

Draft

Officers Present:

Greg Letica, Mayor
Pamela Pierce, Deputy Mayor
Melvin Ettinger, Trustee
Laura Burke, Trustee

Officials & Appointees Present:

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

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

Trustee Ettinger made a motion to amend and approve the Board Meeting minutes for August 6, 2024, seconded by Trustee Burke.

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

Motioned Carried.

Mayors Report: 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 Hocol 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

48 would create a large buffer between the Sound and the road. Additionally, the road could be
49 elevated enough to make it more resilient to flooding from the wetlands during extreme high
50 tides. Routine splash overs would essentially be a thing of the past and road closures should
51 almost be eliminated. When coupled with the relocation of the utility poles there would be easy
52 access to allow construction to the seawall without affecting traffic or requiring seaside access.
53 As a follow-up to this discussion, I did the following:

54

55 1-Contacted the NYS Dept. of Homeland Security/Emergency Services and FEMA to see if the
56 Hazard Mitigation grant could cover the costs to engineer this project. We have approved
57 \$1,000,000 and expect to use only about \$300,000 for GEI. This leaves us \$700,000 to use for
58 road engineering. They were amenable to this change to the grant. They requested engineering
59 cost estimates, which I am collecting and a letter from the Village requesting this amendment to
60 the grant. The Village has received cost estimates from H2M and Hayduk Engineering and
61 pending Board approval this evening will proceed to amend the grant.

62

63 2-Arranged to have the NYS DEC come to the site and give us a preliminary assessment if they
64 would allow moving the road. The Village will not proceed until we meet with the DEC and get
65 their opinion on moving the road.

66

67 3-Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce and I met with GEI on Friday the 23rd for an onsite meeting and
68 they thought that relocating the road was also an excellent idea. I also spoke with two other
69 engineering firms, H2M and Hayduk, who both believed, that moving the road was an excellent
70 idea. All three firms offered to give the Village engineering cost estimates that the Village needs
71 to amend the FEMA HMG grant.

72

73 4-I spoke to PSEG yesterday to get an estimated cost to relocate the utility poles by the seawall. I
74 was informed the poles belonged to Verizon. I contacted the Verizon rep and I am awaiting a
75 cost estimate from them.

76

77 5-The Village has gotten letters of support for this project from Assemblyman Keith Brown,
78 Huntington Supervisor Ed Smyth, Huntington Council members Mari, Lupinacci, Fero, Highway
79 Supervisor Sorrentino, Suffolk Legislator Bontempi,

80

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

86

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

90

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

93

94 **Trustees:**
95 Deputy Mayor Pierce: During the month of August, I attend the two meetings that Mayor Leticia just
96 mentioned. I also reviewed the mayor's two letters to Governor Holchul seeking state aid for
97 seawall, as well as several engineering quotes for the seawall area bulkhead repairs as well as
98 relocation of Asharoken Avenue. I reviewed August BOT minutes, payment vouchers, police report,
99 and a letter from Kristen Wenderoth. Also, I reviewed materials from Trustee Burke regarding a
100 native plant pollinator garden for village hall grounds.

101 Trustee Ettinger: During the past month, as usual, I had numerous meetings and conversations
102 with Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian regarding a number of police related matters. Once again, I
103 am happy to report that we had another "good month" that Ray Mahdesian will comment on
104 further, in his report.

105 As I announced at last month's BOT Meeting, Officer Jeff Josephson had accepted our early
106 retirement offer. As a result, he will officially be resigning on September 30th. There will be a Walk
107 Out Ceremony at the Village Hall on Thursday September 26th, at 3:00 PM. Anyone who wishes to
108 attend may do so. As I also announced at last month's meeting, Jeff intends to come back as a part
109 time officer. I reviewed the correspondences regarding the studies we intend to have performed
110 regarding the possibility of relocating part of Asharoken Avenues between 501 Asharoken Avenue
111 and Bevin Road, northward.

112 Some other matters that I was involved in during the month are as follows:

113 During the month I reviewed some correspondence that we received from some of our residents,
114 the foils that were received during the past month, last month's BOT meeting Minutes, and this
115 month's Abstracts for the Payment Vouchers.

116
117 Trustee Burke : Reviewed the minutes from prior meeting, police report, vouchers and abstracts
118 and miscellaneous correspondence. Reviewed information for proposed native VH garden.

119
120 **Village Treasurer:** Emily Hayes reported for the month of August. The vouchers totaled
121 \$109,487.38, check numbers 11456 to 11492. Included in the vouchers this month is the insurance
122 coverage for \$47, 331.84 and we finally received the bill for police car repairs for \$10,777.96, which
123 will be recorded in last year's fiscal year expense.

124
125 **Police Report:** Officer Mahdesian reported another good month, crime free. There were 48
126 summonses and successfully completed the marine season, this past weekend.

127
128 **Emergency Management:** Bill Raisch reported he would be happy to look at the emergency
129 management ramifications of the potential relocation of Asharoken Ave. The oysters have been
130 moved from the 5mph signs to under a resident's dock.

