

FINAL MINUTES: OCTOBER 28, 2024



Village of Bellport

Board Regular Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2024 at 7:00PM
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.

Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call

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

Open Meeting

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin and seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, the meeting was opened at 7:03 pm.

Opening remarks by Mayor Maureen Veitch

Mayor Updates Capital Projects, Grants

The HUD-Marina Project is a 2.8 million HUD grant, and it is targeted to make the marina safer. That's the key goal of the grant. I want to thank the members of the Waterfront Commission. They meet frequently along with our engineers at VHB. Last Thursday they came to an agreement about the parameters of the project and will present the current plan on November 14th at 6:00 pm here in the Community Center.

The purpose of this meeting is to get feedback from the community, boaters, and people who like to just walk down to the marina. The project planning is not complete until we get feedback from the community. I'm hoping as many people in the community who have an opinion about the marina will attend that meeting.

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The meeting will be announced in the paper, Village website, and Sunday notification. There will be an opportunity for people to vote yes or no on certain aspects of the current plan. There will be different drawings up for the November 14th presentation for people to look at and have an opportunity to vote. VHB will run the presentation.

We will have a 3rd submission for FEMA. We decided that there was enough to make a \$100,00.00 submission but there is still a little bit more to do before it is submitted.

The GEI project that has been on going addresses the erosion at the golf course caused by the creek located there. We have been waiting for nearly a year and a half to secure our permit with the DEC. This past week we received something from the DEC with questions so that was a very good sign that they were indeed looking at our project.

There is a very short window for dredging which is a big part of the project. Dredging cannot be done after December 31st so we're hoping that the DEC moves quickly.

If people have taken a ride around Browns Lane/Shore Road, they will notice that there have been some grasses and bushes planted that will fill out and grow in 2 or 3 years. The grass is the basis for a lot of the drainage that we're hoping will keep the water out of the road.

We are working on getting an amendment to our DEC permit for the solar panels. The amendment is needed because we're putting a new frame in for the panels to sit on. The DEC said they would look at the project and get back to us as quickly as possible. Part of the project was funded by LIPA/PSEG who will be paying \$150,000.00 to replace the 28-year-old solar panels.

Village Hall has been painted and shingled. The last 2 things to complete the project are landscaping and shutters. We are hoping the Bellport Village Program Fund will help us raise money for the shutters for the building.

Darcia Palmer, our treasurer, is going to attend the Golf Commission meeting this week and give a short version of what she did for the whole community to explain the budget. She is going to speak specifically at the Golf Commission about the Enterprise Fund. This is for the golfer or non-golfer to better understand what the Enterprise Fund is and how it fits into the Village. The meeting is Wednesday this week at 6:00 pm in the Community Center.

Trustee Updates

- a. Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin – DPW, Bellport Fire Department, South Country Ambulance, Suffolk County Police Department – Road Safety

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Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin reported that the Halloween parade was another successful event. There was a great turnout as every year with a beautiful day.

Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin and Trustee Lorraine Kuehn presented prizes to the 3 winners of the Scarecrow Contest. He thanked Trustee Kuehn was helping.

There is a new inspector at the 5th Precinct Inspector David Doherty. We haven't formally met but we're going set up a time to meet with him.

Moving on with DPW. Leaf collection has begun. That's going to go on until December 20th. So, we have until the 20th to send our leaves out to the curb and DPW will come by and pick them up.

DPW is in the winter mode closing the marina and Ho Hum Beach. Everything has been winterized.

- b. Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier – Code Enforcement, Waterfront Management Board, Golf Commission, Tennis Commission, and Vouchers

In Trustee Rohrmeier absence, Mayor Veitch reiterated that the Board is grateful to the members of the Waterfront Commission for their hard work.

- Code Department Report will be presented at the Work Session

- c. Trustee Lorraine Kuehn – Communication/Website, Business District, Senior Program, Vouchers, Kids Camp, and Building Department

Trustee Kuehn had a short report for the Business District. As Trustee Mackin said, I joined him on Saturday for the Scarecrow Contest. She thanked Tara Crane and Katie Mehrkens for leading them step by step on the event. It was fun and very well attended.

