

FINAL: APRIL 28, 2025



Village of Bellport

General Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 28, 2025 at 7:00PM

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 led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and Village Clerk did the roll call. Those present: Mayor Maureen Veitch, Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier, Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, and Trustee Michael Young. Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin was absent.

Opening remarks by Mayor Maureen Veitch

On a motion by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, seconded by Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier, and unanimously carried the Tentative Budget Recap led by Treasurer Darcia Palmer was opened at 7:02 pm.

Treasurer Palmer gave a 20-minute short summary of the 2025 – 2026 Budget and the current fiscal year ending. Treasurer Palmer provided the Board and public with a copy of the Tentative Budget to follow along as she gave the presentation. This presentation along with the 2025 – 2026 Budget is available in Village Hall and on the website.

It was anticipated that we were expecting a loss situation of \$631,000 for the current fiscal year, ending May 31, 2025 due to the repayment of our loan of \$1.49 million dollars. The budget increased by 2% for the upcoming year 2025 – 2026 or \$116,090.00 compared to last year 2024 – 2025. A high-level summary of the upcoming budget was presented and total appropriations is \$6,139,256. The Proposed Tax Levy is 8.07% and the tax rate per \$100 of assessed value is \$6.59. Real Property Tax Levy is \$3,704.069. The inflation factor is given to us to calculate our tax cap. For us to keep our budget increase at a 2% when inflation is 4.37% took considerable work by the Board. The budget is as lean as possible but is needed to cover the total expense for the upcoming fiscal year. The total budget expense for the upcoming year is \$6,139,256.

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Treasurer Palmer touched upon the proposed Five-Year Capital Plan. There are no Capital Projects planned for the upcoming 2025 – 2026 fiscal year for the general fund. Each year the projects will be reviewed by the department heads, treasurer, Mayor and Board.

In conclusion, Treasurer Palmer presented the Enterprise Fund Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Budget with proposed Five-Year Capital Plan summarizing the projected areas. Treasurer Palmer stressed that no funding from the Village goes into the Enterprise Fund to cover any expenses. The Enterprise Fund is a business fund all by itself.

Mayor Veitch thanked Treasurer Palmer for her hard work and concise budget. The presentation was well received by the Board and public.

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On a motion by Trustee Young, seconded by Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried the Board approved and adopted the 2025 – 2026 Budget as presented.

On a motion by Trustee Young, seconded by Trustee Rohrmeier and unanimously carried the Tentative Budget presentation was closed at 7:33 pm.

On a motion by Trustee Young, seconded by Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried the Board opened the General Meeting at 7:34 pm.

Mayor Updates Capital Projects, Grants

FEMA

Treasurer Palmer, Katie Mehrkens, and Adon Austin, who had been doing a lot of engineering work for the Village, are working together to really see if they can nail down the remaining money that we believe FEMA will pay the Village. We spent approximately 3.1 million dollars to do the repair work after Hurricane Sandy. In 2022 we received \$6,000, 2023 \$1,138,642, 3rd reimbursement \$614,000. A 4th request of \$150,000 was submitted and we're working on the 5th request. It is a painful process where this team of people are trying to piece together everything that was done a while ago.

One of the complications with FEMA is the following: FEMA will reimburse you for replacing what was. Example would be we replaced asphalt that was damaged but the asphalt just to the right of it was 15 years old, so we pulled all of the asphalt out. So, we have to go to FEMA to request that they cover the whole expense. It is a nuance that is pretty painstaking.

Village Hall Landscaping

Brian Sawyer and his firm Sawyer Benson have graciously agreed to do pro bono for landscaping for Village Hall. The beautiful plan will be implemented this summer and fall. We are very grateful to them for doing this work.

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The Garden Club and Beautification Committee have been involved with Arbor Day celebrated this year by planting a white oak at Village Hall. We are working towards a Tree City Grant and must be involved with Arbor Day for 5 consecutive years to qualify. This is year 3.

Facilities at Ho Hum

Jason Crane and his team working with the design of Phillip Thomas, have been updating the facilities at Ho Hum. The bathrooms and the kitchen will have upgraded electricity, fixtures, cabinets, windows, doors, and flooring replaced. It will be a challenge to open by May 24th but the team is working very hard. Again, I want to thank Phillip Thomas for his involvement on this project and design at the bowling alley.

