trustee Burke	AYE
Trustee Ettinger	AYE
Mayor Letica	AYE

Motioned Carried.

**Mayors Report:** This has been a crazy week in Asharoken. The Village had a powerful nor'easter, was rocked by an earthquake and was in the path of a 90% solar eclipse.

After quite a bit of effort that took almost one year, I was finally able to arrange a meeting between the New York State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to finalize the application of the \$1,000,000 earmark for seawall repair. On March 28<sup>th</sup>, I was joined by Rick Marquis, the Division Administrator from the FHWA, and Rich Causin, the Regional Director of the NYS DOT, Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> for a site visit at the seawall. We reconvened at Village Hall and had a productive meeting at which it was determined that the FHWA concurred that the earmark could be used to fix the most critically deteriorated 200 feet of the seawall. The Village and DOT will have a follow up meeting in the next couple of weeks.

50 On Friday the 29<sup>th</sup>, the Village opened bid packages from Posillico, Rosemar and Graci paving to  
51 resurface Bevin Road and Asharoken Avenue (from Bevin Road to 561 Asharoken Avenue).  
52 Posillico, that has done much of the previous paving of Asharoken Avenue, was the lowest bidder  
53 on both projects. Two resolutions will be on the agenda to accept the bids. Bevin Road will be paid  
54 for by a \$100,000 grant and CHIPS money so, therefore, no Village funds will be needed. The  
55 Asharoken Avenue section will be paid for by PSEG. Once these two projects are completed all of  
56 Asharoken's roads will have been re-paved during my 12 years as Mayor.

57 Last Wednesday, the Village was hit by a very strong nor'easter that included a 68MPH wind gust at  
58 the Eaton's Neck Coast Guard Station. The worst of the storm hit during the evening high tide.  
59 Unfortunately, the seawall sustained some very substantial damage including significant dislocation  
60 of a large section of the sheet steel, loss of three steel caps, damage to one steel cap, and serious  
61 damage to the crossover steps. Asharoken Avenue abutting the seawall had to be closed for three  
62 hours during which travel was determined to not be safe. Huge waves overtopped the wall and  
63 flooded the road. In addition, several of the seawall boulders were washed onto the road. The safety  
64 of the motorist and the first responders who might have had to rescue them if they got in trouble  
65 made the decision to temporarily close the road very straightforward. The storm also caused  
66 significant erosion of the dunes in the beach lot area.

67 I would like to commend Village PD Officer in Charge Ray Mahdesian, and the members of the PD  
68 who did a great job managing the situation. In addition, I would like to thank Andre Sorrentino and  
69 the members of the Huntington Highway Department who cleared the road of debris once the tide  
70 started going out. As a reminder, real-time notices of road closings and re-openings are posted on X  
71 (formerly known as Twitter) @AsharokenNY. I urge everyone to follow the Village on X for this  
72 important information.

73 On the day after the storm, I reached out to federal, state, county, and town elected officials to start  
74 a dialog to discuss how we can come together to achieve a comprehensive restoration of the seawall  
75 area. A meeting of all parties is in the process of being scheduled for early May. In addition, I  
76 arranged to get Asharoken Avenue swept, had the shoulder of Asharoken Avenue by the seawall  
77 rebuilt, worked on getting the crossover stairs rebuilt, and transported the loose steel caps from the  
78 seawall area to the Village Hall parking lot. I would like to thank Chris Julic from Banker  
79 Construction who graciously offered the Village help with the steel caps.

80 It was very disheartening that the Village was able to go through the entire hurricane season and  
81 the winter without a significant storm only to have it get walloped by this spring monster. As more  
82 information becomes available, I will be letting you know.

83 On Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>, the Village is expecting to get the bids back from engineering firms for a design  
84 to redo the entire seawall/beach area.

85 The Village will be hiring an engineer to assess the present state of the seawall. Because the sheet  
86 steel has been lifted the Village needs an assessment to determine if there is the risk of the roadbed  
87 being undermined.

88 The Osprey finally made their return to the Village last week. I think the weather, especially the  
89 wind direction delayed their return. Day by day they are pairing off and getting ready to raise a  
90 new family.

91 **Trustees:**

92

93 Trustee Ettinger: Firstly, I want you all to know that I am so very happy to be here tonight. I also  
94 want to apologize for not being able to attend last month's BOT and Special Meeting. Unfortunately,  
95 some circumstances occurred at the last minutes that made it impossible for me to attend the  
96 March meetings. I am very sorry for the confusion caused and the need to reschedule them... During  
97 the past month, as usual, I did have numerous conversations with Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian  
98 regarding a number of police related matters. Once again, I am happy to report that we had another  
99 "good month" that Ray Mahdesian will comment on further in his report. I also monitored the  
100 recent storm that we had with the police and the need to close the road. Ray and I had several  
101 conversations regarding the new police budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The finalized police  
102 budget is included in the village budget that we will be discussing later on tonight. Ray and I believe  
103 that we once again prepared a very fiscally responsible Police Budget for the coming year. In  
104 addition, some other matters that I was involved in during the month were as follows:  
105 I reviewed some additional correspondences that we received from some residents, the foils that  
106 we received, last month's Special Meeting Minutes, last month's BOT Regular Meeting's Minutes and  
107 I also reviewed this month's Abstract for the Payment Vouchers.

