

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF
THE TOWN OF PELHAM HELD ON DECEMBER 16, 2013 AT THE
TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR PETER DIPAOLO, COUNCILMAN DANIEL MCLAUGHLIN,
COUNCILWOMAN RAE SZYMANSKI AND COUNCILMAN BLAKE BELL

LATE: DEPUTY SUPERVISOR WILLIAM O’CONNOR

RECORDING SECRETARY: TOWN CLERK TIMOTHY CASE

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

CALL TO ORDER - Town Supervisor Peter DiPaola called the regular meeting to order at
7:00 pm.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes – Supervisor DiPaola asked for a motion to approve the
minutes from the public hearing and the legislative meeting held on December 2,
2013.

Motion by: Councilwoman Szymanski
Seconded by: Councilman McLaughlin

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Councilman McLaughlin – Library report

The last Library board meeting was held on December 4, 2013. The roof
project is now complete and everyone is happy about how well it came out.

The library is in the process of updating and upgrading their website.

B. Councilman Bell – Recreation Department Report

The last Recreation Department meeting took place on December 9, 2013. There was several issue of note that came out of the meeting:

- 1) The senior holiday party was held recently and was a huge success. The Pelham Larks sang and everyone enjoyed the day. The Rec commission made it a point to let the Town Board know that Carolyn Veith is doing an excellent job as the senior advocate.
- 2) The playing fields in Pelham are all closed except for the turf field. The turf field is open and continues to be in high demand.
- 3) The Rec Dept. recently held a YMCA night and over 60 kids showed up. This program continues to gain in popularity.
- 4) The Pelham Rec basketball program is also having success. They have 284 players signed up in the 4th-12th-grade age group.
- 5) The Rec Dept. is trying to start a fitness class on Saturdays. They are currently working on finding an instructor.
- 6) There has been a small issue with getting the webmaster to update information on the website. There might be some confusion whether the issue lies with the IT guy or the webmaster.
- 7) The cost of security and maintenance for the fields has increased to approximately \$60,000 per year. The Rec Board is contemplating charging those fees back to the organizations that use the fields on a pro-rata basis.

Supervisor DiPaola asked to be kept updated on this subject. The Town Board was not sure if it is a good idea to charge this money back to the individual organizations.

- 8) Lastly, there is a student in the tutor program that has agreed to tutor another student without pay. It was a student who was identified to need help through the Pelham Civics Association program. Councilman Bell recommended acknowledging this student tutor.

Supervisor DiPaola agreed and said he would issue a Certificate of Commendation to the student tutor.

III. SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

- A. Meeting with Montefiore** - Supervisor DiPaola met with the CEO of Montefiore Hospital Center. Montefiore plans to invest \$24 million this year to upgrade their facilities in Westchester. Supervisor DiPaola believes this will be a great benefit to our community.
- B. Pelham Children’s Center** – There was plumbing problem at the Children’s Center recently. The problem was taken care of quickly and was fixed over a day and a half with only a minimal shutdown.
- C. PACT** - PACT has received their grant and is now talking with the Board of the former PGC to see what issues they can work together on.

IV. NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

- A. Adoption of the Budget** – The budget remains as is with a 0% increase from last year. The tax rate per thousand is \$0.58. The homestead tax rate is \$0.549 and non-homestead is \$0.744.

Supervisor DiPaola then asked for a motion to approve the budget.

Motion by: Councilman McLaughlin
Seconded by: Councilwoman Szymanski

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Pelham resident John Cassone then commented that he would like to commend the Town Board for keeping the tax rate flat in the new budget. However, Mr. Cassone believes that taxes are still too high and he would like to see consolidation in order to actually lower our taxes.

Supervisor DiPaola then commented that most of the expenses in the Town are fixed. Duplication of services is not the problem. There might be a

slight reduction of costs but Supervisor DiPaola does not believe consolidation would garner the benefits that people think it would. Supervisor DiPaola is not in favor or against consolidation. He believes consolidation is a delicate and complicated issue and he is not taking a position either way on the issue. Supervisor DiPaola does believe that the issue is worth looking into further and deserves to be studied.

V. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

The Supervisor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Motion by: Councilman Bell
Seconded by: Councilman McLaughlin

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

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting ended at 7:37pm.

VII. MOTION TO REOPEN THE MEETING TO PASS A HEALTHCARE RESOLUTION

The Supervisor asked for a motion to reopen the meeting.

Councilman O'Connor made the following resolution:

WHEREAS Town of Pelham elected officials have expressed a desire to enroll in certain health insurance programs offered to employees of the Town of Pelham; and

WHEREAS elected officials are conditionally permitted to enroll in such programs under New York State Municipal Law §92-A; and

WHEREAS the Town of Pelham has no objection to elected officials enrolling in such health insurance programs provided that any elected official who chooses to enroll shall pay one hundred percent (100%) of any premium associated with such program (for single coverage or family coverage as the case may be), with the Town of Pelham paying no portion of any such fee,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, Town of Pelham elected officials shall be permitted to enroll in any such health insurance programs offered to employees of the Town of Pelham; and

BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, Town of Pelham elected officials who choose to enroll in any such health insurance programs shall abide by all rules and regulations associated with such programs and shall pay one hundred percent (100%) of the associated premium with the Town of Pelham paying no portion thereof.

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

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. MOTION TO RE-ADJOURN THE MEETING

The Supervisor asked for a motion to close the meeting.

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

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

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting ended at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Case
Town Clerk
Pelham, New York