For seniors we're going to have our second Educational Series Workshop. It is being set-up for December 3rd at 10:00 am here in the Community Center. The topic is "Aging in Place". Refreshments will be served.

Our 3rd annual Gateway show and luncheon, it is being set-up for Wednesday, December 18th. The show is White Christmas.

Regarding the building permits and open permits on homes. Letters were sent out with the tax bills May 31st advising residents to call the building department to check on the status of their home and any open permit.

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It was discovered that there were 600 plus open permits and in the letter notification to every resident, we offered amnesty through early September. Of the 265 calls received 75 are now closed, which is double from last month. We have completed almost 40% in five months. Some of the open permits were as old as 1958 so this is a great cleanup.

The Building Department for the last 4-month comparison is slightly less in numbers by 5% than last year's revenues.

- d. Trustee Michael Young – Zoning Board of Appeals, Architectural Review Board, Beautification Committee, Planning Board, Historical Preservation, Yacht Club/Sailing Foundation

Trustee Young started with his careful observations of Village goings on. He noticed that grass seeds have been strategically placed in bare spots in the Village, most notably in the trailer parking lot down by Osborne Park. It's growing, notwithstanding an absence of cooperation by the rain.

Update on Architectural Review Enhancement

This is a project to enhance the systems of Architectural review and approval. In August, 11 recommendations were sent to the Board. Over the last couple of weeks, we have had several meetings of staff and attorneys with the focus on practicalities and the law with regard to the recommendations. Revisions will be circulated shortly to the Board and from there will be the subject of a Work Session which will be open to the public. Next the recommendations will go to a draft law with a public hearing on the draft law. All comments will be welcome and there will be ample opportunity for the community.

Mayor Veitch thanked Trustee Young who has put in an enormous amount of time interviewing people in the community, members of the working Boards and attorneys to investigate from a legal point of view.

- Training for Zoning and Planning Board November 9th 9:00 am– Lisa Perillo and Deirdre Cicciaro

Open to the Public

Edward Baker, New Jersey Avenue questioned why ongoing Code Enforcement efforts regarding Sunday garbage wasn't discussed? People leave out their bins and I'm just kind of curious whether there's any update on those efforts to enforce the already existing code in that regard.

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Mayor Veitch commented that this is not a Q and A but she did give an update. There were 33 notices of violations served during June and July to people who left their garbage cans out. We had a meeting internally with the Village staff to follow up on those, and so I share the residents' concern for enforcing the codes, as it relates to trash. Just to reiterate that for the record, if your trash is collected on Tuesday, you are not to put it out any sooner than Monday. You are not to put garbage out on Sunday when the pickup is Tuesday because trash is left all over the neighborhood and the highway department has to pick it up. The same goes for putting out your recycling and then leaving your trash cans out until Friday. If you are a weekend resident when the wind blows, they blow into the street, creating an unsafe situation. So please be aware that there will be enforcement happening around this issue.

The public did not have any other comments and Mayor Veitch moved onto the items to be approved,

Open Discussion:

Motion: Trustee Mackin - Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 180 Approved the proposed 2025 Golf Rates **before** February 1, 2025 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Mackin - Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 181 Approved the proposed 2025 Golf Rates **after** February 1, 2025 – New Members as presented.

Motion: Trustee Kuehn - Second Trustee Mackin and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 182 Approved the proposed draft of Board Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2024 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Mackin - Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 183 Approved the General Checking Abstract Report Consisting of 93 vendors totaling \$612,487.74 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Kuehn - Second Trustee Mackin and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 184 Approved the Enterprise Fund Checking Abstract Report consisting of 22 vendors totaling \$158,568.51 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Mackin - Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 185 Approved the Capital General FEMA Abstract Report consisting of 1 vendor totaling \$2,475.00 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Kuehn - Second Trustee Mackin and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 186 Approved the Capital Browns & Dock consisting of 2 vendors totaling \$789,280.00 as presented.

