

FINAL MINUTES: MARCH 23, 2026



Village of Bellport

Monday, March 23, 2026 5:30 p.m. Public Hearing on Tentative Budget
Monday, March 23, 2026 at 7:00PM General Meeting
These meetings will be held in the Community Center

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

A G E N D A

This meeting is open to the public in 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, Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, Trustee Michael Young, Attorney Larry Davis, and Treasurer Darcia Palmer. Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier was absent.

On a motion by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, seconded by Trustee Michael Young and unanimously carried the Board opened the Public Hearing at 5:40 p.m.

Open Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget 2026 – 2027

Treasurer Darcia Palmer presented the Tentative Budget for the year ended May 31, 2027 and broke the presentation into 5 sections:

- General Fund – Fiscal Year 2025 -26 Overview
- FY 2026 – 27 Tentative Budget
 - General Fund Expenses by Category
 - General Fund Revenues by Category
 - Existing Debt Service
- General Fund FY 2026-27 Tentative Budget Summary
 - Property Tax Levy Trends
 - Tax Bill Examples
- 5 Year Capital Plan Summary
- Enterprise Fund Tentative Budget Overview

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Before going into each section, Treasurer Palmer noted that the budget process was started with one-on-one meetings with every department head, then a detailed run of every line with the Board. Treasurer Palmer stated that residents could view all budget documents on the website and available at Village Hall.

Treasurer Palmer reviewed each section for the Board and public. General Fund Total Expenses amounting to \$6,729,125.00 and were broken down by components ranging from Salaries to Gas & Diesel. The Proposed Budget Increase/Decrease was 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 \$6,729,125.00 were broken down by components ranging from Landfill Charges to Real Property Taxes.

On the revenue side projections included increases in Federal & State Aid, beach, dock, and ferry fees. Other revenue increases 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 its expenses or revenues. No taxpayer dollar goes towards this fund. It is a standalone entity, even though it's owned by the Village.

It is anticipated that we'll be spending \$3,444,292.00 in expenses and revenues matching accordingly.

General Fund Tentative Budget Summary for Tentative Budget 2026-2027

APPROPRIATIONS:

• General Fund Expense Appropriation	\$6,729,125.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	<u>\$6,729,125.00</u>

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FUNDING SOURCES:

• Estimated Non-Tax Revenues	\$2,583,759.00
• Real Property Tax Levy	\$4,145,366.00
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCE	<u>\$6,729,125.00</u>

After the presentation, Mayor Veitch thanked Treasurer Palmer and asked the Board if they had questions. No one on the Board had questions and Mayor Veitch opened the discussion to the public.

Open to Public for Comments

Ed Baker requested that the Board take a hard look at the expenses of the Tentative Budget, commenting that the Tax Levy each year keeps going up.

Jean-Damien Lury thanked Treasurer Palmer for her concise presentation on the Tentative Budget for 2026-2027. Mr. Lury stated that he had attended the Budget Workshops and found them very helpful.

No other resident had statements so the Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 -2027.

Adjourn Public Hearing

On a motion by Trustee Michael Young, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried the Board adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:12 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Michael Young, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried the Board opened the General Meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Open General Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Opening remarks by Mayor Maureen Veitch

Proclamation for Ron Hammond

Mayor Veitch welcomed those present and introduced Ron Hammond. Mr. Hammond has served as the visionary coordinator of the Bellport Summer Concert Series at the Village Bandshell for over four decades. He has seamlessly carried the baton behind the scenes and center stage as the drummer for the Isotope Stompers, bringing the energy of Dixieland Jazz to the Great South Bay.

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Ron has been a long-time resident, devoted member of the Bellport Bay Yacht Club and an avid boater. He embodies the spirit of our seaside community through his love for the water and his commitment to local tradition.

Those present gave Ron a standing ovation and Mayor Veitch thanked him for his commitment, leadership, musical excellence, and unwavering service to the Village of Bellport.

Mr. Hammond thanked the DPW, Jason Crane, and Marylou Bono for assisting him over the years and helping in the success of the Bellport Summer Concert Series. Jules Radino, member of the Blue Oyster Band, has accepted to continue the Bellport Summer Concert Series.

