

FINAL MINUTES: MARCH 24, 2025



Village of Bellport

Monday, March 24, 2025 6:00 PM Public Hearing on Tentative Budget

Monday, March 24, 2025 at 7:00 PM General 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.

Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call

Open Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget 2025-2026

The meeting was opened to the public in the Community Center, located at 4 Bell Street, Bellport. On a motion by Trustee Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin, seconded by Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier, and unanimously carried, the Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget 2025 – 2026 meeting was opened at 6:15 pm.

Mayor Maureen Veitch led the Pledge of Allegiance and Village Clerk Mary Pontieri called the roll: Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin, Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier, Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, Trustee Michael Young, and Village Attorney Lisa Perillo.

Mayor Veitch welcomed those present. Before starting the Public Hearing, Mayor Veitch acknowledged Lucy Danzinger for her hard work on the Scooter newsletters. Ms. Danzinger has forced Mayor Veitch to help gather and inform the public on the activities of Village Hall and committees. Also, Mayor Veitch praised Christine Novelli for her part in coordinating, editing, and working with Searles on the printing of the Scooter.

Mayor Veitch thanked Village Code Officer Jerry Blake for being the 1st person on the scene for a near drowning on the Bay. She wanted to acknowledge him publicly for doing what he's supposed to do and doing it extremely well.

The budget process was arrived at after the Treasurer had one on one meetings with every department head.

FINAL MINUTES: MARCH 24, 2025

At that point, Mayor Veitch turned the meeting over to Treasurer Darcia Palmer to review the Tentative Budget for 2025 -2026.

Treasurer Darcia Palmer presented the Tentative Budget for 2025-2026 and broke the presentation into 5 sections:

- General Fund Current Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Overview
- FY 2025-2026 Tentative Budget – General Fund Expenses & Revenues by Category – Existing Debt Service
- Real Property Taxes - General Fund FY 2026 Tentative Budget Summary, Property Tax Levy Trends, Tax Bill Examples
- 5 Year Capital Plan
- Enterprise Fund Tentative Budget

Treasurer stated that what is being discussed tonight is a summary of the Tentative Budget which is available at Village Hall and will be on the website for closer review.

Treasurer Palmer reviewed each section for the Board and public. General Fund Total Expenses amounting to \$6,139,256.00 were broken down by components ranging from Salaries to Gas & Diesel. The Proposed Budget Increase/Decrease were broken down by percentage.

Some changes in the Tentative Budget that increased the tax rate were: dropping interest rates in the investment in NYClass, increase in salaries, 3rd party contractual services, general liability insurance, health insurance, capital projects, debt service, deferred maintenance, New York State retirement system, maintenance of road improvements, and utilities. These are some of the categories of expenses but most of these expenses can't be controlled by the Village.

General Fund Revenues by Category Total \$6,139,256.00 were broken down by components ranging from Landfill Charges to Real Property Taxes. Also, the Proposed Budget Increase/Decrease broken down by percentage.

On the revenue side projections of increases are rates for paddleboard, kayak, and dinghy fees, and other beach, dock and ferry fees. Other revenues increase include insurance recoveries, container rentals, licenses, street opening permits, yacht club rentals, insurance rebates, tax searches, fines, and forfeiture for bails, property taxes, cell tower leases, and building fees. These revenue numbers reflect estimates for the next tax cycle.

Next Treasurer Palmer addressed the Enterprise Fund which is really a business and doesn't factor into our taxes. It's a fund all by itself and it operates as a business. We don't intermingle the funds and its expenses or revenues. No taxpayer dollar goes towards this fund. It is a standalone entity, even though it's owned by the Village.

FINAL MINUTES: MARCH 24, 2025

It is anticipated that we'll be spending \$3,256,536.00 expenses and revenues matching accordingly.

General Fund Tentative Budget Summary for Tentative Budget 2025 -2026

APPROPRIATIONS:

• General Fund Expense Appropriations	\$6,139,256
• Reserve Appropriation	
Total Appropriations	<u>\$6,139,256</u>

FUNDING SOURCES:

• Estimated Non-Tax Revenues	\$2,435,187
• Real Property Tax Levy	\$3,704,069
Total Funding Source	<u>\$6,139,256</u>

Again, Treasurer stated that the Tentative Budget 2025 -2026 will be on the website and copies are available at Village Hall.

After the presentation, the Board did not have questions. Mayor Veitch opened discussion by the Public.

Open To Public

Michael Ferrigno questioned the landfill charge of an increase of \$30. The increase that has been used was based on the prior Board charge. Treasurer Palmer had stated that the increase is due to the cost per tonnage increase.

Ed Baker questioned where are the marina dockage fees? The charges are under the dock, beach, and ferry details. Also, Mr. Baker commented that the budget was a big increase and at some point, it would help if it could stop.

Mayor Veitch stated that this is not a question-and-answer session.

At the end of Treasurer Palmer's presentation, Mayor Veitch made several comments. If you look at Darcia's department by department increases, they're very minor compared to things like the insurance, the fact is that certain things are mandated.

