

DRAFT

Officers Present:

Greg Letica, Mayor
Melvin Ettinger, Trustee
Laura Burke, Trustee
Ian Jablonski, Trustee

Officials & Appointees Present:

Michelle Glennon, Village Clerk
Emily Hayes, Village Treasurer
Bruce Migatz, Village Attorney
Raymond Mahdesian, Officer-in-Charge

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

Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes for December 5, 2023
seconded by Trustee Burke.

Trustee Jablonski AYE

Trustee Burke AYE

Trustee Ettinger AYE

Mayor Letica AYE

Motioned Carried.

Mayors Report:

The Village received the draft copy of its audit from Skinnon and Faber, CPAs. The Village continues to be on very strong financial footing. The audit stated that “The administration has been diligent in controlling expenses while continuing to provide efficient services to residents.” A copy of the audit will be placed on the Village website this week and a copy will also be available for review at Village Hall.

During the month I reached out to US Congressman Nick Lalota to see if his office could assist with the Village’s request to have the ACOE help with the seawall reconstruction. Senator Lalota’s District Director Lauren Lembo contacted the ACOE on behalf of the Village. Subsequently she emailed me with the following, “I checked in with the Army Corps and, as suspected, they informed me “normally HQ will deny a small, locally preferred plan (LPP) because there is too much residual risk. Structures and infrastructure would remain at risk if the protection were focused only on the road. The risk of damages to the road would be reduced, but not as much as it would be with a comprehensive plan.” I would like to thank Lauren for getting this answer from ACOE.

I received notice today that the PSEG work of installing the underground wire from Bevin Road to North Creek Road is almost done. Starting in mid-January PSEG will begin storm hardening work in the Village and Eaton’s Neck. These upgrades include installing stronger poles, creating

narrow profiles by installing shorter cross arms, upgrading deteriorated equipment and replacing current wire with stronger wire. A letter will be sent by PSEG to residents with more details.

During the month I completed the required Workplace Violence Prevention and Sexual Harassment Prevention seminars.

Santa and Mrs. Claus came to the Village on the afternoon of December 16th. As usual it was a great time and many kids got to share their Christmas wishes with Santa. Thanks to Beefy and Jeanne Varese for their fantastic job subbing for the real Saint Nick who, unfortunately, was too busy packing his sleigh to attend.

In closing, I would like to send my condolences out to the family of former Asharoken Police Officer Ron Scudder. Ron did a great job on the Village's police boat for many years.

Trustees:

Deputy Mayor Pierce: Deputy Mayor Pierce was unable to attend, Mayor Letica read her statement:

During the month I reviewed the minutes, payment vouchers, police monthly and yearly reports as well as the snow removal contract from McCarthy Landscaping. I completed annual municipal training for both Workplace Violence and Discrimination & Harassment as required by NY State. I participated in a call with mayor Letica with Steven Hayduck regarding engineering services for our RFP for our Hazard Mitigation Grant. I also had discussions with Mayor Letica regarding our FAPP application.

Trustee Ettinger: Firstly, I hope that each of you and your families had an enjoyable Holiday Season and I hope that you all have a Happy and Healthy New Year. I want to advise you that the reason that our flag is at half-mast today was to honor the passing of the former Asharoken Police Officer Ron Scudder. Ron was a longtime Asharoken Marine Police Officer who retired more than 30 years ago. He was also a longtime teacher at the John Glenn H.S. in Elwood, NY. He leaves a wife and two (2) sons and resided in Huntington Station, NY. On behalf of the Village I want to extend our sincere condolences to Ron's family. May he Rest In Peace and May his Memory Be a Blessing... During the past month, as usual, I continued to have numerous meetings and conversations with Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian regarding a number of police related matters. Once again, I am happy to report that we had a "good month" that Ray Mahdesian will comment further on in his report later tonight.

Also during the month, I took the two (2) NYMIR online courses that were required for Village employees and officials. The courses were entitled NYS Discrimination and Harassment and Workplace Violence Prevention.

In addition, some other matters that I was involved in during the month were as follows:

- I monitored the two (2) storms that we had on December 10th and 17th with our Police. Fortunately, we did not need to close the road,
- On December 17th I attended the Santa visit to Village Hall,

- I also reviewed the proposed Local Law #1 regarding the Property Tax Levy that we will be voting on tonight,
- I also reviewed the proposed Local Law #2 regarding the Vehicle and Traffic Violations that we will also be voting on tonight,
- I also reviewed some additional correspondences that we received from some residents,
- I also reviewed the 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.

