

FINAL MINUTES: APRIL 27, 2026



Village of Bellport

General Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM
This meeting will be held in the Community Center

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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 Nathan Rohrmeier, Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, Trustee Michael Young, Trustee Dan Polner, and Attorney Larry Davis

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried the Board opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Open Adjourned Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget 2026 – 2027

On a motion by Trustee Michael Young, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried the Board opened the Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget for 2026-2027.

Treasurer Darcia Palmer gave an overview of the Tentative Budget 2026 – 2027 and noted that the Tentative Budget is on the Village website. The key drivers for the increases are attributed to mandated New York State costs (health insurance, retirement, OPEB) and rising contractor rates due to prevailing wage requirements.

A significant portion of the budget is allocated for road repairs and maintain Village assets that have been neglected in recent years.

Mayor Veitch thanked Treasurer Palmer for the summary and asked if any residents would like to comment on the Tentative Budget.

Mayor Veitch commented that to help residents understand municipal accounting, the Village held a “Budget for Dummies” session and plans to continue such educational outreach.

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Open to Public for Comments – No residents had questions or comments

Vote on Tentative Budget for 2026 – 2027

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn with Trustee Dan Polner abstaining, the Board approved the Tentative Budget for 2026 – 2027 as presented. unanimously carried.

Resolution: 76 Vote on Tentative Budget for 2026 - 2027

Close Public Hearing

On a motion by Trustee Dan Polner, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried, the Board closed the Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget for 2026 – 2027.

Open General Meeting 7:00 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Michael Young, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried, the Board opened the General Meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Opening remarks by Mayor Maureen Veitch

Mayor Updates Capital Projects, Grants & Other

- a. Negotiations of Local 342 Contract
The five-year contract with DPW Local 342 expires on May 31, 2026, and renegotiations are currently underway.
- b. General Code
We are updating the General Code book, which are the laws that the Village abides by. The book is about 350 pages and has not been fully revised since 1975. We are working chapter by chapter and line by line. If there is anyone in the Village who has an opinion about a code that they love, hate, wish was there, which wasn't there, please feel free to send the Board your opinions.
- c. Rental Registry Forms
We put in place a rental registry requirement that if you are renting your house for a day, 10 years, or a year, you have to register with the Village. The new rental registry is in effect; 17 applications have been received, nine inspections requested, and seven licenses issued so far.
- d. Upcoming Election June 16, 2026
There is an upcoming election on June 16, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for two trustees (4-year term). The vote will be held in the Community Center. On June 6, 2026, you can register and fill out an absentee ballot on that day from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

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e. Policy for Use of Community Center

Mayor Veitch updated the residents on the \$187,000 grant received in 2018. The work was completed and reimbursement of monies received.

f. Ho Hum Ferry Rides on Tuesday & Wednesday Pilot

Mayor Veitch stated that two years ago the Board raised the possibility of opening up the ferry one or two days a week to people other than village residents. Because of the budget, we have looked at every opportunity to either cut costs or increase rates as they relate to the going rate. At the beach there is a full staff on the beach, concession stand, lifeguards, ferry operator, deckhands etc.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays turn out to be the lowest ridership days, as low as 3 people riding the ferry all day, to a high of 14 people on a day. Katie Mehrkens worked hard to pull together an analysis for the last 4 years. On Tuesdays there is an average of 8.6 in ridership, and on Wednesdays an average of 9.5 ridership.

I wanted to put that out in the public and the Board will certainly chew on that at the next work session. We're not voting on it but in light of the budget costs and expenses, I think it's worth putting this on the table.

Mayor Veitch received 14 letters today and believes all were in opposition of opening the ferry up.

To continue the discussion, Mayor Veitch asked the public if they would like to comment.

Leslie O'Connor, a former trustee, stated that this was the same issue that came up when she was a trustee. It was discussed at length with a lot of input from the public. I would ask you to consider variations on the ridership on Tuesdays and Thursdays or investigate closing the ferry on one of those days. John DiStefano questioned why wouldn't you just not run the ferry on days that had low ridership.

Loretta Drew read a printout that she found online. It says, Ho Hum Beach, located in Bellport, has a capacity of 300 bathers. This limit is enforced based on an annual permit from Suffolk County Department of Health. It's based on the number of toilets, not the lifeguards. Ms. Drew mentioned the rental registration cost, costs to tenant and now you're considering non-tax-paying, non-residents to be able to use the ferry.

Sherri Binnington, a former trustee, had the same concern that Leslie O'Connor stated. We had only one or two people on the ferry on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Board closed the beach and ferry on Tuesdays. This allowed the Village not to have to pay lifeguards. And saved quite a bit of money. If you open it up to non-residents on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, you're setting a precedent. Mrs. Binnington read a section of the minutes from February 2024 in which Mayor Veitch thanked the residents for their opinion on the issue at hand.

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Dimitri Martirosyan had 3 quick points on the topic of ridership. Number one, in regards to the infrastructure and environmental wear, and we need to recognize that Ho Hum is a fragile wilderness site. During the low-traffic weekdays is a window for our environment and ecosystem to recover, to take a breather.

