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**Approved**

Incorporated Village of Asharoken  
Board of Trustees Meeting & Public Hearing  
Due to the Corona virus the Board of Trustees held the meeting via Teleconference.  
Tuesday, June 1, 2021  
Attendance was 14

Mayor Letica: Good evening, everyone. Welcome to the call. This is the regularly scheduled Village of Asharoken Board of Trustees meeting for Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Before we get started, I would like to ask everyone on the call this evening to please put your phone on mute if you are not speaking. This way, there will not be any background noise during the meeting coming from your call. So, we will start out with the Pledge of Allegiance this evening.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

This is the regularly scheduled Village of Asharoken Board of Trustees Meeting for June 1, 2021. Nancy, this meeting was properly published and noticed?

Clerk Rittenhouse: Yes, it was.

Mayor Letica: Let us do a roll call before we go into the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Pierce	Present
Trustee Ettinger	Present
Trustee Burke	Present
Trustee Jablonski	Present
Clerk Rittenhouse	Present
Treasurer Emily Hayes	Present
Village Attorney Migatz	Present
Building Inspector Doug Adil	Present
Officer-in-Charge Mahdesian	Present
Emergency Manager Raisch	Present
Harbormaster Affrunti	Not Present
Conservation Chair Cohen	Present
Sanitation Operator	Not Present

Mayor Letica: Thank you very much. First order of business is to approve the minutes for the last regular board meeting of May 4, 2021.

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

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

51 Mayor Letica: The Village received an invoice from the New York State Department of  
52 Environmental Conservation in the amount of \$292,477.5 for the North Shore of Long Island  
53 Asharoken feasibility study. The amount (due) represents the Village's 30% cost share with New  
54 York State. This liability dates back to an agreement dated January 2001 between the Village and  
55 the state of New York. This was during the administration of Mayor William Kelly. Since the  
56 feasibility study was never completed, the Village will review its liability for this expense. The  
57 National Grid gas main replacement project has been going very well. We have a great group of  
58 guys from Asplundh Construction doing the work. Presently, they are using directional drilling to  
59 install the new main. Approximately one-third of the new main has been installed. Once it is  
60 finished, individual homes will be disconnected from the old main and reconnected to the new one.  
61 Lastly, National Grid will repair the old concrete road where the re-openings were made, resurface  
62 Asharoken Avenue from Village Hall to 285, and then restriped the road. The Town of Huntington  
63 passed a resolution to pay for half of the \$1,000 repair project (to) fix the seawall. Several large toe  
64 stones) on the seaward side of the wall have been displaced and need to be put back into position.  
65 The two-day project being done by Thompson Brothers Pile Corp. is expected to start next  
66 Thursday. The machine to do the work arrived onsite today. I would like to thank the Hoey Family  
67 for allowing the Village to use their property to access the beach. And in addition, I would like to  
68 thank Huntington Town Supervisor Chad Lupinacci, and Board Members Mark Cuthbertson, Joan  
69 Cergol, Ed Smyth, and Gene Cook for supporting this much needed repair project. In other seawall  
70 news, the Village applied through Senator Chuck Schumer's office for two additional sources of  
71 funding to cover the costs of engineering and permitting for seawall reconstruction. I would like to  
72 thank Senator Schumer for inviting the Village to participate in these funding opportunities.  
73 Additionally, big thanks to Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce, and Village Clerk Nancy Rittenhouse, who did  
74 a terrific job completing and submitting these two applications in a very limited amount of time.  
75 And speaking of Nancy, I would like to congratulate her being honored as a member of the general  
76 code 2021 Municipal Clerks Honor Roll. This is a very prestigious award, and only goes to the best  
77 of the best. New York State has 62 cities, 932 towns and 534 villages. Each one has a municipal  
78 clerk. Only 39 clerks made the honor roll, 2.6% of all the Clerks. Congratulations, Nancy, on a very  
79 well-earned and deserved recognition. The Village really appreciates all your hard work and  
80 dedication. And lastly, the Village is planning to resume in-person meetings at the July Board of  
81 Trustees meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone in person after 15 months of teleconference  
82 meetings. And that is the mayor's report, I will hand it over to Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce.