FINAL MINUTES: MARCH 24, 2025

For example, the DEC now requires an Annual MS4 Report on our drains, water draining into the sewers, and stormwater drainage. The Engineer fee is \$20,000 that we have to do. These examples are the things that are our reality.

Trustee Young asked Mayor Veitch to comment on the budget. We should be clear that the Town of Brookhaven deserves credit for contributing to our tax increase. Because the Town of Brookhaven, through the Brookhaven Supervisor made allegations which many of us viewed as untrue and careless, and not based on legal foundations. Nonetheless, we had to go out and engage a special counsel. We hired a former Judge who is a specialist in Municipal law. He understandably had to do a lot of work, and that cost us a great deal of money. It needed to be done but was completely unnecessary. If you notice the legal line, the big jump in the legal line is largely attributed to what the Town of Brookhaven has done to us. If you happen to run into a member of the Board of the Town of Brookhaven, you should ask them why they did that.

Mayor Veitch praised Darcia for the precise and organized budget presentation. The Board members expressed their thanks to Darcia.

Close Public Hearing

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin, seconded by Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier, and unanimously carried the Board closed the Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget 2025-2026 at 7:07 pm.

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin, seconded by Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier, and unanimously carried the Board opened the General Meeting at 7:08 pm.

Open General Meeting

Proclamation for Mary Sanford

Mayor Veitch presented Mary Sanford's son-in-law Arthur Hatzopoulos a proclamation in recognition of Mary's devotion and contributions to the Village.

Mary Sanford was a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother. She was married to James for over fifty years and was a nurturing mother of two daughter and five grandchildren.

For more than three decades, Mary dedicated her professional life to the education of Bellport's children serving as a beloved teacher at Kreamer Street Elementary School and volunteering as an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher.

Mary became a valued member of the Bellport community as an active participant in the Bellport Yacht Club. She shared her passion with fellow members and three of her grandchildren who were part of the sailing foundation.

FINAL MINUTES: MARCH 24, 2025

Mayor Veitch thanked Mr. Hatzopoulos for attending the Board meeting.

Mayor Updates Capital Projects, Grants

- a. FEMA
Treasurer Palmer will be working with Katie Mehrkens on the 2nd reimbursement for FEMA. Treasurer Palmer has experience dealing with the reimbursement process. We can only get reimbursed for what was damaged.
- b. HUD 2024 Grant
Trustee Rohrmeier will update on the HUD 2024 Grant.
- c. Community Center Grant
We have received information about the Community Center Grant for \$187,000 initiated in 2018. We were told that the Grant was not available due to the redistricting of New York State legislature. It looks like we will be able to receive the grant. At this time, we are gathering new quotes for the renovation of the Community Center.
- d. Update on Damaged Village Property
The individual that damaged the Village Green has paid retribution for the damage. An apology was written to the Village.
- e. Update on Rentals in Village
We will be gathering information on any complaint related to rentals in the Village. I encourage the residents to submit a complaint so that we can track the concerns. To date we have received 40 letters dealing with quality-of-life issues and will be closely monitoring any complaints. We are not changing the code immediately. There are 32 Villages and only 2 do not have codes on rentals and we are one of them.

Trustee Updates

- a. Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin – DPW, Bellport Fire Department, South Country Ambulance, Suffolk County Police Department – Road Safety
 - There will be a St. Patrick's Day parade on April 5th stepping off at 11:00 am. The parade starts at 2nd Street and South and ends at the Fire Department.
 - The Bellport Fire Department will hold a drill at the marina Sunday April 13, 2025 at 9:00 am (dock will be closed to vehicles for a few hours).
 - DPW is purchasing a bucket truck for \$45,000. Patchogue Village is paying \$30,000 for the bucket truck that has been shared for a number of years. Both Villages have increased their need for the use of the bucket truck.
 - Emergency Preparedness Plan Progress
Still working on the Preparedness Plan Progress.

FINAL MINUTES: MARCH 24, 2025

- DPW will be picking up bagged leaves in recycled paper bags again this spring.
- b. Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier – Code Enforcement, Waterfront Management Board, Golf Commission, Tennis Commission, and Vouchers
 - Recap of HUD 2024
Dredging on Otis, Thornhedge, and South Howells Project will be started in October 2025.
 - Recap of HUD 2022
VHB is conducting the environmental review that will be done in June. They need to secure permits from different agencies to move forward. The wave screen should be started by October 2026.
- c. Trustee Lorraine Kuehn – Communication/Website, Business District, Senior Program, Vouchers, Kids Camp, and Building Department
 - Employee Handbook
Trustee Kuehn has been working on updating the Employee Handbook that was last edited in 2009. She typed 40 pages with updated websites and government mandates such as HIPAA and sexual harassment. The Employee Handbook will be electronic once it's approved. The Employee Handbook was forwarded to Attorney Perillo and the Village Clerk for review.
- d. Trustee Michael Young – Zoning Board of Appeals, Architectural Review Board, Beautification Committee, Planning Board, Historical Preservation, Yacht Club/Sailing Foundation
 - Review of Legal Documents
Mayor Veitch thanked Trustee Young for his comments about the increase in legal fees connected to the Town of Brookhaven.
 - Trustee Young met with Chair Tom Binnington of the Beautification Committee to talk about priorities for the coming year. He asked that any resident that has suggestions for improvements within the Village should contact Chair Tom Binnington.

Open To Public

Janine Roe had a question about the ID cards. She was hoping that the Village could provide them for longer than 2 years. Why can't the Village make the cards for 4 or 5 years for those of us that have been here forever.

FINAL MINUTES: MARCH 24, 2025

Open Discussion:

The public had no further questions and Mayor Veitch moved onto the resolutions.

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

Resolution: 55 Approved the draft of Board Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2025 as presented.

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

Resolution: 56 Approved the 2025 Bellport Village Election of Mayor (four-year term) and two Trustees (four-year term) to be held on Tuesday June 17, 2025 from 7:00 am – 9:00 pm at the Bellport Community Center, located at 4 Bell Street, Bellport, New York 11713 as presented.

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

Resolution: 57 Approved the 12-month cleaning contract with NCS – National Cleaning Service for the 2025- 2026 year for the amount of \$26,557.78 as presented.

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

Resolution: 58 Approved the preparation of a new Village Zoning Map by J. Pontieri, P.E., D.P.C. at a cost of \$7,500.00 as presented. The Village is required under Village Code to have a zoning map that shows all zoning districts, streets, and addresses.

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

Resolution: 59 Approved the purchase of a bucket truck for DPW at a cost of \$45,000.00 as presented. Patchogue Village is paying \$30,000.00 for the shared bucket truck.

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

Resolution: 60 Approved Bellport Fire Department to hold a drill at the marina Sunday April 13, 2025 at 9:00 am (dock to be closed to vehicles for a few hours) as presented.

FINAL MINUTES: MARCH 24, 2025

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

Resolution: 61 Approved the request from Eastern Suffolk Bonsai Society to use the Bellport Community Center from 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm on the following dates: April 8th, May 13th, June 10th, July 8th, August 12th, September 9th, October 14th, November 11th (November 18th if closed), December 9th as presented.

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

Resolution: 62 Approved the request by Meaghan Shannon to hold the 2025 Paddleboard Season from May 24th to October 18th at Mother's Beach, Row Boat Beach, and ending with Paddle to the Point Race on August 3rd (rain date August 10th) \$800.00 for season as presented.

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

Resolution: 63 Approved Bellport Baseball Boosters to hold the awards dinner at the Community Center on June 5, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm as presented.

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

Resolution: 64 Approved South Bay Cruising Club use the marina for the South Bay Cruising Club Rendezvous on June 7, 2025 and August 30, 2025 from 3:00pm to 7:00 pm as presented.

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

Resolution: 65 Approved Jules Radino Drum Studio to use the bandshell or Community Center on June 28, 2025 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm as presented.

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

Resolution: 66 Approved the request from Mary Immaculate Church to hold an Antiques & Collectibles Fair on July 4th (rain date July 5th) from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm as presented.

FINAL MINUTES: MARCH 24, 2025

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

Resolution: 67 Approved South Country Education Foundation Annual Auction on July 12, 2025 from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm at 40 Academy Lane, Bellport as presented.

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

Resolution: 68 Approved Mary Immaculate Church to hold a New York Blood Drive on August 24, 2025 from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm as presented in the Community Center as presented.

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

Resolution: 69 Approved the 2025 Summer Season & Seasonal Guest ID Cards new rates for ID Card for Renters, Season Pass, Ho Hum Lockers, Ferry Daily Rates, Ferry Charter, Kayak, Paddleboard Storage, Dinghy Storage, Boats, Transient Boat, Ho Hum Dock, Tennis Camp, and KIDS Camp as presented.

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

Resolution: 70 Reviewed the Monthly Treasurer's Report as presented.

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

Resolution: 71 Reviewed the Fire Inspection Summary as presented.

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

Resolution: 72 Reviewed the Building Department Activities as presented.

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

Resolution: 73 Reviewed the Open Permit Project as presented.

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

Resolution: 74 Reviewed the Notice of Violations, Incident Report, and Parking Tickets as presented.

FINAL MINUTES: MARCH 24, 2025

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

Resolution: 75 Approved the General Fund Checking Abstract Report consisting of 77 vendors totaling \$216,826.18 as presented.

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

Resolution: 76 Approved the Enterprise Fund Checking Abstract Report consisting of 23 vendors totaling \$222,172.42 as presented.

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

Resolution: 77 Approved the Capital General Checking Abstract Report consisting of 1 vendor totaling \$61,372.04 as presented.

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

Resolution: 78 Approved the Capital Browns Checking Abstract Report consisting of 1 vendor totaling \$2,750.00 as presented.

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

Resolution: 79 Approved the retirement payout for Timothy Hall from DPW in the amount of \$9,816.51 as presented.

Executive Session (If needed)

On a motion by Trustee Rohrmeier, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mackin and unanimously carried the Board moved into Executive Session at 7:44 pm.

The Board moved into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel.

On a motion by motion by Deputy Mayor Mackin seconded Trustee Rohrmeier and unanimously carried the Board closed the General Meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pontieri
Village Clerk