

# FINAL MINUTES: NOVEMBER 25, 2024



Village of Bellport

General Meeting  
Monday, November 25, 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 Nathan Rohrmeier, Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, and Trustee Michael Young.

Open Meeting

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin, seconded by Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier, and unanimously carried, the meeting was opening at 7:01 pm.

Opening remarks by Mayor Maureen Veitch

Mayor Veitch started the meeting by recognizing Marguerite (Marge) Crowley, who passed away recently. Marge was a long-term resident of the Village and she gave over 30 years of her time to serving on the Architectural Review Board. She was a very important member of that board. At that time, Mayor Veitch called Marge's husband and son to receive a proclamation. Marge always cared about the Village and always tried to do the very best for the residents.

The Crowley family started the 1<sup>st</sup> Kids Camp 31 years ago and Bob Junior has taken over. Kids Camp is very successful and Bob does an excellent job running the program. On behalf of the Board and residents I want to thank your family for the many years of service. Then Mayor Veitch presented the proclamation. The family thanked Mayor Veitch and Board for the proclamation.

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### Mayor Updates Capital Projects, Grants

- We still have FEMA reimbursement money that we have access. One final submission has been split into 2, and we've submitted the 1<sup>st</sup> of those 2 final submissions. We are going to engage someone to put together the numbers for the 4<sup>th</sup> and final FEMA submission. It can take 6 months to 12 months to receive the funding.
- Solar Panels - The DEC pulled through and gave us an adjustment to our original permit to place the Solar Panels on a new frame. The permit was changed because the company would not guarantee the Solar Panels on the old frame. I think we'll come in and finish the project before the due date of December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Village Hall Building – We still have 2 things to finish within the next 6 months. A resident has volunteered to give us a landscaping plan for Village Hall.
- Arbor Day –Mayor Veitch read a proclamation declaring April 25, 2025 as Arbor Day. To qualify for Tree City, the Village must have 5 consecutive years as a Tree City.

### Trustee Updates

- a. Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin – DPW, Bellport Fire Department, South Country Ambulance, Suffolk County Police Department – Road Safety
  - Suffolk County Police Department  
There has been some activity that's unfortunate and we are working with the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct for remedy. There's been a lot of activity as far as people breaking into vehicles that are unlocked, not so much locked. So, if we can all do our part and lock these vehicles up and deter some of these things.
  - The DPW leaf collection is still happening until December 20<sup>th</sup>. After that leaves will no longer be collected and would have to be bagged in the spring.
  - The fire department is having a Holiday Craft Fair inside the firehouse on November 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be a number of vendors in conjunction with the Small Business Shopping event sponsored by the Chamber.
  - The 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct in Patchogue has a new inspector, Inspector Doherty. Mayor Veitch is planning on meeting with him to let him know what the needs are in the Village.

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

- HUD – Waterfront Commission

We had a Waterfront Commission Public Informational Meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. The meeting was led by VHB our engineering firm who will be handling the Marina project. There was a great turnout of residents. VHB offered surveys both online and paper surveys. VHB will be digesting that information and will come back with feedback from those surveys. The Village will then meet with the Waterfront Committee and finalize the design.

- GEI – Golf Update

We are waiting for permits from the DEC to dredge. Once we get the permit, we can start dredging that must be done at the mouth of the creek. Dredging can only be done between October 31<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Veitch added that in the past the Army Corp of Engineers always did the dredging and it allowed for the water to flow in and out of the creek. Because the creek has been closed, there is a lot of erosion and we're trying to mitigate that.

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

- The Village sponsored a scarecrow contest a month ago and we had our 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners. The Village appreciates Sherry Binnington for helping out with the baskets. Currently, we're having our wreath competition. You can pick up a wreath at Village Hall and return it by December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Trustee Kuehn thanked the Bellport Garden Club for decorating the window boxes.

- There will be no chair Yoga or Zumba for the rest of this week because of the holiday.

- Next Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am, we are having our second educational series workshop. The topic will be aging in place and refreshments will be served afterwards. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual luncheon at Avino's and Gateway show Winter Wonderland will be on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. A grant will cover the cost of the event.

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- Building Department Report & Open Permits Report  
The Village originally had 600 open permits and homeowners were offered amnesty through early Septembers. To date about 265 actually requested a reinspection and corrections were made as needed. The department has closed out 95.
  - At of the beginning of this month, we have 18% fewer permits then from January through May. However, we are equal in permit revenue.
- d. Trustee Michael Young – Zoning Board of Appeals, Architectural Review Board, Beautification Committee, Planning Board, Historical Preservation, Yacht Club/Sailing Foundation
- Update on Architectural Review Enhancement  
At the next Work Session on December 9<sup>th</sup>, I will provide an overview of the 11 recommendations to enhance our systems of Architectural review and approval. I circulated to the Board members a draft of a memorandum setting forth the recommendations back in August. Since then, I have refined and revised the memorandum based on additional input, legal review, and continuing dialogue. Also, I would ask you to keep in mind that it is a conceptual document. There are 3 stages of the process, one identification of the problem, two development of a solution, and then after you've done one and two, three is drafting the law.

