



**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 April 18, 2020 at the Village Office, 315 Cottage Walk, Ocean Beach, New York. Meeting is being conducted in accordance with Executive Order 202.1 via video/teleconference.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor Mallott moved to go into Executive Session at 10:00AM for the purpose of discussing personnel, contracts and pending litigation.

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

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Power	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

No motions or resolutions were acted upon in Executive Session. Executive Session was closed at 11:15 AM by Mayor Mallott. The motion was seconded by Trustee Norris, upon call the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Power	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

GENERAL SESSION: At 11:30 AM, Mayor Mallott moved to open General Session. Trustee Hargraves seconded this motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Power	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

Following the pledge to the Flag and Roll Call at 11:30 AM:

There were present:	Mayor:	James S. Mallott
	Trustees:	Matthew M. Blake, via video/teleconference
		Dawn L. Hargraves, via video/teleconference
		Christopher F. Norris, via video/teleconference
		Brian J. Power, via video/teleconference
	Village Counsel:	Kenneth A. Gray, via video/teleconference
	Village Clerk/Treasurer:	Steven W. Brautigam

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING HELD ON APRIL 4, 2020: Resolution No. 2020-037:

Mayor Mallott moved as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on April 4, 2020 are accepted as presented

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

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Power	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIM VOUCHERS: Resolution No. 2020-038: 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 \$89,210.05, for Gross Payroll from 03/25/20 through 04/07/20

General Fund, in the amount of \$118,289.32, check numbers A2858 through A24897, and  
Water Fund, in the amount of \$10,523.71, check numbers F3283 through F3292, and  
Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$ 26,350.89, check numbers G6272 through G6283, and  
Sewer Collections Reno Project, in the amount of \$3,619.23, check number, 1041, and  
Concrete Capital Fund, in the amount of \$300.00, check number 1042

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

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Power	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** We can skip the report today and move right into the Public Hearing.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** There are no updates since the April 4, 2020 Board Meeting.

**OCEAN BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Chief Levine advised there are no updates since the last report.

**OCEAN BEACH POLICE REPORT:** Chief Hesse advised there was a slight increase in occupied homes, up to 150 homes now. We are enforcing the governors Executive Order with respect to facial coverings. Folks have been issued warnings and repeat offenders will be issued a summons.

**PUBLIC HEARING #1**

**OPEN TIME: 11:30AM**

**CLOSING TIME: 1:00PM**

**Notes:** Ken Gray advised the mayor will speak on the budget and it's been available on the website since April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Mayor do you have any comments concerning your budget. Mayor: I just want everybody to know we've been working on this budget since November. When we decided to have a zero budget we had to make a number of adjustments and I think a zero budget is a good result for us during this time of crisis and we're looking at keeping a zero budget into next year and the year after too. This is not a short term crisis we are going into. It's like a Super Storm Sandy but we are still in the eye for the foreseeable future but things change all the time. We are happy to take questions on the budget and I put it out to the public now. Ken Gray we received a number of emails and may I suggest we read them to prevent duplicate questions.

**Budget Hearing Comments:**

**Homeowner emailed:** (reference spreadsheet not included) 10% Increase in total Police? Why? Is OBPD adding F/T officers or wage increases? These are contractual increases and they are unionized. Contingent account +\$50,000 above the NFIP provision increase. Budget mods use this money where needed, it's a FEMA requirement. \$0 were used YTD 2019 FEMA requirements. – Maintenance & repairs increase +\$200,000, What are the projects being planned? In house projects and maintenance. Mayor, last year we took money out to do the dock area on Surf View Walk, this money for any needed improvements not planning on any new projects, it's a reserve amount to spend as we see fit. Clerical increases + \$46,000, are we adding personnel or raising wages? Response: Both That's correct we added two full-time people and there are rate increases for staff.

Maria, maybe it would be better if you used the spreadsheet I attached. Ken Gray; I don't have that. Steve Brautigam; It's on the left hand side of the sheet. Maria, I have it I can read it on behalf of the OBA.

