

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM HELD
ON April 7, 2014 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR PETER DIPAOLO, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR DANIEL MCLAUGHLIN, COUNCILMAN BLAKE BELL, COUCILMAN TIMOTHY CASE, AND COUNCILWOMAN RAE SZYMANSKI.

RECORDING SECRETARY: TOWN CLERK COLLEEN WALSH.

ABSENT: TOWN COUNSEL THOMAS KLEINBERGER

OTHERS PRESENT: DEPUTY TOWN CLERK JESSICA HYNES, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO SUPERVISOR RUTHANN DE SIMONE AND A FEW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

CALL TO ORDER - Town Supervisor Peter DiPaola called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes – Supervisor DiPaola asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the legislative meeting held on March 3, 2014.

Motion by: Councilman McLaughlin

Seconded by: Councilman Case.

Vote taken:

Supervisor DiPaola Aye

Councilman Bell Aye

Councilman McLaughlin Aye

Councilman Case Aye

Councilwoman Szymanski Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**A. Councilwoman Rae Szymanski – Flycar
November 2013**

Total EMS calls for the Town of Pelham = 81
 52 Pelham
 22 Pelham Manor
7 requests for Mutual Aid from New Rochelle
9 calls on the HRP
800 Total calls for 2013

December 2013

Total EMS calls for the Town of Pelham = 70
 40 Pelham
 22 Pelham Manor
6 requests for Mutual Aid from New Rochelle
1 request for Mutual Aid from Eastchester
1 request for Mutual Aid from Mt. Vernon
5 calls on the HRP
870 Total calls for 2013

January 2014

Total EMS calls for the Town of Pelham = 81
 53 Pelham
 24 Pelham Manor
4 requests for Mutual Aid from New Rochelle
6 calls on the HRP
81 Total calls for 2014

February 2014

Total EMS calls for the Town of Pelham = 68
36 Pelham
31 Pelham Manor
1 requests for Mutual Aid from New Rochelle
8 calls on the HRP
1 on i95
149 Total calls for 2014

The Town has purchased a new flycar. It will have state of the art equipment and they will reinstall usable communications equipment from the previous flycar. The cost will be \$42,000 with warranty on all of the equipment. The old car, which was a 2001 model, will be retired if it cannot be rewired. Empress will supply an ambulance or flycar in the interim until the new flycar is ready.

Melissa Ronan and Virginia Hartmere will meet with Peter DiPaola and Rae Szymanski regarding the Community Caring Center. The website is nearly done. CCC will work closely with PACT and use some of PACT's resources.

B. Councilman Dan McLaughlin – Library

Dan McLaughlin attended a meeting at Westchester Medical Center regarding the legalization of marijuana. PACT also attended that meeting, along with many other local community groups. The speaker discussed the events that led to the legalization of marijuana in Colorado. The speaker stressed that if groups do not speak up, this legalization will continue throughout the country.

There will be a new assistant librarian, Augusta Turner, who will start later in April. She is currently employed at the Osborn Library and has her Library Degree. Ms. Turner was one of four candidates.

The annual Library statistic were reviewed at the most recent meeting. Margaret Young may come to a future Town Board meeting to review these numbers. There are currently 6400 library cardholders, and the digital collection has skyrocketed, partially because Pelham can use the Westchester Library system.

Paul Osmolskis, member of the Library Board and a lighting professional, has offered his services to address the lighting issues at the Courthouse. The lighting had been changed to update the Daronco Townhouse to comply with new LED lighting regulations in order to be more green. However, this lighting is currently too dim. Through a grant, we will be able to

improve the lighting and security of the building for Pelham’s senior citizens and everyone who uses that facility. Paul Osmolskis has given a proposal to improve the lighting for the judge’s bench and also to have adequate lighting in the general populace area. This lighting should be similar to that in the Library, which is an “uplight” and provides adequate light. This will hopefully be accomplished in the next month and have long term positive results.

