Incorporated Village of Asharoken
Board of Trustees Meeting
Due to the Corona virus the Board of Trustees held the meeting via Teleconference
Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at Village Hall
Attendance on Call 18

Mayor: I would like to thank everyone for joining the meeting; this is the regular schedule Village of Asharoken board meeting for July 14, 2020. I would like everyone to say the pledge the allegiance.

I would like to have everyone put their phone on mute unless you are speaking.
Nancy we have proper proof of publication for this meeting and emailed the teleconference meeting information to the media.
Nancy: Yes we did Mayor.

Mayor: Let me take a roll call so we know who is on the call; we know the mayor and trustees are on the call.
Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk Yes
Emily Hayes, Treasurer Yes
Trustee Pierce Yes
Trustee Laura Burke Yes
Trustee Mel Ettinger Here
Trustee Ian Jablonski Here
Attorney Bruce Migatz Yes
Doug Adil, Superintendent of Buildings Yes
Marty Cohen, Chairperson of the Conservation Committee No (came on later)
Ray Mahdesian, Officer in Charge Here
Bill Rasich, Emergency Manager No
Harbormaster Joe Affrunti No
Bradley Barry, Sanitation Operator No

Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes for June 2, 2020 seconded by Trustee Burke.
As we did last month I will call the roll; Mayor Letica took a roll call.
Trustee Jablonski AYE
Trustee Burke AYE
Trustee Ettinger AYE
Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
Mayor Letica AYE
Motioned Carried

We are going to start out with the Mayors report and then the rest of the official’s reports.

**Mayors Report:**
Mayor’s Report;” The Village 4th of July celebration went off well and safely. Although the cancellation of the fireworks muted the fun, the Village still had its traditional bonfires and Mother Nature gave us a lovely day to enjoy the beach. I would like to thank the residents for following the bonfire guidelines and keeping things safe. Additionally, I would like to thank Officer in Charge Ray Mahdesian and the Asharoken PD for another great job on another very busy day. Let’s hope that next year we will be able to once again celebrate the independence of our nation with fireworks.
The Village is soliciting bids to repair two groins in the beach lot area that have exposed metal. The Village had previously repaired several dangerous old groins in this area as well as few around 138 Asharoken Avenue.
I would like to thank resident Martin Richter for bringing this situation to the attention of the Village and Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce who is leading the effort to get the proposals and repair done. The Village finally received the application for the DASNY grant to repair the eroded dune in the beach lot area. Once the Village receives the final executed disbursement agreement it will begin the dune rehabilitation.

National Grid has installed a new fence at the Sound View boat ramp to mitigate trespassing near the nature preserve. I would like to thank Joe Warren, manager of the NG power plant, and Dom Spada, head of Huntington Maritime Services, for working with Asharoken to come up with a solution to this long-time ongoing problem.

Last month, the Village of Northport cleaned out Asharoken’s catch basins. This is another example of shared services which help both Villages financially. Northport also helped the Village with the sign at the end of Ocean Avenue announcing the cancellation of the fireworks and reminder that there is no parking in the Village. Big thanks to Roland Buzzard and the Northport Highway Department.

Unfortunately, the Asharoken holiday party, scheduled for early November, has been cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. Carole Casamassima, who has run the party for the last 10 years, assured me that a date has been reserved for 2021 and that next year’s event will be the best one yet. Once again Carole will be ably assisted next year by Jean Bonawandt. Big thanks to Carole and Jean for all they have done to run this event, bringing residents together for a wonderful evening and raise money to support the fireworks.

The Village received a very generous donation of $7500 from residents’ James and Diana Reilly requesting that the money be use to assist the police. As it turns out, Asharoken needs to replace its defibrillators and the cost of this upgrade should be covered by the donation. Thank you so much for your generosity it is very much appreciated.

A quick update on the Village Plover/Osprey nesting season and other wildlife; the plovers had a good year and had five chicks. The last count of the Osprey revealed a minimum of eight chicks. The Osprey chicks should start flying soon. Thanks to Dee Lento, Judy Ross and Katie Burke for finding a large number of Ring Necked Pheasants on Bevin road. Recently we heard of a possible sighting of a coyote in the Village. Numerous foxes have also been seen as well.

Trustees Report:
Trustee Pierce, reported, “Good Evening everyone, hope all are doing well and families as well. I reviewed the minutes, payment abstract, village correspondence, police contract on COVID 19, police report, the proposed local law on parking and storage of trailers, commercial vehicles and construction Equipment on residential property, the IMA on recycling and the final draft on the hazard mitigation plan. I also met with two marine contractors on site to review the exposed groins at the end of Asharoken Beach.

