

Incorporated Village of Asharoken  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Public Hearing  
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 6:30pm  
Village Hall  
Approximate Attendance (19)

Approved

**Officers:**

Greg Letica, Mayor  
Pam Pierce, Deputy Mayor  
Melvin Ettinger, Trustee  
Laura Burke, Trustee – Absent with previous notice  
Ian Jablonski, Trustee – Absent with previous notice

**Officials & Appointees Present:**

Michelle Glennon, Village Clerk  
Bruce Migatz, Village Attorney  
Emily Hayes, Treasurer – Absent with previous notice  
Raymond Mahdesian, Officer-in-Charge  
Doug Adil, Building Inspector  
Bill Raisch, Emergency Manager

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

Mayor Letica made a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes for February 4, 2025, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.

Trustee Ettinger	AYE
Deputy Mayor Pierce	AYE
Mayor Letica	AYE

Motioned Carried.

**Mayors Report:** Mayor Letica reported, Last week, the Village added 40 5-ton stones to the seawall to bolster the weakest section. Thanks to the Village's new Deputy Highway Superintendent, Ray Dantoni, for excelling in overseeing the project. I would also like to thank NYS Assemblyman Keith Brown for securing a grant for the Village to pay for this critical project. Lastly, thanks to former Resident Rob Bergold and LaMay Construction for an outstanding job delivering and installing the rocks.

The Village received confirmation from NYS DHSES and FEMA that its Hazard Mitigation grant could be used to fund 90% of the cost of engineering, permitting, and other associated expenses for the reconstruction of the beach seaward of the seawall. The Village will commence on this project immediately.

In addition, the Village is making significant strides with the NYS DOT to change the use of Senator Schumer's \$ 1,000,000 earmark from repair funds to full reconstruction funds.

Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce, Emergency Manager Bill Raisch, and I held a Zoom call with members of the NYS DEC to discuss what they would require in the aftermath of a breach or significant damage to Asharoken Avenue. Although the Village could start working immediately after a breach and then apply for an emergency authorization, it appeared the better idea was to get a 10-year permit for

49 road repair. An emergency authorization is good for 30 days and only allows the Village to do the  
50 smallest possible project to rectify the issue. Therefore, the Village will commence work on  
51 obtaining the 10-year permit.

52 On February 13<sup>th</sup>, I wrote to Governor Hochul advising her that the Village is getting close to  
53 completing the needed engineering and permitting to begin the reconstruction of the seawall. I  
54 asked her to provide funding similar to what she gave Baxter Estates (in Nassau County) to mitigate  
55 its road flooding issue. This funding method allows the State to pay the contractors directly instead  
56 of the Village paying them and then submitting requests for reimbursement. For a project estimated  
57 at 10 million dollars, it would be almost impossible for Asharoken to secure the money upfront to  
58 pay the contractors before State reimbursement. Baxter Estates made the same argument and  
59 secured appropriate funding from NYS.

60 The Village has been doing preliminary work on the 2025-26 budget. Because of significant  
61 increases in the cost of police retirement benefits, health insurance, general insurance, and the need  
62 to refinance two reserve funds, remaining under the NYS 2% tax cap will be very challenging. Faced  
63 with similar realities, many Towns and Villages on Long Island had to adopt budgets that exceeded  
64 the 2% tax cap. As I reported earlier, the Village must prepare an appropriate budget regardless of  
65 the tax cap. There is more work to do, and no stone will be left unturned to achieve a budget that  
66 will best suit the Village's needs with the lowest possible tax increase. The Board of Trustees will  
67 have a work session on the budget on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM and hold a public hearing on  
68 April 1 before adopting the proposed budget.

69 The Village and the Asharoken PBA had a very productive second meeting to discuss the new 5-year  
70 contract. The meeting featured a frank discussion, and both sides are committed to reaching a fair  
71 agreement. A third meeting has not yet been scheduled.

72 During the month, I watched a webinar on the services that NYS DHSES offers to help Villages with  
73 their cyber security. One item of interest was a Rapid Cybersecurity Risk Assessment. The Village  
74 followed up with a phone call to get the details on this free program. It looks like a very important  
75 action point to follow up on, and the Village will schedule an onsite visit for the assessment.