C. Councilman Timothy Case – Recreation Department

There was a March 10, 2014 meeting. There was presentation and discussion about starting a K-8 Youth Cheerleading program. The woman proposing the program runs a similar, very successful program in Scarsdale. The decision will be made next month after some insurance questions have been addressed.

The Recreation Commission is seeking candidates for the Marshall Award. The decision on the awardee will be made in May.

Pelham Youth Football will be discontinued as an organization and the Football Program will now fall under the Recreation Department.

For new programs, there is discussion to start a women’s tennis league and “Backyard Games” at the Elementary Schools, which would be an afterschool program.

D. Councilman Blake Bell

February 2014 Tax Report:

Town/County Taxes 2013	9275.39
School Taxes	157,212.38
School Collection Fee	849.08
Credit Card Fee (Town & School)	
Duplicate Payments (Town or School)	
Penalties and Interest	15,130.64
Liens	

Taxpayers Agreement	157.47
Misc.	60.00
Pro-Ratas	1824.88
Total	184,509.84

Town Justice Report

Justice John Gardner: \$33,219.00 for 3/14/14

Justice John Dechiaro: \$32,394.00 for 3/14/14

E. Town Supervisor Peter DiPaola

- a. Almstead Tree is celebrating their 50th Anniversary and is donating 50 trees throughout Westchester, one of these trees will be donated to the Town. After discussion, it was decided that this tree will be placed in the Town's 9/11 Park. Almstead Tree will care for and maintain the tree.
- b. The Manor Club, a community organization, was put on the national registry. Last year they received their 501C3 designation and now has historic preservation status, which does not impose any limitations to the renovations or use of the property.
- c. There was a request received to donate to Crimestoppers. There will be future discussion as to whether the Town is allowed to make such a donation. The donation may have to be made as individuals rather than as a municipality.
- d. The Gazebo is being constructed to stronger specifications and the Town hopes to have it completed and installed by June. It will be 16 x 28. The new structure will have a wider entrance than the former Gazebo. The landscaping will be donated by local contractors.
- e. There will be a ribbon cutting for Trotta Park, named for Former Pelham Mayor, Supervisor and Senior Advocate Joe Trotta. The date is TBD.
- f. School Board Member Will Cavanagh called a meeting on school security with representatives from all of the schools and both villages and Town. Improving security will be an ongoing process and includes the security of the Library and Glover Field. Actual scenarios and lockdowns will be practiced at all school locations.

- g. Hutchinson Fifth Graders won in a statewide Ballroom Dancing competition. These students will be recognized.

IV. New Business and Old Business

- a. Deputy Town Clerk Jessica Hynes was approached by a law firm which represented the town during the Great Depression regarding Bond Issues. The law firm requested permission to destroy files. Town Historian Blake Bell requested that the files be provided to the Town rather than being destroyed. The amount of content is small but very interesting. This information will go into the Town of Pelham's history collection. It relates to the Town Board with minutes and the Pelham National Bank which was closed during the National Bank Holiday, never to reopen again with depositors losing everything that they had.

- b. A group in Town approached the Town Board for information on a home, known as the Toothpick House, which may be torn down. The house is at the corner of Colonial and Pelhamdale. Blake Bell provided information without taking a position on the issue. The owners of the property would like to tear the house down and build three structures on that land.

- c. An Eagle Scout candidate who attended the meeting had questions about the Town of Pelham. Among other things, he learned that Pelham was founded in 1654 and is both the oldest and smallest Town in New York State.

The Supervisor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm and enter into executive session to discuss a legal issue.

Motion by: Councilman McLaughlin

Seconded by: Councilman Case

Vote taken:

Supervisor DiPaola

Aye

Councilman Bell	Aye
Councilman McLaughlin	Aye
Councilman Case	Aye
Councilwoman Szymanski	Aye

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting ended at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Colleen Walsh

Town Clerk

Pelham, New York