



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF OCEAN BEACH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Ocean Beach, Suffolk County, New York held on October 15, 2022 at the Boat House, 625-632 Bayberry Walk, Ocean Beach, New York and is also being conducted via Zoom.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor Mallott moved to go into Executive Session at 9:01 AM from the Village Office, for the purpose of discussing personnel, contracts and pending litigation.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Arment upon call the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Absent
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

No motions or resolutions were acted upon in Executive Session. Executive Session was closed at 11:10AM by Mayor Mallott. The motion was seconded by Trustee Norris, upon call the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Absent
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

GENERAL SESSION: At 11:20 AM, Mayor Mallott moved to open General Session. Trustee Blake seconded this motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Absent
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

Following the pledge to the Flag and Roll Call at 11:21 AM:

There were present:	Mayor:	James S. Mallott
	Trustees:	Matthew M. Blake
		Dawn L. Hargraves, Absent
		Christopher F. Norris
		Marco Arment
	Village Counsel:	Kenneth Gray
	Village Clerk/Treasurer:	Steven W. Brautigam, Absent
	Village Administrator:	Joseph DiFrancisco

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2022: Resolution No. 2022-

097: Mayor Mallott moved as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on September 17, 2022 are accepted as presented

Trustee Blake seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Absent
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIM VOUCHERS: Resolution No. 2022-098: Mayor Mallott moved as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that bills and claim vouchers, already paid be approved as submitted and as follows:

General Fund, in the amount of	\$246,094.10, for Gross Payroll from 09/07/22 through 10/04/22
General Fund, in the amount of	\$ 77,672.03, check numbers A27281 through A27318, and
Water Fund, in the amount of	\$ 7,243.11, check numbers F3671 through F3678, and
Sewer Fund, in the amount of	\$ 22,343.77, check numbers G6673 through G6679

BE IT RESOLVED that bills and claim vouchers to be paid, are submitted to be approved for payment as follows

General Fund, in the amount of	\$ 33,588.30, starting with check number A27211, and
Water Fund, in the amount of	\$ 1,952.55, starting with check number F3665, and
Sewer Fund, in the amount of	\$ 547.56, starting with check number G6667, and
Sewer Collection Fund, in the amount of	\$ 73,821.63, starting with check number 1063

Trustee Arment seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Absent
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Good morning, everybody. A beautiful fall day here in sunny Ocean Beach. What do we have? I really don't have too much to report. Most of it will come from the superintendent, Kevin. I'm sorry Joe the new Administrator's report is next.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

So, I got a few things to talk about. Item number 12 on the agenda today is VOBEC beach grass expenditure. The village approves spending \$5,000 to purchase grass for the dunes. Dune Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 5th at 11:00 a.m. And I think if Camille is here, she'll probably talk about it later if she has a chance. If not, it's on the Village website.

Item number 15 on today's agenda Authorization Apply for Recycling Coordination Education Projects Grant. I'm asking the board permission to pursue this grant, which would authorize funds to the village for planning, educational promotional activities to increase public awareness of and participation in waste reduction and recycling. This is a competitive grant, I think. So, we're still looking into if it's competitive and competitive, that doesn't bode well for a small village like us. But essentially this is municipal excuse me. Municipalities may request funding towards the cost for recycling, education, coordination, publication, stuff like that. So, something I'm asking the board for authorization to pursue. Excuse me.

And lastly, I represented the village a few weeks ago an inter-municipal conference on Dangerous Marine Life. It was an all-day conference. There were representatives there from FINS, from the New York State Park Police, New York State Parks and Recreation, Suffolk County Fire Department, Stony Brook, other fire on villages, the Riverhead Aquarium. It was also representatives from Cape Cod, California, Cal State University, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. We're all on hand to talk about the incidents with sharks this summer and what to do going forward. There was a lot of topics discussed. It was a long conference. One of the things, some of the big issues that were called out during the meeting was communication between all the jurisdictions. A lot of the jurisdictions didn't know what was going on. But I do want to call out Jill on this one. I don't know if she's here today, but Rich Wilde, who's one of the head lifeguards, I think over in Seaview, spoke and he said the communication between the villages here on Fire Island was excellent, between Jill and the other villages and in fact, the other members at the at the meeting, especially the New York Park police, were very impressed with the with the way that our lifeguards and the other lifeguards on fire handled things this summer and want to become part of that communication. There was knowledge and training. They're working on knowledge and training for the public in the villages and the officials and trying to establish protocols for all of the beaches along the south shore of Long Island. You know, each jurisdiction seems to have their own protocols and they're trying to put something together where everybody is all on the same page. So, there's more to come on this. I'm sure there's going to be other meetings, but it was a very interesting meeting and a lot of information was shared. So. Thank you very much

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Kevin Schelling spoke

Everybody knows that flooding we had in the last two weeks to sewer plant is trying to pump all that water out of this village

Wastewater: Sewer plant is fully operational.  
Emergency Systems and Generator systems operational.  
Chemical & Fuel supplies are full  
Not many but sewer stops & restrictions since Labor Day

Water: Wells #2, #3 & #4 are operational  
All Emergency Systems and Generator system operational  
Chemical supplies & Fuel supplies full  
New siding & roof continue at Well Control/Lifeguard building  
Two new water taps installed