76 The Board of Assessment Review met last week. Three assessment changes were granted, and the  
77 remainder were denied due to a lack of proper supporting documentation. I thank Village Assessor  
78 Rick Leonard for the excellent work he has done to improve the Village's assessments.

79 Carole Casamassima, Chairperson of the Save the Fireworks Committee, reports that the Centennial  
80 dinner/dance is filling up quickly. Please RSVP now to reserve your spots before the event closes  
81 out. It will be a great night celebrating the Village's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. I am looking forward to seeing  
82 you there.

83 I thank Catherine and Landrigan Bradley for donating a memorial bench in honor of Barry Bradley.  
84 Barry was a decades-long Village resident who loved the Village and served as the sanitation man  
85 and Harbormaster. He greeted everyone with a big smile and enjoyed life to the fullest. The bench  
86 looks out over Northport Bay where Barry spent countless hours on the water. His memory will go  
87 on for years thanks to this wonderful addition to Village Hall. I encourage you to stop, take a seat  
88 on the bench, and reflect on the amazing community we live in and the difference Barry made in all  
89 of our lives.

90 **Trustees:**

91 Deputy Mayor Pierce: I continued working on the FAPP application. On February 6<sup>th</sup> I participated  
92 in a conference call with the Mayor, Bill Raisch and the DEC on emergency Authorization/10 yr  
93 permit to put in place for road emergency work. I met with Mayor Leticia and the Asharoken PBA on  
94 February 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the police contract. I participated in the Board of Assessment review on  
95 February 27<sup>th</sup>. I also reviewed the minutes, vouchers, police report, proposal from GEI for near  
96 shore structures as well as the 60% design plan on seawall replacement. I also reviewed the  
97 preliminary working budget as well as correspondence from residents.

98  
99 **Trustee Ettinger:** During the past month, as usual, I had numerous meetings and conversations with  
100 Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian regarding a number of police related matters. Once again, I am  
101 happy to report that we had another "good month", that included the fifth consecutive month that  
102 we experienced an increase in the number of summonses issued together with higher than average  
103 speeds.

104 This past month, which is a short month, we issued 61 summonses and Ray Mahdesian will  
105 comment on further, in his report. Ray and I spent some more time together reviewing and refining  
106 our draft of the Police Budget for our next fiscal year. The Budget was then submitted to the Village  
107 Clerk for consolidation with the rest of the budget. On February 27<sup>th</sup> I attended the Board of  
108 Assessment Review Meeting, I also reviewed the GEI proposed Plans and Schedule for the seawall  
109 rehab, the foils and various correspondences that were received during the past month, last month's  
110 BOT Regular Meeting's Minutes and this month's Abstract for the Payment Vouchers.

111  
112 **Attorney Migatz:** Attorney Migatz said there was nothing to report. The Zoning Board was  
113 supposed to meet on March 18<sup>th</sup> on the application of John Murn, 276 Asharoken Ave, his attorney  
114 asked for another adjournment to submit plans. He was granted a variance to build a new garage  
115 and a condition was to take down the existing garage. He then filed an application for a special use  
116 permit for the new garage to have living quarters and now he wants, according to his attorney, to  
117 amend the application to keep the existing garage.

118  
119 **Village Treasurer:** The Mayor read the Treasurer's report: Payment vouchers totaled \$73,102.21.  
120 Included in the vouchers this month are the various invoices pertaining to the seawall repair. A&R  
121 Materials for \$14,695.63 and LaMay & Sons for \$15,290.00. There will be a separate resolution to  
122 approve the vouchers and budget transfers.

123  
124 **Police Report:** Officer Mahdesian reported that the most significant police item for the month of  
125 February was during a snowstorm when the police received a aid call for a resident, the person was  
126 unconscious from an opioid overdose. Officer Fin Geary was able to administer two shots of Narcan  
127 and revived the individual. The department issued 61 summonses, 32 were for speed, most of  
128 which are going to delivery people.

