

**GENERAL VILLAGE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF WEST HAMPTON DUNES  
Thursday September 12, 2024, at 6:00 PM  
in person at 906 Dune Road, West Hampton Dunes  
and via Zoom**

September 12, 2024

Present: Mayor Irwin Krasnow, Trustee Gary Trimarchi, Trustee Gina Mulhearn, Trustee Howard Freedman, Village Attorney Jared Kasschau, Village Clerk Robin Santora and Sgt. Brian Hennig.  
Trustee John Eff – Late arrival

Village Residents Present: Robin Laveman, Harvey Gessin, Chad Gessin, Rosella Martone

Pledge of Allegiance:

Public Hearing:

1. The Mayor opened the meeting explaining that the scheduled public hearing on Chapter 220 amendment would be postponed. It was brought to his attention that if we pass Chapter 220 amendment, we must also pass an amended version of the 560 Chapter. Since there was not enough time for council to thoroughly vet 560 and to avoid any unintentional consequences of passing one without the other, the hearing will be rescheduled for the next meeting.

The Mayor is concerned that rumors are spreading that a Village moratorium has been put into place for new construction, new permits and ¾ story renovations. This is not the case and Mayor Krasnow is eager to clarify that no such moratorium has been implemented. If anyone has received or heard this information, the Mayor would greatly appreciate it if you could reach out to him directly with the source of the rumor. This will help address and correct any misunderstandings promptly.

2. Fire Protection Services:

Village of West Hampton Dunes contracts with the Westhampton Beach Fire Department for fire protection services. It is an annual contract that is paid in two installments.

Motion to open the public hearing with respect to the Fire Protection Service Agreement which is posted on the Village website.

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Trimarchi

In favor: Freedman, Trimarchi, Mulhearn, Mayor Krasnow

Opposed: None

Absent: Trustee Eff

Resident Chad Gessin commented on what a fantastic job Westhampton Beach Fire Department does for our Village and that we are lucky to have them.

Motion to close the public hearing on Fire Protection.

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Trimarchi

In favor: Freedman, Trimarchi, Mulhearn, Mayor Krasnow

Opposed: None

Absent: Trustee Eff

Motion to adopt Lead Agency status for the purposes of SEQRA with regard to approval of the renewal of the Fire Protection service contract for a period of one year is an unlisted action for purposes of SEQRA:

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Trimarchi

In favor: Freedman, Trimarchi, Mulhearn, Mayor Krasnow

Opposed: None

Absent: Trustee Eff

Motion to adopt the resolution providing for the agreement to enter into a contract for the fire protection services with the Village of Westhampton Beach Fire District for services running through June 30, 2025.

Motion by: Trustee Trimarchi  
Seconded by: Trustee Freedman  
In favor: Freedman, Trimarchi, Mulhearn, Mayor Krasnow  
Opposed: None  
Absent: Trustee Eff

Mayor's Report:

- New Village Office:

The Village has signed an agreement with the BBPA and has officially moved to 914 Dune Road. The Mayor welcomes all residents to come and visit the new office. It should make it much more convenient when you have questions, need permits or any assistance.

- Vehicle Disposition Update:

There was a surplus of two vehicles – 2007 Jeep and the former Mayor's 2023 Jeep. Both have been sold, bringing back into the Village treasury a total of \$33,500. In addition, we will be saving on auto insurance, gas and maintenance totaling another \$2,800.00 per year in savings.

- Meeting with Suffolk County Water Authority:

SCWA owns the property at 862 Dune Road where there is a walkway to the bay and many of our residents keep kayaks there. We are working on an agreement to repair the walkway, which is in very poor condition. The cost will be split between the Village and SCWA. In addition, the SCWA will allow us to put kayak racks up for storage which will help keep the area organized and accessible for everyone.

- Optimum Franchise Agreement:

The Village is still working on the franchise agreement with Optimum. Our Village attorney, Brian Stolar has experience negotiating with Optimum and has been working to complete and expedite this process. One of the benefits will be for the Village facilities at 656A Dune Road, 906 Dune Road and 914 Dune Road to receive free Optimum services. This benefit should save us around \$6,000.00 per year.

