

# FINAL MINUTES: DECEMBER 23, 2024



Village of Bellport

Board Meeting  
Monday, December 23, 2024 at 7:00PM  
This meeting will be held in the Community Center

## A G E N D A

The Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees met in the Community Center, 4 Bell Street, Bellport, New York on Monday, December 23, 2024, with public viewing through video streaming and in person.

Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn the Board Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

Roll Call:

Mayor Maureen Veitch, Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin and Trustee Lorraine Kuehn present. Absent – Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier and Trustee Michael Young. Also, present Village Attorney Lisa Perillo.

Mayor Veitch welcomed those present and updated the residents on the following projects.

Mayor Updates Capital Projects, Grants

FEMA

We continue to work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 4 submissions. Mayor Veitch thanked the Finance Committee, Michael Foster, Katie Mehrkens, and Adon Austin who is working on putting together all the details for the FEMA submission. Every single detail of the project has to be reported in great detail. I believe that sometime in January we shall have finalized the 3<sup>rd</sup> submission to send in.

Solar Panels – Some miracles happened and we not only got DEC approval, but then we got DEC approval to make a revision to our permit to put the solar panels on a new frame. So, the frame and the panels are nearly in. Eldor is the county contractor who is doing the work and it's going very well.

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In previous meetings, I had mentioned that we will receive \$150,000 from LIPA and PSEG in total. To date, we have received \$75,000 and must complete the project work by December 31<sup>st</sup>. The panels that are going in are the same size, but they have gone from 8 kw to approximately 16 kw to accommodate appliances to be purchased in the future. Also, the voltage was switched from 220 to 110 for the appliances. Hopefully, the panels will take us through at least 20 to 30 years.

I want to thank Jason Crane and the people at DPW for their hard work on the project saving the village money. They have taken the panels down themselves and did an enormous amount of work.

Mayor Veitch summarized the survey results from VHB and recommendations from Waterfront Commission for the Marina Project. We received in 2022, a 2.8 million dollar grant to improve the marina and the grant was written specifically to address safety. The marina houses the police boat, fire boat, and EMS boat. So, the key to getting this grant was safety since the marina is not protected.

Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier has been working with the volunteers on the Waterfront Commission to first select an engineering firm to help us with the project, and, to narrow down what the project is. There have been many meetings and heated discussions over the right solutions. We held a public meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> where the public was asked to come in and comment on their point of view about the project.

VHB, the engineering firm responsible for the project, created a document with 3 essential solutions: floating concrete wave attenuator, rock breakwater, and a wave fence. Everybody who lives in and around here has probably seen the wave fence at the creek in Brookhaven, which would be very similar to that. These 3 options were looked at in terms of the following components. The overall design cost, the use of it, and the flexibility of it. Also, considered were the maintenance and safety lifecycle, timeline to both implement, difficulty of permitting safety measures, aesthetics, ecological and environmental impacts, and social impacts. The document is available here tonight and on the website.

At a meeting last week, the members of Waterfront Commission voted to recommend that the Village Board go with the wave fence. One of the key factors related to that decision was that the rock breakwater was estimated to cost 4.13 million. That's well above the overall grant and this is just one aspect of the project. Along with the wave attenuator project the grant would also include repairing the stick dock, dredging, getting rid of the spoils safely, fixing the front of the bulkheading, and repairs at Ho Hum.

The second option considered was a floating concrete wave attenuator and at the back of the document that you are able to access, you will see 3 pictures that are a rendition of all these solutions.

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I want to state that the floating wave attenuator is the solution that would probably give the most protection in a hundred-year storm, and if you see the picture, you notice it floats up and down on pilings. The wave fence was the recommendation from the Waterfront Commission. It was a 3-1 vote in favor with one abstention.

This particular grant has to be signed by March or else we may lose it. On January 13<sup>th</sup> we are going to have a Special Meeting before the Work Session. The purpose will be to hear from the public and then take a final vote of the Village Board.

Some highlights of the survey that was done by VHB are that 76 people filled out the survey online, approximately 30 people showed up in person and most of the people who showed up at the session were village residents.

### Trustee Updates

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

Deputy Mayor Mackin thanked the Fire Department, EMS, and South Country for contributing to the holidays festivities this year. The events were a huge success. The Village looks beautiful and a special thanks to Mr. Grucci for donating his time and efforts to the lighting in Bellport.

Some small construction is going on at the Fire Department including the replacement of the garage doors and repointing all the stucco in the front.

Bulk leaf cleanup was completed on December 20<sup>th</sup> by the DPW. At this point, residents will have to bag those leaves that are left.