83  
84 Deputy Mayor Pierce: Thank you, Mayor. Good evening, everyone. During the month, I reviewed  
85 the minutes, vouchers, and abstract, the police report, and the proposed amendment "TREES". As  
86 the mayor mentioned, I worked on two applications for federal funding, for planning and  
87 engineering for the seawall. The mayor and I also met with two residents regarding the seawall, as  
88 well as, with the Asharoken PBA regarding the upcoming police contract. I also coordinated with  
89 Stan Thompson, and I attended the Memorial Day observance in Northport yesterday.

90  
91 Trustee Ettinger: Good evening, everyone. Once again, I hope that each of you, your families, and  
92 your loved ones are safe and healthy at this time. I find it hard to believe that it has been more than  
93 a year since the pandemic began, and since we have held in-person board meetings. I am very  
94 much looking forward to having them resume next month as well as begin to enjoy some level of  
95 normalcy of our lives. During the past month, I had numerous conversations with Officer-in-Charge  
96 Ray Mahdesian regarding a number of police related matters. I'm also happy to report that our  
97 police department continues to perform well, and all of our police officers remain healthy, and most  
98 of them have now received the COVID vaccine.

99

100 Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian and I also spent time reviewing the detailed plans that he has  
101 prepared for the police coverage of the July 4th firework celebration, and the schedule that we  
102 prepared for our police boat for this year's summer season. The police boat began patrolling the  
103 Village as of yesterday Memorial Day, and it will continue throughout the summer season. As usual,  
104 we will also have a well-staffed police department throughout the day up for the July 4th  
105 celebration to ensure a safe July 4th holiday. I also reviewed the details with Officer-in-Charge Ray  
106 Mahdesian of an accident that occurred with an unoccupied police vehicle (A2) and with a  
107 Northport Fire Department vehicle, while they were both attending an emergency scene in the  
108 Village. I'm happy to report that the damage was minor, and all of the costs will be covered by  
109 insurance. I also during the month have continued discussions with Mayor Letica and Officer-in-  
110 Charge Ray Mahdesian regarding the proposed changes to our Local Law 3-2021 regarding trees  
111 that we will be discussed later this evening. Additionally, I reviewed the FOILS that were  
112 submitted. I reviewed last month's Board of Trustee regular committee meeting minutes and the  
113 payment vouchers. I also want to extend my congratulations to Nancy for a well-deserved award.  
114

115 Trustee Burke: Thank you, Mayor. Good evening all. This month, I reviewed the minutes from the  
116 prior meeting, the vouchers, and the abstracts, had several conversations regarding the tree law  
117 amendment, and I also reviewed the police report.  
118

119 Trustee Jablonski: This month, I reviewed the minutes, the vouchers, the police report. I reviewed  
120 amendments to the tree law and correspondents on the same. I also reviewed correspondence on  
121 the feasibility study. I heard some noise today, as some of you know, I live near the seawall, heard  
122 some construction, I went down there. For a short period of time, I monitored the maintenance  
123 going on at the seawall and the movement of the toe stones, and the job seemed to be going well. It  
124 also looks like there was further damage to the sand pile and the cap over the weekend from the  
125 storm. Also, there were a few NYSDEC trucks today parked at the beach lots, so I stopped to speak  
126 with them. I thought they were monitoring the woodchip placement, especially, since there was  
127 one lot which looked like it had four truckloads of woodchips delivered. I'm not sure what the lot  
128 owner is planning to do, but they certainly can't park there with the mounds of woodchips that are  
129 in that lot. It turns out that the NYSDEC were collecting the piping plover fencing. I do not know if  
130 you know, Mayor, but all three nests were destroyed during the nor'easter this weekend.  
131 I also spoke with our drainage contractor. We discussed the results of the fourth test digs. There is  
132 only four feet until you reach the water table. So, the original plan was for four-foot-high rings. We  
133 are going to modify that plan to be six three-foot high rings, so there will be a foot of sand under  
134 each ring, and the two additional rings will add adequate volume to make up for the one foot in  
135 reduced height. I'd like to also congratulate Nancy.  
136

137 Attorney Migatz: Thank you, Mayor. Initially, I would also like to give my congratulations to Nancy.  
138 I have worked with many town and village clerks over the past number of years in my practice, and  
139 without doubt, I would say Nancy, if not, the best is right up there with the best and it is a pleasure  
140 working with her for these past several years.  
141

142 The Planning board did not meet in the month of May. The Zoning Board did meet on May 12th.  
143 There were two cases, both cases involve the same piece of property, 10 Clam Shell Lane, they  
144 granted a side yard setback variance for a swimming pool, and they granted a special use permit for  
145 an accessory dwelling.  
146

147 The update on the lawsuit between the Town of Huntington and the Villages of Huntington Bay and  
148 Lloyd Harbor. The lawsuit is still pending. The motions were further adjourned to July 20th.