Properties: Richie has begun hydrant maintenance around village (painting & lubed)  
Garbage pails around the village being collected  
Took down all signage and banners from the summer  
Patching of streets where needed  
All bulk pick-ups complete  
Tennis screening stored for the season  
Transient Marina closed. Main Marina will be closed November 15<sup>th</sup>  
Community House (chairs stored and floors mopped)

Past Events: Beach Cleanup and 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bonfire 9/17 Garbage pick-up will be Labor Day Night

Events: VOBEC Dune Grass 11/5

Lastly, I'm asking, I'm saying, please, if people could take home their wagons and bikes for the season without leaving us with that mess out there for the next six months and as normal garbage as every Wednesday and Sunday. And that's it Mayor.

**Maria Silsdorf:** Is there a date for the wagon park? **Kevin:** I'm asking nicely. The problem was, if the second I say how if I set a date. If I set a date, the first person will stand up and say they want to come in February to get their wagon. I'm asking nicely. Normally every year by Halloween, we get the wagons out of there so we can clean it up and do some maintenance in there. As you see, I have about 150 wagons in there at the moment and no one's taking their wagons home. I'm asking nicely, but there is no end date. But we would like people to take the wagons home. **Mayor;** please. **Kevin;** And bikes, the bike racks too.

OCEAN BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Levine spoke

Thank you. Good morning, everybody. Kevin just mentioned the Bonfire. The Bonfire, we think, was a huge success. I think Dawn made over 500 s'mores. We had probably 500 or 600 people on the beach. It was really well attended. We're getting calls now from other jurisdictions on Fire Island to get like our rule book that we worked under and possibly doing in other places too. The Ocean Beach Fire Dept. We are on pace for a record year. Again, I know I say that every meeting, but it just keeps getting busier and busier. This week I think we had four calls or five calls, so we're still active. I just want to remind everybody, or if we can put something on the website that please change your batteries and you smoke detectors before you leave. If it's time to upgrade, upgrade to the newer smoke detectors that you don't have to replace the batteries every So, for every five years, people that they have sprinklers in their houses to check with their installers of their sprinkler systems to find out how to winterize it. There's already been some issues in other communities on Fire Island with sprinklers this year because they were the houses were turned off and for whatever reason they had issues. Any status with H2M on the garage door project for the Fire House? Did we ever get drawings back from them? **Joe DiFrancisco;** On the garage door project. We didn't get drawings back. No. **Chief;** Is that what we're waiting for? **Joe;** I believe so, yeah. **Chief;** All right. Because we're going to have a time where we can't do it till next year. Right. Okay. Just. **Mayor;** I think Constantine sent drawings to H2M. Let's make another call. I can call. Yeah. Cool. Joe Myles, **Trustee Norris;** that has to go through an RFP process, right? We went through the. No. Yes, it does. Yes, That was the next step. Trustee Norris; So, we're running out of time, So. All right.

The Ocean Beach Fire Department had their annual dinner where we swore in our officers. Just wanted to mention a few of the honorees that we had for. Shelly Weinstein received an award for high drills. Dale Wyckoff and Tommy Nolter had the high alarms. We thanked a few of the members for service that they put in. Joey Loeffler had I think 56 years of service to the Ocean Beach Fire Department, and he started in 1966 right after I was born. So, Frank Silsdorf was our secretary for 10 or 12 years and he stepped down. Dale Wyckoff stepped down as captain of EMS, Lauren Hesse replaced her. Bobby Burke stepped down as a captain and Drew Becker replaced him. Marty Leiderman stepped down as an assistant Chief and George who replaced him? Oh, okay George Hesse replaced him. And our member of the year was Lauren Hesse. So, those are some of the awards that we gave out. Just to update you guys, our new pickup truck, we finally after a year of waiting, have gotten the VIN number. We don't have the truck yet, but we got a VIN number now. So, the truck is somewhere and we are still working on the new fire truck. We'll have answers soon

OCEAN BEACH POLICE REPORT: Chief Hesse spoke.

Things are good. Things are starting to quiet down since Columbus Day. It's great, the weather is still nice. People are still coming out, closing up their houses. We did have an issue over the last week with the squatting issue, the Ocean Breeze incident that we had. We caught a guy going into Holly's house, like, almost two years ago now. Holly? Right. Last year, we suspected that individual was the one that was breaking into the other houses on Ocean Breeze. But we had no proof. We caught him breaking into a house on Wilmot last week, got him on camera, and then he had gotten away. The owner didn't know until like a day later. Let us know. We looked at the footage. We recognized him, but we couldn't find him. And Mayor; he has no known address. Well, he has an address in Bay Shore, but

