

# FINAL MINUTES AUGUST 26, 2024



Village of Bellport  
Board Meeting Agenda  
Monday, August 26, 2024 at 7:00 pm Board Meeting  
This meeting will be held in the Community Center

## A G E N D A

This meeting is open to the public in the Community Center, located at 4 Bell Street. It is an in-person meeting and will be streamed on Zoom.

Opening of Board Meeting 7:00 pm – We are having trouble with Optimum/Wi fi and the Zoom meeting will not be recorded tonight.

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, and unanimously carried Mayor Maureen Veitch opened the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call:

Mayor Maureen Veitch, Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin, Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier, Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, and Trustee Michael Young were present.

Opening remarks by Mayor Maureen Veitch

Set Public Hearing on Chapter 12 Motor Vehicles and Traffic is moved to Board Meeting of September 23, 2024.

Mayor Maureen Veitch asked Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin to report on Sanitation Sundays. To date there have been an average of 11 people dropping off garbage, with an average of 27 bags a week and 3 cars per hour. There have not been any security concerns, vermin, or extra garbage in streets or around DPW.

Mayor Veitch had received several letters concerning Sanitation Sundays that arrived too late to be included in the Board meeting of June 26, 2024. She had committed to read the following from Michael Heitner.

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Dear Village of Bellport Trustees,

I am writing in regard to the new "Sanitation Sunday" program being implemented by the Village Board.

I strongly oppose the opening of the Highway Yard on the weekends. The Highway Yard is located in a resident neighborhood and the Village of Bellport elected officials have always been sensitive to this and not opened the Highway Yard on the weekends. Opening the Highway Yard on the weekend sets a bad precedence allowing for added traffic and noise and traffic during the week from the Highway Yard. Trucks speed up and down the street and there is regular beeping as the vehicles back up. While I understand the Village is trying to solve an issue with garbage collection, this is just created a different issue for the Village.

I would ask the Village Trustees to reconsider this "Sanitation Sunday" program and keep the Highway Yard closed on the weekend as it has always been. Respectfully please consider the needs of the New Jersey Avenue neighborhood that has continued to improve the years. Let's not go backwards.

Sincerely,

Michael Heitner  
45 New Jersey Avenue  
Bellport, NY 11713

Mayor Veitch thanked the community members for their letters and concerns. This program will be evaluated after September 8, 2024.

- a. Garbage drop off on Sundays at DPW from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm – resident letter (above)
- b. HUD

HUD Marina Project is a 2.8-million-dollar grant earmarked for improving safety and refurbishing both the Bellport and Ho Hum marinas. The grant is split 75%/25% with Bellport financing 25%. Safety has always been the most important part of the reconstruction. In the future, the Board will have a meeting where the public can weigh in and look at the designs. Nothing is going to happen without have a public meeting to discuss the plans.

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### c. FEMA

We are still dealing with Superstorm Sandy (2012) for reimbursement from FEMA. We received the second of the third reimbursements and are working on the third submission. Later in the meeting we will be approving GEI Consultants, Inc. contract amendment in the amount of \$5,400.00 to help with the third reimbursement.

### d. GEI/Howells Creek Resiliency Project

There is erosion at Howells Creek which is affecting three holes on the golf course. This is on the east side of the golf course at the mouth of the creek. GEI is involved in the Howells Creek part of the project. To date we have the permitting process in place and funding of 3.33 million dollars. The county will be checking out drains that were installed by the county which may be draining into the area. The erosion has damaged Otis, South Howells, and Thornhedge

### e. Solar Panels

The solar panels at Ho Hum are 30 years old and need to be replaced. We have been working closely with PSE&G and LIPA signed an agreement with them giving us \$150,000 towards the installation of new solar panels. We have received \$75,000 to date and will be completing the work hopefully by December 31, 2024. Jason Crane, Teddy Hermus, and our electrician have been working very hard at getting the necessary documents to move forward with the installation. We will be approving Eldor budgetary proposal in the amount of \$128,302.84 later in the meeting to supply the necessary equipment.

f. Tax Revenue Collected to Date – 97.35% or \$3,889,808.60 of taxes have been collected to date.

### g. Review of Codes

We are committed to reviewing and updating Village codes. We have started on Chapter 12 Motor Vehicles and Traffic and will set public hearings as we go through the chapter.

Mayor Veitch was made aware of a posting on Instagram from the Town of Brookhaven Supervisor inviting anyone to Ho Hum onto a town “ferry”. This was posted on August 23, 2024. A call was received from Rob Maag, owner and operator of H2O water taxi company informing the Mayor of plans to take 50 people to Ho Hum beach on his vessel using Bellport Village marinas on the Long Island side and Fire Island side on August 23, 2024. The pick up in Bellport would be at Creamer Street School and a jitney would proceed to the water taxi.