131
132 **Superintendent of Buildings:** Doug Adil reported the following: Re-reviewed drawings for a
133 proposed PV Solar installation at 399 Asharoken Av and returned them "Approved" for a Building
134 Permit. Re-reviewed construction drawings for additions to 71 Bevin Road, which are Approved for
135 a Building permit. Issued a Letter of Denial for construction of improvements at 3 Clamshell Lane.
136 Re-reviewed plans for installation of a soaking pool at 161 Asharoken Av. Plans were corrected and
137 found to be Approved for a Building permit. Re-reviewed plans for alterations at 327 Asharoken Av.
138 Plans were reviewed and approved for construction. Reviewed construction plans for a new home
139 at 106 Cove road. Plans were returned for corrections. Performed various inspections.

140
141
142 **New Business:** Trustee Burke presented a proposal for a native garden on Village Hall grounds to
143 be donated by Spadefoot Design and Construction, a company well known for native garden

144 plantings and restorations across Long Island. The owner, Frank Piccininni, offered to host seminar
145 on native gardening at Village Hall following installation of the proposed garden. The board was in
146 favor of this project.

147 Mayor Letica discussed the proposed relocation of Asharoken Ave by Bevin Rd. It is totally
148 preliminary and the resolution tonight is just looking for board approval to as to amend the village's
149 grant to add the cost of the engineering if we decide to go forward. We will wait to meet with the
150 DEC to start out with their opinion because if they say they will not approve it there is no point in
151 moving forward. The board agreed that idea is worth exploring.

152 **Resolutions:**

153 **Resolution (2024-101)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers
154 for the month of August 2024 in the amount of \$109,487.38, check numbers 11456 to 11492.
155 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Burke.

156 Trustee Burke AYE

157 Trustee Ettinger AYE

158 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

159 Mayor Letica AYE

160 Motioned Carried

161

162 **Resolution (2024-102)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Village
163 Clerk to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to prepare an engineering design for an interim repair
164 of approximately 200ft of the seawall east of the stairs.

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

166 Trustee Burke AYE

167 Trustee Ettinger AYE

168 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

169 Mayor Letica AYE

170 Motioned Carried

171

172 **Resolution (2024-103)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Village
173 Clerk to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to conduct a feasibility study of relocating Asharoken
174 Avenue between 501 Asharoken Avenue to Bevin Road southward.

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

176 Trustee Burke AYE

177 Trustee Ettinger AYE

178 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

179 Mayor Letica AYE

180 Motioned Carried

181

182 **Resolution (2024-104)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Village
183 Clerk to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to prepare the engineering design for relocating
184 Asharoken Avenue between 501 Asharoken Avenue to Bevin Road southward.

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

186 Trustee Burke AYE

187 Trustee Ettinger AYE

188 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

189 Mayor Letica AYE

190 Motioned Carried

191

192 **Resolution (2024-105)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Mayor and
193 the Village Attorney to negotiate an amendment to the Hazard Mitigation grant agreement with

194 FEMA to add costs of feasibility study and engineering design of relocating Asharoken Avenue
195 between 501 Asharoken Avenue and Bevin Road.
196 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Burke.
197 Trustee Burke AYE
198 Trustee Ettinger AYE
199 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
200 Mayor Letica AYE
201 Motioned Carried
202
203 **Resolution (2024-106)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a road opening
204 permit for National Grid to reconnect the gas service to 238 Asharoken Ave.
205 Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
206 Trustee Burke AYE
207 Trustee Ettinger AYE
208 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
209 Mayor Letica AYE
210 Motioned Carried
211
212 **Resolution (2024-107)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize a \$30 monthly
213 payment to the Mayor for cell phone service.
214 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Burke.
215 Trustee Burke AYE
216 Trustee Ettinger AYE
217 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
218 Mayor Letica Abstain
219 Motioned Carried
220
221 **Resolution (2024-108)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize Spatwood
222 Design and Construction to install a native garden on Village Hall property, next to Village Hall at no
223 cost to the village.
224 Trustee Burke made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
225 Trustee Burke AYE
226 Trustee Ettinger AYE
227 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
228 Mayor Letica AYE
229 Motioned Carried
230
231
232 **Mayor Letica opened Public Session:**
233
234 A resident spoke of the passing of another resident, Dr. Irwin Klein on July 5th who was very
235 accomplished and a valuable member of the community.
236
237 A resident mentioned that the Village of Northport and the Northport Yacht Club may be helpful
238 with insight in regards to the native garden.
239
240 Phil Cuiffo, an Eatons Neck resident and an Eatons Neck Fire Dept Commissioner presented Officer
241 in Charge Mahdesian with a plaque to thank him and the entire Asharoken Police Department for all
242 their assistance over the years.
243
244 A resident asked about the meeting that took place at the seawall with village officials and some
245 Eaton's Neck representatives.
246

247 A resident spoke about the Asharoken lifestyle and expressed his ideas regarding solutions for the
248 seawall issue.

249

250 Another resident also had statements to make regarding the possibility of moving Asharoken Ave
251 and solutions for the seawall issue.

252

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

254

255 Trustee Burke AYE

256 Trustee Ettinger AYE

257 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

258 Mayor Letica AYE

259 Motioned Carried

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

261 Trustee Burke AYE

262 Trustee Ettinger AYE

263 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

264 Mayor Letica AYE

265 Motioned Carried.

266

267 The September 3, 2024 board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at approximately
268 7:31pm.

269

270 Signed: _____

271 Michelle Glennon, Village Clerk