

Incorporated Village of Asharoken
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, September 1, 2026 6:30pm
Village Hall
Approximate Attendance (21)

Draft

Officers Present:

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

Officials & Appointees Present:

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

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

Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes for August 4, 2026,
seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.

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

The Mayor thanked Trustee Jablonski for his service as he has resigned from the Village Board. The Board of Trustees presented Trustee Jablonski with a Proclamation commemorating his fifteen years of service to the Village of Asharoken. The Village wishes Trustee Jablonski the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Resolution (2026-113) Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby accept the letter of resignation from Ian Jablonski as a member of the Board of Trustees and Deputy Police Commissioner effective August 26, 2026.

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

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

Resolution (2026-114) Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby accept the letter of resignation from the Board of Zoning Appeals from Raymond D'Antoni effective September 1, 2026.

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

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

Motioned Carried

Resolution (2026-115) Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby appoint Raymond D'Antoni to replace Ian Jablonski as a member of the Village of Asharoken Board of Trustees effective September 1, 2026 to July 1, 2027.

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

Trustee Burke AYE

Trustee Ettinger AYE

Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

Mayor Letica AYE

Motioned Carried

Raymond D'Antoni was sworn in as a Village Trustee by Village Clerk Michelle Glennon. Mayor Letica welcomed Mr. D'Antoni to the Board of Trustees.

Reports of Officials:

Mayors Report: I want to thank Trustee Ian Jablonski for his 15 years of service as Trustee. I will miss having him on the Board of Trustees. He was a critical component in all the Village has done during that time. I wish him all the best in the future.

On August 15th the Village received notice from FEMA that it was denying payment in the amount \$233,429 of for the engineering for the sand retention structures and beach nourishment for the seawall area. They made their decision claiming that these were a change of scope and needed pre-approval. The Village strongly disagrees with this assessment and will appeal their decision. In the Village's grant application, the description stated:

"As identified above, this funding request is to complete design, permitting, and bid solicitation for a seawall rehabilitation project. While the exact design will be determined during the implementation of this scope, the ultimate project is intended to redesign the seawall to provide protection against future storm events, incorporating sea level rise projections to increase resiliency to the area, and is expected to include:

- installation of new steel sheetpile at a deeper toe depth to limit undermining and a higher crest elevation to reduce overtopping.**
- installation of a new rock revetment seaward of the sheetpile to increase the structure elevation.**
- beach nourishment to move the limit of wave action further offshore.**
- sand retention structures (i.e., breakwaters/groins) preserve the restored shoreline position."**

And in the approval letter, FEMA stated:

"The approved Scope of Work (SOW) outlined in the application is to complete design, permitting, and bid solicitation for a seawall rehabilitation project. While the exact design will be determined during the implementation of this scope. the ultimate project is intended to redesign the seawall to provide protection against future storm events, incorporating sea level rise projections to increase resiliency to this area. The end result of this project is the creation of an LMA-ready sub-application that can be submitted under a future funding opportunity."

97 The Village's position is that the scope of the work for which the funding was requested was clearly
98 and unambiguously set forth in the grant application and was incorporated, in material part, into
99 FEMA's approval letter. The Village relied upon those documents in understanding the scope of the
100 project that had been approved for funding.

101 Significantly, FEMA's approval letter did not expressly approve or reject any of the four individual
102 components identified in the Village's application. Accordingly, the Village does not believe that
103 FEMA's subsequent interpretation of the approved scope is consistent with the language of the
104 grant application or the approval letter.

105 The Village intends to formally appeal FEMA's determination and will outline in detail the factual
106 and documentary basis supporting its position. The Village has 60 days within which to file the
107 appeal and will submit it promptly, preserving the Village's rights and seeking a determination
108 consistent with the scope of work originally submitted and approved.

109 The Village was also informed that two change orders related to the proposed ramp and steps
110 crossing over the seawall, totaling approximately \$20,166, were denied for reimbursement.

111 The Village intends to appeal this determination. The basis for the appeal is that both the grant
112 application and FEMA's approval letter expressly recognized that the exact design and
113 configuration of the improvements would be determined during the project's scope and design
114 process. The ramp and steps at issue are precisely the type of design elements contemplated by that
115 language. They are not separate or unrelated projects; rather, they are components of the seawall
116 reconstruction and associated improvements that were developed as part of the project's detailed
117 design. The Village therefore maintains that these costs are properly included within the approved
118 scope of work and are eligible for reimbursement under the grant.

119 The Village's contacts at New York State Emergency Services Homeland Security were also
120 extremely surprised at FEMA's denial. They too feel that the application clearly laid out what the
121 Village was asking for money to do.

122 Thankfully, the Village's very strong financial position will allow it to absorb these costs should
123 FEMA deny the appeal. I have spoken to our Congressman Nick LaLota and briefed him on the
124 situation. He has offered to do all he can to resolve this misunderstanding with FEMA.