Mayor Veitch reported that on August 25, 2024 two Notices of Violation were issued to Robert Maag, H2O for transporting one person at 10:00 am and two people at noon.

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On August 27, 2024 a Press Conference was held at the Town of Brookhaven building with the NAACP and local organizations and residents alleging discrimination over access to Fire Island Beach. Mayor Veitch had met with Ed Morris August 10, 2024 to work with the Town of Brookhaven to come to a mutual agreement on the use of the beach. Mayor Veitch suggested several options but efforts to speak to the Supervisor and Ed Morris were not returned.

Last Thursday the Village hosted 40 children, parents and chaperones from the Boys and Girls Club that visited Ho Hum beach. Other groups have enjoyed the Ho Hum beach over the years. The events were coordinated with Village Hall and the group events have been very successful. Safety is always the main concern with the beach.

### Trustee Updates

- a. Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin – DPW, Bellport Fire Department, South Country Ambulance, Suffolk County Police Department – Road Safety
  - Village code officers are recording data to help in the enforcement of speeding. With the schools opening safety is most important.
  - Street paving and tree trimming are slated to be done in the next week.
  - Our Fire Inspector Mike Reico continues to do an excellent job of fire inspections in the Village.
- b. Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier – Code Enforcement, Waterfront Management Board, Golf Commission, Tennis Commission, and Vouchers
  - This summer has been a safe and great summer with extra activities in the community. The waterfront, golf, and tennis have expanded their successful programs.
  - Weekend Activity at Marina and Ho Hum Beach has been normal based on the weather other than the Town of Brookhaven's taxi service. He thanked Don Millins and Paul Bodnarchuk for their supervision with the code officers.
  - Code Department for July 2024 has been steady with fewer kids on bikes than last summer.
- c. Trustee Lorraine Kuehn – Communication/Website, Business District, Senior Program, Vouchers, Kids' Camp
  - The Senior Zumba Gold Program is cancelled on Friday.
  - Two businesses opened their doors in the Village. Michele Mariaud Art Gallery and Fitnessse Activewear and Sportswear exercising clothing store.
  - Thanked the Village for the 50 hanging baskets and the DPW for maintaining them over the summer.

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- Overview of Kids Camp from Bob Crowley  
Mr. Crowley reported on the very successful 32<sup>nd</sup> season of Kids' Camp. There were 171 campers attending ranging in ages from kindergarten to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Also, there was a Counselor in Training program that was well received. The program stayed within the budget of \$62,400 and are currently started ordering for next summer in order to take advantage of lower prices.
- d. Trustee Michael Young – Zoning Board of Appeals, Architectural Review Board, Beautification Committee, Planning Board, Historical Preservation, Yacht Club/Sailing Foundation
  - The Bellport Village Program Foundation held their annual event and 327 tickets were sold. The event was spectacular and enjoyed by all. Bellport Village Program Foundation purpose was set up to encourage the community to raise money for projects in the Village and work together. The Bellport Village Program Foundation has raised money to support the Village and fund projects. Several past projects include the marina playground, bike racks, updating and redesigning the bowling alley, and benches.
  - There was a heavy rain on Shore Road and the road handled it very well. The road design was an engineering challenge to drain properly. I want to thank Paul Warner, Jason Crane, and Roberts Asphalt for their efforts and expertise with this project.
  - Near the opening of Osborn Park, a mud puddle had formed and it is gone thanks to Jason Crane and his crew.
  - There have been concerns with electric bikes in the business district. They can be very dangerous.
  - Row Boat beach is eroding and concern with the bulkhead and the Village will be evaluating the structure.
  - It may be time for a bamboo alert. The plant can be highly invasive in this area and neighbors complain.
  - Update on review of Zoning Codes  
To date Trustee Young has talked to about 50 people regarding the revisions on Zoning and ARB Codes. He has worked on this for months and has given the Board a draft of 11 recommendations. Please feel free to reach out to me by email so that your comments can be added.
  - The last topic Trustee Young addressed was to clarify the myth that has been publicized by the Town of Brookhaven. The myth is that Ho Hum was purchased in 2018 by the Village. The Village of Bellport purchased Ho Hum beach in 1963 and it was financed by Village taxpayers.

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Open To the Public:

Mary Butler, 60 South Howells Point Road, thanked the Mayor and Trustees for everything they do for the Village. They have been pulled away from their families with recent issues in the Village.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- Building Department Activity as of July 19, 2024  
Two permits were issued this month with nine issued last year for the same period.0
- Open Permit Project as of July 19, 2024  
To date the Building Department has received 257 inquiries from residents checking on the status of open permits in response to the letter sent out with the tax bills. The department continues to work through the calls.
- Fire Inspections for July 2024 – covered by Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin earlier in the meeting.