The discussion on December 9<sup>th</sup> is directed to one and two identifications of the problem and development of a solution. We are not yet up to drafting the law. The drafting of the law will be the subject of a public hearing and discussion.

Open to the Public

Thomas Schultz, 24 Country Club Road.

Mr. Schultz has been following the progress of the HUD grant as it relates to the award given to Bellport Village. This grant was secured to protect the assets in the areas, and to ensure the facility is in good safe order. It is my understanding that the Village is eligible for such a grant because we host emergency boats that are docked at our facility. These include the Suffolk County Police Boat and the Fire Department fire boat. These emergency boats are tasked with responding to emergencies, not just in or around Bellport Village, but all around the region including Fire Island. It is my understanding that the money granted to us is to be used to beef up the protection of our boat basin, repair the current infrastructure, and keep it in good order. This will always provide a safe harbor and will be able to operate and respond to emergencies, thereby providing a higher level of safety to the general public.

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I feel that there is an agreement that the installation of a wave reduction system to protect the boat basin and the emergency boats from direct waves and reflective waves would be a prudent way to spend the award money. However, it appears as though based on the plan shared at the last community input session that the plan includes spending money on components and initiatives that have nothing to do with the primary purpose or scope of the grant which is the protection and safety of the emergency boats.

Not a single dollar should be spent on floating docks or gangways, or even a wave reduction system that is more expensive because it provides an opportunity to use it in the future for tying up additional boats. The grant should not be used to build additional docks to create additional boat slips for Village residents nor should it be used to replace pre-existing structures maintained by the yacht club and or sailing foundation.

Please do not support a plan that is governed by the idea of connecting a wave reduction system to land so that it could be used for additional platforms in the future.

Mayor Veitch thanked Mr. Schultz for his comments.

Mayor Veitch stated that she personally feels extremely proud of the event that took place with VHB where we sought the input from Village residents. We have gotten lots of letters and surveys that we are still sifting through. It seems that there will be 3 or 4 choices that we'll have to make and the Board is still open to hearing from residents.

Jannat Majeed a student at Bellport High School and President of National Honor Society, began an initiative in the school to support disadvantaged students. The group has provided Halloween costumes and Thanksgiving meals. This winter students will collect coats, blankets, and cloths. She suggested that coats are collected at Village Hall.

Ms. Majeed would like to meet with Mayor Veitch to discuss ideas that students have to support the community.

Donna Plunkett – Country Club Road.

Ms. Plunkett attended the meeting to speak about the Marina Project. She applauded the Village for having the session on the Marina Project. Ms. Plunkett watched the presentation and provided comments through the survey. She has worked in design and environmental consulting and might be helpful in the process.

The SEQA process which deals with environmental review is not currently contracted or funded. In my experience, when you blend two things together so that you create what we used to call a self-mitigating plan has a more efficient process. So, I would encourage you to look into that kind of blended process so that you can use the SEQA checklist early on and determine that your project will not have any impacts that are significant.

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Ms. Plunkett would encourage that the Board hold another informative meeting for the residents.

Mayor Veitch thanked the residents for their comments. The public should know that March 2025 is the deadline for signing the grant and if we don't move ahead, we will lose that money.

At that point, Mayor Veitch gave the public her cell phone number 631 402-4453 and encouraged residents to either call Village Hall at 631 286-0327 or directly on the Village cell phone.

### Open Discussion:

Mayor Veitch opened the discussion with agenda item 19. This item involves a \$15,000 grant under Clean Energy Communities Program. The Clean Energy Communities Program helps municipalities across New York State save money and shrink their carbon footprint. Mayor Veitch thanked Marc Rauch, Howard Reed, Tara Crane, and Jason Crane for the time they put in to the program to help secure this funding.

Jason stated that the terrain vehicle that would be covered by the grant is 100% electric and is the route we want to go to be environmentally sensitive. Originally, Marc and Howard looked at the Store Tractor Company and the price came in at \$22,000.00. The Board decided that the difference of \$7,000.00 above the grant was too much so Marc, Howard, and Jason went back to the merchant and deleted some things that were extra features.

This vehicle will be used at the Marina for the 6 months in operation. If there is an emergency at the Marina, the dock guard can hop in this vehicle and go directly to assist with the situation. On the off season, it can be used at the DPW. I've already been looking into possibly attaching a tailgate spreader that would go on the back of this vehicle. The spreader can be used to dump salt on the sidewalks in a quicker manner than by hand.