Properties, greater than the avg rate of increase 3 – 5%. FEMA requirements on capital projects. Mayor: FEMA demands more insurance on the new buildings. Beaches are we increasing +\$23,000 of lifeguards for higher wages? Yes, contractual wages. Yard maintenance is up +\$22,000 for the Well field at the ocean - Mayor; yes we still maintain a well we need a new generator and panel, there's a storage shed there and we've refurbished the maintenance shed. Combined Treasurer payroll salary increase +15,000 ? Mayor, yes that's for the Clerk/Treasurer he's worked very hard for it and is worth every penny and he deserves it. - Next is the salary increase for the mayor which is up +\$12,000 ? Mayor, I think that's fair across the board – Next is increase is an increase personnel +\$10,000? New staff and further education. Judgments and claims were up? Reason behind increase? Steve, it's tens of thousands of dollars from PSEG will not pay taxes, we hired a lawyer to go after the money but we likely won't get it. We are not alone in trying to collect this money. Why increase in hearings? Dawn setting up a laptop on GoToMeeting? Avg cost of a public hearing is \$500. How many Employees? Cost per employee? This just looks excessive. ADP fingerprint tracking for employees . Why is in plan? Are we allowed to beach scrape? Yes Are we anticipating fewer businesses? Unknown at this time Are we anticipating fewer house rentals? Unknown at this time Are we anticipating less boaters? Why? Unknown at this time – Maria Silsdorf 4/15/2020

**Homeowner emailed:** Due to the CV pandemic the majority of private and public corporation are making provision to reduce their workforce, renegotiate contracts, and preparing for lost revenues by decreasing appropriations. It appears this summer will not match subsequent years in activity and will require less services. Many homeowners will experience loss of income making property tax payments difficult. Reducing appropriation by \$1,000,000 will give relief to the community. Please reply with a plan to reduce property taxes. Dr. Andrew R. Was 4/10/2020. Mayor, noted thank you.

**Homeowner emailed:** It is possible, and probably most likely, that the upcoming Summer rental season will be negatively impacted by current ongoing circumstances... the possibility of making Village real estate taxes in two ( 2 ) installments was brought up in previous meetings... given that rental income may be substantially reduced this season, will that option be given serious consideration for this year? thank you - George Eastman 4/16/2020 Mayor, we have considered that but we don't think it's prudent for the village.

**Homeowner emailed:** First. I applaud the Board's s successful effort in developing a budget indicating no significant increases in the tax rate. Thank you. I know that was very difficult to do, particularly in the midst of the COVID crisis. Below are my comments on the Final proposed budget.