Trustee Ettinger; Good Evening Everyone, Firstly and foremost, let me state that I hope that each of you, your families and all your love ones are safe and healthy at this time. Due to the pandemic, during the past month I have continued to self-isolate and have communicated with our Mayor, my fellow Trustees, and Officer in Charge Ray Mahdesian and with our police officers via emails, texts, the telephone and conference calls in order to minimize their risk of catching the virus. I am very happy to report that at this point, all of our police officers, our employees and their families remain healthy. During the month, I have had numerous discussions and Zoom meetings with Officer-in-Charge Mahdesian and Mayor Letica regarding our plans and for the staffing needed for the July 4th holiday weekend, in order to insure a safe environment. Once again, a great deal of planning was done and
we considered every possible contingency. I’m happy to report that, once again, everything went extremely well on July 4th. Our police officers were busy and we did not have any major incidents. I want to give a special “Thanks” to Ray and the entire Asharoken Police force for all their hard work and for making the day go so smoothly.

Starting tomorrow, we are scheduled to resume our Village Court sessions. As a result, I also spent time during the month speaking with OIC Mahdesian reviewing how we would manage these sessions, the manning that was required and the precautions we needed to take in order to minimize the risk of catching the virus. I believe we have a good initial plan in place.

On July 13th, I participated in a SCOVA conference call regarding the required new Police Policies needed resulting from Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 203, together with OIC Mahdesian. In addition, some other matters that I was involved in during the month were as follows:

- I reviewed some correspondence that we received from the Town of Huntington and the NYS regarding the Covid-19 virus,
- I also reviewed some correspondences that we received from some residents,
- I also reviewed some foils that we received,
- I also reviewed last month’s BOT Regular Meeting’s Minutes, and finally
- I also reviewed this month’s Abstract for the Payment Vouchers.

Let me end my report by wishing you all continued Good Health.

Trustee Burke reported, Good evening all, during the past month I reviewed the minutes, vouchers, abstract, police report and village correspondences, proposed commercial code; the groin removal project and would like to extend my thanks to the police over the holiday weekend.

Trustee Jablonski reported, this past month I reviewed the minutes, the abstract, the police report, fireworks press release, revisions to the police contract, revisions to the commercial vehicle law, correspondence on exposed groins and correspondence from residents. I participated in a police planning meeting for 4th of July. I took my annual training New York State Harassment & Discrimination training.

I reviewed engineering plans to resolve drainage issues at 103 and 164 Asharoken Ave. Discussed the plans with the engineer and also met with the residents at 103 with the engineer discussing revisions to the plans and obtained a quote for staking out the 2 sites. Subsequently Nancy obtained 2 additional quotes one of which is a donation that we have a resolution to approve later in the meeting. Thank you very much Nancy for once again saving us a few thousand dollars.

Mayor: Attorney Migatz can we have the village attorney, the zoning and planning board.

**Village Attorney:** Thank you Mayor, I wish everyone good health. The Zoning and Planning Board did not meet in July. I am happy to announce that the zoning board will meet August 3rd in Village Hall with the appropriate social distancing. The dock appeal, the perfecting of appeals has been lifted by the appellate division and the applicants must perfect their appeals by September 9th 2020 that means that they must file their record on appeal and file their briefs and then the Village has 30 days to respond to that.

Mayor: Treasurer Hayes can we have the treasurers report.

**Village Treasurer:** The total vouchers in the month of June are $61,078.18. Included in the vouchers are $8,090.12 of vouchers relating to year end 5/31/20. Nothing unusual to report for the vouchers. There will be a separate resolution to approve the vouchers and budget transfers.

Mayor: Thank you very much, Officer Mahdesian can we have the police report.
**Officer In Charge Ray Mahdesian:** Fourth of July was certainly different this year without the fireworks display. Officers conducted extra beach patrols and I am happy to report that there were no problems with fires or injuries. Residents and their guests followed guidelines provided by the village and fortunately no arrests were necessary. There were 17 summons issued in June and no arrests. The department issued 47 ski permits. I am happy to report that there were no burglaries reported in the village during the month. Court will convene tomorrow for the first time since Covid 19 necessitated the shut-down several weeks ago.

Mayor: Barry Bradley did you join us for the sanitation report, I don’t think Barry joined.

Mayor: Bill Raisch did you join, I don’t think he joined, I will read his report.

“I continue to monitor the wider public health and emergency management environments for information and resources relevant to the Village needs.