Mayor Updates Capital Projects, Grants & Other

- a. Special Election – April 7, 2026; Voter Registration – March 28, 2026
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Village Hall
A Special Election will be held Tuesday, April 7th, to fill the Trustee position vacated by Trustee Mackin from 7:00 am – 9:00 pm in the Community Center.
- b. Update from Bellport Environment Committee – ZEV Grant
The Village is waiting to hear about the ZEV Grant. If the grant is received the first charging station would be placed in the municipal parking lot.
- c. Negotiations of Local 342 Contract
Local 342 Contract covers the DPW Department. It expires May 31, 2026. We are in negotiations with Local 342 and union representatives.
- d. General Code
The recodification of the Local Laws is essential but a lengthy process. General Code was hired to review all federal, state, county and local laws to have the Village be in compliance. The chapters have been broken down by departments.
- e. Rental Registry Reminder
New procedures are in place for owners of rentals in the Village. Working with the Building Department and our attorney, forms have been created for owners to register their homes for inspection and receive a license.
- f. Grants
We have been notified by Congressman Garbarino's office that funding for \$500,000 for roads has been submitted for the Village.
We have been reimbursed for the Community Center Grant in the \$182,712.
Engineers for the HUD 2022 marina grant continue to work on it. They will be boring at the marina for the testing of soil prior to the installation of the wave attenuator. Since 2021 prices of materials have gone up and the Village will need additional funding.

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We are getting prices for the plantings at the golf course and continue to work with engineers for elevations at the road endings of Otis, Thornhedge, and South Howells.

Before proceeding Mayor Veitch explained the process of Board meetings. The format for Board Meeting is not a Q & A. One reason is that the Board doesn't always have all the information at the moment. We do hear you and listen to your concerns. Example of this is the Board suggesting changing the starting hours for contractors to 7:30 a.m. After listening to residents, the Board withdrew the time change.

You may not agree with all of the decisions but we need to do homework on questions asked in the Board meetings.

Trustee Updates

- a. Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Code Enforcement, Waterfront Management Board, Golf Commission, Tennis Commission, and Vouchers
 - Recap of HUD 2022/HUD 2024 Grants
 - Code Enforcement Staffing
 - Waterfront Meeting Update & Rates
- b. Trustee Lorraine Kuehn – Communication/Website, Business District, Senior Program, Vouchers, Kids Camp, and Building Department
 - Town of Brookhaven Senior Programs
The Senior Program is back in the Community Center. The Town of Brookhaven is requiring new guidelines for the program. These requirements include requiring seniors to produce their social security card and driver's license. This must be discussed with the Board in Executive Session.
 - Technology Update
We are updating IT in the Village and have looked at all the contracts for vendors. We hired Matt McKone for Board meetings and to assist with the different aspects of technology.
One area we have concentrated on is our website. We reached out to Civic Plus to update and modernize our website.
 - Parents are starting to inquire about Kids Camp and the summer programs.
- c. Trustee Michael Young – Zoning Board of Appeals, Architectural Review Board, Planning Board, Historical Preservation, Yacht Club/Sailing Foundation

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Trustee Young stated that Bellport had a rough winter and it revealed 2 things. It was a rough winter for us but also for the deer. The deer did their best to survive. As a Board we need to see if we can bring the deer problem to closure.

Mayor Veitch commented that she met with the DEC last week regarding deer and deer fences. The discussion focuses on protecting residents' health and driver safety. A representative is willing to come to a meeting to share ideas with us. There is no silver bullet.

Trustee Young was very grateful to DPW for the effective job of snow removal. The crew worked for 31 hours removing the snow. With the snow removal there was real damage to property and roads. He handed out pictures of the damage and hopefully DPW will take the time to get property back in shape.

Open to Public for Comments

Hans Tempel spoke of the rental license that was passed by the Board. If the Board is looking at safety for the residents this is valid. He has houses that he rents and has tenants that have rented for years. He questioned why the rental license has to be renewed every 15 months.

Mayor Veitch commented that the new law has been adopted and sent to the state. The Rental License was not sprung on the residents. The Board discussed Rental Registration 15 times over the past year and was on push notification. If the homeowner wishes to have the Village inspect their rental the fee is \$375. They can hire their own Engineer to do the inspection.