149 On a very positive note, because of that lawsuit, the Town of Huntington did amend their new  
150 mooring law to expressly recognize the concurrent jurisdiction of the villages in the town. And that  
151 amendment reads as follows.

152  
153 “Nothing contained in this chapter is intended to divest an Incorporated village of the Town of  
154 Huntington of its jurisdiction to restrict and regulate the anchoring and mooring of vessels or floats  
155 in any waters within or bounding the villages to a distance of 1,500 feet of village shorelines, as set  
156 forth in New York State Navigation Law Section (46-A1B)”.

157  
158 That was, really, the reason that the litigation was commenced, because there was concern that the  
159 town was not recognizing the concurrent jurisdiction, it was trying to circumvent the concurrent  
160 jurisdiction. Yesterday, I spoke with the town attorney for the Town Huntington who gave me a  
161 little more clarification on how they are going to implement their law. Their intent is to give a  
162 mooring permit, which gives permission to attach a mooring to town underwater land, which  
163 would not apply to the Ida Smith Property. Their permit will not give any specific location of where  
164 that mooring can go or should go; that is up to the villages. They would have the right to determine  
165 where within their waters a mooring can be placed. The town will just give out a permit for  
166 attaching to their land and really nothing more. Mayor, we need to have discussion with the board  
167 about what kind of regulations we may want to adopt to further regulate the placement of moorings  
168 in village waters.

169  
170 Mayor Letica: We will follow-up on that suggestion to talk about mooring regulation as we go  
171 through the year.

172  
173 Treasurer Hayes: Good evening. Highlights for the month of May revenues, there is nothing  
174 unusual to report. The expenditures for the month of May, total \$98,044.89. Included in these  
175 vouchers is the second half of the Grucci fireworks amount, which is \$7,969.00, the yearly insurance  
176 invoice of \$44,263.82, and an invoice for seven AEDs and the trainer in the amount of \$8,067.00  
177 that was covered by money received prior to this expense. And I would also like to congratulate  
178 Nancy. She is a joy to work with on a daily basis.

179  
180 Officer-in-Charge Mahdesian: I too join in congratulating Nancy. She is such a help for day-to-day  
181 things where there (is) reports for (civil service) or government agency. She is just an absolute  
182 wonderful help to us, and we do appreciate it.

183  
184 Recently, there has been an increase in speeds, and I don't know if it's because people are coming  
185 out of their shells with the virus dissipating, or what. I just do not know. But we have had several  
186 in the last six weeks well above 60, a couple over 70, just unacceptable, and we continue to address  
187 that problem. Joe Affrunti, the Harbormaster, a great help in preparing the police boat. So, one of  
188 the unsung heroes of the Village behind the scenes. He makes sure that it's well-equipped. And the  
189 police boat is in good shape, it was out yesterday, everything running very well. The department  
190 members continue to attend sessions after the Suffolk County Police Academy regarding the police  
191 reform, reinvention and de-escalation topics that are mandated by the state. And each officer must  
192 attend eight hours, we're almost done with that, and I hope to finish it up in the next two months.

193  
194 We have been busy with many calls for service, but that is what we are here for. Things are going  
195 well, and we are looking forward to the 4th of July. Mel said, preparations are underway, and we'll  
196 take care of business as usual.

197

198 Mayor Letica: Joe is a former resident of the Village, but never decided to give up his ties to the  
199 Village and has served as our Harbormaster now for multiple years as a nonresident, and just does  
200 whatever needs to be done with a smile on his face and in a very timely fashion. So, another  
201 volunteer that we are just so lucky to have.  
202

203 Mayor Letica: Barry are you on the call this evening? Nancy, do you have a copy of the sanitation  
204 report?  
205

206 Clerk Rittenhouse: I do, Mayor. I can give the report if you would like.  
207

208 Clerk Rittenhouse: The sanitation report for the month of May 2021. Our trash total for this month  
209 in dollars is \$2,334.40, which equates to 29.18 tons we collected. Collected a little over four tons in  
210 paper and cardboard, glass was 0.84 tons, and our yard waste was a little over one ton this month.  
211 Big Blue is running very well, by the way.  
212

213 Superintendent of Buildings: My Report for May. But I wanted to agree with whatever else was  
214 said about Nancy. Frankly, I am surprised that we have not heard this sooner. Nancy has been a  
215 great resource for all of us. And although, I am the Superintendent of Buildings, the building  
216 department would not function without Nancy being there to keep the work flowing, and to be  
217 there whenever I need help. So, I just wanted to thank Nancy for that.