that doesn't help. So anyway, the owner called us in the middle of the night, the other night, saying he was trying to get in. We had secured the house, went there, locked all the doors, windows, everything. We even took the key out of the shed, stopped leaving your keys in the shed. Everybody knows that. The shed, the shower. Give your keys to a friend because it's crazy. They all know where the keys are. So anyway, he made an attempt in the middle of the night. The other night, the homeowner called Zois. Zois called me at home and we went and we grabbed the guy. We got him coming out of the house, so we arrested him. But with bail reform and everything else, basically did some paperwork and let him go into the streets at night in Ocean Beach again. What does that mean? He does work here in the village. Some of the individuals he works for, deny that he works for them. But I see them, you know. His father came to see me the next day. Said he was fishing. Yeah. Okay. So, he was fishing for some somewhere to sleep, Trustee Norris; any damage. Chief; And he had a warrant for Holly's house, actually, so. Yeah. No, it's public information. Trustee Norris; Got to be careful, but got to be careful. Chief; No, it's public information. He was arrested. It's in the blotter. His name is Carlos Bonilla. Trustee Norris; So, any damages to the house? Chief; No. He basically just slept in the house. Trustee Norris; Not that that makes it better. Chief; It doesn't. But he was charged with a crime this time, not just a trespass. And not just a violation. Mayor: He slept on top of the covers. Chief; No, he slept underneath. Either way it's dirty. I mean, think about some stranger sleeping in the house. Disgusting. Well, so those. Never mind. Anyway, what's that it was criminal trespass? Trustee Norris; Seventies in Ocean Beach was a different place, Chief; and he got charged with the second trespass. Also, because he went back and he never gained entry into the house. So, he didn't commit a crime therein. So, it wasn't a burglary. I know where you go with that. Chief is testing me back there. Anyway, yesterday was a proud day. My daughter Megan got sworn in for the Ocean Beach Police Department. So. Yeah. We swore in two more women. The police academy starts in two weeks. So I wish them luck. With all the individuals that we hired last year. We're probably going to lose a few of the jobs and stuff, but that's just the way the nature of the beast works here in the police department. So, we have - we sponsored five and only two made it through the process to make it to the academy. My daughter being one of them, she worked really hard to be here. So, she got my old rookie shield number too. So, it's a proud moment. It's a very proud moment. So, I'll end on that. Besides my other daughter who's been getting all the spotlight, member of the year of the fire department, everything else. So, it's been it's been a very special year for me. Thanks, guys

ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: NONE

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQRA): Resolution No. 2022-099: Mayor Mallott moved as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village hereby declares that all action items on this Agenda, unless otherwise indicated, are Type II, pursuant to SEQRA, and, therefore, no further environmental review is required; and

Now, therefore, it is hereby

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the SEQRA declaration on all action items as Type II, unless otherwise indicated on this Agenda.

Trustee Arment seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Absent
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

ACCEPT & APPROVE NEW YORK STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM RECORD OF ACTIVITIES RECERTIFICATION:

Resolution No. 2022-100: Mayor Mallott moved as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village has previously adopted a Standard Workday and Record of Activities resolution on January 9, 2021, establishing standard workday hours for certain employees; and

WHEREAS, the NYS Retirement System has required a Record of Activities Recertification for Mayor, James Mallott and Judge, William Wexler; and

Now, therefore, it is hereby

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village hereby accepts the Record of Activities Recertification Affidavits submitted by Mayor Mallott and Judge Wexler, to be filed with the NYS Retirement System.

Trustee Blake seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Absent
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

AUTHORIZE & APPROVE VOBEC BEACH GRASS EXPENDITURE: Resolution No. 2022-101: Mayor Mallott moved as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village of Ocean Beach is committed to the preservation and sustainability of the seashore dunes and acknowledges the importance of supporting the efforts toward that goal; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Ocean Beach Environmental Committee (VOBEC) has set a Dune Day date to replenish and replant the Ocean Beach dunes with beach grass on Saturday, November 5, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Village of Ocean Beach Environmental Committee (VOBEC) has submitted an invoice in the amount of \$5,150, which includes the cost of the beach grass and delivery fees.

Now, therefore, it is hereby,

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approves the beach grass expense in the amount of \$5,150.00, to be paid from the following line items A8745.483

Trustee Norris seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Absent
Trustee Norris	Voted Nay
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

AUTHORIZATION & APPROVAL TO ATTEND NYS LOCAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM EMPLOYER EDUCATION

SEMINAR: Resolution No. 2022-102: Mayor Mallott moved as follows:

WHEREAS, it is the Inc. Village of Ocean Beach's desire to give encouragement to its employees and trustees, in an effort to gain knowledge and improve proficiency in their village positions, and training programs are essential concerning pertinent updates and changes and to facilitate the Village in regard to municipal law, government maintenance and operations and local finance issues;

Now, therefore, it is hereby,

RESOLVED that Linda Morrissey, Deputy Treasurer, is authorized to attend NYSLRS's Employer Education Seminar in Bellport, NY on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, costs to include class registration and travel expenses each, to be paid from the following line items A1230.493

Trustee Blake seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Absent
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

AUTHORIZATION & APPROVAL TO ATTEND NYS COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE - INTRODUCTION TO

GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING: Resolution No. 2022-103: Mayor Mallott moved as follows:

WHEREAS, it is the Inc. Village of Ocean Beach's desire to give encouragement to its employees and trustees, in an effort to gain knowledge and improve proficiency in their village positions, and training programs are essential concerning pertinent updates and changes and to facilitate the Village in regard to municipal law, government maintenance and operations and local finance issues;

Now, therefore, it is hereby,

RESOLVED that Alexa Collins, Clerk, is authorized to attend NYS Comptroller's Office – Introduction to Governmental Accounting online from October 25, 2022 to October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, cost to include class registration, to be paid from the following line items A1230.493

Trustee Blake seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Absent
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR RECYCLING COORDINATION AND EDUCATION PROJECTS GRANT: Resolution No.

