

1 Incorporated Village of Asharoken
2 Board of Trustees Meeting
3 Due to the Corona virus the Board of Trustees held the meeting via Teleconference
4 Tuesday, September 1, 2020 Village Hall
5 Attendance was 18
6

7 Mayor: Well will just start again. I would like to welcome everyone who joined the call and
8 thank you for participating in tonight's Village of Asharoken board meeting.

9 We will start out with the Pledge of Allegiance

10 Thank you. If you are not speaking please put your phone on mute because it will eliminate the
11 background noise. I want to start out with a roll call of village officials to see who is on the call.
12 So, Mayor Letica is on the call.

13
14 Deputy Mayor Pierce Present
15 Trustee Ettinger Present
16 Trustee Burke Present
17 Trustee Jablonski Present
18 Clerk Rittenhouse Here
19 Treasurer Emily Hayes Here
20 Village Attorney Migatz Here
21 Building Inspector Doug Adil Not Present
22 Officer-in-Charge Mahdesian Here
23 Emergency Manager Raisch Here
24 Harbormaster Affrunti Not Present
25 Conservation Chair Cohen Here
26 Sanitation Operator No Present

27
28 Mayor: Thank you. Is there anyone that I omitted that is on the call? All right, thank you. So,
29 Nancy, we have proof of publication of this meeting?

30 Nancy Rittenhouse: Yes, we do, Mayor.

31
32 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes for August 5, 2020
33 seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

34 As we did last month I will call the roll; Mayor Letica took a roll call.

35 Trustee Jablonski AYE
36 Trustee Burke AYE
37 Trustee Ettinger AYE
38 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
39 Mayor Letica AYE

40 Motioned Carried

41
42 Mayor: This is the mayor's report combined for July and August because last month due to the
43 storm we tried to run a quick meeting and we had some technical issues as well doing it by
44 teleconference. So I hope that everyone and their families are well and safe.
45

46 Village now has four reported cases of COVID-19. It may feel like the crisis has passed, but
47 many of our neighboring communities continue to have increased case numbers. This is a stark
48 reminder that that virus is still circulating. Please continue to keep your guard up and maintain a
49 good antiviral habit that we have all adopted so far in this pandemic.

50 Tropical Storm Isaias passed over the village on Tuesday, August 4. For the most part, the
51 village fared rather well. Several docks were damaged on the bayside, and unfortunately one
52 boat capsized and washed ashore. There was no flooding. Power was out for the village from
53 two to five days due to the damage from trees to the transmission lines. Overall, we were very
54 fortunate.

55 The village completed the repair of two exposed groins in the beach lot area. These old groins
56 were very dangerous and needed to be repaired. Thanks to Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce for
57 overseeing this project, which was completed in a very timely manner.

58 And finally, the village received a final payment of approximately \$2,900 from FEMA for
59 several outstanding items relating to the village hall construction.

60 Thanks to the assistance from several governmental agencies as well as donations from
61 Asharoken residents, the village was able to construct a new village facility without spending
62 any Asharoken taxpayer funds. This really was a remarkable feat, and I'd like to thank again
63 everyone that donated to help build the new village hall.

64

65 Trustee Reports:

66 Deputy Mayor Pierce: Thank you, Mayor. Good evening, everyone, and I, too, hope everyone is
67 well and coping with our ongoing situation. For both months, I reviewed the minutes, payment
68 abstract, the police report, village correspondence. As the mayor mentioned, we did the
69 (growing) removal, which went well, and this month I participated in a few of the PSEG Long
70 Island teleconference calls on storm Isaias, and also a webinar on elections given by (NYCOM).
71 End of report.

72

73 Trustee Ettinger: Good evening, everyone. First and foremost, let me state that I hope that each
74 of you, your families and your loved ones are all safe and healthy at this time. It's hard to
75 believe that it's been almost six months that we have been enduring the COVID-19 pandemic.
76 During this time, I have continued primarily to communicate with our mayor, my fellow trustees,
77 Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian, and with our police officers (through your) telephone
78 conference calls, e-mails, and texts.

79

80 During the month, I have also had numerous discussions with Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian
81 and Mayor Leticia regarding the New York State Police Reform Act that Governor Cuomo has
82 enacted. We are working on preparing our plans that we need to submit to the governor's office
83 prior to April 1, 2021.