- DOS Update:
  1. Propane – letters have been sent to homeowners if their propane tanks are in violation. Common issues include if the tanks are buried, not secured or strapped down properly. Residents have been cooperative and are asked to notify their propane company to work on correcting the problem to become compliant.
  2.  $\frac{3}{4}$  Story Issues – The Village is working with the Department of State (DOS) to resolve the  $\frac{3}{4}$  story issue. The DOS has requested that we approve the amended chapter 220 code. Our attorneys are researching the need to additionally amend code 560. The Mayor is waiting on council to review and advise. This should resolve the Department of State issue.
  3. DOS Building Code – Public Hearing tonight  
The DOS is looking for all municipalities to adopt a uniform building code. We anticipate enacting the State requested code at our next meeting.

Resident Chad Gessin gave an explanation about the interaction between updating Chapter 220 and its impact on Chapter 560.

- We are approving two contracts tonight:
  1. On-call contract for Village Environmental Consultants with Cashin Associates.
  2. On-call contract for Village Coastal Geologist consultant Sialia Environmental Consulting.

Trustee Mulhearn gave background information on Dr. Robert Young of Sialia Environmental Consulting, who is the Director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines, a joint Duke University/Western Carolina University venture. The program specializes in evaluating the design and implementation of coastal engineering projects and helping communities develop coastal adaptation strategies. Dr. Young has worked with the Town of Southampton Trustees for over 20 years on a wide range of projects related to coastal science of management. Trustee Mulhearn believes he will be a great asset to our village particularly with meetings we have coming up with the Army Corp, FIMP managers and DEC.

- Furniture/ Equipment Donations:

The Mayor and the Village would like to thank both the Mattioli and Sapraicone families for their donations to the new Village office for outside tables, chairs and equipment.

Motion to accept furniture donations from the Mattioli and Sapraicone families.

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn

All In favor: Yes (Including Trustee Eff)

Opposed: None

- Lon Dobler – Thank you

Lon, who is a resident, performed last month at PAC the Motown Review and Revival show. Lon wanted to donate tickets to the Constabulary. Since we were not allowed to accept tickets, the Mayor purchased the tickets and made donations to both the Police Constabulary and the BBPA.

- Litigation – Two lawsuits recently filed against the Village
  1. Article 78 Proceeding
  2. 1983 Civil Rights Action

Since both lawsuits are pending litigation, we cannot go into any further details.

- Beach Replenishment/ Snow Fencing:

A presentation and video of drone footage was presented to demonstrate the conditions of our beaches. Trustee Mulhearn explains that protecting our barrier beach is the Villages top priority. The Dunes are the Villages' first line of defense. Maintaining the dunes and growing the dunes builds our protection against rising seas and more dramatic storms due to climate change.

Three things move the sand – the waves, the wind and the Army Corp. The next replenishment will occur this fall under Contract 4 for the Village.

On September 24, 2024, the board is meeting with representatives from the Army Corp and NYS FIMP managers. Trustee Mulhearn will have an update at the next board meeting.

Trustee Mulhearn expressed the importance of residents installing snow fencing. She believes it is a relatively inexpensive investment, that provides incredible benefits to the dunes. It is important to have proper installation of the fence, to gain the maximum benefits. Trustee Mulhearn recommends placing the fencing in a zig zag pattern. If anyone needs more information, please contact the Village.

Resident Sam Rudman from 679 Dune Road commented that he believes that under the original agreement with the Federal Government, the upcoming renourishment should be consistent with the one's done previously. The agreement should be carried out through December 2027 and the beach renourishment we are expecting this October falls short of what was promised.

Trustee Mulhearn and the Board are all in agreement that their understanding is that the Village is due a larger sand replenishment. These are questions that will be asked at the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The former Mayor, Gary Vegliante commented that the amount of sand offered in this last proposal is miniscule and less than we have ever received in the past. He believes it won't provide much protection, especially to the Western end of the Village. Gary's hope is that the Board and Regina will have success with the Army Corp in their upcoming meeting.