125 In better financial news, the Village received notice from Empire State Development (ESD) that the
126 \$12 million secured by Governor Hochul for the Village's seawall reconstruction project will be
127 disbursed on an as-needed basis. The Village will submit project invoices to EDS, which will
128 reimburse the Village on a monthly basis. The Village will then use those funds to pay the
129 contractor.

130 The consequences of this arrangement are substantial: it will significantly reduce the Village's need
131 to issue bonds to finance the project, thereby reducing the Village's borrowing needs and associated
132 financing costs.

133 **Trustees:**

134 Deputy Mayor Pierce: On August 6th I participated in a call with Grucci. On August 10th I participated
135 in a call with ESD and the Mayor and reviewed various documents on process. I submitted our
136 annual Entity Registration. I was on a conference call with DHSES regarding the FEMA appeal and
137 reviewed letters to Congressman LaLota regarding the appeal. I reviewed the Verizon road opening

138 permit, ongoing village code topics, the minutes, voucher, checks, abstract, police report and the
139 firearms permit application. I participated in a conference call with GEI and Haugland Group
140 regarding the seawall reconstruction.

141 Trustee Ettinger: I first want to take this opportunity to make some comments regarding Ian
142 Jablonski's resignation and express to him my sincere thanks for his tenure as both a Trustee and
143 Deputy Police Commissioner for the past 15 years. Ian has been a great asset to the Village and the
144 Police Department and I personally will miss his guidance and support. I want to wish him the best
145 for his future endeavors. I also want to welcome Ray D'Antoni to the BOT and I'm looking forward
146 to working with him during the coming years.

147 During the month, as usual, I spent a great deal of time working with Officer-in-Charge Ray
148 Mahdesian on various Village Police related matters. I am happy to report it was another good
149 month that was extremely busy and active for the police department. The police issued 75
150 summonses this past month, almost double from the previous month. Ray will comment further on
151 the details of these activities in his report.

152
153 During the month I also continued to have some follow up discussions on the status of the grant
154 that we received a few months ago for the two (2) new police cars through Congressman's Nick
155 LaLota's office. Most importantly, I received a call from Mary O'Hara from Congressman Nick LaLota
156 office confirming an event that we scheduled for this Friday, September 4th at 10:00AM when
157 Congressman LaLota will visit Asharoken for a ceremonial presentation of the check in the amount
158 of \$150,000. I hope that many of you will join us in thanking him for obtaining this grant for us.

159
160 Some other matters that I was involved in during the month are as follows: I met with OIC Ray
161 Mahdesian and Officer Brian O'Connor a few times regarding a Grant that we will be submitting
162 later this week related to Police Electronics Equipment. I also reviewed the many correspondences
163 that were sent regarding the FEMA issues, the correspondences regarding the ESD Funding for the
164 seawall and the potential Bonding requirements and the correspondences that we received from
165 some of our residents. I also reviewed last month's BOT Regular Meeting's Minutes as well as the
166 Special BOT Meeting's minutes and this month's Abstracts for the Payment Vouchers.

167
168 Trustee Burke: Most of my time this past month has been spent working on the code review project
169 which we are close to completing, we are working on the final revisions. I reviewed local code on
170 short term rentals from other villages and have been asked by the Mayor to start researching this
171 for our village, currently there are no rules for short term rentals/Airbnb that we feel we need to
172 address. I also reviewed the minutes from the prior meeting, the vouchers from the past month,
173 village correspondence, abstract and vouchers. I would also like to thank Ian for his time as a
174 trustee. It has been a pleasure working with him. I would like to welcome Ray to the BOT.

175 Trustee D'Antoni: I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve and am looking forward to
176 working with the Board of Trustees.

177 **Attorney Migatz:** It was a quiet month, nothing to report.

178 **Village Treasurer:** Nothing unusual to report. The total for vouchers is \$45,455.69, check numbers
179 12350 to 12376. There will be a separate resolution for budget transfers.

180
181 **Police Report:** Ray Mahdesian reported another good month. There were 75 summonses and no
182 arrests. About half of the summons were speed related. The marine season is almost over. There
183 were 35 water ski permits issued this season.

184
 185 **Superintendent of Buildings:** Received a homeowner request to address a concern about the
 186 stormwater running off the avenue and onto their property at 547 Asharoken. Advised the
 187 homeowner that their property along the road had washed away over the years, and needed to be
 188 raised to prevent it from being the lowest point on the downslope of Asharoken Av.
 189 While checking work at 547 Asharoken I found that the homeowner was replacing their sanitary
 190 disposal system that had failed. They were able to produce a copy of the Dept. of Health Services
 191 approval for replacement, and sent same to the Village.
 192 Received drawings for installation of a Hot tub at 521 Asharoken Av., and the plans were returned
 193 Approved.
 194 Received re-submitted drawings for the new swimming pool at 86 Cove Road, and a Building
 195 Permit was subsequently issued for this work.
 196 Reviewed revised drawings for interior alterations at the home at 5 Duck Island Lane, and a
 197 Building Permit was subsequently issued for this work.

