

**GENERAL VILLAGE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF WEST HAMPTON DUNES  
Thursday October 17, 2024, at 6:00 PM  
in person at 906 Dune Road, West Hampton Dunes  
and via Zoom**

October 17, 2024

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

Village Residents Present: Harvey Gessin, Gary Vegliante, Charlie Lippert, Cathy Vaczy/ Lawrence.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor's Report:

Village Code amendments

- The Mayor discussed the two pending code amendments: Chapter 220 and Chapter 560. The former aims to align the Village's building codes with the rest of New York State, while the latter seeks to make certain non-compliant homes compliant with our amended building code. A public hearing on these amendments is scheduled for the November 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.
  
- Permit Fees  
The Mayor proposed raising permit fees for renovations and new construction, suggesting a 2% fee for the first \$1 million and 1% thereafter, or \$5 per square foot of construction size, whichever is greater. The intent is not to have increased income, but to cover our costs. At this point the village operates at a loss.
  
- Optimum Franchise Agreement:  
Village attorney Brian Stolar has been working on the franchise agreement with Optimum. He has asked for some revisions, and we are currently waiting for approval from Optimum.
  
- DOS Update:  
The Mayor discussed the ongoing issues with the Department of State (DOS) regarding propane tank violations and building codes. The Village has been

having bi-weekly meetings with the DOS and have provided a list of potential violations to the homeowners.

In addition, the Village is working on code amendments to address the 3 and 4 story issue, which will update the building code. The DOS is looking for all municipalities to adopt a uniform building code.

- Beach Replenishment:

Trustee Mulhearn gave a summary on the meeting discussing beach replenishment, attended by local officials, legal representatives, coastal experts along with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) officials.

The meeting covered the following:

Ocean Front Discussion

- Review of West Hampton Dune's replenishment history
- ACE's replenishment process using LIDAR technology
- Typical 4-year replenishment cycle
- Future plans based on "The Reformulation Study"
- Piping plover conservation efforts

Bayside Discussion

- Erosion impact on homeowners and wildlife habitats
- Importance of WHD beaches for horseshoe crabs and shore birds
- Potential project to address habitat loss and erosion
- Exploration of NYS Climate Smart Community Grants for coastal resiliency

Trustee Mulhearn concluded by encouraging community engagement through the local environmental organization, BBPA. The BBPA's origins were in saving the Village from erosion in the late 80's. It again can be the community driven organization that gets our erosion issues handled and funded. Trustee Mulhearn recommended everyone to donate and join the BBPA.

Flooding

The Mayor mentioned ongoing efforts to address the flooding issues in the Village. He has reached out to Suffolk County Department of Public Works Commissioner, Charles Bartha and Deputy Commissioner of Suffolk County Parks, John Giannott, to mitigate the problem and help find a solution.

Snow Fencing:

Mayor Krasnow reminded the residents of the Ocean side that it is the time of the year to install snow fencing. This plays a crucial role in building up the dunes and is a relatively inexpensive investment, lasting about four years.

Residents are encouraged to take action to protect their coastal environment. If you need any information on installing the fencing, please contact the Village office.

#### Village Office

Starting the week of Columbus Day, the Village's new office hours will be 9am – 4pm.

The Mayor sent out the second edition of his newsletter, the Mayor's Catch. It gave an update on what has been going on in the Village. If anyone has not received it, please reach out to Robin at the Village Office and provide your email.

#### Financial Report:

Trustee Freedman said the 2022 -2023 audit is finished and there is a copy available in the Village office if anyone would like to review. We have engaged the accountants to start working on the audit for the period ending May 2024 and are hoping it will be completed by the end of the year.

The Mayor added that the budgeted interest income for the 2024-2025 fiscal year was initially estimated at \$40,000, but the Village has already exceeded that amount by receiving \$41,000 in interest income since July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Constable's Report:

Sgt. Hennig stated that residents experiencing disputes or conflicts with neighbors should engage the constabulary for assistance, rather than attempting to resolve the matter through direct confrontation.

Brian also requested that the Mayor, Board and council review and potentially amend the existing village code regarding the storage of boats. The current code stipulates that boats must be stored behind homes located on the ocean, which places them in the Coastal Erosion Hazard area.

#### Resolutions:

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

Motion by: Trustee Mulhearn

Seconded by: Trustee Freedman

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Resolution waiving the reading of and approving the minutes of the September 12, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Trimarchi

All In favor: Yes  
Opposed: None

Resolution approving the 2022-2023 fiscal year end statements prepared by R.S. Abrams & Co., LLC for the Village of West Hampton Dunes and Village of West Hampton Dunes Justice Court.

Motion by: Trustee Trimarchi  
Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn  
All In favor: Yes  
Opposed: None

Resolution appointing the firm of R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP to audit the Village of West Hampton Dunes financial statements for the fiscal year 2023-2024 at a cost of \$16,000.00 and audit the Village of West Hampton Dunes Justice Court 2023-2024 financial statements

Motion by: Trustee Eff  
Seconded by: Trustee Trimarchi  
All In favor: Yes  
Opposed: None

Resolution amending the fee schedule for building permits, the reason being that the existing schedule is insufficient. The new fee would be as follows: Minimum fee of \$750 for minor repairs/ renovations, 2% of the first \$1million and 1% thereafter, or \$5 per square foot of construction size, whichever is greater plus \$200.00.

Motion by: Trustee Trimarchi  
Seconded by: Trustee Freedman  
All In favor: Yes  
Opposed: None

The Mayor stated that he is trying to take a fiscally conservative approach, so money we have can be used for the betterment of the Village. He mentioned potential cost savings and using funds for improvements like rebuilding walkways and upgrading facilities. Mayor Krasnow also discussed securing grants for projects like installing elevators or lifts, renovating bathrooms and other improvements for the Village office at 914 Dune Road.

Public Comment:

Charlie Lippert from 790A Dune Road asked if the Village did any comparisons with other villages regarding the new fee schedule. The Mayor said he did look at other Villages, mainly Westhampton Beach. It is hard to compare our Village directly to others, since we do not have as many projects going on, however, it

is crucial to balance the need for funding the Village's cost while ensuring that fees remain fair and reasonable.

Charlie also asked whether there would be any cost to the residents with the upcoming renourishment. The Mayor clarified there would be no residential costs for the beach replenishment project this year, and he would advocate against the Village paying for it in the future. However, the Mayor stated how important it is to be contributing to the beach replenishment fund for any unexpected costs.

Resident Harvey Gessin said he's been working with Irwin recrafting the fee schedule for permits. He gave an example of a typical house being 6500ft, costing \$30,000 compared to the old schedule where it would have been \$13,000. Harvey also raised concerns about high permit fees being for one year only, with potentially significant renewal fees. The Mayor said he would look into renewal fees, discuss with John the Building Inspector and figure out a reasonable fee.

Harvey Gessin also shared the effectiveness of snow fences in managing sand erosion on both the ocean and bay sides.

Gary Vegliante expressed concern about the involvement of Dr. Young, a coastal geologist, in the Village's coastal management due to his past testimony against the Village. The Mayor and the Board said they would review and consider Dr. Young's role considering potential conflicts of interest.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He reminded everyone to vote on November 5<sup>th</sup> and wished everyone a Happy Halloween!

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Trimarchi

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None