Resident Bob Mayer at 698 Dune Road wanted to remind everyone that during Sandy, the bay came up under many of the houses and that it is just as important to protect bayside as the ocean side.

Resident Pat Byrne at 705 Dune Road is surprised to hear the information presented tonight. He was led to believe that the same type of beach renourishment that has been provided in the past was what the Village would be receiving this fall. Hoping the new administration will be successful in resolving the settlement agreement.

In response to the residents' comments, Mayor Krasnow expressed how hard Gary Vegliante worked to form this Village and how hard he worked to keep sand on the beach. In keeping with that legacy, the Mayor and the new administration plan to continue to work hard to get what the Village deserves. He wants to make sure that the original agreement stays in place and protects the Village. The Mayor is looking to set up a subcommittee to help with these efforts. If anyone is interested in helping, volunteering, or has any advice, please reach out to the board.

Resident Rob DiGia expressed how much beach erosion extends on the bayside. In the last 10 years he's lost over 10ft. of beach. He would like to have something figured out on the bayside, so it is fair for both the ocean and the bayside residents.

Mayor Krasnow responded that he understands and has been looking into the situation. The problem is that the Ocean side is considered public property and is under public jurisdiction and managed for public use, while the Bayside is privately owned, leading to different levels of protection and responsibility for the homeowners. The Mayor is hoping to find grant money to help support projects on the Bayside.

Gary Vegliante stated that the Army Corp, DEC and even the Village itself are prohibited from investing public funds in private property. Unless there is a legislative change, it is prohibited to put public funds on private property. He did feel that if the Village could secure some grant money, that may be an opportunity that could work.

#### Appointments:

- Appointment of John Ilibassi as member of the Village of West Hampton Dunes Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Irwin Krasnow until 04/01/25

This appointment is due to the Mayor resigning his position on the zoning board. John Ilibassi will fill the vacancy until the remainder of the term ending in April 2025. The zoning board spoke to John and recommended him for this position.

Treasurer's Report:

The 2022 -2023 audit is finished and will now be submitted. We are now starting to work on the May 2023 -2024 budget and will hopefully be completed soon.

Constable's Report:

- Watch the tropics. Hurricane season is upon us, everyone should be prepared. Have provisions on hand – batteries, fill propane tanks and generators. Be sure to secure and tie down outdoor furniture.
- Reminder our summer Construction laws are still in effect through Columbus Day.

Summer Hours: Monday – Friday 8am –5pm (no weekends)  
After Columbus Day: Monday – Friday 7am – 6pm  
Saturday's 8am – 5pm

- Seasonal Rental Laws: May 1<sup>st</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>

Resolutions:

Resolution approving the claim vouchers submitted for audit and approval by the Board of Trustees.

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Eff

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Resolution waiving the reading of and approving the minutes of the August 16, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to attend the Long Island Business Development Conference on October 9 and that the costs for such



attendance be a Village charge.

Motion by: Trustee Mulhearn

Seconded by: Trustee Trimarchi

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and enter into a professional services contract with Cashin Associates to provide on call environmental consulting services for the Village at rate not to exceed \$300 per hour pursuant to a written agreement subject to review and approval as to form by the Village Attorney.

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and enter into a professional services agreement with Robert S. Young, PhD PG of Sialia Environmental Consulting, Inc. at a rate of \$250 per hour for Mr. Young's work and \$75 per hour for research staff, subject to review and approval by the Village Attorney as to form, to assist the Village in developing an Ocean Beach Management Program to assess and evaluate potential impacts of erosion protection structures, including long-term and cumulative impacts, reasonable alternatives and necessary prohibitions.

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Trimarchi

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Resolution amending and restating the January 11, 2016 Resolution authorizing payment of full family medical insurance, including dental and vision coverage, for any retired elected official of the Village of West Hampton Dunes with more than twenty (20) years of continuous service and to reimburse those individual for monthly Medicare Part B premiums.

Motion by: Trustee Mulhearn

Seconded by: Trustee Trimarchi

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm

Motion by: Trustee Trimarchi

Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None