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Motion: Trustee Young - Second Trustee Mackin and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 187 Approved the Engagement Letter with Abrams Fensterman, LLP. for dock and beach issues as presented.

Motion: Trustee Mackin - Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 188 Approved the proposed estimate of \$25,875.00 from Laser Central Alarms, Inc. for the installation of a Fire Alarm System at the Country Club. Expenses will be billed by breakdown of devices needed for the Men's Locker Room, Country Club, and Peter's on the Green as presented.

Motion: Trustee Young - Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 189 Approved the proposed agreement in the amount of \$8,000.00 from Brian McCaffrey for MS4 Public Storm Water Management Awareness Training for Board Members as presented.

Motion: Trustee Mackin - Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 190 Approved the revised agreement with GEI to complete the project Village of Bellport Golf Club Dredging and Shoreline Stabilization Project in the amount of \$2,900.00 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Mackin - Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 191 Approved the following transfers of funds from Fund Balance:

- \$91,922.03 to cover consultancy services fee for the balance of the contract amount with VHB Engineering for Marina and Ho Hum Beach Dock Improvements as presented.
- \$10,848.75 to cover professional services rendered for GEI Consultants for engineering services rendered for the period February 25, 2023 through July 28, 2023 as presented.
- \$30,000.00 as an estimate to cover landscaping costs for Village Hall as presented.
- \$100,000.00 for potential legal services fees for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Young - Second Trustee Mackin and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 192 Contract Renewal for GASB 74/75 Actuarial Services

- Approved and accepted the USI Consulting Group contract for GASB 74/75 Actuarial Services for Biennial Report for \$4,150.00 and FYE 2025 Disclosure \$850.00 and FYE 2026 Disclosure for \$850.00 as presented.

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Motion: Trustee Mackin - Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 193 PSEG Solar Panels Ho Hum

- Approved the transfer of \$75,000.00 for PSEG funds received for replacement of Ho Hum solar panels and increase budget appropriations to facilitate project costs as presented.

Motion: Trustee Mackin - Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 194 National Opiate Litigation Class Action Settlement Payout

- Approved and accepted \$47.51 representing payout received from the McKinsey & Company National Opiate Litigation Settlement as presented.

Motion: Trustee Young - Second Trustee Mackin and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 195 Approved \$18,750.00 to be transferred from the Contingent account to the salary account to cover the amount of the salary increase through the remainder of the fiscal year as presented.

Motion: Trustee Mackin - Second Trustee Young and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 196 Approved the contract with the Town of Brookhaven for the Senior Program and Senior Transportation Program in the amount of \$50,000.00 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Young - Second Trustee Mackin and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 197 Approved the Boat Berth rates for the fiscal year 2024-2025 at a rate of \$77.00 per linear foot as presented.

Motion: Trustee Young - Second Trustee Mackin with Trustee Kuehn opposed, Resolution 198 was approved. Trustee Kuehn stated that the salary increase is higher than she is comfortable with.

Resolution: 198 Approved the salary increase to \$132,500.00 for Jason Crane effective November 1, 2024 as presented.

Mayor Veitch thanked Jason Crane and all the members of the Highway Department. They have saved the Village thousands of dollars by taking on some of the projects that would have had to go out to bid. They work really hard and do an incredible job for the Village.

When it came to the decision for Jason's increase, what we did was look at the 32 villages and the compensation level for Village Highway Departments and Village Facilities Managers to see if this adjustment was in line with other Villages. We felt very comfortable as a Board.

Motion: Trustee Young - Second Trustee Mackin and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 199 Approved a Public Informational Session for November 14th 6:00 pm to discuss the Marina Project.

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On a motion by Trustee Mackin, seconded by Trustee Mackin the Board adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Executive Session (if needed)

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pontieri
Village Clerk