Recodification of Code Book by General Code

General Code is a nationwide company that helps municipalities redo their code book. The bulk of the Code Book was last updated in 1975 with revisions along the way. We have hired General Code working with Mary Pontieri and Tara Crane to start the two-year process of the recodification. The company looks at all of our codes and compares them to current laws of the County, State, and Federal laws. The cost of the two-year project is about \$18,000.

Community Center Grant

The Community Center Grant was secured in 2018 by Monica Martinez and her office. This grant was for repairs to the building. Then the lines were redrawn in the districts and the money fell through the cracks. A lot of people kept pressing to get the funding for the Village and miraculously we've gotten it. We had a meeting last week to take a look at what all the needs are today. The amount of \$187,000 years ago is not going to do the same that it's going to do today. We will look at the upgrading of audio visual, floors, electrical, and ceiling, putting safety first.

Saturday Village Hall Hours

The Village will move to Saturday hours starting May 3rd through June 28th from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. If you have any questions concerning summer programs, please stop by during those hours.

Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin is absent tonight but I will touch briefly on what he asked me to cover. Our contact with Suffolk County Police Department is very strong. We actually had a meeting with 4 of the officers from the 5th Precinct, principal of the middle school, superintendent of the school district, code officers, our attorney, library staff, and president of the library board. We want to work together to make sure that young teenagers in the village are occupied and behaving in a way that we find acceptable. Suffolk County 5th Precinct is trying to help us work together to minimize problems.

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The Emergency Preparedness Plan is being headed by Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin and is working with our Code Officer Eugene LaFurno. The work is underway and we'll keep the community updated as it is completed.

Trustee Updates

- a. Deputy Mayor Steve Mackin – DPW, Bellport Fire Department, South Country Ambulance, Suffolk County Police Department – Road Safety
 - Suffolk County Police Department
 - Emergency Preparedness Plan Progress
- b. Trustee Nathan Rohrmeier – Code Enforcement, Waterfront Management Board, Golf Commission, Tennis Commission, and Vouchers
 - Golf Update
The golf course opened up at the beginning of the month and has been very busy. At the tennis court new windscreens have been ordered along with umbrellas to give shade to the courts this season.
- c. Trustee Lorraine Kuehn – Communication/Website, Business District, Senior Program, Vouchers, Kids Camp, and Building Department
 - Employee Handbook
The Employee Handbook was last updated 17 years ago. The State and Federal employment laws need to be updated and the 1st draft was sent to the attorney for review. Hopefully, this is a 6-month project instead of a two-year project.
 - Town of Brookhaven Senior Programs
Our senior programs have 3 exercise classes per week. There is at least 30 to 35 women in attendance each week. In fact, the room's getting almost too tight for those exercising.
 - Kids Camp
Camp registration is now open for resident children which started on April 7th and non-resident campers can register by April 21st. You need immunizations records and completed application with the fee. This is to be brought to Village Hall.
- d. Trustee Michael Young – Zoning Board of Appeals, Architectural Review Board, Beautification Committee, Planning Board, Historical Preservation, Yacht Club/Sailing Foundation
 - Yacht Club/Sailing Update - Trustee Young did not have any updates.

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Open to Public

Sherry Binnington thanked Eugene LaFurno for assisting her while crossing South Country Road at Academy Lane. The cars kept zooming by and nobody was going to let me go across. Code Officer LaFurno stops all the traffic, gets out of his car and walks me across. I can't thank him enough.

Mrs. Binnington continued by thanking the Bellport Village Program Fund and Mike Foster for funding the next injection for the ash trees. The injections will take place in May or June. The BVPF agreed to fund the whole project of \$4,800.

In conclusion, Sherry spoke of the swing set at the bay. The equipment is 18 years old and are unsafe. I'm just hoping that the Village can work to get a new playground. There are many families that love that playground and take them all summer long.

Mayor Veitch wished Sherry "happy birthday" which was the next day and thanked her for her comments.

Mayor Veitch had forgotten one most important announcement. We have a vendor or an operator who has signed the lease with the IGA space. She couldn't guarantee that he is going to move in but he came into Village Hall and told us he signed the lease. He is going to put new refrigeration in and should be open sometime late July.

Open Discussion:

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

Resolution: 80 Approved the setting of a Public Hearing for May 27, 2025 to repeal Chapter 25 Introductory Local Law #3 of 2025 of the Code of the Village of Bellport entitled, "Neighborhood Preservations" as presented.