129  
130 **Superintendent of Buildings:** Building Inspector Doug Adil reported that he Revised details for  
131 the proposed replacement of propane gas piping at a home on Cove Road were received. Building  
132 Permit was issued for this work.  
133 A revised Plot Plan and supporting details was received for the home at 145 Asharoken Av. With  
134 corrections, it was rejected for a Building permit since a variance will be required.  
135 I reviewed a revised driveway layout for 86 Cove Road, and provided comments to the Designer.  
136 Issued a Denial Letter for conversion of the garage at 159 Asharoken Av. Into a structure requiring  
137 a Special Use Permit.  
138 Discussed NYSDEC requirements with the homeowner at 5 Duck Island La., for their proposed  
139 construction project.

140 Conducted 13 inspections.

141  
142 **Emergency Manager:** Bill Raisch reported that based on the conference call with the DEC the  
143 village will pursue the 10 year permit for repair. He is putting together all the supporting  
144 documents.

145  
146 **Resolutions:**

147  
148 **Resolution (2025-25)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board approves the budget transfers for the  
149 month of February 2025.

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

151 Trustee Ettinger AYE

152 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

153 Mayor Letica AYE

154 Motioned Carried.

155  
156 **Resolution (2025-26)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers for  
157 the month of February 2025 in the amount of \$73,102.21, check #'s 11691 to 11721.

158  
159 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.

160 Trustee Ettinger AYE

161 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

162 Mayor Letica AYE

163 Motioned Carried.

164  
165 **Resolution (2025-27)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Village  
166 Treasurer to transfer \$7,399.63 from the Infrastructure Reserve Account to the Money Market  
167 Account for the Village's 10% local share of the first Request for Reimbursement from the  
168 Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Hazard Mitigation Grant.

169  
170 Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

171 Trustee Ettinger AYE

172 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

173 Mayor Letica AYE

174 Motioned Carried.

175  
176 **Resolution (2025-28)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the budget  
177 adjustment to increase the Start Income Account by \$7,399.63 and increase account  
178 Seawall/Shoreline Engineering Expenditure Account by \$7,399.63 for the village's 10% local share  
179 of the RFR from DHSES.

180  
181 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.

182 Trustee Ettinger AYE

183 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

184 Mayor Letica AYE

185 Motioned Carried.

186  
187  
188 **Resolution (2025-29)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Village  
189 Treasurer to transfer \$5,000 from the Money Market Account to the Celebration Reserve account to  
190 support the 2026 Fireworks. Funds were received by an anonymous donor.

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

192 Trustee Ettinger AYE

193 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

194 Mayor Letica AYE

195 Motioned Carried.

196  
197 **Resolution (2025-30)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the scheduling of  
198 a public hearing on Tuesday, April 1st, 2025 at 6:30pm on the tentative budget for fiscal year  
199 beginning 6/1/2025.

200  
201 Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

202 Trustee Ettinger AYE

203 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

204 Mayor Letica AYE

205 Motioned Carried.

206  
207 **Resolution (2025-31)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the mayor to  
208 sign the engagement letter with Skinnon & Faber, Certified Public Accountants for the year ended  
209 May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, cost of the audit & filing of the Annual Financial Report (AFR) required by the State  
210 of New York is \$13,650 and for the Justice court audit examination is \$700.00.

211  
212 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.

213 Trustee Ettinger AYE

214 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

215 Mayor Letica AYE

216 Motioned Carried.

217  
218 **Resolution (2025-32)** Be it Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Asharoken  
219 Police Department to utilize Larkfield Car Wash located at 349 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY  
220 at a rate of \$100 per month for the cleaning of the police vehicles.

221  
222 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.

223 Trustee Ettinger AYE

224 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

225 Mayor Letica AYE

226 Motioned Carried.

227  
228 **New Business:**

229  
230 No new business

231  
232 Mayor Letica opened public session

233 Public Session:

234 1. A resident asked questions regarding the seawall.

235 2. A resident had questions regarding the tax assessment.

236 3. Another resident had questions regarding the possible movement of Asharoken Avenue.

237  
238 Mayor Letica made a motion to exit public session, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

239 Trustee Ettinger AYE


240 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

241 Mayor Letica AYE

242 Motioned Carried

243 Mayor Letica made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.  
244 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
245 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
246 Mayor Letica AYE  
247 Motioned Carried.

248  
249 The March 4, 2025 Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at approximately  
250 7:00pm.

251 Signed:   
252 Michelle Glennon, Village Clerk