108 Trustee Burke: During the month I reviewed the minutes of the prior meeting, I worked with our  
109 attorney on revisions to the noise ordinance, reviewed the vouchers and village correspondence.

110

111 Trustee Jablonski: During the month; I reviewed, the minutes, payment vouchers, police report and  
112 various correspondence.

113

114 **Village Treasurer:** Emily Hayes reported for the month of March. Payment vouchers totaled  
115 \$52,715.34. Nothing unusual to report. There will be a separate resolution to approve the vouchers  
116 and budget transfers.

117

118 **Police Report:** Officer Mahdesian reported the officers completed their semi-annual firearms  
119 qualifications. He also stated that we have no crime to report this month, 46 traffic summons were  
120 issued for the month of March. Officer Mahdesian commented that the Coast Guard has curtailed its  
121 services due to a lack of personnel.

122

123 **Superintendent of Buildings:** Building Inspector Doug Adil reviewed dock applications for 1  
124 Lobster Way, 94 Cove Rd and 10 New Harbor Rd. Issued a revised denial letter for the variance  
125 concerns at 71 Bevin Rd, reviewed and commented to the fence applications for 223 Asharoken  
126 Ave, application was returned for corrections, re-submitted and approved. Reviewed construction  
127 drawings for 284 Asharoken Ave. Plans for conversion/alteration of the existing garage were  
128 returned for corrections. Reviewed construction drawings for 238 Asharoken Ave. Plans for a new  
129 swimming pool and pool guards were returned for corrections. Reviewed construction drawings  
130 for 35 Bevin Rd. Plans for interior alterations were returned for corrections. Discussed asbestos  
131 removal requirements with the architect for a home at 1 Lobster Way. Performed 11 inspections.

132

133 **Attorney Migatz:** Attorney Migatz reported that the Zoning Board met on March 18th, there were  
134 4 cases on the agenda, 71 Bevin was adjourned pending re-advertisement due to revised plans.  
135 Three other cases, 3 Bevin Rd, 4 Clam Shell Lane and 159 Asharoken Ave were heard. They were  
136 continued with decision reserved until April 15<sup>th</sup> and I believe 71 Bevin Rd is on for the 15<sup>th</sup> as well.  
137 The Planning Board did not meet and apparently the Appellate Division did not meet so there is no  
138 decision yet on our dock litigation.

139

140

141 **Public Hearing: Tentative Annual Budget for year-end 5/31/2025.**

142 Clerk Glennon read the publication.

143 Mayor Leticia read the budget Letter:

144

145 The budget proposes a 1.99% rise in village taxes and a tax levy of \$1,815,928 which is \$8566  
146 below the NYS 2% Tax Cap Levy Law. During the 12 years I have been Mayor the average annual  
147 tax increase has been .969% and the Village has never exceeded the tax cap. In seven of those years,  
148 there was no tax increase.

149

150 The Village maintains a very strong financial position with a robust cash balance and extremely  
151 well-funded reserve accounts. For nine years, the Office of State Comptroller has performed a Fiscal  
152 Stress test on local governments. Each year Asharoken was awarded the highest possible rating,  
153 "No Designation".

154

155 After thorough review of the budget, it was determined that a modest increase in taxes was  
156 unavoidable because of higher costs of contractual obligations and other expenses that are  
157 mandated by outside agencies. It was not possible to offset all of these increases through cost  
158 savings or higher revenue. Fortunately, as a result of the recent construction boom in Asharoken,  
159 the Village assessment roll grew helping lower the tax increase. The tentative budget will maintain  
160 all the services that the Village provides for its residents and reserves money for future needs.

161

162 These are a few notable changes to next year's budget. **REVENUE:** Interest and, Fines/Forfeitures  
163 increased. Mortgage tax revenue decreased due to fewer real estate sales in Suffolk  
164 County. **EXPENSES:** The cost of Police salary and Fire\ EMS\ Paramedic services with the  
165 Northport Fire District increased because of contractual obligations. Health Insurance Costs rose  
166 impactfully. Police retirement costs increased significantly. All nonpolice personnel received a 3%  
167 cost of living adjustment and Assessor costs rose. Additionally, multiple operating costs went up.  
168 Cost savings were realized in Professional Fees, Engineer, Police Equipment, and Marine  
169 Police. **SEAWALL:** Money was allocated to pay for engineering fees with the cost fully offset by  
170 grant and reserve funds.

