

Incorporated Village of Asharoken
Board of Trustees Meeting & Public Hearing
Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 6:30pm
Village Hall
Approximate Attendance (22)

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Officers Present:

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

Trustee Laura Burke absent with previous notice

Officials & Appointees Present:

Michelle Glennon, Village Clerk
Bruce Migatz, Village Attorney
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 December 2, 2024
seconded by Trustee Jablonski.

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

Motioned Carried.

Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes for December 17, 2024
seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.

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

Motioned Carried.

Mayors Report:

I wish everyone a very happy 2025, the Village's centennial. A group of residents led by Village Historian Ed Carr are planning several events to commemorate this Village milestone. On March 29th the Village's Centennial Save the Fireworks dinner dance and fireworks fundraiser will be held at the Northport Yacht Club. As always, our hostess Carole Casamassima is working on all the details and invitations will go out at the end of January. Save this date for what promises to be an amazing birthday party for the Village. As the other events become finalized I will let you know. I thank Village resident Matt Davies for creating a centennial logo flying in front of Village Hall. Several other people are also working on additional logos that will be displayed as soon as we get them.

51 On December 6th the Village hosted a Zoom call with the Town of Huntington Emergency Management,
52 Town of Huntington Highway Department, Suffolk County Emergency Management, Northport FD,
53 Eaton's Neck Fire Department, and the US Coast Guard to discuss what could be done in the immediate
54 aftermath of a breach of Asharoken Avenue. The meeting was very productive. The following action
55 items were considered for further evaluation.

- 56 1-Research and develop an evacuation plan for Village and Eaton's Neck
- 57 2-Contact NYS DOT for input on the type and sources of materials, equipment, and expertise needed to
- 58 replace the roadbed.
- 59 3-Contact the private engineering firm the Village is working with for similar input on the type and
- 60 sources of materials, equipment, and expertise needed to replace the roadbed.
- 61 4-Obtain lists of engineering firms, road construction contractors, and material providers approved for
- 62 contracting by the Village (via State/County general agreements).
- 63 5- Contact the NYS DEC to ascertain what permitting/approvals may be required in the event of a major
- 64 road repair.
- 65 6-Conider/research stockpiling of key materials at the National Grid power plant and/or boat ramp area.
- 66 I thank Emergency Manager Bill Raisch for arranging this meeting.

67 Hayduk Engineering submitted the application paperwork needed for the NYS DEC to modify the village's
68 existing permit for repair work on the seawall. This request will allow the placement of more stones on
69 the seaward side of the sheet steel. The Village is waiting for a response from the DEC. Once the Village
70 gets the permit modification it will hire a contractor to add more stones to the wall. This project will be
71 funded by a grant the Village received from Assemblyman Keith Brown.

72 GEI has completed approximately 60% of the engineering required for the seawall replacement.
73 Additionally, it is submitting applications to multiple federal and state agencies for the permits needed
74 for the seawall reconstruction. In addition, GEI sent a FOIA request to the USACOE for their plans for
75 groins and beach fill, information on a cost-benefit analysis for replacing the seawall, and copies of
76 easements from private property owners on which the seawall sits. The Village is waiting for GEI to
77 prepare a proposal for the engineering costs of the groin and beach fill design.

78 Several residents have expressed frustration about how long the various seawall projects are taking. I
79 share their frustration. One of the primary causes of the delays is that the Village is often waiting for
80 decisions from outside agencies before it can move ahead. Presently we are waiting for: a DEC permit to
81 add rocks to the wall, a decision from FEMA to allow using the Hazard Mitigation grant to pay for a
82 feasibility study and engineering to move Asharoken Avenue by the seawall, waiting for approval from
83 NYSDHSES to have the HMG will pay for engineering costs for the beach/groin engineering, waiting from
84 a response from NYSDHSES to see if the hazard mitigation grant will pay for costs of preparing a multi-
85 million dollar grant application to fund the reconstruction of the entire seawall, and waiting for the ACOE
86 to fill the Village's FIOL request. Regardless of how hard I push for a speedy resolution to these open
87 items, the Village is still at the mercy of the outside agencies.

88 Jeff Josephson, who served as a full-time police officer for 40 years, was re-hired by the Village as a part-
89 time officer. Santa and Mrs. Claus came to the Village on December 15th. It was a wonderful afternoon
90 and the children could not have been happier. Lastly, I thank resident Mike Mere for generously donating
91 a set of new letters for the Village message board. Years ago, Mike also donated the message board and
92 the welcome to Asharoken sign as you enter the Village.