Number two is the financial and taxpayer equity. We'll ultimately absorb the cost and fund the Village operations including the estimated repairs to Ho Hum beach bulkheading.

Number three the Village character and property values. Privacy and the resident nature focus of Ho Hum isn't just a perk it is one of the reasons that home buyers are willing to pay a premium to be here.

Hans Tempel doesn't think it is very fair that people with the pass still have to pay guest fees at the ferry and other amenities, because that makes them temporary residents and that should give them the opportunity to enjoy the amenities at resident fee.

Joanne Specht, after listening to everyone's comments, maybe the direction should be to close the beach. She suggested other activities for kids such as a scavenger day, do tie-dyed shirts with families, and volleyball. These activities could be coordinated with the kids in the camp to help with ridership. Mayor Veitch wanted to remind people that some of the costs associated with the beach are set. For example, the ferry engines themselves are 8 years old and it'll cost \$100,000 to replace them. We are not looking just at ridership but it's revenue that we're looking for. I do think that some of these ideas that have come up are really worth taking a look at, so thank you for participating. It's okay that we have a difference of opinion sometimes.

Mark Petheran warned that opening the beach to the public might violate historical agreements with the Army Corps of Engineers or the federal government, potentially risking Village control of the beach.

In summary, residents expressed strong concerns about the proposal, citing potential legal issues, environmental strain on Ho Hum Beach and possible loss of "village character".

g. Bellport Environment Committee Update

A panel discussion titled "Beyond Your Yard," focusing on the environmental impact of lawn care on the Great South Bay, will be held on May 30, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

h. Garbage Collection Rules

Mayor Veitch announced stricter enforcement of garbage collection rules. Cans must not be out more than 27 hours and should be placed at the curb no earlier than 6:00 p.m. the night before pickup. Violators will now face ticketing to address aesthetic and safety concerns.

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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

We received an email from VHB today and the updates are as followed: water and land soil borings are complete, results and geotechnical engineering report (GER) expected in the next 2 weeks. The preliminary engineering design of the wave fence, replacement bulkheads and fixed piers are contingent upon the GER. However, plans have been set-up and ready for the information so that we can submit for permits by mid-June. The permitting of SERQRA, NYSDEC, USACE, and NYSDOS permit applications have been prepared to the extent possible, pending design and GER.

VHB received sediment sampling and comments from NYSDEC which were resubmitted last week for approval for dredging marina basin. The project is definitely moving along.

- Code Enforcement Staffing

We have two Code Enforcement officers starting this week, Timothy Boe and Joe Hogan. We're very excited about them joining the department.

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

- Town of Brookhaven Senior Program

The Senior Program continues on Monday, Thursdays, and Fridays. However, we do have a mandate to fulfill from the federal government which is a systematic alien verification enforcement. That would require copies of social security numbers and driver's license from the attendees. We are in discussion with the Town of Brookhaven and we will continue the program week by week. The information from the town was shared at a training meeting Tara Crane and I attended. We were told that if the Village wanted the \$50,000 for the senior program, we had to comply. At a session the seniors were asked for a show of hands as to who would be willing to provide the documents. There were zero in attendance that would share the information.

The town did state that there has been a lot of pushbacks and we're not collecting that data.

- Technology Update

With technology we're mandated now for our website to be ADA compliant as of April 2026. So right now, we are talking to vendors and learning what the requirements are for us to do an update on the website.

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Example a photo of a beautiful maple, just to be picturesque, we would have to say “it’s a beautiful pink cherry tree or maple tree and that makes it ADA compliant.

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

- Finance Committee

Trustee Young updated the Board on the topic of deer from the last meeting. He was asked to draft and circulate language on deer fences. In other villages, there are many, many pages, paragraphs, sections, subsections, and sub-subsections. He provided the Board with two sentences notwithstanding any other provision of the code “Deer fences that are not visible from the street are permissible. A deer fence is a fence, the purpose of which is to keep out deer”. I do think this captures the essence of what the other villages were striving for and its worthy of consideration.

Mayor Veitch thanked Trustee Young for the draft.

- d. Trustee Dan Polner – DPW, Bellport Fire Department, South Country Ambulance, Suffolk County Police Department

- Update on First Responders – No Report

Open To Public - None

Open Discussion:

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner - Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 77 The Board approved the 2026 Bellport Village Election of two Trustees (four-year term) to be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Bellport Community Center, located at 4 Bell Street, Bellport, New York 11713 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Michael Young – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 78 The Board approved the draft minutes of March 23, 2026 General Meeting as presented.

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

Resolution: 79 The Board approved the draft minutes of April 13, 2026 Work Session as presented.

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn with Trustee Michael Young voting nay, and Trustee Dan Polner abstaining.

Resolution: 80 The Board approved the Waterfront and Tennis Rates as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner - Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 81 The Board approved the request from South Country Central School District for parking rules for General McLean Drive be suspended for the Budget Vote May 19, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Bellport Middle School as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner - Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 82 The Board approved the request from Mary Immaculate Church to hold an Antiques & Collectibles Fair July 4, 2026 (rain date July 5, 2026) from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the corner of Browns and Bell as presented.