171

172 I thank Clerk Michelle Glennon and Treasurer Emily Hayes for helping prepare this budget. Emily's  
173 work on the last sixteen budgets and Michelle's rapidly growing knowledge of the budget process  
174 allowed the Village to construct its financial plan very proficiently.

175

176 A resident submitted 5 emails with questions on the proposed budget.

177 The first three questions were about the money budget for the seawall/beach engineering. There is  
178 an expense item for \$150,000 for estimated expenses and this is offset by a revenue item of  
179 \$135,000 from grant reimbursement and \$15,000 from a Village reserve account. She also asked if  
180 the money is for the seawall only or a shoreline engineering project beyond the seawall. This  
181 money is only for the seawall area.

182 There was a question regarding using code A2700 in the budget and the resident was informed that  
183 the Village would look into this.

184 The same resident asked how the Village calculated the increase in this year's tax income. She was  
185 informed that it was by subtracting the proposed revenue from the proposed expenses. The  
186 Resident also questioned the amount budgeted for building permits since in the last two years the  
187 actual amount was much higher than what was budgeted. The resident was informed that the

188 budget amount is always an estimate and it is much better to be under budget than to overestimate  
189 and not receive the revenues.

190 The same resident expressed concerns about the costs of paving Bevin Road and depleting the  
191 Village Chips account to pay for the project because in the future more work may be needed to be  
192 done to the Village roads. The resident was informed that the approximate cost of the Bevin Road  
193 project is \$110,000. The Village has a \$100,000 grant for this project and will use approximately  
194 \$10,000 of its CHIPS account to pay the balance. This will leave about \$17,000 in CHIPS account  
195 and the State will be depositing into the Village CHIPS account about \$27,000 sometime this spring.  
196 She was informed that in the opinion of the Mayor, this was the correct way to fund the project.

197  
198

199 Mayor Letica opened the public hearing for comments;

- 200 1. One resident asked if she were the only one to send in questions regarding the budget and it  
201 was confirmed that she was the only one. She also questioned the amount of patrolling done  
202 by the police boat.
- 203 2. Another resident questioned how the village was preparing for a possible challenge to the  
204 tax assessment by Sandpiper Farm and also thanked the BOT for keeping the tax increase  
205 under 2%.
- 206 3. Another resident spoke of the support for keeping Sandpiper Farm undeveloped from a  
207 majority of the residents back in 2012.

208

209 Mayor Letica made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.

210 Trustee Jablonski AYE

211 Trustee Burke AYE

212 Trustee Ettinger AYE

213 Mayor Letica AYE

214 Motioned Carried.

215

216 Presentation of Paving Bids: Bids were opened on March 28th at 2:00pm; Mayor Letica,  
217 Clerk Glennon and Officer in Charge Mahdesian were present.

218 **Paving and Striping Part of Asharoken Avenue From Bevin Rd to 561 Asharoken**  
219 **Avenue (this portion will be paid by PSEG).**

220 Bids:

221 **Rosemar \$109,865.65**

222 **Posillico Paving \$90,366.30**

223 **Graci Paving \$137,665.65**

224

225 **Paving part of Bevin Road**

226 Rosemar \$128,170.00

227 Posillico Paving \$99,984.80

228 Graci Paving \$151,380.14

229

230

231 **Resolutions:**

232

233 **Resolution (2024-30)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board approves the budget transfers for the  
234 month of March 2024.

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

236 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
237 Trustee Burke AYE  
238 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
239 Mayor Letica AYE  
240 Motioned Carried.

241  
242 **Resolution (2024-31)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers for  
243 the month of March 2024 in the amount of \$52,715.34.

244  
245 Trustee Jablonski made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Burke.  
246 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
247 Trustee Burke AYE  
248 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
249 Mayor Letica AYE  
250 Motioned Carried.

251  
252 **Resolution (2024-32)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the mayor to  
253 sign the roadway restoration agreement with LIPA (PSEG) to obtain the reimbursement for the cost  
254 of milling, paving and striping Asharoken Ave from Bevin Rd to 561 Asharoken Ave for \$102,866.

255  
256 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.  
257 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
258 Trustee Burke AYE  
259 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
260 Mayor Letica AYE  
261 Motioned Carried.

262  
263 **Resolution (2024-33)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the scheduling of  
264 a public hearing on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 6:30pm on the MS4 Stormwater Annual Report for  
265 year-end March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

266  
267 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.  
268 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
269 Trustee Burke AYE  
270 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
271 Mayor Letica AYE  
272 Motioned Carried.