Motion: Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried. TABLED FOR FUTURE MEETING

Resolution: 81 Approved the setting of a Public Hearing for May 27, 2025 to modify Chapter 2 Administration Article III Departments Division 2 Department of Code Enforcement of the Code of the Village of Bellport Introductory Local Law #4 of 2025 as presented. Tabled

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Motion: Motion: Trustee Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried. TABLED FOR FUTURE MEETING

Resolution: 82 Approved the responsibilities of the Code Enforcement Officers and creating Code Enforcement Lead as presented.

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

Resolution: 83 Approved an agreement with M.G. McLaren Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C. to prepare a map and legal description of the portion of Bellport Lane abandoned by resolution dated March 9, 1970 for a fee of \$1,100.00 as presented.

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

Resolution: 84 Approved the draft of Board Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2025 as presented.

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

Resolution: 85 Approved Voter Registration Day on June 7, 2025 from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm in Village Hall. All registrants must have a valid resident ID card. ID cards will not be printed after 12:00 pm on Saturday June 7, 2025 as presented.

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

Resolution: 86 Approved Lorraine Crowley as Chief Election Inspector (\$21 per hour) and Election Inspectors Camille Brideson, Gladys Ramondetta, Kelly Berwick, and Janet Trapasso (\$19 per Hour) for the Village Election June 17, 2025 from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm as presented.

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

Resolution: 87 Approved the 2025 Agreement with Louis Nunez, Tennis Director for \$18,000 as presented.

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

Resolution: 88 Approved the Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) Grant # 6196 in the amount of \$1,940.24 to purchase furniture for the court as presented.

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

Resolution: 89 Approved Bellport Garden Club to hold a plant sale on May 26, 2025 from 8:00 am through 12:00 noon on the lawn in front of CVS as presented.

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

Resolution: 90 Approved Gateway for the Performing Arts Center to hold a Gateway Summer Fundraiser Cocktail Party on July 25, 2025 from 10:00 am through 11:00 pm at Boykin Curry's home 99 South Howells Point Road as presented.

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

Resolution: 91 Approved Bellport Chamber of Commerce to hold Bellport Day on July 26, 2025 from 8:00 am through 5:00 pm. Closure from South Country Road heading south to the north west corner of Osborne and the north side of the exit of the municipal lot as presented.

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

Resolution: 92 Reviewed and approved the Monthly Treasurer's Report as presented.

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

Resolution: 93 Reviewed and approved the Fire Inspection Summary as presented.

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

Resolution: 94 Reviewed and approved the Building Department Activities as presented.

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

Resolution: 95 Reviewed and approved the Open Permit Project as presented.

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

Resolution: 96 Reviewed and approved the Notice of Violations, Incident Report, and Parking Tickets as presented.

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

Resolution: 97 Approved the General Fund Checking Abstract Report consisting of 80 vendors totaling \$204,088.21 as presented.

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

Resolution: 98 Approved the Enterprise Fund Checking Abstract Report consisting of 29 vendors totaling \$172,792.61 as presented.

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

Resolution: 99 Approved the Capital General Checking Abstract Report consisting of 4 vendors totaling \$112,716.33 as presented.

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

Resolution: 100 Approved Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society & Friends of Bellport Bay to use Mother's Beach on July 21, 2025 from 9:00 am through 12:00 noon for seine net drag with Friends of Bellport Bay as presented.

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

Resolution: 101 Approved the transfer from Contingent Account to Repairs to Property Fire Island Beach for \$9,050 to cover cost of repairs and improvements to building as presented.

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

Resolution: 102 Approved the Year End Budget Transfers for May 31, 2025 on the General and Enterprise Funds to increase budget lines for over expenditures on various accounts as needed and presented.

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

Resolution: 103 Approved the transfer of funds from Fund Balance in the amount of \$100,00 to Capital Projects to cover consultancy services fee provided by VHB Engineering for Marina Improvement capital project. Also transfer \$179,293.38 to Capital Projects for the replacement and installation of new solar panels at Ho Hum Beach as presented.

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

Resolution: 104 Approved July 28, 2025 as the date for the Reorganizational Meeting for 2025-2026 as presented

Executive Session (If needed)

On a motion by Trustee Young, seconded by Trustee Rohrmeier and unanimously carried the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation at 8:09 pm.

On a motion by Trustee Kuehn, seconded by Trustee Young and unanimously carried the Board moved out of Executive Session at 8:42 pm.

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On a motion by Trustee Rohrmeier, seconded by Trustee Kuehn and unanimously carried the Board adjourned at the meeting at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pontieri
Village Clerk