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 83 The Board approved the request from The Gateway to hold an annual fundraising party on July 31, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 99 South Howells Point Road as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner - Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 84 The Board approved the request from Lynette Pettinicchi to hold a Pilates class by the bandshell for The Girls Long Island on July 25, 2026 (rain date July 26, 2026) from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. as presented.

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Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Dan Polner and unanimously carried.

After the motion and second, Mayor Veitch asked for discussion. Trustee Dan Polner commented that he went back and forth on this request because this is the spaghetti dinner. Mayor Veitch shared a conversation she had with the Superintendent of Schools which was helpful. I got some documents from the school and it is very expensive for you to have an event at the school you have to pay the janitor and security.

Trustee Lorraine Kuehn pointed out that there are rules for the Community Center. There is not supposed to be anything on the walls. She just wants to protect the assets of the Community Center.

Mayor Veitch stated that the Board will review each request made for use of the Community Center on a case-by-case basis as is done with the bowling alley requests.

Resolution: 85 The Board approved the request from Bellport School's Baseball Booster Club to hold the Spring 2026 Baseball Awards and dinner at the Community Center on June 2, 2026 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. as presented.

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 86 The Board approved the hiring of Timothy Boe (Instructor of Passport - \$31 per hour) and Joseph Hogan (\$28 per hour) for Code Enforcement to start the week of April 28, 2026 as presented.

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Dan Polner and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 87 The Board approved the hiring Evan Larsen for an AEO position at DPW starting date May 4, 2026 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner - Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 88 The Board approved the request from South Country Education Foundation to hold the Annual Cocktail Party and Auction July 11, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 40 Academy Lane, Bellport as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner - Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 89 The Board approved the request from Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Museum to hold the Seine Net Fishing with Friends of Bellport Bay on July 11, 2026 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Mother's Beach as presented.

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Motion: Trustee Lorraine Kuehn – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 90 The Board approved the 12-month cleaning contract extension with NCS – National Cleaning Service for the 2026 – 2027 year in the estimated amount of \$30,000 (prevailing wages will go up) as presented.

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Michael Young and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 91 The Board approved the 12-month cleaning contract extension with UMG for the 2026 – 2027 year in the estimated amount of \$60,000 (prevailing wages will go up) as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 92 The Board accepted the donation from the Bellport Fire Department of a 2014 Chevy Suburban to be registered later this year. (Per Jason Crane)

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 93 The Board approved the request of the Bellport Garden Club to hold a fundraiser plant sale on May 25, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at The Greens at CVS (fundraiser for tree to be planted in Village) as presented.

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 94 The Board approved “Meet the Candidates” at the Community Center on June 6, 2026 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner - Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 95 The Board approved the request from Bellport Chamber of Commerce to hold a Network Breakfast Meeting on June 10, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. at the Community Center as presented.

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Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Michael Young and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 96 The Board approved the request from South Bay Cruising Club to hold a “New Member Rendezvous” on June 13, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the marina park as presented.

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

Resolution: 97 The Board approved the following Election Inspectors for the June 16, 2026 Election: Lorraine Crowley (Chair \$21 per hour), Inspectors (\$19 per hour) Susan Belonzi, Kelly Ann Berwick, Camille Brideson, Christina-Maria Palmquist, and Gladys Ramondetta as presented.

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 98 The Board approved the General Fund Checking Abstract Report #1 dated April 27, 2026 consisting of 95 vendors totaling \$212,731.09 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Lorraine Kuehn – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 99 The Board approved the Enterprise Fund Check Abstract Report #1 dated April 27, 2026 consisting of 36 vendors totaling \$157,656.83 as presented.

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 100 The Board approved the Capital General Check Abstract Report #1 dated April 27, 2026 consisting of 2 vendors totaling \$39,898.57 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner - Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 101 The Board approved the Monthly Treasurer’s Report (Operating Results as of April 27, 2026) as presented.

Motion: Trustee Michael Young – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

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Resolution: 102 The Board set a Public Hearing on May 26, 2027 to review Sec. 14-1 Hours of Use of Public Parks as presented.

Motion: Trustee Michael Young – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 103 The Board set a Public Hearing on May 26, 2026 to review Chapter 21 Zoning Sec. 21-227 & Sec 21-273 tentative “Deer Fences” as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner - Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 104 The Board approved the request from Mary Immaculate Church to hold a Blood Drive on August 23, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Community Center as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner - Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 105 The Board approved the Fire Inspection Summary as presented.

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 106 The Board approved the Building Department Activities as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner - Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 107 The Board approved the DPW Activities as presented.

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Dan Polner and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 108 The Board approved the Open Permit Amnesty Project as presented.

Executive Session (If needed)

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier, seconded by Trustee Michael Young, and unanimously carried the Board moved into Executive Session at 8:16 p.m. to discuss litigation and personnel.

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier, seconded by Trustee Michael Young, and unanimously carried the Board moved out of Executive Session at 9:21 p.m.

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On a motion by Trustee Michael Young, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, and unanimously carried the Board adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pontieri
Village Clerk