2022-104: Mayor Mallott moved as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village of Ocean Beach Environmental Committee (VOBEC) has provided grant information for Recycling Coordination and Education Projects to be utilized for the village; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees encourages public awareness and supports efforts towards green projects; and

Now, therefore, it is hereby

RESOLVED the Village of Ocean Beach Board of Trustees authorizes the Village to apply for this grant.

Be it further RESOLVED that the Mayor and Village Administrator are authorized to execute such documents consistent with this resolution.

Trustee Blake seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Absent
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

#### **HEARING OF THE CITIZENS: 11:40 AM**

**Trustee Arment:** And just a quick note. We are allowing Zoom participants to unmute in a moment here, and you will be allowed to speak during this.

Good morning, everybody. My name is **Maria Silsdorf**, President of the Ocean Beach Association. I actually want to follow up with something from our notes from the last meeting that Mayor Mallott spoke to. Which was that today, October 15th, would be Steve Brautigam's last day of connection to the village of Ocean Beach and employment and that Bunny, Jonneigh Adrion and Linda Morrisey and Lexi Collins and Jacky Rulon. We're all moving up to either clerk, treasurer or deputy clerk, Deputy Treasurer. Could you give us an update on that? **Mayor:** We're working on it. It's a personnel issues and we're not prepared to talk about it at a public meeting. **Maria:** Okay. So, we can...is there's been no movement at this time? **Mayor:** We were in negotiation. **Maria:** Okay. And is Steve in fact separated from us as of today? **Mayor:** No **Maria:** No, it's up today. **Mayor:** No **Maria:** that's yes, as of today. **Mayor:** No, no, not as of today. **Maria:** So, he's not separated? **Mayor:** Yeah. **Maria:** Okay, All right. So, we can expect, I guess, future updates from you. **Mayor:** Absolutely.

**Maria Silsdorf:** Okay, I have a question on a separate topic, if I could ask another question. Sure. Can we get an update on the situation with the wastewater project that also involves the wagon park as well as the concrete work in town? **Mayor Mallott:** We're still working on it. We hoped to start this September. Obviously, that is not taking place. The whole project has to be bid out. On Wednesday, Joe, myself, Steve and Kevin are going to see exactly what the project looks like in Long Beach. **Maria:** they have it in place? **Mayor:** They have the project in place on Long Beach. So, we're excited to go see that actually working. And we're working as hard as we can to get this shovel in the ground this time next year. **Maria:** So, September 2023? **Mayor:** Yep. There's no other time to do it. You know, they need time to. It's a huge job. And, you know, it'll be in sections, I don't want to say phases, because now we're doing more phases and phases. It's different sections of getting the work done. I can't dig up the whole town and then get it all put back together again in four or five months. So, it'll be separated at on how the contractor decides to put this together. So, it's a huge it's a gigantic problem and we'll get it done. **Dave Lipsky:** Ocean Beach. Could you clarify which project you're looking at Long Beach? Is it the stormwater project? **Mayor:** stormwater drainage **David:** not the sewage collection? **Mayor:** Not sewage collection, Stormwater first sewage collection later. Yes, Stephanie.

**Stephanie Cassell:** Can you address the state comptroller's report, the audit regarding the Ocean Beach Clerk/Treasurer compensation? **Ken Gray:** And yes, that was just issued yesterday morning. As you can see, if you downloaded it, it's available on the Comptroller's website. You can click on a link to it and download the report. As you can see in, the Village provided a response to the report in which generally we disagreed with most of their findings. We went through the history of ten plus years of Steve Brautigam, and it appears that he was paid everything that he was approved by the board. We attached, although they didn't attach the exhibits to the audit report, we attached copies of board resolutions for ten years which authorized all of the payouts and all of his raises. So, we disagree with their financial findings. However, we did acknowledge that there were some policies that weren't written, they were implemented and longstanding policies, they're just not written. So, we acknowledge that employee handbook needs to be updated and have consistency with how we managed our employees and their contributions. I'm sorry. **Homeowner:** What were they? **Ken Gray:** Well, it's a lengthy report. You might want to download it and take a look at it, but. They were claiming that we overpaid him on vacation days. They were complaining that we didn't have a comp time policy and that he was not entitled to comp time. And their claim was because we gave him comp time. He then didn't take many. He took days off, he wouldn't take his vacation, banks wouldn't be charged. And then at the end of the year, we have a policy that you can cash out your vacation. So, their theory was that because we gave him comp time, he had more vacation days in his bank at the end of the fiscal year and he was allowed to cash those out. But **Homeowner:** How much money? **Ken Gray:** Based on their calculation, \$44,000 over the course of ten years. By our calculations, zero. **Maria Silsdorf:** Actually more. **Ken Gray:** \$44,135. **Maria:** There's another \$11,000 for the truck. I mean, there's more. **Ken Gray:** Oh, yeah, that's right. They're claiming that. So, that's the update on that report. The village can submit a corrective, a corrective action plan to the comptroller's office. We can do that within 90 days, and we're in discussions with the board on what that will look like, if anything. **Maria:** Didn't we change the one this year about paying off vacation time? Didn't something change recently? I thought it was. **Mayor:** Just I think we talked about just the limited amount of vacation time that we would buy back. We tried to encourage the employees to take their vacation. **Maria:** So it did not. It did modify something that would have prevented some of this if it was in the future. **Mayor:** Yeah, well, you know, obviously, we have to go through it and look over and correct some past practices maybe. Can you step up to the mike.