I note that this remains a very dynamic environment as illustrated by the recent surges and in some cases resurgence of virus infection and resulting hospitalizations especially now in the younger 20-45 year old population”.

Mayor: Doug Adil can we have the Superintendent of Buildings report.

**Building Inspector Adil:** I continue to provide additional information and drawing details to a designer who is preparing a package for the ZBA for construction of a new pool and pool deck at a home on Asharoken Ave. I finalized communications with a homeowner on Bevin Road, facilitated by the Village Clerk, regarding overgrown landscape conditions. Homeowner addressed the issue with a landscape contractor. I provided a letter to a homeowner on Asharoken Ave. indicating the status of the application for a new septic system to be forwarded to the Suffolk County DHS.

I reviewed construction plans for renovation of a cottage on Bevin Road. Plans were approved for a building permit.

I reviewed plans for a PV solar installation at a home on Asharoken Ave. Plan review comments were sent to the homeowner and designer, and re-submittal is imminent. I provided information to a homeowner on Asharoken Ave, who wants to install a shed and needed to know what setbacks are to property lines. I also performed construction inspections.

**Conservation Chair, Mary Cohen:** Yes, I have nothing to report.

Mayor: Harbormaster Joe Affrunti are you on the call? All right, so that will be the report of officials.

Mayor: I would like Clerk Rittenhouse to go through the resolutions.

Village Clerk: Thank you Mayor. We will begin with;

**Resolution (2020-58)** Be It Resolved, that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers for the month of June 2020 in the amount of $61,078.18.

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

Mayor Letica took a roll call.

Trustee Jablonski | AYE
---|---
Trustee Burke | AYE
Trustee Ettinger | AYE
Deputy Mayor Pierce | AYE
Mayor Letica | AYE
Motioned Carried
Resolution (2020-59) Be it Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the Budget Transfers for the month of June 2020.

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

Mayor Letica took a roll call.

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

Motioned Carried

Resolution (2020-60) Be It Resolved, that the Village Board, does hereby authorize the allocation of the following funds ($10,000.00 for Police General, $15,000.00 for Highway, and $10,000.00 for Unpaid benefits from our General Account) (Unreserved fund) to our money market account (Reserve fund) for fiscal year-end 5/31/2021.

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

Mayor Letica took a roll call.

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

Motioned Carried

Resolution (2020-61) Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Mayor to extend the base term of the Inter-municipal Agreement with the Town of Smithtown for Removal and Processing of Recyclable Material through November 20, 2020.

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

Mayor Letica took a roll call.

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

Motioned Carried

Resolution (2020-62) Be It Resolved, that the Village Board does hereby approve the Village Clerk and/or Court Clerk to prepare an application to the 2020-2021 Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) grant for funding of court furnishings and equipment, not to exceed $30,000.00.

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

Mayor Letica took a roll call.

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

Motioned Carried
Resolution (2020-63) Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby accept the donation from Fauser Associates P.C. for retracing and setting stakes to determine the existing street corner property line for road improvements for the following addresses: 103, 105, 106/164, 166, 168 Asharoken Avenue. Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Jablonski. Mayor Letica took a roll call.

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Resolution (2020-64) Be It Resolved that the Village Board determines that the rehabilitation of the sand dune needed to protect Asharoken highway is classified as a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5 (C ) (2) of the State Environmental Quality Review Act Regulations and is not subject to SEQR. Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce. Mayor Letica took a roll call.

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Resolution (2020-65) Be It Resolved that the Village Board authorizes the Mayor to sign the (SAM) State and Municipal Facilities program agreement (project ID #23855) for the restoration and rehabilitation of the sand dune needed to protect our main highway (Asharoken Avenue) the grant amount is for $69,500.00. Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger. Mayor Letica took a roll call.

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Resolution (2020-66) Be It Resolved that the Village Board authorizes the Village Clerk to distribute RFP (Request for Proposals) for the removal of two exposed groins located on Asharoken Beach north of house number #413 Asharoken Avenue according to our procurement policy. Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger. Mayor Letica took a roll call.

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Resolution (2020-67) Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby accept a donation from Msgr. P. Fursey P. O’Toole Trust, Inc. in the amount of $7500.00 to help support the maintenance of the police department, this amount will be recorded as a restricted amount allocated to police expenditures.

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

Mayor Letica took a roll call.

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

Resolution (2020-68) Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the scheduling of a public hearing for August 4th, 2020 to discuss a proposed local law Chapter 116 (Parking and Storage of Trailers, Commercial Vehicles and Construction Equipment on Residential Property).

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

Mayor Letica took a roll call.

