

DRAFT

**Officers Present:**

Greg Letica, Mayor  
Pam Pierce, Deputy Mayor  
Melvin Ettinger, Trustee  
Laura Burke, Trustee  
Ian Jablonski, Trustee

**Officials & Appointees Present:**

Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk  
Bruce Migatz, Village Attorney  
Emily Hayes, Treasurer  
Raymond Mahdesian, Officer-in-Charge  
Doug Adil, Building Inspector  
Bill Raisch, Emergency Manager  
Joe Affrunti, Harbormaster

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

Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes for May 3, 2022, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.

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

Motioned Carried.

**Mayors Report:** Mayor Letica reported, “The primary focus of the Village during the last month was to complete and submit two complete \$1,117,000 FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant applications for engineering, design and permitting for the seawall. The Village had previously applied for a \$955,000 BRIC grant and is waiting to hear if the grant was approved. Asharoken is working with Congressman Suozzi for \$1,200,000 of Congressional Community Project for repair work to the wall, as well as Senator Schumer for an additional \$1,200,000 of Congressional Direct Spending for seawall repair work. The Village is also working with Senator Schumer to secure \$14,500,000 of Congressional Direct Spending to be used for seawall replacement. In summary, since January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, the Village submitted 5 separate requests for either grants or Congressional Directed Spending to repair and replace the seawall.

I would like to take a moment to thank Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce for the incredible job she has done to oversee all the grant and federal fund requests. Each of these applications were very complicated and time consuming to complete. On every occasion, Pam made sure that all the required paperwork was done in a professional and timely fashion. The Village is lucky to have a Deputy Mayor like Pam who is willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done for Asharoken. Thanks again Pam.

51 In other seawall news, I wrote to Huntington Town Supervisor Ed Smyth on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to request  
52 that the Town formally partner with the Village to fix the seawall. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Deputy Mayor Pam  
53 Pierce and I met with Huntington Supervisor Smyth, Deputy Supervisor John McCarron and Deputy  
54 Director of Maritime Services Grant Chelius to discuss the letter I submitted and begin to formulate  
55 a plan going forward. It was an extremely productive meeting and I look forward to working with  
56 the Town going forward.

57 The Village also arranged a seawall site visit, scheduled for next week, with the US Army Corps of  
58 Engineers to review the area of the seawall that is collapsing and have the Corps suggest some type  
59 of short-term stabilization. During the month I also had conversation with Huntington Town  
60 Highway Superintendent Andre Sorrentino to secure the Town's assistance in implementing this  
61 short- term repair.

62 In 2017, 2018 and 2021 the Town and Village worked together to do major maintenance projects  
63 on the wall and share in the costs of the projects. This unique partnership has defrayed costs for  
64 the Village and made these complicated projects much easier to mobilize and complete. The Village  
65 owes former Town Highway Superintendents Gunther and Orelli a debt of gratitude for their  
66 terrific cooperation.

67 Lastly, and maybe most importantly, I would like to make one more comment on the seawall. At  
68 last month's BOT meeting a resident claimed that the Village owes \$500,000 for the seawall. That  
69 unfounded allegation was subsequently morphed in a letter he sent to residents accusing the  
70 Village of spending over \$500,000 of Village money to fix the seawall. Let me be as clear as I can,  
71 there is no truth to any of these allegations. They are simply ludicrous. The Village has not spent  
72 \$500,000 on the seawall and is not obligated, nor does it owe any funds for the seawall on June 7<sup>th</sup>,  
73 2022.

74 These are the facts. In 2018 the Village purchased \$11,094.30 worth of stones to secure a sink hole  
75 that had developed. Also, in 2018 the Village paid \$7778.75 for engineering and supervision costs  
76 for the sink hole repair The Town provided in kind help by placing the stones. In 2021 the Village  
77 spent \$3850 to replace toes stones that had been displaced. The Town paid for half of this project.  
78 In 2022 the Village spent \$8500 to secure the services of an engineering firm, GEI, to assist with  
79 completion of the two FEMA Hazard Mitigation grants and provide the Village with a template to  
80 facilitate the Village, in the future, independently complete these complicated grant applications.  
81 These are the facts of what has been spent on the wall. Anything to the contrary that you may read  
82 or be told is completely wrong.