1. Easiest first. Under general Fund appropriations (A7550.499) there is an allocation of \$15,000 for "holiday observances". In prior year's, the appropriation has been on the order of \$1,500. Is the \$15K a typo? If not, what is the rationale and purpose of allocating approximately 10x more for holiday observances than in 2019? I propose restoring this item to a \$1500 allocation. This is for the 100th year celebration
2. I have been on record at board meetings over the last decade or so, recognizing that running and managing a village such as O.B., with a water and sewer system and with all of the infrastructure problems, that this requires skilled and not volunteer labor, and that salaries should be commensurate with the complexity of the task at hand. I have no problem and indeed support a salary for the mayor of \$63,000 (as allocated as item A1210.100). In unusual circumstances, the compensation need to be higher such as last year where the 2019 budget allocated \$51K to the Mayor, though the actual compensation was \$127,000 (as I recall due to FEMA compensation for project management and administration of FEMA grants). But if the Mayor is going to earn upwards of \$63,000 or more, I am concerned that the salary of the Village Clerk/Treasurer may be excessive. The position clerk/treasurer is listed in 3 places in the budget. First, under administration (A1230.100 as Village clerk/treasurer) for a proposed budget of \$172,000; as well as under both the water and sewer fund (as clerk/treasurer) (F1210.100) and (G1230.101) for an additional \$16K each for a total of \$32,000.
  - a. Is there more than one person with the title of Village Clerk Treasurer or Clerk Treasurer? Steven Brautigam clerk/treasurer/administrator/CFO then there is a Deputy clerk and a deputy treasurer
  - b. What is the total budget allocated for Village Clerk Treasurer and for Clerk Treasurer. Is it \$172,000 and \$32,000 respectively for more than one person or is it \$204,000 for one person--the Village Clerk Treasurer title? Steve Brautigam, I think we covered it before it's \$205,000 with the raise.
  - c. While I think that \$172,000 dollars for the Village Clerk/Treasurer is high, I can support that given the capability and experience of Mr. Brautigam. However, if the total budget and salary for the Village Clerk Treasurer is in excess of \$200,000, I think that would be excessive. In that case I would recommend that the budget be adjusted accordingly by reducing the allocation for Village Clerk Treasurer in the general fund by \$32,000. Please clarify the annual salary being paid for the Village Clerk Treasurer and for any other Clerk Treasurer titles. This was just answered
3. The anticipated revenues for daily marina rentals is down to \$90,000 from past allocations of \$125,000. Is that reduced estimate due to expected reduced usage due to COVID, or some other reason? I would propose raising the rental fees to try to increase this revenue stream for this item that provides little benefit to village tax payers. If the reduced revenues estimate is due to COVID, what other revenue shortfalls due to Covid have been incorporated into the budget? For example, what is the likelihood that the beaches will be open and lifeguard service will be needed by Memorial Day. To reduce the tax burden this year, should we even now propose and budget for a shortened lifeguard season-say starting late July 1 rather than memorial day? It is unknown at this time
4. The annual sales tax revenue is listed as \$9,568. That seems low compared to the amount of sales tax generated in the Commercial district. Could someone please explain what this revenue source represents. The sales tax is promulgated by the State and County. However, considering how much village residents spend to provide police and other resources not only for Ocean Beach but for the surrounding communities, particularly for safety and security around bars and restaurants, it seems like this level of aid is low. Can anything be done in terms of lobbying to increase the level of sales tax revenue returned to VOB from sales generated within VOB? Steven, this money is determined by the county on a yearly basis, we really don't have a say in it - Comments from David Lipsky, 226 Wilmot Road - 4/17/2020

**Homeowner emailed:** Is it possible to schedule the tax payments as a two or three time payment this year, I.e. June and Oct or June, September and December instead of one lump sum. Joan Alvarez- Rashid 4/17/2020. The village did consider it but for logistical purposes is not doing it.

**Homeowner emailed:** I hope this note finds you and your families all well and safe during these extremely concerning times. I have been an Ocean Beach homeowner for over 40 years living at 358 Dehnhoff Walk. I care deeply about the OB community and our precious and fragile beach. I understand that the Board of Trustees is meeting tomorrow, April 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss budget issues. Response: It is for that reason that I'm writing to express my strong desire that the Board ratify meaningful annual real estate property tax relief.

The village office advised me that the Board is considering dividing the annual real estate property tax payment into two semi-annual payments. As a home owner and senior citizen, I strongly endorse this form of relief. I'm sure the OB homeowner community would be very pleased and relieved by this payment extension, just as U.S. citizens greatly appreciated the three month April 15<sup>th</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup> extension to pay federal and state income taxes. Response: The village is no longer considering splitting the tax. The semi-annual tax payments will also be very helpful to federal and state income taxpayers who have elected to pay their taxes on July 15<sup>th</sup> since paying the OB property taxes and shortly thereafter, federal & state income taxes will be a financial burden to many. Given the unknown nature of the coronavirus pandemic, I anticipate that the Village will not be able to provide all of the traditional historical services that homeowners pay for and are accustomed to, including by way of example, critically important full-time Northwell Health medical staffing and perhaps, unrestricted access to the beach. On that basis, I am hopeful that the Board will find it reasonable to reduce property taxes by a significant amount that is proportional to limited service offerings. Response: The village is prepared to provide all services

With appreciation to the Board for its time, efforts and consideration. Stay safe. Denise Schure 4/17/2020

**Homeowner emailed:** Hi Mayor and Trustees, We were wondering if you could implement a two part payment system for the Ocean Beach taxes like Islip does? During this time when people are making less money, could half be paid in the summer and the other half by the end of the year? Also, we were encouraged to read that you are looking for tax relief during this difficult time. Anything you can do will be appreciated by many. Thank you and stay well. We hope to get to the beach sometime in the coming months. Best, Sue Panzer and David Lieber 4/17/2020

**Homeowner emailed:** In the interest of efficiency, I will ask one question, requesting comment on large changes in several items, mostly expenditure items. A list of these by line number follows:  
A4089 Why is so little expected? Response: This is the DAC money from FEMA, the year we are in now which is what she's comparing it to, we took in over \$100,000. This is a result of myself, the mayor and a clerk recouping salary of the time we spent on. They owe about another \$150,000 but it's difficult to get because of the situation we are in. The \$50,000 will cover mine and the mayor without putting the tax burden on the people.  
A1440.443, A1440.449 No large projects under way? These are engineering line items, it's much less than last year, we had to make cuts but combined those two line items are \$60,000. It's a bit of an unknown but I did chop it down but from the last 10 years my experience tells me we are going to be losing engineers and that's why it's reduced  
A1621.441 This is almost double from last year? It's not really doubled because we did a budget mod for \$250,000 to build the new bulkhead by the sewer plant. The mayor already addressed that so I'm not going to do that.  
A3120.000 Holiday pay? This has to do with new PBA, it's contractual  
A3620.101 Why so much for P/T employee? This is the building inspector and now he has a part-time clerk. The building inspector did get a raise. In the past we've went through a few building inspectors he's getting substantial hourly raise but it's well within the range of what they make. To get someone part-time without benefits is a huge plus and he's doing a great job.  
A7550.496 Holiday observances, why so much? This is the 100 year celebration for the village. The Board did discuss taking the \$10,000 and using it for other stuff depending on what happens with the virus.  
A7989.444 Seems too low; predicting no severe storms? The maintenance of the docks was cut way down because we already spent and received \$2 million dollars from FEMA, it is way down. The only dock left is by the tennis courts and that will be covered by a grant. However you did it, I commend the BOT on presenting a budget with no tax increase. Stay well. Keep strong, Judy Steinman 4/18/2020

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** Lawrence Bressler: If revenue is planned down can expenses be planned down to COVID-19, for example we will have less day/night trippers. Mayor, it's an unknown at the moment we are not going to spend money that we don't have to. Is there flexibility in police depending on how COVID-19 affects the community. Steve, if we don't spend it we don't spend it but we are not taking the position to lower it. Right now the police have extra police to enforce the masks, meeting people on the ferry and patrolling street. Mayor, the police on duty now, working under COVID-19 we will be billing the federal government for that portion of their work.

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** Dr. Simpson, it's not really a budget question, how is the village handling patients with symptoms for potentially active COVID infections, assessments, PPE & evacuation? Mayor, that's a question for the Fire Chief & Dept and EMS, they are following protocols set by Suffolk County.

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** Erin O'Connor, does the village have any plans to preclude short term rentals for the summer season, I'd imagine the decision would be made fluidly as the COVID situation changes. Mayor; It was discussed with the Board of Trustees, we hope to come up with some sort of answer in the coming weeks.

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** Karen Bravin, I'm just saying, it's not prudent is not enough of response for the two part tax billing? Matt Blake, I think everyone on the Board understands the benefits associated with breaking up the payment but we have a fiduciary responsibility for maintaining the balance. A strong balance means strong property values. We don't have the ability to spread out our payments for people who provide services to the village which tends to be it clustered in the summer months. It was determined through our analysis that it was not be a prudent decision at this time. I want to use one thing in analogy if you look at the average value of residential property value, let's use around \$700,000. The implication on that value, should the credit rating or fiscal strength of the village be questioned is a multiple. Which means it's much larger tax bill, so we are trying to preserve the fiscal integrity of the village itself that supports property values. Therefore we are asking to move forward in traditional fashion with one lump payment. Hopefully that's clear and does justice to the rationale. Ken Gray there are very few villages that opt to split their taxes. One village which did that reversed it the following year and went back to a one payment, their rationale was it significantly impacted their cash flow.

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** Dr. Was. I sent an email to change the water rate. Usually a water bill has a fixed base cost that does not fluctuate and up to 4 escalating block rates. For example, low rates for low usage (Block 1: 200 gal./day, to increased rates to Block 4: 5,000 plus gal/day.) It's a balance between revenue derived from the fixed base cost and revenue derived from block usage rate. What is the Village fixed rate and block rate? – Andrew Was 4/18/2020 Steve, we are just starting to hand out the meters, we were just about to get the software. I understand your question and it's a board decision, it will take us at least a year or more to analyze the water usage to come up with a rate. I don't think we are there yet but I guarantee you the Board will reach out to the public and reach out to them to get input about the rates. The budget is around \$800,000 or \$900,000, we definitely have to get that money in but how we get that will be based on the usage and the board will determine that. Another question: At time when you see 20 million being laid off and incomes being diminished, why is the village raising salaries and adding employees when it would be more prudent to reduce. Steve, we already answered the increases. As far as the new employees they were hired before the virus a year ago. This village is working or working from home and the training and dedication of our workers have to be rewarded or they leave. I'm dropping \$20K - \$30K on training my staff and for them to leave for a few dollars with a zero rate increase is fair. They mayor went over each one of them and we thinks it's fair at this time. We are definitely going to have a decrease in activity, some beaches are considering closing beaches to non-residents this summer. This would decrease lifeguards, police, garbage collection, are you planning to renegotiate the contracts and reduce workforce? Mayor, if we have to reduce the workforce we will, it's an unknown right now. We don't know what's going to happen. I'm not just going to cut the budget in half after I've been working on this for six months. These people deserve what they are getting they deserve a reward for the work. We expect more and they are being rewarded accordingly. I'm not laying off police, lifeguards or anybody right now. If I don't need them of course they won't be here and getting paid. Thank you for your comment.

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** Philip Potter I know the situation is fluid I am hearing around the northeast camps might be cancelled, any comments on what you think might happen. Mayor, I spoke to Ralph Scordino I asked him what they were thinking. He had no idea what was going to happen with OBYG. We are on the County calls every day, we will wait and see the guidance from the governor on camps I don't know if any camps will be allowed this year but OBYG will be included in that conversation.

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** Brian O'Handley since two part tax payments is not feasible. Can you please verify what the penalty rate is. Steve Brautigam, taxes are due without penalty by July 1<sup>st</sup>, it's a state law. Ken Gray after July 1<sup>st</sup> it's a 5% penalty with an additional 1% each month thereafter. That's correct it's a state law, the mayor has been lobby to have penalties removed but that would be down the road. We have no say in it.

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** Dana Capuano, is there plans to review tax model to alleviate financial stress? This question has been addressed

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** Sue, how will the beach manage social distancing if people cannot be in groups? If Cuomo closes the beaches will there be rentals this summer. Mayor, I have no answers for that question right now. Matt Blake, we will obviously work closely with Nick and Senior lifeguard staff it will be addressed in due course.

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** George Eastman, is there a penalty on a partial payment of taxes. Ken Gray, the village cannot accept a partial payment it must be in full. It's a state law there are many opinions on this. Any partial payments will be returned. Steve, yes that's the law

**Trustee Hargraves commented:** The village is in the process of instituting payment of taxes via credit card which has previously not been available. Steve, there will be a form included on your tax bill or you can pay by phone, yes that will happen this year.

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** Kevin Lowry, it's an observation people are making the assumption that we will see tremendous reduction in population but we can see the exact opposite. Nobody is making summer plans, they are going to raring to get out of their houses. I think it can go either way just something to think about.

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** Janet Einig, are the salaries for Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer commiserate with those of executives with similar titles. Steve, the mayor's salary is in the middle, mine is on the higher end because I have 33 years experience however, there are dozens in New York state who make more than me but it is in line.

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** Gina Ragusa, not everyone in OB is wearing masks, can you posts signs along Midway and town directing people to wear masks? Mayor, I'll talk to George about it.

**Homeowner sent in during meeting:** You only have to wear masks if you anticipate being in a group that doesn't allow you to social distance, for example the ferry. You don't need one if you are just walk around in town. Mayor, that is correct but we are encouraging everyone to wear masks at all times. Philip Potter adds we should ticket those not wearing masks.

**PUBLIC HEARING – FINAL BUDGET HEARING 2020-2021: Resolution No. 2020-039:** Mayor Mallott moved as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village of Ocean Beach held duly noticed public hearings on April 4, 2020 and April 18, 2020 concerning the 2020 – 2021 proposed Village Budget; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees requests and encourages the public to submit comments & questions via mail & e-mail [info@villageofoceanbeach.org](mailto:info@villageofoceanbeach.org) since April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 through April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020;

Now, therefore, it is hereby

RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees hereby adopts and approves the proposed 2020/2021 Village Budget, Schedules and Attachments, sets the proposed tax levy and Tax Rate, and authorizes the collection of taxes, all consistent with 2020/2021 Budget.

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

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Nay
Trustee Power	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

#### **Hearing of the citizens:**

**Dr. Simpson:** I've heard a lot of questions of what the future holds. I'm located in the city and a hot spot I can give you some predictions of what's likely to happen. The Mayor's mandate will open by May 15, however after it is likely to go much longer than that. There are a huge number of people who are infected and not know to be infected. The likelihood that people are able to congregate on the ferry and beaches is highly unlikely. We don't have all the answers right now but the contingency should be to consider that through June, July and even August things will be highly restrictive in New York until we have a better sense of the prevalence of infections and who's immune and that can take months to happen. I just want to provide that feedback. I know many have heard this from different sources but I don't want people to use that May 15<sup>th</sup> as an opening date and be overly optimistic that things are going back to normal at that point. If anyone has any questions I'm working right in the middle of this with the researchers and clinicians in the hospital. Matt, what we've seen outside the borders of the US they have seen the minute they let off the accelerator there have been renewed cases of community spread. It would seem likely that we'll be dealing with waves of this virus and will need to adjust accordingly. Which speaks to a fair level of agility for a municipality which does not go hand in hand. So I think we are trying to remain flexible but at the same time there are things we need to stick to. Dr. Simpson, thank you, you are exactly right. There is going to be some mandate as to what will happen in the entire state but there will also be some local autonomy may do based on their local circumstances. What's happening around the world in areas that lifted restrictions they are seeing second waves of infections. This is disasterous and because it brings you back to square one. You have to be very cautious in being overly optimistic that this thing will be under control earlier than it is. Should the village have autonomy to some degree in making it's own decisions my advice would be to tread carefully and solicit expert input on making those decisions. Mayor, thank you and your colleagues for all you hard work in keeping us safe. We can thank you enough and your points are very well taken they do not fall on deaf ears. We have to the best we can moving forward times can be tough for a lot of people and we are prepared to make the hard decisions. It will be made by the entire Board and thank you again for comments and take them into consideration. Dr. Simpson, I don't want to end on a pessimistic note we are moving in the right direction going down there will be dramatic drop in the numbers in the next few weeks. Tremendous strides in treatment options and vaccines are being made, there is a light at the end of the tunnel but it may take longer than we'd like as we approach the summer season. Mayor, this is no time to take our foot of the gas I think we just keep proceeding with as much caution as we can and thank you.

**Judy Steinman:** I'd like to congratulate the Board on exercising both courage and imagination on putting together a budget, who knows what this year will bring. You've imagine a certain scenario and I hope you are right. My second question is for Trustee Norris, I noticed you voted no on the budget, can you explain why? Trustee Norris, indicated that he felt more they could've gone further in saving.



**Jay G:** There seems to be concerns about property taxes, potential decline in income. Does it make sense to require homeowners to install water meters during this time or can this be a form of relief? Can we delay the installation of water meters at this time. Steve, we have been putting them in but we have a rule from the Dept. of Health that we would get these installed and come up with rates. We are not punishing and there are 300 – 400 out there so we are not far from being done but I don't think at this point we will stop installing.

**S. Fergis:** Question have any discussions occurred with hotel owners about weekend rentals or about occupancies for the season. If city residents plan on OB as a primary destination, I'd imagine they will receive a significant amount of attention outside of standard rental properties. Mayor, we are in constant conversation with all the merchants here they are in a holding pattern themselves right now. I don't think there's anyone trying to book rooms right now.

**Josh Bloom:** 100% accurate (probably referring to wearing masks in public)

**Philip Potter:** Are restaurants and bars likely to remain closed? Correct? Ken Gray, the answer is we don't know. OB is crowded enough during high season with just homeowners and renters may be prudent to restrict day trippers at the least. Mayor, thank you.

**Billy Bloom:** What if due to the virus we don't use all the projected budget will the surplus be applied to the next year? Mayor, absolutely.

**Susan Wachtel:** Is there information about any refunds or credits for people who paid for season parking and may not be able to use it? Mayor, that's between them and the ferry company, the village has nothing to do with it.

**Earl:** Salary raises should not be given under the current economic conditions.

**Philip Potter:** Assuming we don't have further construction delays what infrastructure projects are planned for the next fiscal year. Mayor, we will have to wait and see.

**Trustee Norris:** my apologies for the technical issues, feel free to contact directly with full appreciation for all the efforts. These times are uncharted and sacrifices must be made by all. Again, I just feel we could've gone deeper with reduction in appropriations.

**Catherine Luby:** I'm very grateful for the mobi mat installed on Bungalow Walk, for the first time in years many disabled individuals have access to our beautiful beach, however it is quite a trek for those from Cottage on west to get there, plus access to restrooms is a task of going down Bungalow and back up Cottage or just go home. Would the village consider a mobi mat at Cottage for closer access to beach and restrooms? Thank you. Mayor, we will look at it this summer.

**Brian O'Handley:** Has there been any discussion regarding commercial establishment permit fees? Mayor, we are hoping to get as many permit fees as possible.

**Dr. Was:** In our budget are we considering having the same revenue come from ferry tickets that we did last year? Not the tickets the \$1.45 we get per person. Steve, I did not include extra money just base rent fees.

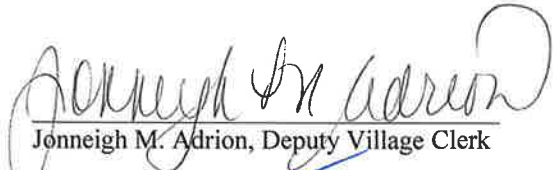
**Ocean Beach Assoc. emailed:** Mr. Mayor and Trustees, we all eagerly and cautiously await summer life in Ocean Beach and think about how it will be affected by COVID-19. We are aware that the Governor and County Executive will continue to adjust directives which would be executed by the Village. The Village may add others as warranted by our special circumstances as a barrier beach accessed by passenger ferry and a seasonal magnet for so many people. Ocean Beach Association members would very much like to hear the Board's thinking about how social distancing, likely to remain in place in some way, would be implemented in our small village during the summer months. Since the state and county parameters are not yet known, firm plans cannot be developed. At the same time, if you were to share the directions of your thinking about this at Saturday's VOB BOT meeting, it would begin to settle people's concerns. Thank you, the Board of the OBA 4/15/2020

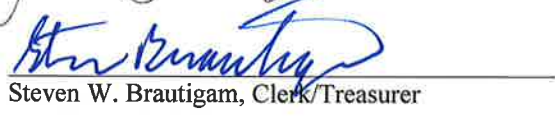
**Homeowner emailed:** Mayor Mallott and Trustees, The Jersey Shore community of Long Beach Island is requiring this pass issued to residents, taxpayers and business personnel only for access to their beach. I propose we consider a similar pass for our beach for this upcoming spring/summer season. Thank you, Maria Silsdorf 4/17/2020



ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Mallott moved to close the meeting at 1:00PM. Trustee Blake seconded this motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Power	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonneigh M. Adrion, Deputy Village Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven W. Brautigam, Clerk/Treasurer