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

Nancy: No more resolutions.

Mayor: Do any of the trustees have any new issues to bring up at this time? If not we will go into public session, three minutes per person, you do not have to identify yourself, the meeting is open to the public if you have questions or comments.

Public Session:

Snyder: Hi I am wondering what the $15,000 highway is going to be spent on?
Mayor: That money is put aside in a reserve account for future repairs.

Snyder: When do you think the dune thing will be repaired?
Mayor: We have to get the final paperwork back from the State; maybe this fall but we have to get the paperwork back.

Snyder: Thank you.

Peter Aroniadis and Jim Ackerson: 540 and 516 Asharoken Ave: Thank you all for getting grant money for the Village. It’s been a bit of time talking about the seawall subject. We understand from your letter in Feb. that the ACOE was walking away from the project.

Mayor: It definitely is on our radar. We did have a meeting in late March but it was cancelled due to COVID, Col Ashbury has left for another post; we are going to have to revise some things.

Congressman Suozzi is actively involved; I think we will be able to schedule that meeting and find out what kind of funding opportunities are available for the village. The village is still looking to get this area fixed, but it is going to be in expensive project. One of our residents Tony Evangelista works for Posillico Civil and he came up with an alternate plan to fix the seawall so we are looking at that as well. We are working on this but it is going to be slow process.

Ackerson: That’s good that someone is thinking outside the box. Regarding the cost to replace the seawall and add the groins; are there other options put on the table? Is the seawall as important as putting the groins in place to keep the sand their so the erosion doesn’t affect the seawall itself. Is this an option?
Mayor: Very reasonable and makes sense, the only issue you have to look is with the top of the wall which is corroding and some of the caps have fallen off; more will come off when we have more storms, not sure if we can ignore the wall; and hope to fix the solution by just putting sand in front of it but that certainly is an option. Maybe if you’re not getting water overtopping the wall you can find other ways to mitigate the deterioration of the steel. You have to remember you had the sink hole; that was repaired two years ago with the town of Huntington. That has held up well your idea is reasonable but we have to look at the whole thing.
Ackerson: My point is, if the water never reaches the wall itself because the groins are put in place to capture the sand, it would keep the waves from coming over the road. I am personally interested because of the damage it does to my own property. If there is anything future wise that we can be involved in or have a separate board put together to make sure that progress is being made please keep us in mind.
Mayor: My Pleasure.

Aroniadis: Where are the grant funds being allocated?
Mayor: The dune area where it is being eroding; the dunes are substantially lower. The plan is to plant more beach grass and install a snow fence to help build up the dunes.
Aroniadis: One of the big issues in Asharoken is the Sewall, to spend $70,000 to repair that area is a lot; there are a lot of residents living after the wall. I would think that there is police and logistics allocated to taking care of the seawall when a storm comes in; if any kind of grant or monies are left over these should be used to fortified the seawall area. $70,000 is a lot to repair some dunes it would be nice to use those funds or any other future grants towards the seawall. I am hoping some funds go towards that.
Mayor: Certainly if we can get it; next year there is a budget crisis in NYS we will have a hard time getting grants; this grant for the dunes was from last year’s budget. The thing is those dunes are just as important to keep the road open; just as the wall is; weakness in once spot is a weakness in the whole complex.
Aroniadis: Hopefully when we do get that grant we can apply to the appropriate area where it is affected.
Mayor: Thank you

Snyder: Planting the sea grass; is there a possibility of planting something else beach plums or some thing else that use to be there years ago, plants across from the houses near the sound side.
Mayor: Generally beach grass is what you plant; and than other stuff grows.
Snyder: I found that some of the grass is dead; which is why we should think about other plants.
Rittenhouse: We received the NYSDEC permit which specifies for American Beach grass; we cannot deviate, beach grass works well in dune areas along with a snow fence. Everything is very specific it’s hard to make any changes.
Snyder: You are going to be putting a fence up.
Rittenhouse: We are only going to put the fence in that area; we have approval for that area 740LF. You are lucky that you are north of that area where it is not eroded. But in that area it is and we will be putting the fence there per the NYSDEC.

Mayor Letica made a motion to adjourn the public session, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
Mayor Letica took a roll call:

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

Mayor: I would like to thank everyone this evening for joining the meeting. Look forward to having you on the call next month.
Mayor Letica made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

Mayor Letica took a roll call.

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

Motioned Carried.

Mayor: Thank you all again, everyone have a wonderful evening stay safe and healthy.
Good night.

The July 14, 2020 Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at approximately 7:15pm.

Signed: ______________________________
       Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk