

Approved

**Officers Present:**

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

**Officials & Appointees Present:**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said  
Publication of meeting was confirmed

Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes for February 7, 2023, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.

- |                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Trustee Jablonski   | AYE |
| Trustee Ettinger    | AYE |
| Deputy Mayor Pierce | AYE |
| Mayor Letica        | AYE |
- Motioned Carried.

Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve the Board of Assessment Review minutes for February 24, 2023, seconded by Mayor Letica.

- |                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Trustee Jablonski   | Abstain |
| Trustee Ettinger    | AYE     |
| Deputy Mayor Pierce | AYE     |
| Mayor Letica        | AYE     |
- Motioned Carried.

**Mayors Report:** Mayor Letica reported, “Because of the storm on February 2-3 and the subsequent 16 hour power outage, the Village arranged a meeting with PSEG to discuss several important issues. On Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce and I met with Karyn Kemp Smith and 5 others from PSEG. We had an excellent discussion and the action points were: PSEG has identified 11 compromised trees between Bevin Road and Lighthouse Road that will be removed, PSEG will conduct a review of its text messaging system and correct the process that allowed incorrect messages to go out hourly and lastly PSEG will look at the switching network at Bevin Road to see if it is possible to change it, making it possible keep Bevin energized should Eaton’s Neck need to be turned off. PSEG will also be looking at several options for installing a redundant primary feed wire, either underground or submarine, to allow an alternative way to energize EN should the above ground wires become compromised.

During the month a lot of work was done on the 2023-24 budget. The final numbers are coalescing around a tax increase of between 2.5% and 3%. The budget will stay below the NYS tax cap. Although the Village has not had a tax increase in seven years, the high level of inflation is not going to allow that streak to continue. The Village will hold a special meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM to present the proposed budget to the Board of Trustees. At this time the BOT will be able to review the budget and modify it prior to presenting it to the residents. At the April BOT meeting a public hearing will be held to solicit input from the residents on the proposed budget.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> the Village received notice that its application for a \$1,000,000 BRIC grant for engineering and design for the seawall was turned down due to lack of funds. Amazingly, all of NYS was only allocated \$2,000,000. These grants are extremely competitive and therefore very difficult to secure. The Village will likely re-apply in the next cycle.

The Board of Assessment Review, comprised of the members of the BOT, met on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-one applications were reviewed and all were denied based on inadequate supporting documentation.

The Village is in the process of renewing its franchise agreement with Altice. The Village attorney, Bruce Migatz, is reviewing the template agreement and a meeting with Altice will be scheduled in the near future to discuss the document.

During the month the Village received \$70,000 from the Multi Modal Grant to cover the cost of a portion of last summer's road paving.

The Village had a moderate nor'easter on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Village Associate Justice Tara Ryan was able to get some very good seawall video showing how powerful the waves were. I was able to share the footage with the Village's Congressman Nick Lalota, State Senator Mario Mattera, Assemblyman Keith Brown and Huntington Supervisor Ed Smyth. They were really stunned to see how bad the conditions can become at the seawall and all promised to do all they can to help remedy the situation. I additionally spoke to Assemblyman Brown about the \$50,000 grant he obtained for the Village for seawall repair. I asked him to contact DASNY and see if they can expedite the final approval process.

Thanks go out to Elke Rittenhouse who arranged a terrific presentation from the Guide Dog Foundation at Village Hall last Thursday. Three future guide dogs were there and demonstrations of how they were being trained comprised much of the visit. The Guide Dog Foundation is looking for volunteers who would like to help raise these incredible animals. The commitment ranges from keeping a dog for a full year to simply housing one of the puppies for a weekend. If you would like more information the GDF phone number is 631-930-9000.

Lastly, the Village's icon snowbirds, the Ospreys, should be returning any time after St Patrick's Day on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Trustees:**

Deputy Mayor Pierce: During the month I attended the PSEG meeting with the mayor as well as the BAR meeting on February 24. I reviewed the police report, minutes from last month and BAR Minutes, the payment vouchers and the preliminary budget figures.

Trustee Ettinger: As usual, during the past month, I had numerous meetings and conversations with Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian regarding a number of police related matters and once again, I am happy to report that the police department had another "good month", which Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian will comment on shortly, in his monthly report.



Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian and I also spent some more time reviewing the initial draft Police Budget for fiscal year 2023- 2024 that we recently submitted to the Village. We again reviewed all of the expense categories within the budget and made a few changes to our initial draft, to insure that we had a fiscally responsible Budget.

Some other matters that I was involved in during the month are as follows: On February 24<sup>th</sup> I attended the Tax Assessment Grievance Day meeting, together with Mayor Greg Letica, Deputy Mayor Pierce and Trustee Laura Burke. I also so reviewed the proposed revisions to the Fence Code. I also reviewed some correspondences that we received from some of our residents. I reviewed the foils that were received during the past month. I reviewed last month's BOT Regular Meeting's Minutes, as well as the Minutes of the Board of Assessment Review Meeting, and finally I also reviewed this month's Abstracts for the Payment Vouchers.

