

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF
THE TOWN OF PELHAM HELD ON MARCH 4, 2013 AT THE TOWN
HALL COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

ABSENT: TOWN COUNSEL THOMAS KLEINBERGER

RECORDING SECRETARY: TOWN CLERK TIMOTHY CASE

OTHERS PRESENT: DEPUTY TOWN CLERK JESSICA HYNES, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO SUPERVISOR RUTHANN DE SIMONE, RECREATION DEPT. SUPERVISOR FRED FIORITO 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 regular meeting held on February 4, 2013.

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

Vote taken:	
Supervisor DiPaola	Aye
Councilman Bell	Aye
Councilman McLaughlin	Aye
Councilman O'Connor	Aye
Councilwoman Szymanski	Abstain

Motion carried unanimously.

II. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ted LiEstrang from Shen Yun Promotions International presented materials to the Town Board promoting an upcoming dance show at Lincoln Center celebrating ancient Chinese culture. He emphasized that his company was created in the United States due to the democratic forum that our country enjoys in order to celebrate and preserve ancient Chinese culture.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Councilwoman Szymanski –

Councilwoman Szymanski and Supervisor DiPaola have a meeting on Wednesday, March 6th with PACT. We are helping PACT work on securing their second grant.

B. Councilman Bell – Recreation Department Report

Councilman Bell's gave a report from the February 11, 2013 Recreation commission meeting:

- 1) Pelham School Board member Will Cavanagh attended the Recreation Board meeting to discuss the field committee. Both the Town of Pelham Town Board and the Recreation Board support the field committee.
- 2) The Rec. commission provided an update to the preparation of the senior citizen database. Supervisor DiPaola asked to be kept informed of the progress of this list as it is part of our Town of Pelham emergency preparedness plan.
- 3) Turf field update – Work on the new turf field is scheduled to begin June 3rd and should be completed between mid-August and mid-September. The Rec. department is working on solutions to issues such as parking at Glover Field during the construction. The Rec. department is also in the process of assessing how the project will affect their summer programs.
- 4) Councilman Bell reiterated to the Recreation commission board that personnel issues relating to hiring and firing within the Recreation department need to be raised with the Town Board in advance.
- 5) Several potential new programs are being discussed including a parent date night.

- 6) The Rec. commission is proposing to raise fees for a few summer programs in order to cover the rising costs of the programs. After the proposed increases take place, our Rec. programs will still be much cheaper relative to other summer programs in our area.

Councilman McLaughlin suggested reinstalling the gate near Richie Bell field to help alleviate the traffic congestion.

Pelham Recreation Board Supervisor Fred Fiorito explained in some detail how the construction would be set up while the turf field is being built.

C. Councilman O'Connor - Receiver of Taxes Report

- 1) Councilman O'Connor read into the record the monthly statement of the Receiver of Taxes. For the month of January 2013 the taxes, assessments, penalties and money collected during the month were as follows: Town and County taxes for 2012 7,131.15; school taxes 18,545,133.83; school collection fee 100,158.70; credit card fee (school) 1,360.78; duplicate payments (7,544.98); penalties and interest 13,502.91; liens 42,093.75; taxpayer agreement 3,500.07; misc. 1,636.00; pro-ratas 3,551.69. The total received for the month of January was \$18,710,523.90.

For the month of February 2013 the taxes, assessments, penalties and money collected during the month were as follows: Town and County taxes for 2012 2,942.30; school taxes 4,213,659.43; school collection fee 22,782.59; credit card fee (school) 320.82; penalties and interest 27,261.25; taxpayer agreement 157.47; misc. 2,643.75; pro-ratas 6,911.38. The total received for the month of February was \$4,276,678.99.

- 2) Councilman O'Connor read into the record the Justice court report for January 2013:

Judge John Gardner - collections - \$55,383.00

Judge John DeChiaro - collections - \$47,310.50

Supervisor DiPaola mentioned that the justice collection fees are much larger than normal. The court office staff is doing a really good job in making sure we do not have a backlog of cases.

D. Councilman McLaughlin - Library report

The library roof project is now complete. The insulation project relating to the roof project is also complete. The lighting project is in progress and going well.

The next library board meeting is Wednesday, March 6th.