93 **Trustees:**

94

95 Deputy Mayor Pierce: During the month I participated in an emergency management call
96 organized by Bill Raisch, Mayor Letica and various counterparts from Suffolk County, Town of
97 Huntington, Fire and Police departments also participated. On December 9th I participated in a
98 conference call with GEI regarding a grant opportunity for seawall construction with the mayor.
99 I completed training on sexual harassment and workplace violence. I participated in the DHSES
100 quarterly call, had a meeting with the DEC to modify the permit for rock repair, authorized FOIL
101 documents on engineering from the Army Corp, consulted with Hayduk engineering regarding
102 the rock plan, met with the auditors. I reviewed the snow removal contract, the monthly police
103 report and year end summary, the SC revenue sharing agreement, the audited financial
104 statements for 5-31-2024, the December meeting and special meeting minutes, the abstract and
105 the vouchers for the month.
106

107 Trustee Ettinger: During the past month, as usual, I had numerous meetings and conversations
108 with Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian regarding a number of police related matters. Once
109 again, I am happy to report that we had another “good month”, that included the third
110 consecutive month that we experienced an increase in the number of summonses issued together
111 with higher than average speeds.

112 For the 2024 year, we issued 13 percent more traffic violations with most of the increase coming
113 in the past 3 months, which Ray Mahdesian will comment on further, in his report.
114 Some other matters that I was involved in during the month are as follows:

115 On December 10th I successfully completed the required On Line Sexual Harassment and
116 Workplace Violence Prevention Training Webinars, On December 15th my wife and I attended
117 the annual Santa Visit and Christmas Celebration at our Village Hall, On December 17th I
118 attended the Special BOT Meeting,
119 During the month I also reviewed the Suffolk County Public Safety Revenue Sharing
120 Agreement, the Draft Audited Financial Statements prepared by our External Auditors, the
121 McCarthy Snow Removal Contract, the foils that were received during the past month, last
122 month’s BOT Regular Meeting’s Minutes and the Special BOT Meeting, and finally, I also
123 reviewed this month’s Abstracts for the Payment Vouchers.
124

125 Trustee Jablonski: During the month I reviewed the minutes for both December meetings, the
126 vouchers & checks, the police reports, the snow removal contract and the Suffolk County Revenue
127 Sharing agreement and the draft financials.
128

129 **Attorney Migatz:** The Zoning Board met on December 16th, they heard one application, Adrienne
130 Scolnick, 196 Asharoken Ave, special use permit was granted for the enlargement of an existing
131 garage with addition of second story for use as an accessory structure. The application of John
132 Murn, 276 Asharoken Avenue for a special use permit to permit the second story of a new garage
133 approved for storage to be used as an accessory dwelling. That was heard on November 18th, it was
134 continued to December 16th. On December 16th it was adjourned at the request of the applicant’s
135 counsel, to be heard on January 21st. The Planning Board did not meet.
136

137 **Treasurer’s Report:** Report read by Mayor Letica: Nothing unusual to report, the total vouchers for
138 the month \$70,795.99. Included in the invoices was a payment to GEI Consultants for seawall
139 engineering. There is a separate resolution for budget transfers.
140

141 **Police Report:** Officer Mahdesian reported there has been a sharp uptick in cases of speeding on
142 Asharoken Avenue. A lot of it is Amazon, Uber, Door Dash, delivery people for the most part. The

143 Police Department is addressing it, the summonses are very high, 67 for the month, 2 arrests, traffic
144 related. There was one incident overnight, December 8th into the 9th, a car was stolen from a
145 resident's driveway and is being investigated by detectives from the Suffolk County Police Dept.
146 Officer in charge Mahdesian shared a story regarding one of the village's part time police officers,
147 Robert Cafiero, who is a full time officer with the SCPD. Officer Cafiero heard a call regarding a dog
148 trapped in the ice near Coindre Hall. It wasn't his area but he responded to the call, was the first to
149 arrive, stripped down and rescued the dog.

150
151 Emergency Manager: On December 4th, Bill Raisch arranged a meeting with all key agencies
152 focusing on how to respond to the possibility of the loss of Asharoken Avenue due to severe
153 weather.