Trustee Jablonski: During the month; I reviewed, the minutes, vouchers, police report, the budget and worked on the fence permit application.

**Village Treasurer:** Emily Hayes reported that the village received \$70,000 from multi-modal, the vouchers for the month of February were \$40,202.83. Nothing unusual to report on the expenditure side. There was a separate resolution to approve the vouchers and budget transfers.

**Police Report:** Officer Mahdesian reported that during the storm earlier in the month there was a generator fire on Duck Island and a tree had come down that cut off power to Eatons Neck. We had a good month, was virtually crime free, one instance of someone trying to scam an elderly resident but she did not fall for the scam. Busy month on the road, 79 traffic summons, 39 were issued for speed and of those 12 were for 50 or higher.

**Emergency Manager:** Bill Raisch reached out to the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the degradation of the seawall. Reviewing a planning document that would be utilized in response to a catastrophic loss of the seawall.

**Attorney Migatz:** Attorney Migatz reported that the Zoning Board met last month, February 13<sup>th</sup>, there were two cases: they granted the application of Steven and Kevie Murphy, 277 Asharoken Ave, side yard setback variance to construct a two-story accessory building and a special use permit to use that dwelling for guests of the family. Second case was Scott Hartinger, 15 N Harbor Rd granted a rear yard setback variance to add a stair landing and steps to an existing accessory building to be used as an accessory dwelling for which they were given a special use permit as well. The Planning Board did not meet, still do not have a date from the Appellate Division for the argument on the dock litigation appeal. I am reviewing the proposed Cablevision renewal contract and the Village is required to hold a public hearing on that to give the public an opportunity to voice their concerns or their compliments, what have you of the cable service in the village.

**Superintendent of Buildings:** Doug Adil reported that he reviewed the application for fill at 279 Asharoken Ave, met with the Conservation Board and the contractor to discuss the proposed fill and board members emailed in their recommendation. Reviewed a proposed dock on S Harbor Road, response was to direct applicant to Town of Huntington as it's their jurisdiction. Reviewed application for an emergency back up generator at 126 Asharoken Ave and performed inspections and close outs. New construction inspections as well.

#### **Resolutions:**

**Resolution (2023-16)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board approves the budget transfers for the month of February 2023.

147 Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.  
148 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
149 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
150 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
151 Mayor Letica AYE  
152 Motioned Carried

153 **Resolution (2023-17)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers for  
154 the month of February 2023 in the amount of \$40,202.83.  
155  
156 Trustee Jablonski made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.  
157 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
158 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
159 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
160 Mayor Letica AYE  
161 Motioned Carried

162 **Resolution (2023-18)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does approve the scheduling of a  
163 public hearing on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 on the tentative budget for fiscal year beginning  
164 6/1/2023.  
165  
166 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce.  
167 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
168 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
169 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
170 Mayor Letica AYE  
171 Motioned Carried

172 **Resolution (2023-19)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby authorize the Mayor to  
173 sign the Breakwater Marine contract for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks barge in the amount of \$14,500.  
174  
175 Deputy Mayor Pierce made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.  
176 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
177 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
178 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
179 Mayor Letica AYE  
180 Motioned Carried

181 **Resolution (2023-20)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby make a negative  
182 declaration pursuant to SEQRA based on the Conservation Board's recommendation and SEAF (part  
183 2) Impact Assessment regarding the Zimiles fill permit application.  
184  
185 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.  
186 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
187 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
188 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
189 Mayor Letica AYE  
190 Motioned Carried

191 **Resolution (2023-21)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the fill permit to  
192 the Zimiles located at 279 Asharoken Avenue to deposit fill (approximately 1400 CY) to control  
193 water runoff to adjacent properties, the street and Northport Bay.  
194

195 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.  
196 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
197 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
198 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
199 Mayor Letica AYE  
200 Motioned Carried

201 **Resolution (2023-22)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby designate the following  
202 banks as additional official depository banks for the Village of Asharoken:  
203 a. M&T Bank  
204 b. Modern Bank  
205

206 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.  
207 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
208 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
209 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
210 Mayor Letica AYE  
211 Motioned Carried


212 Public Session:

213 No Comments made during public session.

214 Mayor Letica made a motion to exit public session, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.  
215 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
216 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
217 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
218 Mayor Letica AYE  
219 Motioned Carried

220 Mayor Letica made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.  
221 Trustee Jablonski AYE  
222 Trustee Ettinger AYE  
223 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE  
224 Mayor Letica AYE  
225 Motioned Carried.  
226

227 The March 7<sup>th</sup>,2023, Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at  
228 approximately 6:54pm.  
229

230  
231 Signed:   
232 Michelle Glennon, Village Clerk