

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM HELD ON JANUARY 9, 2012 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:15 P.M.

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR PETER DIPAOLA, COUNCILMAN BLAKE BELL COUNCILWOMAN RAE SZYMANSKI AND COUNCILMAN DANIEL MCLAUGHLIN. **ABSENT:** DEPUTY SUPERVISOR WILLIAM O'CONNOR (OUT OF TOWN).

RECORDING SECRETARY: TOWN CLERK TIMOTHY CASE

OTHERS PRESENT: TAX ASSESSOR MICHELE CASANDRA, TOWN COUNSEL THOMAS KLEINBERGER, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK JESSICA HYNES AND CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO SUPERVISOR RUTHANN DE SIMONE.

CALL TO ORDER - Town Supervisor Peter DiPaola called the legislative meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

I. Minutes of the prior meeting, December 19th, 2011 could not be approved due to a lack of a quorum.

II. OATH OF OFFICE: Mrs. Mary Curto - Supervisor DiPaola administered the oath of office to Mary Curto as the Pelham Recreation Board Commissioner.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Councilwoman Szymanski** – Flycar report- numbers for December 2011- 60 total EMS calls for the Town of Pelham with 23 in the Village of Pelham and 34 in Pelham Manor. Included in these numbers were 10 calls on the Hutchinson River Parkway. We also received 3 requests for mutual aid from New Rochelle. Total calls for 2011 was 828, which is 34 calls less than 2010.
- B. Councilman Bell** – He has reviewed the budget and will have minor questions on a few lines items. He also requested some help from Councilman McLaughlin with regard to being the Rec Board liaison.
- C. Councilman McLaughlin** – There is a library board meeting this Wednesday (January 11th). He will provide a report on the library at our next meeting.

IV. SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

- A.** The Supervisor requested a motion to enter into a previously discussed contract with Wormser, Kiely, Galef and Jacobs for legal services.

Motion by: Councilman McLaughlin
 Seconded by: Councilwoman Szymanski

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Contract with Ardsley** as it relates to the Pelham guidance council. Town Counsel Tom Kleinberger expressed some reservations about the contract and indicated they he would like to make a few minor changes before the contract gets signed. Tom’s concerns were related to the wording in the contract about indemnification and Pelham’s responsibility therein.

Board resolves to allow Supervisor DiPaola to sign the contract after Town Counsel approves minor changes.

Motion by: Councilman Bell
 Seconded by: Councilwoman Szymanski

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Town Insurance policies** –Workman’s compensations and public officials and police professional coverage

Selective Insurance considered not insuring us. We went out to a few other companies to see if we could save some money on our policies. After reviewing different options, our insurance policy has been streamlined and cleaned up and

we will continue our insurance with the Selective with a slight increase in premium.

Supervisor DiPaola requests a motion to renew the Town insurance for January 2012 – December 2012 SKCG Group Inc.

Motion by: Councilwoman Szymanski
Seconded by: Councilman Bell

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Merchant Processing Application- Julie Roche from Rec soccer spoke about allowing online registration for Rec soccer and requested a merchant account be opened to allow credit card payments online. After much discussion, Supervisor DiPaola said we were already set up with TD Bank and that a sub account could be set up to accommodate rec soccer. Councilman Bell volunteered to contact TD bank to extend our merchant processing agreement with them. This would allow the monies to remain all in one bank and would minimize the processing fees.

B. Foreclosures – Discussion about filing on properties in foreclosure and the cost associated with filing - \$600 per filing. (currently 5 taxpayers). We have recouped 90% of the cost of filing. In the past few years he has collected at least one million dollars in tax arrears with a cost of about two thousand dollar.

Motion to instruct William Barbera to proceed as he outlined in the letter submitted at the December 19, 2011 meeting with regard to the taxpayers listed in the letter.

Motion by: Councilman Bell
Seconded by: Councilwoman Szymanski

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Pelham Children's Center – They are in the process of receiving a grant from the Junior League to redesign the playground area. They are looking for the Town boards approval to submit for the grant. After much discussion a motion was proposed.

Motion to give permission to receive the grant and to remove the sandboxes. However, they must further consult with the board in order to proceed with the redesign of the playground.

Motion by: Councilman Bell
Seconded by: Councilman McLaughlin

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Monthly Statement of Receiver of Taxes – Councilman Bell read into the record the monthly statement of the Receiver of Taxes for the month of December 2011. The taxes, assessments, penalties and money collected during the month were as follows: State, County and Town taxes 3,799.98; School taxes 1,676,071.80; collection fee 9,051.47; penalties and interest 8,638.99; liens 35,740.84; taxpayer agreement 2,985.34; Misc. (to village) -21,639.58; pro-ratas 77.13. The total received for the month of December was 1,714,725.97.

E. Assessor's report – Michelle Casandra - Talk of the Town tax rate change and the fact that our tax rate increased 1.37%, not 5.5% as reported. The tax rates within Westchester cannot be compared because Pelham reassesses annually and other towns do not reassess annually.

F. Supervisor DiPaola moved to get a credit card for Town Hall staff in order for Ruthann to make purchases rather than waiting for a check.

Motion by: Councilwoman Szymanski

Seconded by: Councilman McLaughlin

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION – No further new or old business, the Supervisor invited as motion to enter into executive session.

Motion by: Councilwoman Szymanski

Seconded by: Councilman McLaughlin

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously and the legislative meeting ended at about 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Timothy Case
Town Clerk
Pelham, New York