84

85 During the month, Ray and I also review various police procedures to better ensure the safety of
86 our residents and our police officers. Over the past few months, I have continued to follow up on
87 the status and deliver of the Dodge Durango police car that we ordered in early February of this
88 year to replace the police car that was totaled in the accident last year. The new car was
89 originally scheduled to be delivered in March or April. Due to the corona 19 factory shutdown,
90 the manufacture of the car was delayed but was finally received by the dealer late last week. We
91 are picking up the car tomorrow. We will have it outfitted with its radios, lights, et cetera. We

92 expect this to take a few weeks. We will hopefully have the care ready for service by the end of
93 this month.

94

95 Some other matters that I was involved in during the month were as follows. I reviewed some
96 correspondence that we received from some of our residents. I also reviewed the second
97 amendment for the – of the – to the PBA contract regarding the COVID-19 testing. I also
98 reviewed some foils that we received. I also reviewed last months board of trustees regular
99 meeting minutes, and finally I also reviewed this month abstract for the payment vouchers. End
100 of report.

101

102 Trustee Burke: Thank you, Mayor. During the month, I reviewed the responses from the
103 proposed commercial parking code, minutes from the prior meeting, village correspondence,
104 abstracts, and the police report. End of report.

105

106 Trustee Jablonski: Yes, Mayor. This month I reviewed the minutes, the abstract with (Lisa) for
107 various correspondence from residents. I did two site inspections on the two areas where we're
108 looking at the funding the Asharoken inaudible to see that the village right away was staked out
109 and the utilities were marked. Subsequently, I had communications with our engineer, and
110 meetings at both sites where we reviewed the right of way for the village and discussed various
111 solutions. End of report.

112

113 Attorney Migatz: Yes. Thank you, Mayor. The planning board did not meet last month. The
114 zoning board did meet last evening. We had three cases. We did meet in person, and my thanks
115 to Nancy for doing a wonderful job and having everybody properly social distanced and
116 controlling the meeting.

117

118 The application of Concepcion 155 Asharoken Avenue was for a special use permit for an
119 excess restructure, and that was granted. Application of Arsham 544 Asharoken Avenue, set
120 back variances for an in- ground pool, and that was granted. And a third application of Vaglica,
121 152 Asharoken Avenue, a set back variance for a detached garage, and that also was granted.

122

123 The dock appeal, the appeal by the owners who were denied their dock permits, I reported a pass
124 must be perfected by this coming Wednesday, September 9. So far have not received anything.
125 Typically, these appeals are perfected on the last day, so I will report on that at the next month's
126 meeting, and that is all I have to report, Mayor.

127

128 Treasurer Hayes: Sure. The highlights for August as far as revenues go, there's nothing unusual
129 to report. The vouchers for the month of August are \$74,458.27. Included in the vouchers this
130 month is the invoice from Huntington Jeep for the new police car in the amount of \$30,897.

131 There will be a separate resolution to approve the vouchers and the budget transfers, there is
132 nothing else unusual to report.

133

134 Officer-in-Charge Mahdesian: The department had a good month in August. No arrests were
135 necessary. The department issued 27 summonses. The department responded to problems
136 caused by Tropical Storm Isaias. Power outages occurred and fallen trees caused temporary road
137 closures both on Asharoken Avenue and Lighthouse Road. Thankfully, there were no reported
138 injuries resulting from the storm. I'm pleased to note that no burglaries were reported in the
139 village during the month. Marine patrol will conclude a successful season this weekend. The
140 department issued 54 water ski permits this year, and the department would like to thank Mayor
141 Leticia for his help during storm Isaias. End of report.
142