154
155 **Superintendent of Buildings:** Doug Adil reported the following:
156 Met with the homeowner at 516 Asharoken Av. to review the details for the fence permit that they
157 had received, including height, offset from the edge of pavement and so forth. Inspected a reported
158 structure built without a building permit on North Harbor Road. The structure exists in the Town of
159 Huntington portion of the property, so Asharoken does not have jurisdiction. Met with the
160 contractor who will be constructing a seawall repair at 530 Asharoken Av. to discuss site logistics
161 and staging of the work. Reviewed plans for renovations and new construction at 3 Clamshell Lane.
162 Provided plan review comments with require corrections and returned comments to the Architect.
163 Reviewed the foundation location survey for the new house at 106 Cove Road. Survey was
164 approved so framing can commence. Reviewed construction plans for plumbing work for a propane
165 tank at 35 Cove Road. Plans were returned for corrections. Conducted various inspections and
166 completed 24 hours of continuing education as code enforcement officer.

167
168 **Public Hearing:**
169 Local Law #1-2025 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General
170 Municipal Law §3-c for fiscal year commencing 6/1/2025. Publication was read by Clerk Glennon.
171
172 Mayor Leticia; discussed the proposed local law (1-2025) to allow the Board of Trustees to override
173 the NY State 2% tax cap. This is the first step in the budget process. The proposed local law (1-
174 2025) gives financial flexibility without the constraints of an arbitrary tax limit imposed by NY
175 State. Passage of this law gives a safety net should unexpected expenses arise, or revenue shortfalls
176 occur prior to finalizing the budget. Examples are unusual high snow removal costs or police
177 overtime incurred due to an unanticipated storm. This is something we've done for the last twelve
178 years. The board is in the very initial phase of preparing the 2025-2026 budget. I want to stress that
179 adoption of the override law should not be interpreted or assumed to mean that the board intends
180 to have a tax increase above the 2% threshold. We must finalize the assessment roll, determine our
181 projected revenues and expenditures, and develop a realistic budget for the next fiscal year. It is in
182 the best interest of the village to adopt the law with the hope and expectation that it may not be
183 needed. Please keep in mind due to the current inflationary environment a tax increase may be
184 needed, fortunately inflation is moderating. Since I was elected mayor 13 years ago our average
185 annual tax increase has been less than 1% and there has only been one tax increase in the last 8
186 years. The village has a long history of financial conservatism and the Board and I will do our best
187 to develop a budget that maintains the level of services for the residents this next year.

188
189 Mayor Leticia opened public session:

190
191 A resident had a question about outstanding taxes.

192
193 Mayor Leticia a motion to close the public hearing on 1-2025, 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 **Old Business:** There was a discussion amongst the board regarding the \$1 million earmark for a
201 temporary repair of the most damaged portion of the seawall originally obtained by Senator
202 Schumer.
203

204 Mayor Letica is not supportive of using the earmark because the village would be required to
205 refund the federal government any money that was paid to Asharoken if the project was not
206 completed. He gave an example of if the seawall was damaged during a storm and it prevented the
207 completion of the project therefore requiring the village to pay back any money received.
208

209 Deputy Mayor Pierce agreed with the mayor. She felt the complexity and the time frame puts the
210 village in a very risky financial position if we accept this money. She would rather see the village's
211 efforts and funds go towards the whole seawall, not just the 180ft portion this earmark addresses.
212

213 The mayor then added that the village's share of \$250,000 would severely deplete the reserve funds
214 which will be needed for the larger project.
215

216 Trustee Ettinger agreed with the mayor and deputy mayor. It's a very risky project to get involved
217 with and the village should focus on the long-term project. He is hopeful that the planned addition
218 of more stones on the seawall in the near future will buy the village some time.
219

220 Trustee Jablonski also agreed with the reasoning of the other board members and asked the village
221 attorney to give his opinion.
222

223 Village Attorney Migatz has reviewed the contract and confirmed the reimbursement clause. He
224 cited an example of if the bid costs for construction came back too high for the village to complete
225 the project the village would have to reimburse the funds already expended back to the DOT. Mr.
226 Migatz felt it was a very risky deal.
227

228 Mayor Letica ended by stating he will contact the DOT and Senator Schumer's office to see if there is
229 any way to use the money for something other than the temporary repair. He will not tell the DOT
230 yes or no, the village will continue to review the options.
231
232
233

234 **Resolutions:**
235

236 **Resolution (2025-01)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers for
237 the month of December 2024 in the amount of \$70,795.99. Check #'s 11623-11631 and 11633-
238 11656. Check #'s 11590 to 11622 printed incorrectly and were voided. Check #11632 was voided
239 and replaced with check #11656.

