

Incorporated Village of Asharoken  
Board of Trustees Special Meeting/Work Session on the Tentative Budget  
Due to the Corona virus the Board of Trustees held the meeting via Teleconference  
Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:00pm  
At the Village Hall  
Approximate Attendance (7)

**Officer Present:**

Greg Letica, Mayor

**Officers Present via Teleconference:**

Pam Pierce, Deputy Mayor

Melvin Ettinger, Trustee

Laura Burke, Trustee

Ian Jablonski, Trustee

**Appointees Present:**

Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk

Emily Hayes, Treasurer

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mayor Letica opened up the meeting and confirmed that the officers received the Tentative Budget for fiscal year end 5/31/2021. Today's meeting is a work session and we will hold a public hearing on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Letica took a roll call:

Mayor Letica Present

Deputy Mayor Pierce Present

Trustee Ettinger Present

Trustee Jablonski Present

Trustee Burke Present

Emily Hayes Present

Nancy Rittenhouse Present

Publication was confirmed. Village Clerk Rittenhouse noted that two emails were sent to all residents communicating the teleconference call work session; the media was notified via email, and the work session was published in November 2019 along with the calendar of meeting dates.

Mayor Letica noted that the tentative budget was emailed to all trustees;

Deputy Mayor Pierce Received and Reviewed

Trustee Ettinger Received and Reviewed

Trustee Jablonski Received and Reviewed

Trustee Burke Received and Reviewed

Mayor Letica noted that the tentative budget is proposing a .4% tax increase. The salary increases are 3% for employees and our Village Attorney. Significant reductions were made in interest and earnings. We are concerned that we will get less in interest & earnings next year. We lowered our mortgage tax and increased our utility tax revenue.

We had increases in contractual police salaries, retirement costs, and Fire/EMS Contract costs, and landfill costs due to recycling increases. We reduced our contingent account; because we increased

54 it last year for police radios. We had a reduction in health insurance costs due to personnel  
55 coverage change and a slight decrease in overall costs, marine tour costs were reduced, and police  
56 fuel and actuarial costs were reduced as well.

57  
58 Mayor Letica asked if the trustees would like to review any other the line items or have any  
59 additional comments. Trustee Burke asked what it would take to have no property tax increase.  
60 She noted that she felt strongly not to raise taxes. Mayor Letica noted that it would take another  
61 \$8000 to reduce the budget in order to have a flat property tax. Mayor Letica asked the other  
62 trustees their thoughts on that recommendation.

63 Trustee Pierce was happy with the slight increase.

64 Trustee Ettinger felt similar with the slight increase.

65 Trustee Burke noted that given the circumstances keeping the property tax flat would be good for  
66 our residents.

67 Treasurer Hayes suggested that we can increase the start income balance to create a flat tax.

68 Trustee Jablonski noted that he agreed with everything; and he agrees with Treasurer Hayes point.

69

70 Mayor Letica noted that if our Treasurer suggests we are able to increase our Start Income then we  
71 should take this opportunity to achieve a flat property tax.

72

73 Mayor Letica noted that the Village Clerk will raise the Start Income by \$7200.00.

74 Mayor Letica made a motion to increase Start Income by \$7200.00, seconded by Trustee Burke.

75 Trustee Jablonski AYE

76 Trustee Burke AYE

77 Trustee Ettinger AYE

78 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

79 Mayor Letica AYE

80 Motioned Carried.

81

82 Mayor Letica provided an update on the Corona virus.

83 Trustee Burke asked about the Public Hearing on the budget and if we will be having teleconference  
84 call; Mayor Letica noted that we are waiting for confirmation on this. He noted that court sessions  
85 have been suspended until May 6<sup>th</sup> and that proper cleaning protocols must be followed for the  
86 police station and the village offices.

87

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

89 Trustee Jablonski AYE

90 Trustee Burke AYE

91 Trustee Ettinger AYE

92 Deputy Mayor Pierce AYE

93 Mayor Letica AYE

94 Motioned Carried.

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96 The March 17, 2020 Special board meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at  
97 approximately 4:33pm.

98 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

99 Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk

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