**Robert Geiger:** Why does a salaried employee get comp time? My whole life I've had salaried and I've never gotten comp time. I work weekends when I've worked at seven or 8:00 at night. **Ken Gray:** I understand. It's. **Roberta:** So, what's. So, what's the answer? **Ken Gray:** Why is it? It's been the practice and policy of the village for years, ever since I've been here. **Maria:** Is there willingness to re-evaluate the policy? **Trustee Blake:** Absolutely. **Maria:** I agree with Roberta this is very unusual. **Holly Elton:** One more question on the audit. **Holly Elton;** Ocean Breeze. Wow. We've got like 30. For those of you on Zoom and you can't see this, there's probably 30 speedboats outside right off the village inside, by the way, the Slow Boys, because, of course, nobody cares. **Trustee Arment:** Yeah, right. As the sound guy, it's killing me. **Holly:** Yeah. So just one more question. You mentioned that the trustees had approved these items. Were they approved in advance of the payments by the village or contemporaneously or after? In other words, were they retroactive approvals of things that had already happened? I believe the report refers to that. **Ken Gray:** The vacation payouts that that took place at the end of each fiscal year were done contemporaneously at the same time. When they were paid, they were approved. And then they were paid **Holly:** That's not what the report says. **Ken Gray:** Ok

**Jonathan Jossen:** Yes. That's like double dipping. Yes, right it's like double dipping and the board approved double dipping. But that's not what I'm asking. From what I understand, is our new village administrator getting a raise in the next month or two? Is that true? **Mayor;** No, **Jonathan;** it's not true. He's not getting a raise in the next four months or five months. **Mayor;** We haven't discussed it. **Trustee Blake;** it hasn't been discussed. Thank you.

**Aviva Grasso;** Hi Aviva Grasso, Cottage walk. I'm going to change the subject. I actually have a water meter question. So, I was at last month's meeting and there was talk about water meters in the last few houses that don't have water meters and that we won't be able to build people for their water usage until every single house in the village has a water meter. I just want to say that that's a little bit irregular. I think it's quite possible to look at the water usage among the houses that exist and say, okay, if you haven't bothered to put in a meter yet, we're going to give you a bill equivalent to the highest water usage of any other house in the village or come up with some other policy as a way of encouraging people to actually install those meters and get that system going. But we shouldn't need to have absolutely everything metered after all these years of trying to get people to get metered before we can start actually using that system. So I just want to put that out there.

**Andrew Was:** I was looking at the boats like you. Sorry. The Ocean Beach Rental Association wants to know where the board is on reducing the rental permit fees. Why? They want to know why the commercial district is able to reduce fees and it's not able for the residents to reduce fees. Matt, are you for that or against that? **Mayor:** We haven't actually discussed it. **Andrew:** You said you were discussing it last time I talked. **Mayor:** It was under discussion, no conclusion. **Andrew:** Matt are you for it or against it? **Trustee Blake:** So, the way just to clarify, the way those the way those fees are assigned is there needs to be a linkage. There needs to be a linkage between the administrative the administrative burden on the village and the permitting process. Those need to be linked. **Andrew:** It wasn't the link for the commercial district? On their discussion to make the determination that they have their fees, **Trustee Blake:** I don't want to speak specifically, but we have a weekly rental process here, so that requires a volume of paperwork if the homeowner is looking. Yeah, I'm just I'm getting to my response to your question. So, I'm just I'm trying to give you some insight into how I'm thinking about it. If you don't want to hear it, I'll stop talking. Okay. **Andrew;** Well, I just the inconsistency of what you're saying, the reality of it is not true. I mean, I got a rental permit the other day in 35 seconds, I would say, okay. All right. Was that worth \$125 here? **Trustee Blake:** So maybe Bunny or Ken or others can correct me if I'm wrong, but if you're looking to rent your home to one particular family for a month, you're doing paperwork once. If you're planning to do, to maximize your rental periods and to weekly rentals, then you're going to be doing that paperwork four times. And so and so the point being that is it's a volume equation for the commercial district. It's a seasonal permit. And therefore it's once by definition. **Andrew:** It would be a seasonal permit if you rent it just for one. Got one permit for the season, it would then be a seasonal permit and it would only take one time to filling out the papers. The subsequent paper filling out is just a rubber stamp. So, I mean, you're probably totally not aware of that. **Mayor;** It's different names, it's different addresses. **Andrew:** It's the permit itself can be just generated. There's nothing on the permit that gives the people's rental names and so forth. So, I think that we should be entitled, the rental should be entitled to the same treatment as the commercial district instead of being ostracized. **Mayor:** It's another matter of law enforcement. **Andrew:** It's not a matter of law enforcement. **Mayor;** It's law enforcement, where's your rental permit? **Andrew:** You said your attorney for the Chamber of Commerce cited rental permit fees, irregularity of Freeport in order to justify the rebate of fees, the reduction of fees. **Mayor;** You can only charge what it costs you to **Andrew:** Right, so if I can get a rental, if I can get a rent. **Mayor:** That's your opinion that it doesn't cost much. My opinion is, it costs \$125. **Andrew:** Well, your opinion is wrong. I was there for 5 minutes to get a rental permit. **Mayor:** What are you arguing about \$125 for? **Andrew:** I'm not arguing about \$125. If you do it ten times, it's \$1,250 dollars, which is less than what you're probably paying for your restaurant. **Mayor;** Pass it on to the consumer doc that's what everyone does. pass it on to the renter. **Andrew:** Then you go back, then you go back to the \$40,000 reflective money. **Mayor;** They pay the security, they pay the garbage. They pay everything you want. **Trustee Blake;** I think we all understand where you're coming from. **Chief Hesse;** the fee used to be \$400. **Andrew:** I know but what was up and down? It's like a roller coaster. And it was wrong at 400, right? It was wrong at \$400