Trustee Burke: During the month I reviewed the minutes, the vouchers, the two proposed local laws, the policy activity report, the snow plow contract and village correspondence.

Trustee Jablonski: During the month I reviewed the minutes, the vouchers, the police reports, the snow plow contract.

Attorney Migatz: The Zoning Board met on December 18th, two cases were heard. First case was 3 Clam Shell Lane, request for a side yard setback variance for a one and two story addition that was granted. Second application was 71 Bevin Road, rear yard setback variances to extend an existing porch, construct a wood frame pergola and install a below grade swimming pool. That case was continued to the next meeting on January 22nd, the applicant was requested to submit some further information. We have no decision from the Appellate Division yet on the dock litigation and the planning board did not meet.

Village Treasurer: Nothing unusual to report on the revenue or the expense side. The vouchers for the month of December were \$40,195.79.

Police Report: Officer Mahdesian reported that 2023 was a good year for the village, Asharoken was crime free. We have experienced no burglaries and no vehicle crimes during the year. The omnipresence of village police is a great deterrent to crime. The department continues to enjoy the support and leadership of Mayor Greg Letica and the support of the Board of Trustees. Commissioner Mel Ettinger continues to be an asset to the department and serves the village well. The department continues to function well and does an excellent job. During the month of December there were 2 arrests and 21 summonses issued.

Superintendent of Buildings: Mayor Letica read the building inspector's report in his absence. Doug Adil received sprinkler shop drawings for 399 Asharoken Av. Project, currently under review. Reviewed drawings for a garage addition at 159 Asharoken Av. which was denied for a permit, due to the need for a variance. Denial letter was issued. Reviewed drawings for a generator addition at 67 Bevin Road which was denied for a permit, due to the need for a variance. Denial letter was issued. Reviewed drawings for an addition at 3 Bevin Road which was denied for a permit, due to the need for a variance. Denial letter was issued. Reviewed drawings for alterations at 327 Asharoken Av. which were approved for a Building Permit. Reviewed drawings for a PV solar installation permit at 7 Kew Court, which were denied for a Building Permit, due to issues with the plans which were marked "Revise & Resubmit". Reviewed drawings for a generator addition at Lobster Way, which were denied for a permit, due to insufficient front yard. Plans were returned for corrections regarding the generator location. Performed 7 inspections.

Public Hearing:

Local Law #1-2024 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c for fiscal year commencing 6/1/2024. Publication was read by Clerk Glennon.

Mayor Letica; reported that the proposed local law (1-2024) to allow the Board of Trustees to override the NY State 2% tax cap. This is the first step in the budget process. The proposed local law (1-2024) gives financial flexibility without the constraints of an arbitrary tax limit imposed by NY State. Passage of this law gives a safety net should unexpected expenses arise, or revenue shortfalls occur prior to finalizing the budget. Examples are unusual high snow removal costs or police overtime incurred due to an unanticipated storm. This is something we've done for the last twelve years. The board is in the very initial phase of preparing the 2024-2025 budget. I want to stress that adoption of the override law should not be interpreted or assumed to mean that the board intends to have a tax increase above the 2% threshold. We must finalize the assessment roll, determine our projected revenues and expenditures, and develop a realistic budget for the next fiscal year. It is in the best interest of the village to adopt the law with the hope and expectation that it may not be needed. Please keep in mind due to the current inflationary environment a tax increase may be needed, fortunately inflation is moderating. Since I was elected mayor 12 years ago our average annual tax increase has been less than 1% and there has only been one tax increase in the last 8 years. The village has a long history of financial conservatism and the Board and I will do our best to develop a budget that maintains the level of services for the residents this next year.

Mayor Letica opened public session

A resident made a comment that he would like to see the increases in revenues and expenses.

Trustee Ettinger a motion to close the public hearing on 1-2024, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.

Trustee Jablonski AYE

Trustee Burke AYE

Trustee Ettinger AYE

Mayor Letica AYE

Motioned Carried.

Public Hearing:

Local Law #2-2024 amending chapter 115 of the code of the Village of Asharoken entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" to increase the penalty for a violation of §115-1 of the Code of the Village of Asharoken, entitled "Parking". Publication was read by Clerk Glennon.

Mayor Letica opened public session

Mayor Letica made a motion to close the public hearing on 2-2024, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

Trustee Jablonski AYE

Trustee Burke AYE

Trustee Ettinger AYE

Mayor Letica AYE

Motioned Carried.

Resolutions:

Resolution (2024-01) Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the vouchers for the month of December 2023 in the amount of \$40,195.79.