273  
274 **Resolution (2024-34)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the village  
275 annual budget for fiscal year-end 5/31/2025.

276  
277 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.  
278 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
279 Trustee Burke AYE  
280 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
281 Mayor Letica AYE  
282 Motioned Carried.

283  
284 **Resolution (2024-35)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the Tax Warrant  
285 in the amount of \$1,815,928 for the fiscal year-end 5/31/2025.

286  
287 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.  
288 Trustee Jablonski AYE

289 Trustee Burke AYE  
290 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
291 Mayor Letica AYE  
292 Motioned Carried.

293  
294 **Resolution (2024-36)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby appoint Village Treasurer,  
295 Emily Hayes and Village Clerk, Michelle Glennon to collect taxes that may be due for the 2024-2025  
296 fiscal year, during Village Hall hours.

297  
298 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Burke.

299 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
300 Trustee Burke AYE  
301 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
302 Mayor Letica AYE  
303 Motioned Carried.

304  
305

306 **Resolution (2024-37)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize, that pursuant  
307 to Section 1428 of the Real Property Tax Law the Warrant and Tax Roll for Collection of Village  
308 taxes of the Incorporated Village of Asharoken will be filed with the Village Treasurer for the fiscal  
309 year beginning June 1, 2024, taxes will be received at the Village Hall, One Asharoken Avenue,  
310 Northport, NY 11768, from June 1, 2024 through and including July 1, 2024 without penalty. Five  
311 percent will be added to taxes received after July 1, 2024, and one percent for each month  
312 thereafter until paid in full.

313

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

315 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
316 Trustee Burke AYE  
317 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
318 Mayor Letica AYE  
319 Motioned Carried.

320

321 **Resolution (2024-38)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Mayor to  
322 sign the agreement with Posillico Civil, Inc to mill, pave and stripe Asharoken Avenue from Bevin  
323 Rd to 561 Asharoken Ave not to exceed \$90,366.30.

324

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

326 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
327 Trustee Burke AYE  
328 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
329 Mayor Letica AYE  
330 Motioned Carried.

331

332 **Resolution (2024-39)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Mayor to  
333 sign the agreement with Posillico Civil, Inc to mill and pave Bevin Road not to exceed \$99,984.80.

334

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

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

341  
342 **Resolution (2024-40)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for  
343 Duck Island Corp located at Duck Island Lane from May 20, 2024 thru Sept, 2024.  
344  
345 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Mayor Letica.  
346  
347 **Roll Call:**  
348 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
349 Trustee Burke AYE  
350 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
351 Mayor Letica AYE  
352  
353 **Resolution (2024-41)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for  
354 Marybeth Seus located at 10 Clamshell Lane from June 5th thru June 10<sup>th</sup> 2024.  
355  
356 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Mayor Ettinger.  
357 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
358 Trustee Burke AYE  
359 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
360 Mayor Letica AYE  
361 Motioned Carried.  
362  
363 **Resolution (2024-42)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Mayor to  
364 sign an engagement agreement with Hayduck Engineering for the purpose of assessing the damage  
365 to the seawall from the storm on April 3rd, not to exceed \$1,500. (Agreement subject to approval by  
366 the Village Attorney).  
367  
368 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.  
369 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
370 Trustee Burke AYE  
371 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
372 Mayor Letica AYE  
373 Motioned Carried.  
374  
375 **New Business:** No new business  
376  
377 Mayor Letica opened Public Session:  
378  
379 Public Session:  
380 1. A resident had a question regarding Sandpiper Farm grievance applications, she also  
381 commented about the Army Corp's involvement in the seawall construction. She also asked  
382 if the Village was going to hire an attorney if the denied grievances went to court.  
383 2. A resident suggested forming a group of volunteer doctors who could assist patients unable  
384 to evacuate during storms and that he would be happy to volunteer.  
385 3. A resident spoke regarding his contact with the Army Corp of Engineers and the possibility  
386 of the Corp reevaluating the seawall/shoreline issue.  
387 4. A resident spoke of how much support the agricultural designation for Sandpiper Farm got  
388 at the Suffolk County meeting from the residents and many environmental groups all in  
389 favor of keeping the land undeveloped.  
390  
391 Mayor Letica made a motion to exit public session, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.  
392 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
393 Trustee Burke AYE



394 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
395 Mayor Letica AYE  
396 Motioned Carried

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

398 Trustee Jablonski AYE

399 Trustee Burke AYE

400 Trustee Ettinger AYE

401 Mayor Letica AYE

402 Motioned Carried.

403

404 The April 9, 2024, Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at approximately

405 7:43pm.

406

407 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

408 Michelle Glennon, Village Clerk