**Chief Hesse;** Well somebody fought it. I believe it was Freeport it was case law and they had it reduced. **Andrew;** Right. So, we should have it's. It was \$400 an it was illegal then. **Mayor:** We'll make it \$1,000 a year and you only have to get one. How's that. **Andrew:** Just get to just get one permit for the year. That's all you need. Just like you get. Right. You get one permit every two years. Right. So, I need one permit every year. **Chief Hesse:** So you can just do \$125 for 10 rentals, you're making \$10,000 a week renting your house? So there you go. **Mayor:** Thank you, Dr. Was. **Andrew:** The other thing that I want to know about, because you said you were looking into it. Was the fact that the ferry ticket bump up price. Has anybody ever considered that or you really don't care about that outrageous fee, Extra fee. Someone has to explain to me why somebody. If you're paying an employee in a village to work, why have to pay them

more? **Mayor Mallott**; It's soft costs doc. That's what it costs. **Andrew**: It's not soft cost. It's a rip off. **Mayor**: You want to give away all the fees, But you want the services? **Andrew**: No, all you do is raise the taxes. I know you don't really care. You don't care about the residents. Thank you.

**Holly Etlon**: Just for the record, there's a wide group of us who actually believe the homeowner fees should go up because there should be greater enforcement paid for through a code enforcement officer. And so just expressing that opinion. I'm Holly Etlon from 710 Ocean Breeze and expressing that opinion on behalf of a large group of homeowners. Thank you. So, second, the well head, is that moving this year or not? **Mayor**: They're starting to have telephone conversations about it, I think. Yeah, it's the Army Corps of Engineers. I don't know. They don't take any notice of any comments that we make. I don't know how they do it.

**Byron Chenault**: An easy one this month, promise? My wife sent in a communication about a month ago. She's been working on trying to put some sort of just like last year with the kids. **Mayor**: I just returned her email. **Byron**: Okay. **Mayor**: whatever you did, whatever we did last year for the kids, we can do again. **Byron**: They were trying to add like a gym, but they were trying to secure some equipment. I just I'm just relaying the information. **Mayor**: It's the insurances. Our insurance company said, forget it, stay out of that. **Byron**: All the stuff we did Christmas last year, everything's all good. Yeah **Trustee Blake**: Just so you know, so we connected with Joe on this. I think there was actually a response just a couple of days after the initial request. **Byron**: She hadn't seen one. she's working today, but she hadn't seen on; **Trustee Blake**: I think he's looking for it right now. because. **Byron**: Yes, yes. She just wants to have access like last year for all the stuff, you know, **Mayor**: It's good for the kids there. **Trustee Blake**: I think it was a response. **Byron**: She hadn't seen anything. **Mayor**: So that's all. It's nice and warm. **Byron**: You know, we want the kids to be able to get together to have a house big enough with all the right when it's too cold to go in the playground. All right. Thank you. Thank you.

**Maria Silsdorf**: It's great. So based on that whole conversation, some of the non-children have been interested in having potlucks and so on and windswept. Can we fold this into that or do you want to handle that separately? **Mayor**: Let's say you want to hold that separate. **Maria**: Fair enough. **Mayor**: We'll talk about it. Okay. **Maria**: Thank you.

