

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2012 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:00P.M.

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR PETER DIPAOLO, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR WILLIAM O’CONNOR, COUNCILWOMAN RAE SZYMANSKI AND COUNCILMAN BLAKE BELL

ABSENT: COUNCILMAN DANIEL MCLAUGHLIN

RECORDING SECRETARY: TOWN CLERK TIMOTHY CASE.

OTHERS PRESENT: TOWN COUNSEL THOMAS KLEINBERGER, 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 October 1, 2012 meeting.

Motion by: Councilman O’Connor
Seconded by: Councilman Bell

Vote taken:	
Supervisor DiPaola	Aye
Councilman Bell	Aye
Councilman O’Connor	Aye
Councilwoman Szymanski	Aye
Councilman McLaughlin	Absent

Motion carried unanimously.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Councilwoman Szymanski - Pelham Guidance Council Report

Councilwoman Szymanski attended the latest PCG meeting. She reported that Melissa Ronan ran her first meeting and that during the meeting they provided several updates on the ongoing PGC programs.

Supervisor DiPaola and Councilwoman Szymanski then talked about the potential renewal of the PACT grant. Supervisor DiPaola commented that he believes both PACT and PCG do good work and he is supportive of both groups. However, PACT might not get their Federal grant renewed and should start looking into alternative fund raising.

PCG asked Councilwoman Szymanski about their budget going forward. Supervisor DiPaola said he feels confident that, although the budget might have to be trimmed, the Town will find funds to help keep PCG going.

Councilwoman Szymanski is confident that Melissa Ronan will be a good leader for PGC and will help sustain PCG. PGC has been very responsive to new requests and the organization feels energized and ready to move forward.

B. Councilman Bell – Recreation Department Report

The principal topic at the Recreation commission meeting was the effort to create centralized purchasing and distribution of sports equipment. Purchasing in bulk will provide significant cost savings. Centralized storage and distribution will alleviate the burden of private citizens who store the equipment until it is needed.

Supervisor DiPaola then made a few comments regarding the Rec dept. He first complimented Doc Fiorito for his excellent work running the Rec dept. Supervisor DiPaola then mentioned that the Rec dept. is going to a hard line credit card machine and that there will be no more online credit card usage. Also, no cash is accepted, only credit cards or checks.

Supervisor DiPaola also said that we are in the process of finalizing the credit card machines for the court system.

C. Councilman O'Connor - Receiver of Taxes Report –

Councilman O'Connor read into the record the monthly statement of the Receiver of Taxes. For the month of September 2012 the taxes, assessments, penalties and money collected during the month were as follows: Town and County taxes 6,452.43; school taxes 15,829,429.17; school collection fee 85,483.34; credit card fee 2,116.44; duplicate payments (refund) (54,488.10); penalties and interest 451.67; taxpayer

agreement 6,079.41; misc. 43.00; pro-ratas 536.83. The total received for the month of September was \$15,985,080.39.

For the month of October 2012 the taxes, assessments, penalties and money collected during the month were as follows: Town and County taxes 3,226.22; school taxes 9,381,847.19; school collection fee 50,661.42; credit card fee 790.20; duplicate payments (refund) (54,488.10); penalties and interest 7,907.18; liens 11,222.41; taxpayer agreement 4,281.10; misc. 364.00; pro-ratas 5,022.52. The total received for the month of October was \$9,410,834.14.

D. Justice court report -

Councilman O'Connor read into the record the Justice Court report for September:

Judge Gardner - collections for September 2012 - \$29,863.50

Judge DeChiaro - collections for September 2012 - \$19,256.00

III. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

A. Library Report—The library roof replacement is going very well. In the latest storm, Hurricane Sandy, our contractor did an excellent job securing the site. We sustained no damage even though the roof is only partially completed. Furthermore, we consider ourselves very fortunate that when the roof was removed, the contractor found only minor damage to the underlying structure despite the roof being at least sixty years old.

B. Tentative Budget Review—

Appropriations	\$3,562,782.09
Estimated Revenues	1,422,540.00
Appropriated Reserves	550,000.00
Amount to be raised by Tax	1,590,242.09

Tax increase	1.234%
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Supervisor DiPaola stated that he is happy with the tentative budget. He said that the 1.234% tax increase this year is a direct result of every department working together along with the Town Board to hold down large expenditures and being fiscally responsible. He also believes that this budget allows the Town of Pelham to maintain programs and services to the community while keeping costs to taxpayers down.

Councilman O'Connor asked about the dog license line. There is revenue amount of 15k vs. an expense line of 15k. Councilman O'Connor asked if we are planning on doing a drive to get more people to license their dogs to get to that revenue number.

Supervisor DiPaola explained that the expense of 15k is for the administration of the program and for the contract to pick up and care for the dogs through the New Rochelle Humane Society. There are several options being considered in order to earn extra revenue by getting people to license their dogs.

Councilman Bell also stated that by the Town taking over the dog licensing from the Village of Pelham, we have already saved the taxpayers \$7,000 and improved the service by switching to the NR Humane Society.

Lastly, Councilman O'Connor said that we should add a line to the budget for FEMA reimbursements.

C. Storm Update – Hurricane Sandy

Supervisor DiPaola had held earlier meeting with Empress Ambulance services so that in a disaster scenario, Pelham would have ambulance service readily available. This worked very well because right before the hurricane hit, Empress put an ALS ambulance in Pelham Manor in order to better serve us.

