

MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2024



Village of Bellport

Board Meeting

Monday, January 22, 2024 at 7:00PM

A G E N D A

Subject to Change

The Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees met in the Community Center, 4 Bell Street, Bellport, New York on Monday, January 22, 2024 with public viewing through video streaming and in person.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Veitch with Trustees Mackin, Rohrmeier, Kuehn, Young, Village Attorney Moran, and Village Clerk Pontieri.

The flag salute was led by Mayor Veitch.

Updates by Mayor Veitch

- a. Village Clerk Mary Pontieri was sworn in by Mayor Veitch.
- b. Village Attorney Lisa Perillo was sworn in by Mayor Veitch.
Village Attorney Perillo will serve from February 1, 2024 to February 1, 2025.
- c. Village Attorney David Moran presented a letter announcing his resignation effective February 1, 2024. Mayor Veitch and the Board accepted his resignation. Mayor Veitch thanked Mr. Moran for his years of service and accepted the letter with regret. Mr. Moran will continue with cases of ongoing litigation.
- d. Mayor Veitch reported on a meeting with Superintendent Alexcy Romero from Fire Island National Seashore (FINS). Superintendent Romero updated Mayor Veitch on the state of the barrier island. It continues to erode, and measures are being taken to prevent future erosions.
Due to the number of shark sightings, FINS is providing a course for lifeguards to handle shark emergencies on the beach. The course information will be made available to the lifeguards.
- e. Mayor Veitch continued with an update of Howells Creek. Howells Creek runs to the east of the golf course and flooding has caused erosion along the west side of the creek. The flooding on the westside and continues to degrade three (3) holes on the golf course. We are working with GEI an engineering firm to secure permits to dredge the mouth of the creek, among other solutions.
- f. The Village is waiting for the second reimbursement from FEMA for Superstorm Sandy in 2012 in the amount of \$711,000. Upon receipt of the money a third submission will be submitted.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2024

- g. In early 2023, the Village received a \$2.8 million grant from HUD to improve the safety, and conditions of the marina and the docks at Ho Hum beach. This grant is a 75/25% split with HUD. Mayor Veitch assured the public that the marina is safe for boaters and residents. VHB, an engineering firm, is developing plans, securing permits and will manage the project. The first objective, before signing the agreement with HUD, is the submission of an Environmental report which VHB will spearhead on behalf of the Village.
- h. The Highway Department is working to finish up the Browns Lane/Shore Road project with hopes that the road will be open soon. Mayor Veitch thanked Nelson & Pope for their work with the DEC, of getting a “no-jurisdiction” letter allowing the project to move forward.
- i. The Village Audit is in the final stages and should be completed in late February. The process is moving along very well.
- j. Bellport Environment Committee is planning an event for May 25th with guest speaker Doug Tallamy. The location and time will be announced.
- k. Mayor Veitch read a statement regarding statements made by Brookhaven Town Supervisor, Daniel Panico. During his swearing in Supervisor Panico announced plans to improve North Bellport residents’ access to the ferry, Ho Hum Beach on Fire Island, and all the services at the Bellport Marina. While the Fire Island beach is open to the public, the services at the Bellport Marina and Ho Hum are Bellport Village owned and funded by Bellport Village taxpayers.
- l. Mayor Veitch addressed the concern of residents and extreme flooding on Otis Lane, Thornhedge Road, and South Howells Point Road. The residents were reassured that in case of emergency the Fire Department and EMT will respond, and appropriate actions will be taken.
- m. The last item Mayor Veitch read was the State of Emergency Proclamation for January 9, 2024.

Trustee Updates

- a. Steve Mackin – DPW, Kids Camp, Bellport Fire Department, South Country Ambulance, Suffolk County Police Department
Trustee Mackin updated the public on a soft test done with the Fire Department and EMS on flooding in the Village. Both are ready to handle flooding. He reported that the SPCPD stated that petty larceny has declined.
- b. Nathan Rohrmeier – Code Enforcement/Road Safety, Waterfront (HUD), Golf and Tennis, Grill Room
Trustee Rohrmeier reported on the HUD grant. The HUD grant was approved in 2023 for \$2.8 million. The Village has selected VHB as an engineer and a new design for the bulkhead will be presented to the Board.
- c. Lorraine Kuehn – Communication/Website, Business District, Senior Program, Vouchers, Special Project Arbor Day
Trustee Kuehn reported that a 3rd exercise class was added to the Senior Program schedule. The classes will be on Monday, Thursday, and Friday. Next, she stated that she is working on qualifying the for Tree City in the Village. This will be the 2023 submission.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2024

- d. Michael Young – Zoning Board of Appeals, Architectural Review Board, Beautification Committee, Planning Board, Historical Preservation, Yacht Club/Sailing Foundation
Trustee Young reported that attractive native plants are being planted on Shore Road.

Motion: Trustee Young – Second Trustee Kuehn

Resolution: **1 Approved** the Work Session Minutes of January 8, 2024.

Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Mackin

Resolution: **2 Approved** a Public Hearing for Piercing the 2% Tax Cap.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 20 (5) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a public hearing will be held by the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Bellport on the 22nd day of January 2024 at 7:00 p.m. to consider enacting the following proposed introductory Local Law:

Introductory Local Law #1 of 2024 overriding the 2% tax cap as established in General Municipal Law ~3-C.

Treasurer's Report:**Motion: Trustee Kuehn – Second Trustee Mackin**

Resolution: **3 Approved** General Fund Checking Abstract Report #1, Consisting of 73 vendors totaling: \$227,141.70.

Motion: Trustee Young – Second Trustee Kuehn

Resolution: **4 Approved** the Enterprise Fund Checking Abstract Report #2, consisting of vendors 17 totaling: \$144,293.94.

Motion: Trustee Young – Second Trustee Kuehn

Resolution: **5 Approved** Capital Browns & Dock Checking Abstract Report #3 consisting of vendor 1 totaling: \$49.75.

Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Mackin

Resolution: **6 Approved** the Village of Bellport Proclamation for Arbor Day, April 22nd.

Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier– Second Trustee Young

Resolution: **7 Approved** Budget Workshop Meeting as listed:

Monday, January 22, 2024 at 5:00 pm (before the scheduled Board Meeting at 7:00 pm)

Golf, Village Clerk, Board of Trustees, Mayor, Community Center, Elections, Community Development

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 5:30 pm

Dock, Beach, Ferry, Youth Program, building and Assessment, Tennis

Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 5:30 pm

DPW, Public Safety, Finance

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 5:30 pm

Review of Budget

MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2024

Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Kuehn

Resolution: **8 Approved** Grievance Day Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier– Second Trustee Young

Resolution: **9 Approved** the VHB contract for Bellport Village Marina and Ho-Hum Beach Dock Improvements in the amount of \$114,000 (Preliminary Design Phase).

Motion: Trustee Young – Second Trustee Mackin

Resolution: **10 Approved** the engagement letter for Jill Lemke, CPA at a rate of \$180 per hour effective January 23, 2024.

Motion: Trustee Young – Second Trustee Kuehn

Resolution: **11 Approved** Peter Sarich as part-time Building Inspector at the rate of \$70 per hour effective January 23, 2024.

Motion: Trustee Mackin – Second Trustee Kuehn

Resolution: **12 Approved** the hiring of Michael Maletta as AEO at the rate of \$60,299 annually effective January 3, 2024. Probation for 6 months and benefits start after 3 months.

Motion: Trustee Mackin – Second Trustee Young

Resolution: **13 Approved** the hiring of Robert Goode as Laborer at a rate of \$42,203 annually effective January 3, 2024. Probation for 6 months and benefits start after 3 months.

Motion: Trustee Kuehn – Second Trustee Young

Resolution: **14 Approved** the following, pursuant to Village Law Section 3-300.2, the Village Treasurer for the Village of Bellport need not be a resident of the Village of Bellport but must be a resident of Suffolk County.

Motion: Trustee Young – Second Trustee Mackin

Resolution: **15 Approved** the hiring of Lisa Perillo as Village Attorney at the rate presented effective February 1, 2024 to February 1, 2025.

Motion: Trustee Young – Second Trustee Mackin

Resolution: **16 Approved** the hiring of Deirdre Cicciaro as legal counsel at the rate presented effective January 22, 2024 to July 22, 2024.

Motion: Trustee Young – Second Trustee Mackin

Resolution: **17 Approved** Mary Immaculate/New York Blood Center to hold Blood Drive at the Bellport Community Center on Sunday, February 11, 2024 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

1) Open to the Public

Ken Gobright inquired about the details of “9:00 pm routine”. Mayor Veitch explained that it is a procedure promoted by the SCPD. This is a reminder to residents to check doors, cars, garage doors, activate house alarm, and make sure premises are secure. Mr. Gobright inquired about the School Bus litigation, also raising concerns about the environmental impact and air quality on students. This issue will be investigated.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2024

Attorney Moran stated that the lawsuit ended as a motion to dismiss by the Judge.

The Public Hearing on the 2% Tax Introductory Local Law #1 of 2024 overriding the 2% tax cap as established in General Municipal Law ~3-C was opened with a

Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier– Second Trustee Young

Tom Schultz stated that Village taxes have doubled in the last 11 years and would like the Board to consider the impact on the residents. Mr. Schultz would like the Board to keep taxes down.

Motion: Trustee Young – Second Trustee Mackin to close the Public Hearing.

Close Meeting – Enter into Executive Session (if needed)

The Board moved into Executive Session to discuss Personnel litigation at 7:55 pm.

Motion: Trustee Young – Second Trustee Kuehn

The Board moved out of Executive Session at 8:20 pm.

Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Young

The Board adjourned the meeting at 8:21pm.

Motion: Trustee Young – Second Trustee Kuehn

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pontieri
Village Clerk