**Trustee Arment**: We have a couple of hands up in Zoom. Judy Steinman, go ahead. **Judy Steinman**: Yes. Can you hear me? Yes Good. I want to come back to the apparent overpayments to Steve Brautigam. And I'd like to know how this came to the attention of the comptroller's office. I'm sure one of you didn't send it in. **Ken Gray**: Um. What happened was it was a scheduled audit that's been going on for over two years now. **Judy**: With the comptroller's office? The village has an annual audit from its own auditor that it pays. This is the comptroller's office. How did the comptroller's office get on to this scam? **Ken Gray**: Well, I wouldn't characterize anything as a scam, but they came to the village. The comptroller's office came to the village to do a general audit without any specific purpose while they were going through the everybody's personnel records and documents, everything from the employee handbook, they had asked if Steve had any employment contract and they pulled out his employment contract and it was his initial contract that he got ten years ago. Well, 2012. 12 years ago. 10 years ago. And over the course of time, Steve got annual raises. He got increased vacation. And what we did, we did not we the Village, did not update his terms and conditions of employment. Each time there was a change. We just did it by board resolution. So, we had a bunch of board resolutions authorizing his salary increases and his increased vacation. And the comptroller's office wasn't happy with that answer, and they directed us to update his contract. So, we updated this contract and at that point their audit narrowed and they said we're going to audit Steve Brautigam's salary for this ten year period. So, it was a generalized audit. They didn't like the idea that we didn't have an updated terms and conditions of employment. So, they pivoted and they focused their attention on Steve. And that's where it came out. **Mayor**: That's that report. So. **Judy**: But as I read the report, it was not the amount of money he was paid. It was the amount of I'll use the word overage that was accumulated and was paid to his benefit. That was probably not really a part of his original employment agreements. What will the village do now other than your weak response to the comptroller's office? To remedy the situation and make the residents of the village whole? **Ken Gray**: The village board is in discussions about that. We are going to be updating policies, the employee handbook and things of those nature. **Judy**: That's going forward. I'm talking about the issue that's on the table now with specific recommendations from the Office of the Comptroller. **Ken Gray**: This audit was only finalized yesterday, so the board really hasn't had a conversation with specifics about making changes. **Judy**: Okay. I hope this will be an item on the agenda of the next board meeting so you can inform the residents about the positive steps you've taken in our behalf. Thank you. Thank you.

**Andrea Nimberger**: Okay. I want to thank Judy for what you just said. I literally shake every time Steve's name comes up. It's ridiculous that we've been blown off, the village residents, taxpayers, our money paying, Steve. It is beyond. There just should be no more excuses. He needs to go. And if the new Village Administrator that you put in place is not competent without having Steve consulting, then you put the wrong person in place. Okay I know I'm not going to get an answer. We get blown off every meeting. It's time, he needs to go. Thank you.

**David Simpson**: Can you provide more detail on dune grass replenishment? Since the land south of my house on beach at Ocean Breeze was taken over by government following sandy and dune replenishment, there has been almost no dune grass present which is necessary to protect dunes. Will the village replace this or should I have my own landscaper do it at my cost? **Trustee Norris**: Do you want to speak to that? Any VOBEC representative?



**David Lipsky:** I did a survey, just a windshield survey, walking the beach to identify the worst patches of beach grass. We're planning to start from the west, where there's almost no beach grass for at least 100 -200 hundred feet between Surf Road and Cottage. Further east, there is more like patches of beach grass. We're going to try to do as much as we can in many areas as we can. This is a pilot project to see how it works and to get volunteers. And we'll try to fill in some of the patches. **Trustee Norris;** You're filling in the patches. And I should know, but is there a maintenance program that the village should be undertaking watering during dry seasons? Is there anything that we could do during the year to foster more growth? **David;** What I'm seeing there is two opinions about that. Sometimes they recommend fertilizing and watering in the spring, other places. If you get the beach grass in on time when it's dormant. It should take. You've got to work at not having it grow. It's maybe a little worse if you're on the top of the dune where the depth of groundwater is a little. Greater and the soil moisture is a little less. So that's what we're trying. We'll be taking before and after pictures. But I brought this issue up like five or six years ago that the that the beach grass plants that the Army Corps of Engineers put in just never thrived in all parts of the beach. And no one they should have paid for redoing it. The contract work was not should never have been accepted. **Trustee Norris;** Well, so would you do us a favor if more information as it relates to maintenance comes to your attention, could you communicate that to the village? Yes. So, we could work with Kevin on trying to whatever maintenance there is during the year, **David;** maintenance would be watering basically. They have rhizomes, so they they'll suck up nutrients on their own. If you want to see what a good beach grass planting, go to Point O Woods. It's all in a neat row. It's all thriving. That's how it's done.

**Camille Guigliano:** Can I just add Camille Guigliano I just want to add that we have I have been the co-chair. I've been a member of VOBEC since 2002, and we have not had a beach dune grass planting in that time. And apparently it was an annual event that ended sometime in the nineties. We have lost all of that knowledge and all of that history because everybody who participated is no longer here. So, we're viewing this as a as a test. We hope to be able to do this on an annual basis. And so, the idea here is that we're going to do our best. We are still working out the logistics. We're going to be working out the logistics tomorrow at our VOBEC meeting, and then that will be disseminated through the website, our newsletter, etc. So, we'll have a very firm plan on how to move forward. But this year is going to be lessons learned so that going forward we will have it nailed and we'll be able to get probably in the next two or three years, we will be able to get our dune grass spit spot and then just do replacement from then on. So, thank you all. Please bring trowels, please bring shovels, please bring trowels and we have and shovels. We actually have a video, a 4 minute video on how to do dune grass planting. And it's actually pretty straight forward. And we're going to be disseminating that to the to the public as well. And so, we hope everybody will come out November 5th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. You can come out for just a couple of hours if that's all you can spare. But we hope to see everybody out there and to make this a real success. Thank you.

