

APPROVED

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

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

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

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

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

58 **Trustees:**

59
60 Deputy Mayor Pierce: Deputy Mayor Pierce was unable to attend, Mayor Letica read her
61 statement:
62 During the month I reviewed the minutes, payment vouchers, police monthly and yearly reports
63 as well as the snow removal contract from McCarthy Landscaping. I completed annual municipal
64 training for both Workplace Violence and Discrimination & Harassment as required by NY
65 State. I participated in a call with mayor Letica with Steven Hayduck regarding engineering
66 services for our RFP for our Hazard Mitigation Grant. I also had discussions with Mayor Letica
67 regarding our FAPP application.
68

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

80 Also during the month, I took the two (2) NYMIR online courses that were required for Village
81 employees and officials. The courses were entitled NYS Discrimination and Harassment and
82 Workplace Violence Prevention.
83

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

- 85 • I monitored the two (2) storms that we had on December 10th and 17th with our Police.
86 Fortunately, we did not need to close the road,
- 87 • On December 17th I attended the Santa visit to Village Hall,
- 88 • I also reviewed the proposed Local Law #1 regarding the Property Tax Levy that we will
89 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

Mayor Letica AYE

Motioned Carried

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

193

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

195 Trustee Jablonski AYE

196 Trustee Burke AYE

197 Trustee Ettinger AYE

198 Mayor Letica AYE

199 Motioned Carried

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

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

205

206 ROLL CALL:

207 **Trustee Jablonski** AYE

208 **Trustee Burke** AYE

209 **Trustee Ettinger** AYE

210 **Mayor Letica** AYE

211

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

215

216 ROLL CALL:

217 **Trustee Jablonski** AYE

218 **Trustee Burke** AYE

219 **Trustee Ettinger** AYE

220 **Mayor Letica** AYE

221

222
223 **Resolution (2024-05)** Be it Resolved that the Village Board, does hereby approve in accordance
224 with the provisions of the Election Law of the State of New York, the 2024 Annual Village Election in
225 the Village of Asharoken shall be held on Tuesday, June 18th, 2024, and be it further resolved that
226 the offices to be filled at said election and the terms thereof are as follows:

227 Mayor, two (2) years

228 Trustee, two (2) years

229 Trustee, two (2) years

230

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

233

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

235 Trustee Jablonski AYE

236 Trustee Burke AYE

237 Trustee Ettinger AYE

238 Mayor Letica AYE

239 Motioned Carried

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

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

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

267 Public Session:

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

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

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

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

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

284 Trustee Ettinger AYE
285 Mayor Letica AYE
286 Motioned Carried.

287

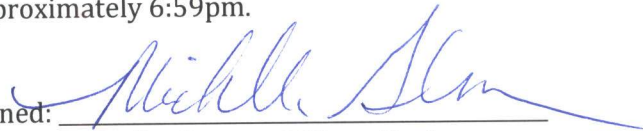
288 The January 2nd, 2024 Regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at
289 approximately 6:59pm.

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Signed: _____



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Michelle Glennon, Village Clerk