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

241 Trustee Jablonski AYE
242 Trustee Burke AYE
243 Trustee Ettinger AYE
244 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
245 Mayor Letica AYE
246 Motioned Carried
247

248 **Resolution (2025-02)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve budget transfers
249 for December 2024.
250 Trustee Jablonski made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
251 Trustee Jablonski AYE
252 Trustee Ettinger AYE
253 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
254 Mayor Letica AYE
255 Motioned Carried.

256
257 **Resolution (2025-03)** Be it Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve proposed Local
258 Law #1-2025 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal
259 Law §3-c for the fiscal year commencing 6/1/2025.
260 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

261
262 ROLL CALL:
263 **Trustee Jablonski** AYE
264 **Trustee Ettinger** AYE
265 **Deputy Mayor Pierce** AYE
266 **Mayor Letica** AYE

267
268 **Resolution (2025-04)** Be it Resolved that the Village Board does hereby ratify the Memorandum
269 of Agreement for the Suffolk County Public Safety Revenue Sharing program, signed by the Mayor
270 on December 31st, 2024, in order to secure the village's share of \$6,100.

271
272 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
273 Trustee Jablonski AYE
274 Trustee Ettinger AYE
275 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
276 Mayor Letica AYE
277 Motioned Carried.

278
279 **Resolution (2025-05)** Be it Resolved that the Village Board, does hereby approve in accordance
280 with the provisions of the Election Law of the State of New York, the 2024 Annual Village Election in
281 the Village of Asharoken shall be held on Tuesday, June 17th, 2025, and be it further resolved that
282 the offices to be filled at said election and the terms thereof are as follows:

283 Trustee, two (2) years
284 Trustee, two (2) years

285
286 Be it resolved that the polling place will be held at the Village Hall, 1 Asharoken Avenue, Northport,
287 NY 11768 during the hours of 12 noon to 9:00 pm, subject to change.

288
289 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Mayor Letica.
290 Trustee Jablonski AYE
291 Trustee Ettinger AYE
292 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
293 Mayor Letica AYE
294 Motioned Carried.

295
296 **Resolution (2025-06)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby accept the draft audited
297 financial statements for 5/31/2024, prepared by Skinnon and Faber Certified Public Accountants,
298 the financial statements will be filed with the Village Clerk, published and available for inspection.
299 Trustee Jablonski made a motion to approve seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.
300 Trustee Jablonski AYE

301 Trustee Ettinger AYE
302 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
303 Mayor Leticia AYE
304 Motioned Carried.

305
306 **Resolution (2025-07)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the proposal
307 from Ted McCarthy Landscaping, East Northport, NY 11731 to provide snow plowing services for
308 Village Hall parking lot at a cost of \$265 per visit charge.

309 Trustee Jablonski made a motion to approve seconded by Trustee Ettinger
310 Trustee Jablonski AYE
311 Trustee Ettinger AYE
312 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
313 Mayor Leticia AYE
314 Motioned Carried.

315
316 **Resolution (2025-08)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize a payment to
317 Officer Josephson of \$30,000 for the retirement incentive as per the Memorandum of
318 Understanding dated 7/3/2024. This is the first of five payments to be made in the first week of
319 January of each year through January 2029.

320
321 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve seconded by Trustee Jablonski
322 Trustee Jablonski AYE
323 Trustee Ettinger AYE
324 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
325 Mayor Leticia AYE
326 Motioned Carried.

327
328 **Resolution (2025-09)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the first of two
329 payments of \$89,012.30 to Officer Josephson to compensate for unused sick days as per the police
330 contract effective 6/1/2021, to be paid from the Unpaid Benefits reserve account.

331
332 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve seconded by Trustee Jablonski
333 Trustee Jablonski AYE
334 Trustee Ettinger AYE
335 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
336 Mayor Leticia AYE
337 Motioned Carried.

338

339 Public Session: Mayor Leticia opened public session:

340 An attendee asked questions about the funding of the repair of the seawall.

341

342 A resident expressed concern about obtaining federal funding from the new administration.

343 A resident spoke about the integrity of the seawall and road with concerns about maintaining
344 privacy

345

346 An attendee had questions regarding the Schumer/DOT grant.

347

348 Mayor Leticia made a motion to exit public session, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

349 Trustee Jablonski AYE
350 Trustee Ettinger AYE

351 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
352 Mayor Letica AYE
353 Motioned Carried.
354
355 Mayor Letica made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
356 Trustee Jablonski AYE
357 Trustee Ettinger AYE
358 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
359 Mayor Letica AYE
360 Motioned Carried.

361
362 The January 7th, 2025 Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at
363 approximately 7:24pm.

364
365
366 Signed: 
367 Michelle Glennon, Village Clerk