Councilman O'Connor asked if the Town Board could get the Library board and the Friends of the Pelham Library together in the near future for a meeting. Councilman McLaughlin thought it was a good idea and will try to organize it.

IV. Swearing in Ceremony

Recreation Board - Supervisor DiPaola conducted the swearing in of Mrs. Breda Bennett to the Rec. Board. Mrs. Bennett will be serving her second 5-year term on the Recreation Board.

V. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

A. Trotta Park update

Eberlin & Eberlin has dropped off a preliminary design for Trotta Park to the Town Board. We will now invite one representative from the Village of Pelham board to review the design with us.

B. Gazebo Park

Supervisor DiPaola also had Eberlin & Eberlin look at Gazebo Park for a possible upgrade to the facility. They had a couple of different ideas and they came up with a preliminary design. The Town Board will look at the design and discuss it further.

C. Emile Francis Award

Supervisor DiPaola wanted to acknowledge and congratulate Joe Ruggiero for being honored with the 2012-2013 Emile Francis award in between periods of the Rangers/Canadiens game on February 19th. Mr. Ruggiero has been involved with youth hockey for over three decades and is currently a volunteer coach for the New York Raptors of the USA Special Hockey program.

D. Senator Klein press conference

There was a recent meeting set up by Senator Klein with officials from the Village of Pelham, the Village of Pelham Manor and the Town of Pelham to discuss Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath.

Senator Klein commented during the meeting that Pelham was one of the only communities that has followed up after the storm. We have provided Senator Klein with a lot of information and background of what transpired in the days and weeks after the storm hit.

During the meeting, Senator Klein also gave the Pelham Town Board accolades for our response during the storm, including setting up the shelter at the townhouse. Supervisor DiPaola thanked the Board and the Town employees for their hard work in making our storm response successful.

Senator Klein also mentioned that he is supportive of Supervisor DiPaola's emergency preparedness plan and he would like to use it as an example for other communities.

Supervisor DiPaola then discussed the importance of getting a list of senior citizens that may need assistance during a disaster. He also emphasized the need to develop alternative forms of communication before the next storm/disaster hits to be able to get information out to those in need.

E. FEMA Meeting

Supervisor DiPaola met last Friday with representatives from FEMA and came away from the meeting feeling good about the Town of Pelham recouping the money that was spent during the storm. While FEMA only pays back 75% of the money that is applied for, Supervisor DiPaola explained that a portion of that money is then matched by FEMA and given to the state. The money given to the state is then accessible through a 404 Grant.

We are already in the process of applying for the 404 Grant. We would like to spend the grant money on a permanent generator for the Townhouse so it can be used as a shelter during future disasters. Supervisor DiPaola is also looking to Westchester County as a possible source of funds for a generator.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Councilman Bell mentioned that we periodically receive requests to have the Town's one set of microfilm of the old Pelham Sun newspaper made available. He requested possibly making a copy of the microfilm and donating it to the Pelham library for public use.

Councilman O'Connor asked if we could secure a state grant in order to pay for the project. Councilman O'Connor then asked if it might be cheaper and make more sense to convert our microfilm into digital media and donate that to the library.

Councilman Bell said it was a good idea and he would look into it.

- B.** Councilman Bell then announced that New Rochelle is in the midst of celebrating its 325th anniversary. They will have the fatted calf ceremony on June 9th. Councilman Bell also mentioned that the original Pell Treaty has been discovered recently and that New Rochelle has been granted permission to have the treaty made available to them during their anniversary celebration.
- C.** Supervisor DiPaola announced that on Saturday, April 27th, we will be holding a pet fair in our parking lot in conjunction with the local pet shops and the Village of Pelham Manor.

The goal of the pet fair is to register and license as many dogs as possible.

- D.** The Pelham Weekly's Maggie Klein asked about a current statement made by a candidate for a Village of Pelham trustee position about potential use of the Town's parking lot during off hours for downtown patrons.

The Board responded that there has been no official request from any governing body and if asked, the Board would evaluate it at such time.

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

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

Motion by: Councilwoman Szymanski
Seconded by: Councilman Bell

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

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting ended at 8:18pm

Respectfully submitted.

Timothy Case
Town Clerk
Pelham, New York