**Constantine Karalis:** Good afternoon. Just to stay on the subject of a dune. If you recall, not long ago, we had trees that were topped off and cut, presumably to provide a better view to people residing nearby. And I had suggested that we go back and do some planting of trees, dunes. That, of course, is very important. But also we need to actually come back and replace some of the trees that were damaged up there. And I wonder if the village can actually take some action on that? As I go back up there, it seems as if now it's even less foliage up there than they used to be. So, I think we really need to address that. Thank you.

**Lisa Lowe:** And one more thing in terms, this is Lisa Lowe. In terms of maintenance of the dunes, we also need to maintain our fencing. I know last year we put up a lot of fencing that was done by the lifeguards. But if we don't maintain the fencing, we lose the dunes. The beach grass will help, but without the fencing, they're not going to be there. Thank you.

**Camille Guigliano:** And I just have two additional items. Camille Again, the reason why we chose November 5th was because that gives us the greatest chance for the grass to survive. It has to be either done before March 31st or after November 1st. And so that's why it's such an awkward time. So, we do hope people will come out. The additional thing I wanted to say is I wanted to thank a number of people, mostly OBA, but there have been a number of people who have been very supportive in us working through this. And so thanks to them. Thank you

**Mayor:** You got anything there, Marco? **Trustee Arment:** No other hands are up and zoom. **Roberta Geiger:** Roberta again. I may have missed this, but are we getting discounted homeowner free books next year? **Mayor:** Yes, Well, according to this contract that we were in. Yes. **Roberta;** Okay. **Mayor:** Thank you.

**Jill Feighan:** Yes, I do. Thank you. I'd like to know if we can have a little a lot more clarity on why Steve's date of October 15th is not being adhered to. **Mayor;** We're in negotiations with some of the staff taking over Steve's position. We're not we're not quite there yet. We hope to be there within the next month. **Jill:** And can you report back to us next month on that without us having to ask, will it be in your mayor's report, do you think? **Mayor:** We'll report if we can get something done? Otherwise, it will remain the status quo until we finalize the contracts that we are looking at going forward.

**Jill Feighan:** Okay. Thank you. And I want to add something about the rental permits to the person who said that they're sort of there's no names in them. There are names in each rental permit that you do and their phone numbers of all the tenants you have. So, I'm not sure what that person was talking about. Mr. Was I believe it was. Oh, all right. Well, I wanted him to know that. Okay. Thank you.

**Maria Silsdorf:** So, hi, it's Maria again, I wanted to just thank the about 70 people that participated on the Ocean Beach Association fall zoom meeting that we had on October 1st. Thank you to Marco for streaming it. And George, Ian and Jimmy and Dawn all participated. **Trustee Arment:** you streamed it. You streamed. **Maria;** I was going to add it was I'm going to thank you to me. So sorry. I know. I'm like, I'm going over my notes that I had written. So, we actually had a very different meeting than the October meetings have been in the past because we had it after the summer and we will be providing notes to all of you in the next week or so. But what we did was we did a brief overview of Summer 2022 and kind of, you know, the successes and the challenges. And then we did a deep dive on three conversations, one of which was building code construction. The second was the kind of frequency excuse me and complexion of the increased fire and medical calls. And then the third, which is probably the most, I guess, interesting and urgent, was the unsupervised teenager groups. And it was it was a new format for us. And there was a really interesting and productive give and take in back and forth. And I think that format has the potential for problem solving and allowing voices that may not always be heard to be amplified and heard. So, I want to the reason I'm closing with this today is I want to figure out how to work with the board to have those open discussions and dialogues going forward. The hearing of the citizens is an opportunity once a month for kind of like bam bam conversations, But we need to have some more in-depth conversations on some of these topics. So, hopefully the board is open to that and I can work with you on that going forward. So, thank you and have a beautiful weekend.


**Stephanie Cassell:** Sorry. Just. I'm sure everybody is itching to go, but can somebody also provide an update on the building inspector and questions about his non record keeping or lack of anything that that was foiled? **Mayor:** We in constant communication with the building inspector. **Stephanie:** I understand there were no records kept or no. **Mayor:** There are records kept, but it's. **Stephanie:** Inspection records. There are or there aren't there are? **Trustee Blake;** They are there? **Mayor:** He has some computerized. Yes.

**Stephanie:** So, what were all the questions about there being no records? **Jonathan:** There was no filing. **Maria;** the question for the individual inspections during the course of the building project. When Byron foiled them they were unavailable, as I understand it. I don't know if that's I don't know if my recollection is wrong. **Mayor:** Well, I'll ask the building inspector again what he did with it. Yes.

**Camille:** And just one last thing. I promise. I want to give a big shout out to Joe DiFrancisco. He has been very helpful. There's been a lot of comments today, and I just feel it's important. He's been very responsive and very pivotal in the dune grass as well as some other things. The grant position that we're we move forward to the village. So, I just want to give a big shout out to him. Thank you.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Mallott moved to close the meeting at 12:16 PM. Trustee Blake seconded this motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Absent
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

  
Jonneigh M. Adrion, Deputy Village Clerk

  
Steve Brautigam, Clerk/Treasurer