83 People often have asked me how the Village has managed to go seven years without a tax increase.  
84 There are many components that have helped the Village not to raise taxes: careful and thorough  
85 budgeting, increases in building permit fees from a substantial increase in construction, increases in  
86 the assessment role resulting from new houses being built, buying out a full time police officer and  
87 replacing him with one starting out at a much lower base salary, going to outside carting, using  
88 shared services with other communities to lower costs, applying for and securing grants to defray  
89 costs (\$1.4 million to date) and developing excellent personal relationships with outside agencies.  
90 Additionally, having a Village Clerk and Treasurer each with 14 years of experience working on  
91 Village budgets gives Asharoken an excellent perspective on how to keep costs down and find  
92 outside sources of revenue. In summary, seven years without a tax increase has been the result of a  
93 lot of hard work and careful planning.

94 Moving on to road paving. On June 1st the Village received bids to pave two sections of Asharoken.  
95 The first one is from Village Hall to 285 Asharoken to restore the roadway to its condition prior to

96 the National Grid gas main replacement. National Grid will pay the complete cost of resurfacing this  
97 section. The second section of road paving will extend from 355 to 501 Asharoken Avenue as well  
98 as repair the extended shoulder. The cost of this section will be paid for by a \$70,000 Multimodal  
99 Grant, the Village's accrued CHIPS money and the balance will come out of the Village's Highway  
100 reserve fund. This evening the Village will evaluate the bids and I expect that a bidder will be  
101 selected. When both sections are completed, I can proudly say that during my 10 years as Mayor all  
102 Asharoken Avenue, from Village Hall to 563 Asharoken Avenue will have been resurfaced.

103 **Trustees:**

104 Deputy Mayor Pierce: During the month I spent time on the grants for the seawall. Mayor Letica and  
105 I met with engineers from H2M regarding consulting work for future grants and I also witnessed  
106 the bid openings for the paving contracts. I visited 138 Asharoken Avenue for exposed metal  
107 connections between the groins and an area on the west side of the beach. This will be discussed  
108 during new business. I reviewed the minutes, vouchers, and police report.  
109

110 Trustee Ettinger: During the month I had discussions with Officer Mahdesian regarding police  
111 matters. Our police department did not have any COVID cases. The police department had a good  
112 month. I worked with officer-in-Charge and Clerk Rittenhouse on the DASNY grant support  
113 documents. I discussed with officer Mahdesian the staff needed for the fourth of July. Reviewed the  
114 paving bids, vouchers, foils, minutes, abstract and payment vouchers, and police report.  
115

116 Trustee Burke: During the month I reviewed the minutes, paving bids, abstract, vouchers, police  
117 report, worked with Deputy Mayor Pierce reviewing the groins on the sound side beach. The  
118 blessing of the fleet is this Saturday at 10:00am.  
119

120 Trustee Jablonski: During the month; I reviewed, the minutes, payment vouchers, police report,  
121 paving bids, and various correspondences.  
122

123 **Attorney Migatz:** During the month the zoning board met on May 24<sup>th</sup> they heard three  
124 applications.

- 125 1. Nancy & Peter Zimiles 279 Asharoken Avenue, this was a continuation of the hearing on  
126 March 22, 2022, the applicants filed for several side yard variances to construct a new  
127 single-family dwelling and accessory structure and special use permit for that accessory  
128 dwelling. That application was granted.
- 129 2. The second case was Lucy Verdone 285 Asharoken Avenue this hearing was continued from  
130 December 21·2021, this application was for a side and rear yard setback variance for a free-  
131 standing solar array. The natural grade of the rear yard and the proposed location of the  
132 solar array is to be lowered by three feet. The application was granted subject to the  
133 issuance of an excavation permit per Chapter 64 of the Village Code.
- 134 3. The third case was Scott Hartinger 15 North Harbor Road an application for a use variance  
135 for an alteration of an accessory structure for use of an art studio needing a rear yard  
136 setback variance for that structure; the applicant did not have representation. I informed  
137 the applicant that the application presents complex issues with law being a use variance  
138 and should consider an adjournment and coming back with counsel. The adjournment was  
139 granted to another date to be continued.  
140

141 The planning board did not meet in May.

142 We have a pending lawsuit with Ackeson and Guinta against the village, that litigation is challenging  
143 the denial of dock permits. The village board denied those permits and the applicants challenged  
144 that in the supreme court, the supreme court upheld the villages determination. The applicants  
145 appealed to the appellate division about a year and half ago. I received notice that the case will soon  
146 be placed for argument on the appellate division calendar, but no exact date has been determined.

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**Village Treasurer:** Emily Hayes reported for the month of May. The village received a \$69,500 grant from NYS for the dune restoration project. The vouchers totaled \$111,707.55. Included in the vouchers this month was a bill from Hartt Borg Insurance for \$43,435.28 and a repayment of a village tax lien in the amount of \$11,527.60 and second payment to Grucci Fireworks for \$11,250.00. There will be a separate resolution to approve the vouchers and budget transfers.

**Police Report:** Officer Mahdesian reported 43 summonses. He reported an accident past Bevin Road, the car was upside down, five people were in the car. We have a good relationship with our neighboring municipalities, Northport Police responded, we had to shut down the road for about an hour. Summer season is starting, and we still are working on getting an engine for the police boat. We will be getting assistance from our surrounding marine patrol to fill in. Officer Mahdesian discussed the incident in Texas and reported that we train under the Homeland Security training procedures. We perform active shooter drills at 4:00am in the malls and Huntington Hospital. We carry patrol rifles in the cars. I want to ensure you that we are prepared.

Mayor Letica noted that officer Josephson is one of the best firearm officers. We are fortunate to have many of our officers in our department.

**Superintendent of Buildings:** Doug Adil reported the following: responded to a homeowner question regarding finishing the area between their Belgian block and apron. Inspected a new driveway. Met with a builder to discuss fire sprinkler requirements. Reviewed construction drawings for a new dwelling 219 Asharoken Avenue. Re-reviewed plans for 399, permit was issued. Discussed requirements for fencing. Performed 15 Inspection.

**Emergency Manger:** Bill Raisch noted that he is reaching out to key agencies to discuss planning and resources if we lose access to Asharoken Avenue near the seawall. We are working with Suffolk County public works, the ACOE, NYSDEC and Town of Huntington highway department and will have a virtual call to discuss the plan to put in place in the next two weeks.

**Harbormaster:** Joe Affrunti has been in communication with the Huntington Harbormaster office regarding stray boats and sections of docks. We repaired the police boat trailer. We are working on getting the 5MPH signs in the water. I have been promised that tomorrow they will be installed. Mayor noted that officer Rogin was very helpful transporting the boat to have the trailer fixed.

Clerk Rittenhouse presented the bids.

Presentation of Bids: Bids were opened on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00pm; Officer Josephson and Deputy Mayor Pierce were present.

**Paving and Striping Part of Asharoken Avenue From 355 Asharoken Ave. to 501 Asharoken Ave. and extended shoulder repair.**

Bids:

**Rosemar** \$243,000 from 355 Ash to 501 Ash; Alt. #1 Milled Material for Shoulder \$3000.00 Alt #2 Paved Material for Shoulder \$12,500.00.

**Pioneer Paving** \$265,920 from 355 Ash to 501 Ash; Alt #1 Milled Material for Shoulder \$10,000 Alt #2 Paved Material for Shoulder \$0.00.

**Posillico Paving** \$278,025.60 from 355 Ash to 501 Ash; Alt #1 Milled Material for Shoulder \$30,000 Alt #2 Paved Material for Shoulder \$35,000.

**Graci Paving** \$296,434.00 from 355 Ash to 501 Ash; Alt #1 Milled Material for Shoulder \$6,885.00 Alt #2 Paved Material for Shoulder \$59,000.00.

**Gazebo Contracting** \$525,780.00 from 355 Ash to 501 Ash; Alt #1 Milled Material for Shoulder \$64,600.00 Alt #2 Paved Material for Shoulder \$134,160.00.

199 **Paving and Striping Part of Asharoken Avenue from Village Hall To Duck Island Lane and**  
200 **Entrance to Beach Plum Drive (this portion will be paid by National Grid).**

201 Posillico Paving \$269,580.60  
202 Rosemar \$283,893.00  
203 Pioneer Paving \$344,303.50  
204 Graci Paving \$384,867.50  
205 Gazebo Contracting \$728,735.00

206  
207 **Resolutions:**

208 **Resolution (2022-55)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board approves the budget transfers for the  
209 month of May 2022.

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

211 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
212 Trustee Burke AYE  
213 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
214 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
215 Mayor Letica AYE  
216 Motioned Carried

217 **Resolution (2022-56)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers for  
218 the month of May 2022 in the amount of \$111,707.55.

219 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.

220 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
221 Trustee Burke AYE  
222 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
223 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
224 Mayor Letica AYE  
225 Motioned Carried

226  
227 **Resolution (2022-57)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for  
228 Dominic Marino located at 103 Asharoken Avenue from July 22, 2022, thru July 24, 2022.

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

230 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
231 Trustee Burke AYE  
232 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
233 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
234 Mayor Letica AYE  
235 Motioned Carried

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237 **Resolution (2022-58)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for  
238 Tim and Jen Bisson located at 23 Bevin Road from June 23, 2022, thru June 26, 2022.

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

240 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
241 Trustee Burke AYE  
242 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
243 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
244 Mayor Letica AYE  
245 Motioned Carried

246  
247 **Resolution (2022-59)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for  
248 Jason Morgese who lives at 2 Lobster Way location of tent would be Duck Island Corp, the old boat  
249 house foundation by the causeway from May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, thru September 30, 2022.

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

251 Trustee Jablonski AYE

252 Trustee Burke AYE

253 Trustee Ettinger AYE

254 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

255 Mayor Letica AYE

256 Motioned Carried

257

258 **Resolution (2022-60)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for  
259 Linda Orofino located at 275 Asharoken Avenue from July 3, 2022, thru July 6, 2022.

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

261 Trustee Jablonski AYE

262 Trustee Burke AYE

263 Trustee Ettinger AYE

264 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

265 Mayor Letica AYE

266 Motioned Carried

267

268 **Resolution (2022-61)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve a tent permit for  
269 Ray D'Antoni located at 100 Cove Road from June 25, 2022, thru June 26, 2022.

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

271 Trustee Jablonski AYE

272 Trustee Burke AYE

273 Trustee Ettinger AYE

274 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

275 Mayor Letica AYE

276 Motioned Carried

277

278 **Resolution (2022-62)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve street work  
279 permit to National Grid for a new gas service at 224 Asharoken Avenue.

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

281 Trustee Jablonski AYE

282 Trustee Burke AYE

283 Trustee Ettinger AYE

284 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

285 Mayor Letica AYE

286 Motioned Carried

287 **Resolution (2022-63)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the estimate not  
288 to exceed \$2860.00 to codify the eight local laws passed into our Ecode360, the remaining local  
289 laws will be included on the Disposition List at the end of our Code. See attached estimate.

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

291 Trustee Jablonski AYE

292 Trustee Burke AYE

293 Trustee Ettinger AYE

294 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

295 Mayor Letica AYE

296 Motioned Carried

297

298 **Resolution (2022-64)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby ratify the proposal from  
299 GEI Consultants to prepare two grant applications DR-4480 (COVID) and DR-4615 (Ida), project  
300 cost for each grant application is \$1,117,000 for planning and design and development for the Sea  
301 Wall Shoreline/Rehabilitation Project Scoping, GEI consultant fee is \$8500.00; in addition, GEI

302 Consultants assisted on the BRIC grant application for planning and design and development at no  
303 cost.

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

305 Trustee Jablonski AYE

306 Trustee Burke AYE

307 Trustee Ettinger AYE

308 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

309 Mayor Letica AYE

310 Motioned Carried

311

312 **Resolution (2022-65)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby ratify the Hazard  
313 Mitigation Program Match Commitment, the commitment is to meet the matching fund  
314 requirements for the Sea Wall Shoreline/Rehabilitation Project Scoping, the local matching fund  
315 requirement is \$107,600.00.