143 Emergency Manager Raisch: Firstly is hurricane planning. Certainly the intensity and fast
144 development of recent tropical storm underscores that we are in the middle of traditionally the
145 most active period of the hurricane season. In consideration of that, we should all review our
146 plans and preparation for hurricanes. I am currently investigating the development two protocols
147 for potential use in the future, one for a recharging station for battery-powered devices and a
148 second for a potential cooling station. I thank resident Pat Irving for recommendations in that
149 regard. Each of these will have considerations regarding their possible implementation in the
150 COVID-19 pandemic context. I reached out to Suffolk County emergency management and I'm
151 also researching resources available for the International Association of Emergency Managers as
152 well as the National Emergency Managers Association for resources in that regard. I also plan to
153 contact PSEG Long Island to see what resources may be available in this regard. I plan to
154 develop a plan and submit it for review and comment by our village officials.
155 I do note also that there are solar-powered recharging devices that are generally available at a
156 modest cost which I highly recommend to all residents since we have increasingly become
157 dependent upon our electronic devices.
158 Regarding COVID-19 pandemic more generally, I continue to monitor the wider public health
159 emergency management environments for information and resources relevant to the village need.
160 Surges and resurgence of infections certainly remain an ongoing concern. End of report.
161

162 Mayor Leticia: I just want to say bringing up the solar-powered recharging for devices is a great
163 idea. We are also looking into getting a text messaging system where we can send texts to
164 residents whenever we need to inform them of situations in the village which is another
165 suggestion a resident gave the village after Isaias. So we're working on multiple fronts here,
166 which next time we'll be able to makes things a little bit better should we have another storm,
167 which we probably will at some point.
168

169 Superintendent of Buildings Doug Adil, have you joined the call? All right, I don't think Doug
170 is here with us this evening. Barry Bradley, are you on the call this evening for a sanitation
171 report? All right. I do not think Barry's with us. And conservation board chairman, Marty
172 Cohen, do you have anything to report for the month of August?
173

174 Conservation Chair Cohen: Nothing to report. All the trees that came down came down from
175 natural causes.
176

177 Mayor Letica: Fortunately, there were not that many of them at Asharoken, so that was good.
178 And lastly Harbormaster Joe Affrunti, are you on the call this evening? All right, so Joe is not
179 here. The next order of business is to move to resolutions.
180

181 **Resolution (2020-77)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers for
182 the month of August 2020 in the amount of \$74,458.27.
183

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

185 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

186 Trustee Jablonski AYE

187 Trustee Burke AYE

188 Trustee Ettinger AYE

189 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

190 Mayor Letica AYE

191 Motioned Carried
192

193 **Resolution (2020-78)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the Budget
194 Transfers for the month of August 2020.

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

196 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

197 Trustee Jablonski AYE

198 Trustee Burke AYE

199 Trustee Ettinger AYE

200 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

201 Mayor Letica AYE

202 Motioned Carried
203

204 **Resolution (2020-79)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for
205 Laura Behr located at 35 Asharoken Avenue from September 12th, 2020 thru September 14th, 2020.
206

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

208 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

209 Trustee Jablonski AYE

210 Trustee Burke AYE

211 Trustee Ettinger AYE

212 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

213 Mayor Letica AYE

214 Motioned Carried
215

216 **Resolution (2020-80)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a Second
217 Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Incorporated Village of Asharoken
218 and The Police Benevolent Association of Asharoken which amendment provides that any full-time
219 or part-time Police Officer who provides proof by laboratory records of a positive COVID-19 virus
220 test result shall receive, in addition to the New York State mandated up to 14 days of paid sick
221 leave, an additional up to 10 days of paid sick leave, which shall not be deducted from the Police
222 Officer's accrued sick leave.
223

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

225 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

226 Trustee Jablonski AYE

227 Trustee Burke AYE

228 Trustee Ettinger AYE

229 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

230 Mayor Letica AYE

231 Motioned Carried

232

233 **Resolution (2020-81)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve an amendment
234 to the Paid Time Off Policy for the position of Village Clerk to provide that upon submission of proof
235 by laboratory records of a positive COVID-19 virus test result, in addition to the New York State
236 mandated up to 14 days of paid sick leave, an additional up to 10 days of paid sick leave shall be
237 provided, which shall not be deducted from the entitled Paid Time Off.

238

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

240 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

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 (2020-82)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve an amendment
249 to the Paid Time Off Policy for the position of Sanitation Operator to provide that upon submission
250 of proof by laboratory records of a positive COVID-19 virus test result, in addition to the New York
251 State mandated up to 14 days of paid sick leave, an additional up to 10 days of paid sick leave shall
252 be provided, which shall not be deducted from the entitled Paid Time Off.

253

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

255 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

256 Trustee Jablonski AYE

257 Trustee Burke AYE

258 Trustee Ettinger AYE

259 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

260 Mayor Letica AYE

261 Motioned Carried

262

263 **Resolution (2020-83)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for
264 Keith Kebe located at 94 Cove Road from September 10th, 2020 thru February 10th, 2021.

265

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

267 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

268 Trustee Jablonski AYE

269 Trustee Burke AYE

270 Trustee Ettinger AYE

271 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

272 Mayor Letica AYE

273 Motioned Carried

274

275 **Resolution (2020-84)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for
276 Jim Newton located at 238 Asharoken Avenue from September 4th, 2020 thru September 7th, 2020.

277

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

279 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

280 Trustee Jablonski AYE

281 Trustee Burke AYE

282 Trustee Ettinger AYE

283 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

284 Mayor Letica AYE

285 Motioned Carried

286

287 **Resolution (2020-85)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a Fill permit for
288 90 Cubic yards of planting soil for four planting berms located at 544 Asharoken Avenue.

289

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

291 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

292 Trustee Jablonski AYE

293 Trustee Burke AYE

294 Trustee Ettinger AYE

295 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

296 Mayor Letica AYE

297 Motioned Carried

298

299 Mayor Letica: The people who bought Barbara Johnson's old house, 544, are really doing an
300 amazing job renovating the house and renovating the property. It is going to be spectacular
301 when they are done. They did an amazing job on the house and the grounds are going to be
302 really, out of this world once they do the pool and do this planting, so it's a good thing for the
303 Village.
304

305 Is there any new business that any of the trustees would like to bring up at this time? All right, if
306 not we will it up to public session. Our normal protocol is three minutes per person. We would
307 prefer if you stated your name, so we know who we are talking to. But you're under no
308 obligation to do so if you prefer not to. So, it is open for public comment at this point.
309

310 Public Session:

311 Nadine Dumser: Hope everyone is well. I just would like to know the status of the assistant for
312 Barry Bradley, because I still that he does not have one. I am just wondering how that is going?
313 Mayor Letica: Yes, well Barry normally gets an assistant – normally was getting an assistant
314 during the summer, it would go from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Labor Day is going to be

315 here on Monday. The Village did do a lot of looking for an assistant and was unable to find one.
316 So, we will try to re-address this issue next year.

317 Nadine Dumser: It is not in the budget for the whole year, it's just for the summer?

318 Mayor Letica: Yes, that is correct. And it is also after holidays.

319 Nadine Dumser: Yes, because it seems to be much heavier at that time, so I hope that there will
320 be some effort to help him with an assistant during that time.

321 Mayor Letica: Well, we are going try. It is very hard to find somebody who wants to work one
322 a day a week on the back of a garbage truck, as you might imagine. We did have one candidate
323 that we decided was not acceptable for the Village for reasons that I cannot discuss.

324 But we made a big effort, Barry was looking for people, we were looking for people. We
325 contacted a lot of other outside areas that we thought might be able to find someone. Thank you
326 very much for your question.

327

328 Nadine Dumser: I have one more question.

329 Mayor Letica: Sure. Please.

330 Nadine Dumser: That tent permit that has been given to the resolution 2020-83 from September
331 10 to February 10, what is that for?

332 Mayor Letica: Mr. Kebe uses that as a blind for deer hunting on his property.

333 Nadine Dumser: And he can do that? That is legal?

334 Mayor Letica: Absolutely, 100% legal.

335 Nadine Dumser: Okay, just wondering. It seems like an awfully long time to have that set up
336 like that.

337 Mayor Letica: Well, it's for hunting season, it gives him time to set up before October 1 and it
338 gives him a few days after February 1 when hunting season ends to take it down.

339 Nadine Dumser: Well, I hope he does not get any. Thank you.

340 Mayor Letica: Okay, you're welcome.

341

342 Jane: I was wondering about the dunes– is it possible to get some keep off the dune signs. Over
343 the summer, and especially lately I have had to tell people that they cannot come over the dunes.
344 They have been popping up all over the place, especially down by me. So, I was wondering if
345 that is possible. I do not know when you are going to be redoing the eastern end, now they can
346 just walk right over. But, I think it would be a good idea to put like a lot of the signs, not just like
347 a few, because people and a lot of kids are just running over them and I'm yelling to them to get
348 off the dune.

