

**GENERAL VILLAGE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF WEST HAMPTON DUNES  
Thursday January 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM  
in person at 906 Dune Road, West Hampton Dunes  
and via Zoom**

January 9, 2025

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

Also Present: Harvey Gessin, Chad Gessin and Chris Barnes.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor's Report:

- Beach Replenishment:

The Mayor met with representatives from Weeks Marine, the dredging company and the Army Corp of Engineers. Currently they are working down at Cupsogue, on the bayside and will be moving to Pikes beach area by the end of the month. They will do another survey of the beach to determine whether additional sand will be added.

- Tax Grievance Day is February 18,2025:

The 2025/2026 tentative tax roll will be available to examine February 3, 2025. It is available to review at the Village Office Monday through Friday, 9am – 4pm until Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

- NYCOM Legislative Meeting February:

The Mayor will be attending the legislative conference up in Albany from February 2-4<sup>th</sup>.

- Contract with WHB for Snow removal and Street Sweeping:

The Village is renewing contracts for Snow Removal and Street Sweeping with the Village of Westhampton Beach. The Snow Removal contract has stayed the same. The Street Sweeping contract has incurred a small increase of \$25 per hour.

- West End Road Flooding:

The Mayor has been working with Suffolk County Parks Department and the Department of Public Works to help find an answer to the flooding down by Cupsogue Park. Sgt Hennig and the Mayor met with two Suffolk County DPW engineers to work on a solution to divert the water and help mitigate the flooding issue. At this time, we are waiting for a report as to the solution they propose.

- 2025 Rental Permits:

Reminder that the 2025 rental permits renewals and applications are due. You must have a current permit before you can advertise your home to rent and must include the permit number in all advertisements for the 2025 season.

- Bayside Flooding:

The Mayor said they are looking at forming a committee to help provide solutions to the Bayside property owners. If anyone is interested in forming/ joining a committee, please contact the Village office.

Trustee Mulhearn discussed the issues with Bayside flooding and the loss of shoreline to the beach. She talked about the need for an integrated approach to address Bayside flooding, suggesting the Village hire an engineering firm to study the issue and propose fixes. Trustee Mulhearn emphasized the importance of community involvement and the need to move forward proactively rather than reactively.

The Mayor mentioned that one resident who had installed snow fencing on the bayside saw a significant improvement in their yard. Mayor Krasnow recommended that installing snow fencing could be a beneficial investment.

- DOS Update:

The Mayor wanted to provide an update on the meetings with the Department of State regarding the propane tank issues and the 3 and 4-story homes, noting that they had made considerable progress and were receiving positive feedback from the DOS.

- New Website:

The Mayor shared that we are in the process of developing the Village's new website and are seeking high-quality photos of the Village. If anyone has any photos to contribute, please email to Robin Santora, Clerk.

- Financial Report:

The 2022-2023 audit is completed.  
The 2023-2024 is almost completed and should be finished by next month.

The Village has earned \$104,106.89 in interest for the 2024 calendar year through NYCLASS.

Trustee Freedman mentioned that we are about to start the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year.

- Constable's Report:

Sgt Hennig highlighted a breakdown on the calls for service for 2024. There were 346 total calls. The most calls came in the form of Village code violations –like parking and rental law violations.

Fire alarms have been up significantly this past year. Mostly due to construction work at homes. The dust in the air often sets off alarms. Sgt. Hennig recommended notifying your alarm company prior to doing work to prevent unnecessary fire calls.

If observing something that bothers you, call the Constables while the act is in progress.

Be sure to cancel any ongoing newspaper subscriptions.

- Please be sure to put house numbers on your houses.

- With ice currently on the bay, please be careful of your pets. You do not want the pet to get stuck on the bay and need to call the fire department.

Sgt. Hennig ended by thanking the community and the Board for their continued support.

- Resolutions:

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

Motion by: Trustee Eff

Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Resolution waiving the reading of and approving the minutes of the November 14, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion by: Trustee Trimarchi

Seconded by: Trustee Freedman

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Resolution to set the date for Tax Grievance Day to 2.18.25

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Resolution for the Mayor to attend the NYCOM Legislative meeting in Albany February 2-4<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by: Trustee Mulhearn

Seconded by: Trustee Freedman

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Resolution to approve a Snow Removal contract between the Village of West Hampton Dunes and the Village of Westhampton Beach.

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Resolution to approve the Street Sweeping contract between the Village of West Hampton Dunes and the Village of Westhampton Beach.

Motion by: Trustee Trimarchi

Seconded by: Trustee Freedman

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Resolution approving the hiring of Duda Actuarial Consulting firm for actuarial services for the Village of West Hampton Dunes Postretirement Benefits Plan for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2024 at a cost of \$3,750. In addition, the May 31, 2025 Actuarial Disclosure Valuation at a cost of \$1,875.

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Public Comment:

- Resident Harvey Gessin discussed the issue of the Southampton trustees' jurisdiction over the Village, which was previously ruled against them in court.
- Harvey suggested that the Village should not be subject to the trustees' permits and taxes.
- Gary Vegliante wanted to speak about the jurisdictional value of the Southampton Trustees. He expressed that they have no jurisdiction authority within the Village on either the beach or the bay. Gary also stated that the ocean side is public land, allowing for beach renourishment, while the bay side involves private properties, requiring cooperation from owners.
- Chad Gessin discussed the challenges of obtaining permits from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for shoreline protection projects on individual properties. He suggests the Village could potentially fund the design and permitting process to facilitate a unified approach for addressing erosion along the shoreline.
- Jeff Farkas questioned the necessity of obtaining a permit from the town of Southampton Trustees for his mooring permits. Trustee Freedman

agreed to research the matter and consult with Harvey Gessin about the case law.

- Resident Robert Digia expressed concern about the erosion of his property and its impact on property values, suggesting that the issue should be addressed practically rather than strictly adhering to the law.
- Resident Robin Laveman wanted to address Harvey Gessin's concerns and clarify that the Trustees' budget mechanism does not affect jurisdiction or property rights, but rather how the trustees' expenses are managed.
- Benay Digia emphasized the need for proactive measures to save property, rather than waiting for an emergency. She suggested that the Board of Trustees should prioritize finding solutions to save the land and homes.
- Chad Gessin agreed with Benay, noting that while individual property owners could apply for shoreline stabilization, a collective effort would be more effective.
- The Mayor concluded by stating that he will take any action legally permissible to address the flooding on the bay side. He emphasized that if homeowners come together to take collective and cooperative action, it would benefit everyone. He expressed his willingness to provide political and lobbying support in any way he can.

Adjourn:

Motion to close the meeting.

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