In conclusion, Jason recommended the Village go ahead and approve the purchase of which \$15,000.00 will be covered by the Clean Energy Communities.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Deputy Mayor Mackin and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **200** Approved Tax Grievance Date Tuesday, February 18, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **201** Approved draft of Board Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2024 as presented.

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**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **202** Approved the Works List for Whalehouse Point Ferry fall and spring projects 2024-2025 in the amount of \$17,830.00 as presented.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin – Second Trustee Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **203** Approved the General Fund Expenditures Abstract Report Consisting of 61 vendors totaling \$374,577.39 as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **204** Approved the Enterprise Fund Checking Abstract Report consisting of 21 vendors totaling \$105,299.88 as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Deputy Mayor Mackin and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **205** Approved the Capital Browns & Dock Abstract Report consisting of 2 vendors totaling \$1,300.88 as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Young and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **206** Approved the Village of Bellport Annual Disclosure Statement and Financial Disclosure Form to comply with filing of Financial Disclosures and Code of Ethics as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **207** Approved the proposal from Brian McCaffrey to prepare Village of Bellport's 6-month MS4 Interim Progress Certification Proposal No.VOB-2024-01 at a fee of \$500.00 as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Deputy Mayor Mackin and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **208** Approved the budgetary proposal from Eldor for Ho Hum Marina Off Grid PV and battery based electrical system installation with Ground Screw Foundation in the amount of \$158,406.60 as presented.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin – Second Trustee Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **209** Approved Civic Plus to provide supplement services for local laws sent to the state that are added or changed to the Village Code at a cost of \$1,000 annually. The Village has used this service since 2008 as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Young and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **210** Approved the request to use the Community Center on November 30, 2024 6:00 pm -10:00 pm for a Corn Hole tournament as presented.

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**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Deputy Mayor Mackin and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **211** Approved the request to use the Community Center on December 15, 2024 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm for the Bellport Youth Cheer end of year dance as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Deputy Mayor Mackin and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **212** Approved the request to use the Community Center from the South Bay Art Association for monthly meetings as follows: January 15, 2025, February 19, 2025, March 19, 2025, April 16, 2025, June 18, 2025, August 20, 2025, September 17, 2025, and October 15, 2025 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Deputy Mayor Mackin and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **212** Approved the request to use the Community Center from the South Bay Art Association for Nita Elder Student Scholarship Exhibitions & Awards as follows: February 28, 2025 (5:00 pm – 8:30 pm), March 1, 2025 (10:00 am – 9:00 pm) March 2, 2025 (10:00 am – 3:00 pm) as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Deputy Mayor Mackin and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **212** Approved the request to use the Community Center from the South Bay Art Association for Annual Member Exhibition as follows: May 23, 2025 (5:30 pm -8:30 pm), May 24, 2025 (9:30 am – 8:30 pm), May 25, 2025 (9:30 am – 8:30 pm), and May 26, 2025 (10:00 am – 3:00 pm) as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Deputy Mayor Mackin and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **212** Approved the request from the South Bay Art Association for the closing of streets as attached for Artists on the Lane, July 4, 2025 from 7:30 am – 4:30 pm as presented. Requesting drop off of supplies at the Community Center on July 3, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Deputy Mayor Mackin and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **212** Approved the request to use the Community Center from the South Bay Art Association for Annual Membership Meeting & Election on November 9, 2025 from 11:30 am – 3:00 pm as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **213** Approved the request from Mary Immaculate Church/New York Blood Center to use the Community Center on February 9, 2025 from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm for a Blood Drive as presented.



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**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Deputy Mayor Mackin and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **214** Approved the quotation from Storr Tractor Company for a Workman GTX Lifted Lithium light duty vehicle totaling \$18,024.48. The cost will be offset by a grant under Clean Energy Communities Program in the amount of \$15,000.00 as presented.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin – Second Trustee Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **215** Approved the correction from Board Meeting October 28, 2024 for the approval of the Capital Browns & Dock consisting of 2 vendors totaling \$15,748.75 as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Kuehn – Second Trustee Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **216** Accepted the Activity Report from Building Department as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Deputy Mayor Mackin and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **217** Accepted the Activity Report regarding Open Permits as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Deputy Mayor Mackin and unanimously carried.**

Resolution: **218** Approved Angus Graham as a Building Inspector from December 3, 2024 to January 3, 2025 at a rate \$37.14 per hour to fill in for Peter Sarich as presented.

Executive Session (if needed)

On a motion by Trustee Rohrmeier, seconded by Trustee Kuehn, and unanimously carried the Board moved into Executive Session at 7:55 pm to discuss pending litigation and personnel.

On a motion by Trustee Kuehn, seconded by Trustee Rohrmeier, and unanimously carried the Board adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pontieri  
Village Clerk