349 Mayor Letica: are these kids from beach lot owners or are they not beach lot owners?

350 Jane: No, they are not.

351 Mayor Letica: I need to stress this point one more time. I cannot stress this enough We have a
352 police department. The phone number is 631-261-7400. Simply call the police. If we have the
353 police take care of these situations, the situations will take care of themselves.

354 Jane: Well, they will be gone by that time.

355 Mayor Letica: I mentioned it to one of our trustees just yesterday when she called me up telling
356 me about some problem on Bevin Road. If you see something like this, you have a cell phone,
357 call the police. We have done a pretty good job on reducing the illegal parking down there,
358 because we've been enforcing it very strictly, but when it comes to other matters like this we
359 really need your help and all the residents help to call the police when they see something
360 suspicious or they see something that's out of the ordinary or if you see people that are running

361 over the dunes. Even if somebody owns a beach lot they shouldn't be going over the dunes, they
362 should be going over the steps.
363 Jane: Well, yes. And sometimes their guests.
364 Mayor Letica: People should not be going over the dunes, but please everyone if you see
365 something call our police. They will be there very quickly. They will deal with the situation and
366 that's how we're going to eliminate a lot of problems in the Village going forward.
367 Jane: Well, they will not be there in time because most of the time these people who are doing
368 this are just like running over to look and then running back. So, there is no way that they are
369 going to get there in time. There have been some thefts down there, kayaks and some nice
370 Adirondack chairs from people who obviously have known that they were there.
371 Mayor Letica: We've had thefts of kayaks and Adirondack chairs from the beach lots?
372 Jane: Yes. I think there was one – pardon me?
373 Mayor Letica: Ray, do we have any police reports for thefts of Adirondack chairs or kayaks
374 from the beach lot area?
375 Officer Mahdesian: Yes, we have two missing Adirondack chairs and we have had some kayak
376 activity, but the chairs were the main thing.
377 Mayor Letica: Okay, all right. Thank you Ray. Well, again, if you see something that is going
378 on that's not right call the police.
379 Jane: Oh yes, I always – I always make a report when that happens. This happened to be friends
380 of mine and I told them to make a report. They knew that these chairs were there and pulled up
381 probably in the dark and grabbed them, because they happened to be like those really nice ones,
382 the kind that I wouldn't bring down there, but heavy duty ones.
383 So, then my neighbors' kayak, which he did not even realize was missing and I said, what
384 happened to your kayak and she says, oh my God. So, that was gone. But just so you know
385 there is still a lot of people coming over and it only takes them five minutes. They'll come over
386 for five minutes and leave. Sometimes they will hang out, I then call the police, I do get them
387 down there by that time.
388 Jane: So, no keep off the dune signs?
389 Mayor Letica: We'll take it under advisement.
390 Jane: Okay.
391 Trustee Jablonski: I'd just like to make the comment I've been hearing from a lot residents that
392 they're tired of looking at all the trash that's left on the beach, the signs, all the mess that's there.
393 The people that live here and stay here and must come home to it everyday don't want to see
394 anymore signs and anymore junk left on the dunes.
395 Jane: Well, it is private property, so we can keep a couple chairs down there if we like.
396 Trustee Burke: On the parking area, there's garbage left there sometimes.
397 Gregory Letica: All right, thank you. Is there anybody else this evening who would like to
398 speak?
399
400 Mayor Letica made a motion to adjourn the public session, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
401 Mayor Letica took a roll call.
402 Trustee Jablonski AYE
403 Trustee Burke AYE
404 Trustee Ettinger AYE
405 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
406 Mayor Letica AYE

407 Motioned Carried

408

409 Mayor Letica: I would just like to again thank everybody who joined the call tonight, thank you
410 for your comments from our residents. I look forward to meeting and speaking to you next
411 month, in October.

412

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

414 Mayor Letica took a roll call.

415 Trustee Jablonski AYE

416 Trustee Burke AYE

417 Trustee Ettinger AYE

418 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

419 Mayor Letica AYE

420 Motioned Carried.

421

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

424

425 The September 1, 2020 Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at
426 approximately 7:25pm.

427 Signed: _____

428 Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk

429

430

431

432

433

434

END

435

436