218 In May, I attended the ZBA hearing on May 12th. I reviewed construction details for another  
219 proposed standby generator on Asharoken Avenue and the plans were returned approved for a  
220 permit. I responded to inquiries from a designer who is doing the planning for construction of a  
221 new home at 122 Asharoken Avenue, gave him information regarding the flood zone and  
222 foundation requirements for that zone. I reviewed plans for a fence installation at a home on  
223 Asharoken Avenue in their front yard. Reviewed a construction plan for a swimming pool at the  
224 home on Clam Shell Lane, and those plans were approved for building permit. Reviewed  
225 construction details for another standby generator at 275 Asharoken Avenue and those were  
226 ultimately approved for a permit. I did provide a review of construction details for an addition and  
227 alterations at 119 Asharoken Avenue, and those plans were approved for a building permit, and  
228 construction has started, and provided the information to a homeowner who wants to install a new  
229 shed on their property. They had inquired about the foundation details and hold down details.  
230 I performed a variety of inspections to ongoing projects as I outlined on my monthly report, which I  
231 did send into the office. And that is my report for May.  
232

233 Conservation Board Chairman: In the month of May, the Conservation Board issued permits for  
234 tree removal to two homeowners. And in addition, I worked on the amendments to the tree  
235 ordinance.  
236

237 Emergency Manager: I have been listening to all the good reports, and I, of course, must join the  
238 chorus and congratulate Nancy. She is, in many ways, the glue that holds together all the  
239 administrative elements of this Village, and sincere congratulations to her for, at least, one  
240 recognition of that. Relative to the emergency management, I continue to work on, kind of, a more  
241 simplified version of our plan, which was developed based on a statewide requirement that I think  
242 we can simplify greatly. As Deputy Harbormaster I added caging material to each of the six floating  
243 five-mile an hour signs to accommodate oysters, approximately, 1,000 oysters. I am in the midst of  
244 completing the required NYSDEC application for that, which I will share with our board prior to  
245 moving forward. And finally, if there is some discussions around the mooring permits, I would like

246 to have some input on that, as the Deputy Harbormaster and certainly as individual that spends a  
247 lot of time on our beautiful waters out here.  
248

249 Mayor Letica: Thank you, Bill, very much. All right. So, it was our intention this evening to next  
250 have a public hearing on Local Law No. 3-2021. But, based on some comments I got today from one  
251 of our trustees, and from our Conservation Board Chair Marty Cohen, we have decided to hold off  
252 on the public hearing. We will make some other changes to the law before we solicit public input on  
253 this.  
254

255 Clerk Rittenhouse: Thank you, Mayor. Before I begin, I just want to say that I am very  
256 overwhelmed. I want to thank you for all your kind words it is truly appreciated. It is an honor to  
257 be recognized and I truly appreciate it and I am very grateful. Working with all of you makes this  
258 position a pleasure, truly a pleasure, and I just want to thank all of you again.  
259

260 **Resolution (2021-54)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board approves the budget transfers for the  
261 month of May 2021.

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

263 Trustee Jablonski AYE

264 Trustee Burke AYE

265 Trustee Ettinger AYE

266 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

267 Mayor Letica AYE

268 Motioned Carried  
269

270 **Resolution (2021-55)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers for  
271 the month of May 2021 in the amount of \$97,964.89.  
272

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

274 Trustee Jablonski AYE

275 Trustee Burke AYE

276 Trustee Ettinger AYE

277 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

278 Mayor Letica AYE

279 Motioned Carried  
280

281 **Resolution (2021-56)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby appoint the following  
282 election inspectors, Hillary Candelora as chairperson, Debbie Manning, Mary Brabender and Kelly  
283 Schwartz for the June 15, 2021, Village Election from 12 Noon to 9PM.  
284

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

286 Trustee Jablonski AYE

287 Trustee Burke AYE

288 Trustee Ettinger AYE

289 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

290 Mayor Letica AYE

291 Motioned Carried  
292

293 **Resolution (2021-57)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the mayor to  
294 sign the Intermunicipal Agreement between Town of Huntington and Incorporated Village of  
295 Asharoken to share costs associated with repairing and maintaining the Asharoken Seawall.  
296