Deputy Mayor Mackin wished everybody a happy holiday and New Year.

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

Trustee Rohrmeier is not here tonight but Mayor Veitch updated the golf payments collected as of today which total \$785,592 and total members paid or partially paid, 278 members.

Mayor Veitch then reported on the boaters of the 147 slips, 23 boaters have paid with revenue of \$38,577.

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

Trustee Kuehn reported that there was a very successful Sip and Stroll on December 14<sup>th</sup> on Main Street. It was a fun evening and helps support local businesses.

The Senior Program had its annual senior luncheon on December 18<sup>th</sup> with 32 people joining the luncheon followed by 36 going to the Gateway holiday show. This program is covered by a grant from the Town of Brookhaven. Everyone loves this event.

### Building Department Report & Open Permits Report

Out of the 265 inquiries in the early part of June regarding open permits, 102 projects have been closed. There are still 33 pending right now from the residents that responded.

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

### Open to the Public

Marc Rauch had a question about the Waterfront plan at the marina under the fixed wave screen on the matrix. When you get to aesthetics it says the aesthetics depend on whether wood or vinyl is chosen for the horizontal pieces and sheets between the pilings. Mr. Rauch wondered if there's a price difference between wood and vinyl.

Mayor Veitch stated that this isn't a Q and A but said that there will be vinyl behind the wood sheathing.

Mayor Veitch continued that every aspect of this project is a work in progress. It's not as if this plan has been approved at length and width. The materials could change in cost between now and the time the project is done.

Mike Ferrigno wanted to thank the board members for their hard work. One of the problems we have at the end of Bellport Lane is because Bellport Lane is perceived to continue past Shore Road. I would ask the board to think very seriously about ending Bellport Lane at Shore Road. On either side you have Osborne Park, Bandshell Park and the pier. It is all maintained by Bellport Village. We could resolve several potential problems by simply stopping Bellport Lane at Shore Road.

### Open Discussion:

Mayor Veitch continued the meeting with the following items

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**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin and Trustee Kuehn unanimously carried.**

**Resolution: 219** Approved the proposed draft of Board Meeting Minutes of November 25, 2024 as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Kuehn and Deputy Mayor Mackin unanimously carried.**

**Resolution: 220** Approved the setting of a Public Hearing for January 27, 2025 on Chapter 12 Article III – Stopping, Standing and Parking §12-104 Engine Idling prohibited, and §12-105 Penalties for offenses Introductory #1 of 2025 as presented.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin and Trustee Kuehn unanimously carried.**

**Resolution: 221** Approved the agreement with General Code to provide Codification Services for the update of Village Codes at a cost of \$19,218.00 to be paid over two budget cycles as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Kuehn and Deputy Mayor Mackin unanimously carried.**

**Resolution: 222** Approved a Consulting Agreement with Valerie Biscardi to investigate and provide grant information from December 15, 2024 to March 25, 2025 at a rate of \$75.00 per hour as presented.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin and Trustee Kuehn unanimously carried.**

**Resolution: 223** Approved the donation of a 2022 Triton Trailer to be used by the Village and/or the BBYC Sailing Program from Guy Metcalfe as presented.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin and Trustee Kuehn unanimously carried.**

**Resolution: 224** Approved the request from the Bellport Environment Committee to use the Community Center to host a Tallamy video on March 29, 2025 from 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Kuehn and Deputy Mayor Mackin unanimously carried.**

**Resolution: 225** Approved the transfer of ARPA Funds to be used to cover General Code in the amount of \$14,575.69 as presented.

**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin and Trustee Kuehn unanimously carried.**

**Resolution: 226** Approved a transfer from Reserve – Employee Liability to Unreserved Fund balance which was utilized for Dave Kaskel's termination payout of \$24,761.60 as presented.

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**Motion: Deputy Mayor Mackin and Trustee Kuehn unanimously carried.**

**Resolution: 227** Approved the Year End Budget Transfers for 5/31/2024 budget transfers on General and Enterprise Funds to increase budget lines for over expenditures on various accounts per transfers schedules as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Kuehn and Deputy Mayor Mackin unanimously carried.**

**Resolution: 228** Approved the warrants as per the General Fund Checking Abstract Report consisting of 73 vendors totaling \$289,936.64 as presented.

**Motion: Trustee Kuehn and Deputy Mayor Mackin unanimously carried.**

**Resolution: 229** Approved the warrants as per the Enterprise Fund Checking Abstract Report consisting of 29 vendors totaling \$198,634.37 as presented.

Mayor Veitch wished everyone a joyous holiday season and Happy New Year.

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Mackin, seconded by Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pontieri  
Village Clerk