### RESOLUTIONS:

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin – Second: Trustee Rohrmeier**  
**Resolution: 153**

Approved the Bellport Golf Club/Bellport Country Club Consultation Contract dated August 16, 2024 signed by Mayor Veitch as authorized by the Board.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin – Second: Trustee Rohrmeier**  
**Resolution: 154**

Approved the Eldor budgetary proposal in the amount of \$128,302.84 for Ho Hum Marina Off Grid PV and battery based electrical system installation as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Young – Second: Trustee Rohrmeier**  
**Resolution: 155**

Approved the GEI Consultants, Inc. contract amendment in the amount of \$5,400.00 for the Municipal Main Dock (FEMA) as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Kuehn – Second: Trustee Rohrmeier**  
**Resolution: 156**

Approved opening a reserve fund for Senior Program to the transfer funds from fiscal year 2023/2024 donations in the amount of \$665.30 as presented.

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**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin – Second: Trustee Rohrmeier**  
**Resolution: 157**

Approved the Reorganization Meeting minutes of July 22, 2024, as presented.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin – Second: Trustee Rohrmeier**  
**Resolution: 158**

Approved the Board Meeting minutes of July 22, 2024, as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Kuehn – Second: Trustee Rohrmeier**  
**Resolution: 159**

Approved the General Fund Checking Abstract Report #1, consisting of 89 vendors totaling: \$375,316.04 as presented.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin – Second: Trustee Kuehn**  
**Resolution: 160**

Approved the Enterprise Fund Checking Abstract Report #2, consisting of 24 vendors totaling: \$131,453.36 as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Kuehn – Second: Trustee Rohrmeier**  
**Resolution: 161**

Approved the Capital Browns & Dock Checking Abstract Report #3, consisting of 1 vendor totaling: \$67,057.80 as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second: Trustee Kuehn**  
**Resolution: 162**

Approved the transfer of ARPA Funds to cover VHB consultant services invoice for \$27,077.97 for services rendered through May 31, 2024 as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second: Deputy Mayor Mackin**  
**Resolution: 163**

Approved Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and Treasurer Darcia Palmer to attend the NYCOM Conference from September 16<sup>th</sup> through September 20<sup>th</sup> in Saratoga Springs, NY as presented.

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**Motion: Trustee Kuehn – Second: Trustee Rohrmeier**  
**Resolution: 164**

Approved an Intermunicipal Agreement between Suffolk County and the Village for Municipal Zoning Referrals to the Suffolk County Planning Commission as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second: Deputy Mayor Mackin**  
**Resolution: 165**

Approved the request of refund of \$140 for 2024 Bellport Tennis Camp for Ori Magnes. Child could not attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> session (July 29<sup>th</sup> - August 1<sup>st</sup>) as presented.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin – Second: Trustee Rohrmeier**  
**Resolution: 166**

Accepted the resignation of Marguerite Crowley from the Bellport Architectural Review Board with regret. Mayor Veitch thanked Marge for her the endless hours of hard work given to the Village on the ARB Board

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier– Second: Trustee Young**  
**Resolution: 167**

Approved the Town of Brookhaven Contract for lifeguards for Saturdays and Sundays as follows:

September 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	September 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>
September 14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	September 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>

The Village Beach permit expires on September 30, 2024.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier– Second: Deputy Mayor Mackin**  
**Resolution: 168**

Approved the Fire Place Initiative hosted by Blue Water Vagabond Surf Festival on September 15, 2024 (rain date September 22, 2024 same time) from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm to hold competitive surf events as presented.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin– Second: Trustee Young**  
**Resolution: 169**

Approved South Country Library to hold two concerts on September 5<sup>th</sup> (Captain Jack-Billy Joel Tribute Band) and September 20<sup>th</sup> (Penny Lane-Beatles Tribute Band) from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm in their parking lot as presented.



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**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin – Second: Trustee Rohrmeier**  
**Resolution: 170**

Approved the setting of a Public Hearing on Chapter 12 Motor Vehicles and Traffic adding new Code Section 12-13 Engine Idling Prohibited Article 1.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin – Second: Trustee Young**  
**Resolution: 171**

Approved the setting of a Public Hearing on Chapter 12 Motor Vehicles and Traffic amending existing Village Code Chapter 12, Article V Bicycles and Play Vehicles at Section 12-136 Limitations on speed and riding abreast and Section 12-137 Skateboards, roller skates, rollerblades, bicycles or tricycles.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin – Second: Trustee Rohrmeier**  
**Resolution: 172**

Approved Joe Varsalona and Michael Chiaramonte to assist with Zoom Board Meetings at a rate of \$100 per meeting as presented.

On a motion by Trustee Michael Young, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, and unanimously carried the Board moved into Executive Session at 7:58 pm to discuss litigation and personnel.

On a motion by Trustee Michael Young, seconded by Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier, and unanimously carried the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pontieri  
Village Clerk