Attorney Larry Davis made it clear that the Board is not seeking revenue but focused on safety for the residents. This is a new process for everyone.

Open Discussion:

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

Resolution: 52 Approved the draft minutes of February 24, 2026 General Meeting as presented.

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

Resolution: 53 Approved draft minutes of March 9, 2026 Work Session as presented.

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Resolution: 54 Approved the request the Bellport Chamber of Commerce to hold the Easter Crazy Hat Parade on April 4, 2026 from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. as presented.

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

Resolution: 55 Approved the request to hold Bellport Bay 5 K race on July 12, 2026 from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. as presented.

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

Resolution: 56 Approved the request from South Country Library to hold an outdoor concert “The New York Vendettas Band” on May 29, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. as presented.

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

Resolution: 57 Approved the request from South Country Library to hold an outdoor concert “GUNK” on July 9, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. as presented.

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

Resolution: 58 Approved the request from South Country Library to hold an outdoor concert “Synchronicity” on September 18, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. as presented.

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

Resolution: 59 Approved the request from the Bellport Garden Club to conduct the Garden Tour June 13, 2026 all day (public to tour 5-6 properties) as presented.

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

Resolution: 60 Approved the request from Boys & Girls Club to hold Beach Ball 2026 June 20, 2026 (setup 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. event 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.) as presented.

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

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Resolution: 61 Approved the request to hire Christina Maria Palmquist Election Inspector (\$19 per Hour) for the Village Special Election April 7, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 pm as presented.

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

Resolution: 62 Approved the request for the Village Treasurer to attend the annual New York Government Finance Officers Association Conference in Albany from April 14, 2026 – April 17, 2026 at the Marriott Albany, 189 Wolf Road Albany, NY as presented.

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

Resolution: 63 Approved the request for Mayor Veitch to attend NYCOM's 2026 Annual Meeting and Training School at the Sagamore in Bolton Landing on May 13, 2026 – May 15, 2026 as presented.

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

Resolution: 64 Approved the General Fund Checking Abstract Report #1 dated March 23, 2026 consisting of 75 vendors totaling \$199,506.02 as presented.

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

Resolution: 65 Approved the Enterprise Fund Check Abstract Report #1 dated March 23, 2026 consisting of 24 vendors totaling \$224,024.96 as presented.

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

Resolution: 66 Approved the Capital General Check Abstract Report #1 dated March 23, 2026 consisting of 2 vendors totaling \$56,665.00 as presented.

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

Resolution: 67 Approved the Monthly Treasurer's Report (Operating Results as of February 28, 2026) as presented.

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TABLED RESOLUTION FOR WORK SESSION APRIL 13, 2026

Resolution to consider approval of the season fees (ID cards for renters, season pass, lockers, ferry daily rates, ferry charter, seasonal rates, winter rates boats, Bellport Dock, and Ho Hum Dock) as presented.

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

Resolution: 68 Approved the request from Jules Radino to have a drum recital on June 7, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the bandshell (rain date same in the Community Center) as presented.

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

Resolution: 69 Approved the 2026 Paddleboard Season (May 23, 2026 – October 17, 2026) as presented.

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

Resolution: 70 Approved the Fire Inspection Summary as presented.

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

Resolution: 71 Approved the Building Department Activities as presented.

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

Resolution: 72 Approved the Open Permit Amnesty Project from February 2026 as presented.

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

Resolution: 73 Approved the DPW Activities as presented.

Executive Session (If needed)

On a motion by Trustee Michael Young, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried, the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation at 8:07 p.m.

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Resolution: 74 On a motion by Trustee Michael Young, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried, the Board directed Attorney Larry Davis to enter into negotiations with Robert Stapleton for renewing of the Bellport Country Club lease.

Resolution: 75 On a motion by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, seconded by Trustee Michael Young and unanimously carried, the Board approved a life time Honorary Membership for Ed Santalone in recognition of his dedication and decades of invaluable service to both the golf community and the Village.

On a motion by Trustee Michael Young, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 9:22 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Michael Young, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried, the Board closed the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pontieri
Village Clerk

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