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

298 Trustee Jablonski AYE

299 Trustee Burke AYE

300 Trustee Ettinger AYE

301 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

302 Mayor Letica AYE

303 Motioned Carried

304

305 **Resolution (2021-58)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for  
306 Lucy Verdone at 285 Asharoken Avenue from July 9,2021 thru July 12, 2021.  
307

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

309 Trustee Jablonski AYE

310 Trustee Burke AYE

311 Trustee Ettinger AYE

312 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

313 Mayor Letica AYE

314 Motioned Carried

315

316 **Resolution (2021-59)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for  
317 Laura Lambros at 251 Asharoken Avenue from June 24<sup>th</sup> thru June 25<sup>th</sup>.  
318

319 Trustee Jablonski made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Burke.

320 Trustee Jablonski AYE

321 Trustee Burke AYE

322 Trustee Ettinger AYE

323 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

324 Mayor Letica AYE

325 Motioned Carried

326

327 **Resolution (2021-60)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the FILL permit  
328 application for the property located at 285 Asharoken Avenue, owner John Rittenhouse for the new  
329 construction driveway area; requested FILL amount is 500 cubic yards.  
330

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

332 Trustee Jablonski AYE

333 Trustee Burke AYE

334 Trustee Ettinger AYE

335 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

336 Mayor Letica AYE

337 Motioned Carried

338

339 **Resolution (2021-61)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby ratify the action of the  
340 mayor submitting the application for FY22 Congressionally Directed Spending Request to the Office  
341 of Senator Charles Schumer under Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related

342 Agencies, (THUD) for Highway Infrastructure and Highway Capital projects to support road  
343 protection and flood prevention at the seawall area.

344

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

346 Trustee Jablonski AYE

347 Trustee Burke AYE

348 Trustee Ettinger AYE

349 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

350 Mayor Leticia AYE

351 Motioned Carried

352

353 **Resolution (2021-62)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby ratify the action of the  
354 mayor submitting the application for FY22 Congressionally Directed Spending Request to the Office  
355 of Senator Charles Schumer under Homeland Security (DHS) for Pre-Disaster Mitigation to increase  
356 resiliency and protection at the seawall area.

357

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

359 Trustee Jablonski AYE

360 Trustee Burke AYE

361 Trustee Ettinger AYE

362 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

363 Mayor Leticia AYE

364 Motioned Carried

365

366 New Business:

367

368 Trustee Burke: Yesterday, after the two days of weather we had, there was a massive amount of  
369 sand at the corner at the bottom of the hill at the corner of Bevin Road going around the corner to  
370 the seawall, much more than usual, and I thought it was probably a safety hazard. Do we a vehicle in  
371 place to clear the sand in emergencies like that?

372

373 Mayor Leticia: Well, our friends at the Huntington Highway Department cleaned that all up for us  
374 today. With the multiple high tides, it did not really make a lot of sense to clean it, and then clean it,  
375 and clean it. But as of now it's completely cleaned up. And they usually are very responsive and  
376 getting down there and cleaning it up for us. And in fact, they were able to do it today without me  
377 even speaking to them directly.

378

379 Mayor Leticia: Is there any other new business any of the trustees would like to bring up this  
380 evening? Then, what we will do is we will open up this part of the meeting to public session for  
381 public comments, opinions, questions. As usual, our Village policy is three minutes per person, and  
382 we always would prefer if you identified yourself. So, the meeting is now open for any public  
383 comment.

384

385 No comments were made by the public.

386

387 Mayor Leticia made a motion to close public session, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

388 Trustee Jablonski AYE

389 Trustee Burke AYE

390 Trustee Ettinger AYE

391 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

392 Mayor Letica AYE

393 Motion Carried.

394

395 Mayor Letica: Before we adjourn the meeting, I just want to thank everybody who is on the call this  
396 evening, we appreciate you listening in. I'm definitely looking forward to an in-person meeting next  
397 month. It will be nice to see everyone. We do plan on having our normal 4th of July celebration,  
398 including the fireworks.

399

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

401 Trustee Jablonski AYE

402 Trustee Burke AYE

403 Trustee Ettinger AYE

404 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

405 Mayor Letica AYE

406 Motion Carried.

407

408 The June 1, 2021, Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at approximately  
409 7:15 pm.

410 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

411 Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk

412

413

414

415