Going forward, Supervisor DiPaola would like to develop a disaster plan so that when a disaster hits, we will be prepared. Some goals of the plan would be to improve our communications with the public and to have access to all necessary supplies (cots and blankets, dry good, bottled water, etc.).

Once the Town House was opened up to the public during the storm, people came to warm up, charge their phone and play cards. The town house's Wi-Fi capability was also increased in order to help with communication.

Supervisor DiPaola commented that the 4 governments within Pelham worked well together during the storm. He also talked about several members of our community that were extremely helpful during the storm and recovery. This list includes but was not limited to:

- 1) Diccico's –through food donation, etc.
- 2) Angelo Rubbo& the Pelham School system – help in communicating messages to the public
- 3) Troop 1 – called on senior citizens and provided help in many ways
- 4) Ralph Magliulo – secured Town properties during the storm
- 5) Pelham Constables – manned the Town House
- 6) Police, Fire Dept. and public Works Depts. – cleared trees, maintained order, etc.
- 7) Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, County Legislator, Jim Maisano

Councilman Bell mentioned that the damage sustained during this most recent storm was very similar to the damage that occurred during a hurricane in 1938. Going forward, we need to document where the damaged occurred in this storm in order to be better prepared for the next storm.

Councilman O'Connor then discussed that Supervisor DiPaola, worked with village mayors, and the Angelo Rubbo assistant Superintendent to formulate a plan for residents and the children to have places to go with activities while waiting for power to be restored.

Councilman O'Connor also thanked the Pike utility workers for their hard work and dedication in getting our power back on.

D.Councilman O'Connor read into record a certiorari.

Resolved, that the tax certiorari proceeding related to the P/A Acadia Pelham Manor, LLC property located at 798-858 Pelham Parkway, Pelham be corrected and accepted by the Town's special counsel as flows:

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>Net Reduction</u>	<u>Refund</u>
2009	\$7,300,000	\$4,385.84
2010	\$5,000,000	\$3,056.00
2011	\$2,200,000	\$1,395.68
2012	-0-	\$0.00
2013	-0-	\$0.00

Total refund – \$8,837.52

Councilman O'Connor requested a motion to accept the tax settlement P/A Acadia Pelham Manor, LLC property located at 798-858 Pelham Parkway, Pelham.

Motion by: Councilman O'Connor
 Seconded by: Councilwoman Szymanski

Vote taken:

Supervisor DiPaola	Aye
Councilwoman Szymanski	Aye
Councilman Bell	Aye
Councilman O'Connor	Aye
Councilman McLaughlin	Absent

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Supervisor DiPaola then asked for a moment of silence for three members of our community that recently passed away.

- 1) Jim D'Agostino – He help start and build the Pelham hockey program. He was a real friend to the entire Rec. Dept.
- 2) George Daly – former owner of Carol Cleaners
- 3) Dr. Richard Falvey Sr. – long time Pelham dentist

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Trotta Park - Councilman O'Connor offered an update on Trotta Park. The Town is publishing our RFP and we have received inquiries from interested contractors. We intend to select one and go forward with the project.

Councilman O'Connor continued by saying that we have had 5+ years dealing with the village on this matter. We would like to go forward with the project. The Village of Pelham board has not honored commitments to the Town Board despite a very clear understanding that their board agreed to with us.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A member of the public, John Cassone 312 7th Avenue, asked about the construction of the new apartment building the Village of Pelham has proposed.

The consensus on the Town Board is that there is much opposition to the plan, raising the possibility it may never be built.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Bell offered two items into new business.

- 1) Councilman Bell will be speaking on November 6th at the Manor Club on the funny business that has gone on in previous elections in Pelham over the last 300 years.
- 2) Councilman Bell then passed out to the Board copies of a Connecticut statute that became law recently which enhances emergency preparedness and response to disasters. The law will hold Connecticut utilities to a standard of restoring power within 48 hours or lose 2.5% of its annual revenue in rebates to their customers.

V. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

The Supervisor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: Councilman O'Connor

Seconded by: Councilman Bell

Vote taken:

Supervisor DiPaola	Aye
Councilman Bell	Aye
Councilman O'Connor	Aye
Councilwoman Szymanski	Aye
Councilman McLaughlin	Absent

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting ended at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Timothy Case
Town Clerk
Pelham, New York

Declaration of Public Emergency

Town of Pelham

WHEREAS, the Town of Pelham is forecast to experience heavy rain and wind conditions with the onset of Hurricane/Storm Sandy which shall impact the entire Town;

WHEREAS, the storm could cause moderate to major coastal flooding, widespread power outages and downed trees;

WHEREAS, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate the Town's protection of persons and property from the impacts of the storm and expedite the use of Town resources to provide emergency response and recovery efforts;

WHEREAS, this declaration will also facilitate the immediate procurement and deployment of goods and services to the Town's Emergency Shelter located at 20 Fifth Avenue, Pelham, New York, to ensure a prompt and effective response to those in our community that may need to seek emergency shelter;

NOW THEREFORE, I Peter DiPaola Town Supervisor do hereby proclaim this State of Emergency is effective at 12:00 noon on Monday October 29, 2012 and shall remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to my judgment, that the STATE OF EMERGENCY no longer exists.



Peter M. DiPaola
Town Supervisor

Dated: October 29, 2012