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

Trustee Jablonski AYE

Trustee Burke AYE

Trustee Ettinger AYE

190 Mayor Letica AYE
191 Motioned Carried

192 **Resolution (2024-02)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve budget transfers
193 for December 2023.

194
195 Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.
196 Trustee Jablonski AYE
197 Trustee Burke AYE
198 Trustee Ettinger AYE
199 Mayor Letica AYE
200 Motioned Carried

201 **Resolution (2024-03)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board, does hereby approve proposed Local
202 Law #1-2024 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal
203 Law §3-c for the fiscal year commencing 6/1/2024.

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

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207 ROLL CALL:
208 **Trustee Jablonski** AYE
209 **Trustee Burke** AYE
210 **Trustee Ettinger** AYE
211 **Mayor Letica** AYE

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213 **Resolution (2024-04)** Be it Resolved that the Village Board does hereby amending chapter 115 of
214 the code of the Village of Asharoken entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" to increase the penalty for a
215 violation of §115-1 of the Code of the Village of Asharoken, not to exceed \$250.

216
217 ROLL CALL:
218 **Trustee Jablonski** AYE
219 **Trustee Burke** AYE
220 **Trustee Ettinger** AYE
221 **Mayor Letica** AYE

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223
224 **Resolution (2024-05)** Be it Resolved that the Village Board, does hereby approve in accordance
225 with the provisions of the Election Law of the State of New York, the 2024 Annual Village Election in
226 the Village of Asharoken shall be held on Tuesday, June 18th, 2024, and be it further resolved that
227 the offices to be filled at said election and the terms thereof are as follows:

228 Mayor, two (2) years
229 Trustee, two (2) years
230 Trustee, two (2) years

231
232 Be it resolved that the polling place will be held at the Village Hall, 1 Asharoken Avenue, Northport,
233 NY 11768 during the hours of 12 noon to 9:00 pm, subject to change.

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235 Mayor Letica made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Jablonski.
236 Trustee Jablonski AYE
237 Trustee Burke AYE
238 Trustee Ettinger AYE
239 Mayor Letica AYE
240 Motioned Carried

241 **Resolution (2024-06)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby accept the draft audited
242 financial statements for 5/31/2023, prepared by Skinnon and Faber Certified Public Accountants,
243 the financial statements will be filed with the Village Clerk, published and available for inspection.
244 Trustee Jablonski made a motion to approve seconded by Trustee Burke.
245 Trustee Jablonski AYE
246 Trustee Burke AYE
247 Trustee Ettinger AYE
248 Mayor Letica AYE
249 Motioned Carried

250 **Resolution (2024-07)** Be it Resolved that the Village Board does hereby appoint Richard Leonard
251 as the new Village Assessor at a rate of \$60 per hour. Mayor Letica made a motion to approve
252 seconded by Trustee Burke.
253 Trustee Jablonski AYE
254 Trustee Burke AYE
255 Trustee Ettinger AYE
256 Mayor Letica AYE
257 Motioned Carried

258 **Resolution (2024-08)** Be It Resolved that the Village Board does hereby approve the services from
259 Ted McCarthy Landscaping, East Northport, NY 11731 to provide snow plowing services for Village
260 Hall parking lot at a cost of \$265 per visit charge. Trustee Ettinger made a motion to approve
261 seconded by Trustee Burke
262
263 Trustee Jablonski AYE
264 Trustee Burke AYE
265 Trustee Ettinger AYE
266 Mayor Letica AYE
267 Motioned Carried

268 Public Session:

269 -A resident questioned when the draft financials would be available to view. The Mayor noted that
270 he had stated earlier in the meeting that they would be available both in Village Hall and on the
271 village website. Same resident had various questions regarding payments, vouchers and budgeted
272 items.

273 -Another resident thanked the Mayor, the Board of Trustees and the clerk for all their hard work for
274 a 'thankless' job. Same resident also thanked the Police Dept and commented about where else can
275 you live where there are no burglaries in a year, it is spectacular.

276 Mayor Letica made a motion to exit public session, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.

277 Trustee Jablonski AYE
278 Trustee Burke AYE
279 Trustee Ettinger AYE
280 Mayor Letica AYE
281 Motioned Carried

282 Mayor Letica made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Ettinger.
283 Trustee Jablonski AYE
284 Trustee Burke AYE

285 Trustee Ettinger AYE

286 Mayor Letica AYE

287 Motioned Carried.

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289 The January 2nd, 2024 Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at
290 approximately 6:59pm.

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293 Signed: _____

294 Michelle Glennon, Village Clerk