198 **SITE INSPECTIONS:**

199 Location	Type of Inspection	Status
200 160 Asharoken	New Accessory Garage	Insulation inspection- PASSED
201 196 Asharoken Av.	Garage reconstruction	Next inspection- Final
202 242 Asharoken Av.	New Swimming Pool	Next inspection- Final
203 561 Asharoken Av.	New Detached Garage	Next inspection- Final
204 7 Duck Island	New construction of a single family residence - Construction drawings are in development.	
205		
206 1 Lobster Way	New construction of a single family residence - Rough Framing-PASSED	
207 86 Cove Rd.	Alterations to existing	Interior finishes nearly completed;
208	landscaping improvements and driveway are in construction..	
209 90 Cove Road	New construction of a single family residence - Rough framing is progressing.	
210		
211 106 Cove Rd.	New Swimming Pool	Inspection being re-scheduled.
212 106 Cove Rd.	New Construction	Final inspection- PASSED
213		with minor comments.
214 3 Clamshell	New Construction	Insulation inspection- PASSED
215 3 Beach Plum	Deck reconstruction	OK to issue Certificate of Compliance for deck
216	reconstructions	
217 7 Beach Plum	New Swimming Pool	Electrical bonding- PASSED. OK to backfill.
218 71 Bevin Road	New Swimming Pool	Pool barrier (fence) PASSED with one gate
219	revision; follow up required.	
220 3 Bevin West	Covered Porch and Outside Stairway	Covered porch removal completed;
221	stair inspection- PASSED.	
222		
223		

224 **New Business:** No new business

225 **Old Business:** No old business

226 **Resolutions:**

227 **Resolution (2026-116)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers
 228 for the month of August 2026 in the amount of \$45,455.69, check numbers 12350 to 12376.
 229 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.
 230 Trustee D'Antoni Abstain
 231 Trustee Burke AYE
 232 Trustee Ettinger AYE
 233 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
 234 Mayor Letica AYE

235 Motioned Carried
236
237 **Resolution (2026-117)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the budget
238 transfers for the month of August 2026.
239 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.
240 Trustee D'Antoni AYE
241 Trustee Burke AYE
242 Trustee Ettinger AYE
243 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
244 Mayor Letica AYE
245 Motioned Carried
246
247 **Resolution (2026-118)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby appoint Fred Betiella as
248 a full member of the Board of Zoning Appeals effective September 1, 2026 to July 1, 2027.
249 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
250 Trustee D'Antoni AYE
251 Trustee Burke AYE
252 Trustee Ettinger AYE
253 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
254 Mayor Letica AYE
255 Motioned Carried
256
257 **Resolution (2026-119)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby appoint Ed Ross as the
258 ad-hoc member of the Board of Zoning Appeals effective September 1, 2026 to July 1, 2027.
259 Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
260 Trustee D'Antoni AYE
261 Trustee Burke AYE
262 Trustee Ettinger AYE
263 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
264 Mayor Letica AYE
265 Motioned Carried
266
267 **Resolution (2026-120)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby ratify the road opening
268 permit for Verizon to place their cables from the telephone poles into the existing 2" conduit across
269 Asharoken Ave (30') and 1 1/2" conduit in the sand along the side of the roadway.

270 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.
271 Trustee D'Antoni AYE
272 Trustee Burke AYE
273 Trustee Ettinger AYE
274 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
275 Mayor Letica AYE
276 Motioned Carried

277 **Resolution (2026-121)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Mayor to
278 sign Addendum Rider 'A' to the Grucci Fireworks Performance Contract dated August 17, 2026
279 crediting the Village \$3,750 per year for the next four years; July 4, 2027 through July 4, 2030,
280 pending Village Attorney approval as to form.

281 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
282 Trustee D'Antoni AYE
283 Trustee Burke AYE

284 Trustee Ettinger AYE
285 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
286 Mayor Letica AYE
287 Motioned Carried
288 **Resolution (2026-122)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the firearms
289 permit for John Ruggiero at 379 Asharoken Ave.
290 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
291 Trustee D'Antoni AYE
292 Trustee Burke AYE
293 Trustee Ettinger AYE
294 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
295 Mayor Letica AYE
296 Motioned Carried
297
298 **Mayor Letica opened Public Session:**
299
300 -A non-resident had comments regarding the engineering of the new seawall.
301
302 Mayor Letica made a motion to exit public session, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
303 Trustee D'Antoni AYE
304 Trustee Burke AYE
305 Trustee Ettinger AYE
306 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
307 Mayor Letica AYE
308 Motioned Carried
309
310 Mayor Letica made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
311 Trustee D'Antoni AYE
312 Trustee Burke AYE
313 Trustee Ettinger AYE
314 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
315 Mayor Letica AYE
316 Motioned Carried
317 The September 1, 2026 board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at approximately
318 7:04pm.
319
320 Signed: _____
321 Michelle Glennon, Village Clerk