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

317 Trustee Jablonski AYE

318 Trustee Burke AYE

319 Trustee Ettinger AYE

320 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

321 Mayor Letica AYE

322 Motioned Carried

323

324 These matching funds are related to the two grant applications submitted (DR-4480 (COVID) and  
325 DR-4615 (Ida) for planning and design and development for the Sea Wall Shoreline/Rehabilitation  
326 Project Scoping.

327

328 **Resolution (2022-66)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Mayor to  
329 sign the agreement with Rosemar Contracting Inc. to Mill, Pave, Stripe part of Asharoken Avenue  
330 from 355 Asharoken Ave. to 501 Asharoken Ave. at a cost of \$243,000.00 and extended shoulder  
331 repair using Alt #2 paved material at a cost of \$12,500.00.

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

333 Trustee Jablonski AYE

334 Trustee Burke AYE

335 Trustee Ettinger AYE

336 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

337 Mayor Letica AYE

338 Motioned Carried

339

340 **Resolution (2022-67)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Mayor to  
341 sign the agreement with Posillico Civil, Inc to Mill, Pave, Stripe part of Asharoken Avenue from  
342 Village Hall to Duck Island Lane and entrance to Beach Plum Drive at a cost of \$269,580.60.

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

344 Trustee Jablonski AYE

345 Trustee Burke AYE

346 Trustee Ettinger AYE

347 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

348 Mayor Letica AYE

349 Motioned Carried

350

351 **New Business:**

352 1. DASNY Grant modification: Mayor Letica noted that we originally put in for a police car and  
353 guide rail. The amount of funds we are getting will be insufficient to cover the costs of these  
354 projects. I am suggesting that we look towards re-paving Bevin Road. We have police

355 reserves to cover a new police car. We received an estimate to pave Bevin Road and it is  
356 close to the grant amount of \$100,000. The board agreed to modify the DASNY grant  
357 application.

358 2. We have old groins that are exposed again. Deputy Mayor Pierce noted that we were  
359 contacted by the resident at 138 Asharoken Avenue. These 1950 groins have become  
360 exposed again. Deputy Mayor Pierce and Trustee Burke visited the two groin sites on the  
361 sound side beach. Mayor Letica noted that maybe we can encase in concrete. The board  
362 decided to have a contractor look at both sites.

363  
364 **Mayor Letica opened Public Session:**

365 1. A resident asked about the paving section between Duck Island Lane and 355 Asharoken  
366 Avenue. Clerk Rittenhouse noted that the section was paved several years ago.

367 2. A resident asked about the engine for the police boat and noted that if he could locate an  
368 engine would that be helpful. He noted that there is dealer in California that may have  
369 inventory.

370 3. A resident asked about DR4480 and DR4615 grant applications and the matching fund  
371 requirements of \$107,600.00.

372 Mayor Letica noted that if the village accepts the grant the matching funds are \$107,600.00  
373 per grant, but only one grant would be accepted since its for the same purpose.

374 Second question is about the matching funds commitment letter resolution.

375 Mayor Letica noted that the commitment letter that was submitted with the application on  
376 June 1<sup>st</sup> was just ratified at this meeting. The resident asked if the application for DR4480  
377 and DR4615 was incomplete.

378 The mayor said no, both applications were complete when submitted on June 1<sup>st</sup>.  
379

380 Attorney Migatz explained the resolution about ratifying the commitment letter. He noted  
381 that the board passed a resolution based on their prior conversation that occurred prior to  
382 the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline since it was at time sensitive matter.

383  
384 4. A resident asked about the metal groins further down the beach towards the west side. She  
385 asked about the shoulder repair work.

386  
387 Mayor Letica made a motion to exit 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 Motioned Carried

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

- 395 Trustee Jablonski AYE
- 396 Trustee Burke AYE
- 397 Trustee Ettinger AYE
- 398 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE
- 399 Mayor Letica AYE
- 400 Motioned Carried.

401  
402 The June 7, 2022, Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at approximately  
403 7:30pm.

404 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
405 Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk