



# Village of Southampton

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## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING - MINUTES**

June 20, 2023 - 6:00 PM

### **Call to Order:**

Start Meeting Time: 6:02 PM

### **Present:**

Mayor Jesse Warren, Trustee Gina Arresta, Trustee Robin Brown, Trustee William Manger, Trustee Roy Stevenson, Village Administrator Charlene Kagel-Betts, Village Attorney Andrew Preston, Village Clerk Cathy Sweeney, & A/V Coordinator Sage Certain

### **Pledge of Allegiance:**

Led by Mayor Warren

### **Public Comment:**

1. The Village of Southampton's Board of Trustees Meeting will be taking place as a Hybrid In-Person/ZOOM Meeting.  
The meeting will be held at Southampton Village Hall located at 23 Main Street, Southampton, NY, live-streamed and a transcript will be provided at a later date.  
Join the meeting via ZOOM:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89730446459>  
View the meeting via YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwDidTdhkHXbspR0hkoxH4g>  
There is no Public Comment during work sessions.

### **Board Presentations:**

1. Monthly Treasurer Report ~ Presented by Charlene Kagel-Betts, CPA ~ Village Administrator/Treasurer

### **Public Hearing:**

1. Local Law 11-2023, the proposal to amend §116-37(A)(6)(c)(2).  
Motion to Open the Public Hearing was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by William Manger.  
Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger  
No: None  
Abstain: None

Motion to Close the Public Hearing was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by William Manger.  
Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger

No: None  
Abstain: None

**Communications to the Board:**

1. Correspondence from Oz Pearlman

**Suggested Resolutions:**

1. RESOLVED, the claims for the warrant dated June 20, 2023 totaling \$90,309.64 (Warrant #A-1 - General Fund), \$359,053.25 (Warrant #H-1 - Capital Fund), \$30,760.18 (Warrant #T-2 - Trust Fund) and \$86,730.61 (Warrant #A-2 - Payables) are audited and approved.

Motion to Approve (Aye) was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by Gina Arresta.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger

No: None

Abstain: None

2. RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees (Board) of the Incorporated Village of Southampton (Village) approves Local Law 11-2023, the proposal to amend §116-37(A)(6)(c)(2).

Motion to Approve (Aye) was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by Gina Arresta.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger

No: None

Abstain: None

3. RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approves the Grant Application prepared by Steve Phillips, Jr. , Supt. of DPW , to the NYS DEC to fund a Tree Inventory of all Village Trees in accordance with the Tree Commission recommendation and the Tree City USA designation for 2 years in the amount of \$75,000 with no match.

Motion to Approve (Aye) was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by Gina Arresta.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger

No: None

Abstain: None

4. RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approve the increase in the hourly rate as a result of additional duties assigned for the following Village Hall Staff:

Megan Sweeney - Treasurer's Office - \$24.00, effective June 16, 2023

Noreen McCulley - Village Clerk's Office - \$30.00, effective June 16, 2023

Motion to Approve (Aye) was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by Gina Arresta.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger

No: None

Abstain: None

5. WHEREAS, The Village of Southampton sponsors the Annual SouthamptonFest Event in coordination with the Southampton Cultural Center and, in the past, would subsidize and reimburse the Southampton Cultural Center if the event generated a loss. The SCC has submitted an accounting of the event of 2022 showing a loss of \$9,422.50 along with their Audited Financial Statements. Now therefore be it, RESOLVED, the Village Board approves the Treasurer to reimburse the Southampton Cultural Center in the amount of \$9,422.50, the loss generated by the SouthamptonFest 2022 event from Trustee Special Projects A1010.443.

Motion to Approve (Aye) was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by Gina Arresta.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger

No: None

Abstain: None

6. RESOLVED, The Board of Trustees, subject to Village Attorney approval, approves the Mayor or Village Administrator to execute a contract with Clover Cashless Payment System - purchase of equipment

terminals, set-up and hardware for use in the Village Clerk's Office and Coopers Beach for revenue and permit processing. Initial cost with equipment is \$6,243.86 - monthly software cost of \$27.95 thereafter.

Motion to Approve (Aye) was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by Robin Brown.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger

No: None

Abstain: None

7. RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees accepts the Resignation of Southampton Village Fire Department Agawam Engine Co.1 member, Brian McLoughlin with 8.53 years of service, effective June 16, 2023.

Motion to Approve (Aye) was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by Roy Stevenson.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger

No: None

Abstain: None

8. RESOLVED, The Board of Trustees approves the application for a Surf School License for OC Surf School, locations TBD, submitted by Luke O'Connor.

Motion to Approve (Aye) was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by Gina Arresta.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger

No: None

Abstain: None

9. RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approves the request from Dr. James Groff, Islamic Center of the Hamptons to host its Annual EID Holiday at Agawam Park on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 during the hours of 8:00am - 10:00am.

Motion to Approve (Aye) was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by Gina Arresta.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger

No: None

Abstain: None

10. RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approves the Beach Event Application for Alexandre Leviant, 70 Murray Lane on Saturday, July 1, 2023 @ 6:00pm - 11:00pm for 100 guests. Parking will be pre-coordinated and exception to parking letters will be conspicuously displayed on vehicles during the event.

Motion to Approve (Aye) was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by Gina Arresta.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger

No: None

Abstain: None

11. RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approves the temporary closure of Meadow Lane on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 from 10:00pm - 4:00am for the placement of a crane to hoist a rock onto the property of 170 Meadow Lane. This has been pre-coordinated between Steve Phillips, Supt. of DPW and Acting Chief Hurteau, SVPD.

Motion to Approve (Aye) was initiated by William Manger and seconded by Gina Arresta.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger

No: None

Abstain: None

### **Mayoral Appointments:**

1. RESOLVED, The Mayor appoints and the Board of Trustees approve Lucy Guili to the position of Part Time Justice Court Clerk for the summer season 2023 at a rate of \$22.00 per hour effective June 16,2023

Motion to Approve (Aye) was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by Gina Arresta.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger

No: None

Abstain: None

## **Comments from Board Members:**

**Trustee Arresta** ~ *First of all, thank you for your years of service on this board and I know you and I have had our ups and downs, but for the most part it's a good experience for me and on behalf of the Board of Trustees I'd like to present you with this Proclamation. Trustee Arresta presented Mayor Warren with a proclamation.*

**Trustee Brown** ~ *Comment could not be made due to poor connection*

**Trustee Manger** ~ *I just wanted to thank all the voters for their participation last week. It was a very big turnout and I want to thank the voters for passing the LOSAP increasing the benefits for the Volunteer Firemen in the Village to 40 years. The Volunteer Firemen deserve that, for their dedication to protecting all of us here in the village and in the Fire District at large. I also want to announce that we have the Fourth of July parade coming up and want me to point out that the First Presbyterian Church has an annual hot dog sale available with cold drinks, baked goods, chips and much more. We hope that everyone will be a participant in the Fourth of July parade. I think it's the largest on Long Island and that will be on the 4th of July and I look forward to seeing everyone there. Kick off is at 10 AM. Thank you very much.*

**Trustee Stevenson** ~ *I seconded Trustee Manger's comments regarding the election: It's a wonderful exercise in democracy to see everybody come out and vote. Our turnout, I think, was close to 50 percent, which is pretty amazing. On a national level, it's considerably lower, so everybody was engaged in making their voices heard and in this village every vote counts. It was very inspiring to be a part of that. I'd also like to thank Village Clerk, Cathy Sweeney and her great team for doing a tremendous job of just organizing and handling all the paperwork and everything that went into making the election process run very, very smoothly, Mr. Mayor, I'd also like to second what Trustee Arresta said, congratulations and thanks for doing an excellent job. You really could not have worked any harder at it and I thank you for that. That's all I have to say. Thank you.*

**Mayor Warren** ~ *I will conclude with a few remarks. Many people may not realize this, but prior to running for office and participating in Village government, I never studied government. I actually didn't even have an interest in politics. Recently, I was compelled to get involved because I cared about the community and I felt that I had something to give. In 2019, I got a petition and I got enough signatures to get on the ballot and we ran a good campaign and, by The Graces of God, I somehow managed to get 45 more votes than the person I ran against who was a fine Mayor and who also cared deeply about the village. For that I was blessed with the opportunity to serve the community. When I took office in 2019, there was a big job ahead of us. We had more vacant storefronts than ever before. In 2018, we learned that Lake Agawam was the second most polluted lake in the entire state. We had rising property taxes each and every year for 20 years and we had a series of over-developments that took place, among other things, and we moved forward together to try to tackle some of those solutions. I'm obviously proud to say that in 2023, I think whether you agree with me or not on certain policies that we can, say together, thanks to the work that we've all done, that the village is in better shape today than it was four years ago. Our downtown is more vibrant, there's more activity, more businesses, more people contributing. We've made slow but steady progress and more to come in the future on water quality. We have curbed some of the over development but there is still more work to do. The reason why we can be so proud of what we have accomplished is, thanks to all of the hard-working men and women and the many Village employees across all the Departments. We have outstanding clerical and administrative employees. We've got people who are front and center and people like Danielle Burns who work behind the scenes as our Tax Receiver. We have got people like Mimi Michel-Guerra and Karen Bontempo who make sure that our Village Beach passes are done in the most professional and streamlined manner, and I know that every year our beach permit process gets better and better. We have Jaeda who joined us as a graduate and has now become a seasoned professional. We've got a Building Department that's responsible for a large portion of our revenues outside of taxes. Our Senior Building Inspector, Tien has a large weight on his shoulders. He is able to come in each and every day and help this village succeed, with an outstanding staff such as Rovitt and Tajea, who've just done an outstanding job. Derek, who we hope returns, other building inspectors and people like Jackie Allen and Diane who love this village so much, actually come back to help. I'm particularly proud of our*

*Public Works Department, who has just performed as good or better than ever before. When we look at the leaf pickups, the plowing, the beaches that are world class, they have done an outstanding job and so, while we like to take credit for that, it's really because of them. When I see our custodial workers come in each and every day. I also couldn't be more proud of them. It's a pleasure and highlight each and every day to see Johnny come into this building or people like Marieanne Wright or Brenda Pickney. Our outstanding Parks Department, which did the best spring cleanup ever. We have a lot to be proud of, but we can keep on moving forward. I also wanted to thank all of our First Responders, Police, Fire and EMS and dispatchers for keeping our village safe each and every day. From top to bottom, from our Chief down to our Patrol Officers, from our paid professionals to our volunteers. We have the very best team in the whole East End of Long Island and even the state. I also wanted to thank our land-use board members and our attorneys on staff. These land-use Board members get paid next to nothing and they volunteer their time at each and every Board meeting. Sometimes they stay past midnight and this is part of the reason we have not seen a luxury condo complex or luxury townhome complex get built or approved over the last four years, which is in part because of them and our new Senior Planner, Alex Wallach. Never did I ever think that I would have the opportunity to serve as Mayor of my own community where I live and where I love. I was blessed with that opportunity and, as everyone knows, I gave everything I had to the job so much, so that I am just happy to say that there's not any more I could have given. Everyone knows each and every day with a high level of constituent service that we have developed now that will stay forever. We run this village much more efficiently and much more differently than we did in the past and those are things I hope will stay for the future. I'll just conclude by saying a mentor of mine told me just yesterday that there are two great jobs to have. The second best job is to be Mayor. It's a great job. You get to serve your community and you get to help each and every day, and that's a job but that, Bill, you will have soon. The first best job that you get to have is the job of Former Mayor, because you get to bask in all the glory, you get to be an advocate for the community and the citizens, but you don't actually have to address any of those problems. I'm proud to say that I now have the best job. I will now serve this community as a citizen and I will do what I can in that role. I'm proud to have served the community which I love and did so with everything that I had. I wanted to thank you, the residents, the village employees, the stakeholders, the business owners and everyone in between.*

### **Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session**

No Executive Session

### **Return to Public Session:**

### **Resolutions, if any:**

### **Motion to Adjourn:**

Motion to Adjourn was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by Gina Arresta.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson

No: None

Abstain: None

End Meeting Time: 6:36 PM