

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD  
OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM HELD ON APRIL 2, 2012 AT THE  
TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

**CALL TO ORDER** - Town Supervisor Peter DiPaola called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- I. Approval of the minutes** – Supervisor DiPaola asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2012 meeting.

Motion by: Councilman Bell

Seconded by: Councilman McLaughlin

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- II. Supervisor DiPaola** opened the meeting by bringing up the recent string of robberies in Pelham and the surrounding towns. Supervisor DiPaola and Councilman McLaughlin attended a meeting held by the Village of Pelham updating the residents to what has transpired and what the authorities are trying to do about it.

Supervisor DiPaola spoke to Mayor Hotchkiss after the meeting to offer assistance from the Town of Pelham if whatever way we can help to stop the robberies.

Councilman McLaughlin said that the Village of Pelham is in the process of building an e-mail list for residents in order to better update us on any situation.

Supervisor DiPaola also suggested that the Pelham Board of Education could also use their e-mail list to keep the residents informed of any important developments.

## **II. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Councilwoman Szymanski – Flycar report**

- 1) January 2012 - 54 total EMS calls for the Town of Pelham with 34 in the Village of Pelham and 15 in Pelham Manor. Included in these numbers were 4 calls on the Hutchinson River Parkway. We also received 3 requests for mutual aid from New Rochelle and 2 requests for mutual aid from Eastchester.

February 2012 - 57 total EMS calls for the Town of Pelham with 31 in the Village of Pelham and 21 in Pelham Manor. Included in these numbers were 3 calls on the Hutchinson River Parkway. We also received 5 requests for mutual aid from New Rochelle.

March 2012 - 50 total EMS calls for the Town of Pelham with 31 in the Village of Pelham and 17 in Pelham Manor. Included in these numbers were 4 calls on the Hutchinson River Parkway and 1 call on 95. We also received 2 requests for mutual aid from New Rochelle.

We are also in ongoing discussion about purchasing a new flycar to replace our aging model.

- 2) **Pelham Guidance report - Councilwoman Szymanski** attended the Pelham guidance board meeting and she would like futures meetings to be held at Town Hall. On April 27, 2012, Pelham Guidance will be holding a half-day retreat with a facilitator to talk about the best ways to run a successful program going forward.

### **B. Councilman Bell – Recreation Commission Report**

- 1) Councilman Bell attended the March 13, 2012 Rec board meeting. One of the main topics of discussion at the meeting was looking for ways to improve the scheduling for the senior van. Councilman Bell also reported to the Rec board that the Town Board has granted their request for more timely financial information. The Rec board is also trying to implement several new senior programs for the senior citizens.

- 2) Councilwoman Szymanski ask that the Town Board receive quarterly updates on financial information for each department and that the Town Board then distribute this information to each respective department.
- 3) Supervisor DiPaola has told several boards within the Town that they need to monitor their budgets more closely and look for ways to cut expenses and increase revenues in an effort to stay within the 2% tax cap. If each department starts this process now it will be easier at budget time to comply with the cap.

#### **C. Councilman O'Connor**

- 1) Councilman O'Connor read into the record the monthly statement of the Receiver of Taxes. For the month of February 2012 the taxes, assessments, penalties and money collected during the month were as follows: State, County and Town taxes 3,080.11; School taxes 5,295,116.44; collection fee 29,022.64; duplicate payments-school (41,416.21) (to refund); penalties and interest 28,999.99; liens 24,020.19; taxpayer agreement 2,985.34; Misc. 305.00; pro-ratas 633.07. The total received for the month of February was \$5,342,746.57.

For March 2012 the taxes, assessments, penalties and money collected during the month were as follows: State, County and Town taxes 6,959.36; School taxes 124,219.91; collection fee 770.84; penalties and interest 17,395.66; liens 41,663.22; taxpayer agreement 2,985.20; misc. 17.40. The total received for the month of March was \$194,011.59.

#### **D. Councilman McLaughlin – Library Report**

Councilman McLaughlin and Supervisor DiPaola have a meeting scheduled with the library board on April 17<sup>th</sup> to get a current business update from them.

#### **E. Sports swap update**

Town Counsel Tom Kleinberger prepared a report outlining what equipment we would advise them what they can and cannot swap at the equipment exchange. This is not going to be a Town program. We are just letting them use the Town House for free. They will need to provide their own insurance, etc. We are currently waiting for them to follow up to see if they are still going to proceed.

**IV. SUPERVISOR’S REPORT**

Supervisor DiPaola brought up a certiorari.

- 1) P/A Acadia Pelham Manor LLC self storage unit, 798-858 Pelham Parkway, Pelham, NY

Net refund for the assessment years 2008-2011

|      | <u>Reduction</u> | <u>Refund</u> |
|------|------------------|---------------|
| 2008 | \$1,615,000      | \$970.29      |
| 2009 | \$2,700,000      | \$1,650.24    |
| 2010 | \$2,500,000      | \$1,586.00    |
| 2011 | \$620,000        | \$435.49      |

Total refund for the 4 years – \$4,642.02

The Supervisor requested a motion to accept the tax settlement of P/A Acadia Pelham Manor LLC self storage unit, 798-858 Pelham Parkway, Pelham, NY

Motion by: Councilwoman Szymanski

Seconded by: Councilman O’Connor

Vote taken:

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Supervisor DiPaola     | Aye |
| Councilwoman Szymanski | Aye |
| Councilman Bell        | Aye |
| Councilman O’Connor    | Aye |
| Councilman McLaughlin  | Aye |

Motion carried unanimously.

- 2) Court Clerk Fran Campion went to sit in with the court system in Harrison, NY and came back with several ideas to improve our court system processes. The main change that we will make is for us to install a credit card system that will allow the clerks to process payments on location. We have the equipment and now need to add phone lines to set the system up. The next step in improving the court is to redo the entire desk set up in the court. We have a \$6,000 grant to do this and we have already lined up an architect to build the desk.

Supervisor DiPaola also mentioned the need for better organization of the space within the Town House and within Town Hall.

- 3) **Trotta Park** – The plans for the park have been fully approved by the Town but the Village of Pelham still wants changes made but they have yet to disclose these changes to us. Councilman O'Connor showed concern that we might lose the NY State grant money that was giving to us for Trotta Park. Supervisor DiPaola is going to talk to our state representatives to find out when the grant expires. Councilman McLaughlin added that the Village of Pelham had a two and a half hour meeting at the park to talk about changes and did not invite anyone from the Town of Pelham.
- 4) Supervisor DiPaola reminded everyone about the Westchester Municipal Officials dinner that the Town of Pelham is hosting on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at Villa Nova restaurant.
- 5) Supervisor DiPaola and Councilman McLaughlin then discussed the PACT breakfast. PACT has redirected their focus to more of a group objective. They have good meeting and discuss important topics. PACT is looking to sustain itself as a viable organization within our community.
- 6) Supervisor DiPaola reminded everyone about the dedication of the new auditorium at the Pelham Memorial High School on April 16<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-7:30pm.
- 7) Next, the topic of the Pelham Children's Center was discussed. Their lease does expire in August and the Board is currently in negotiations with them about a new lease.
- 8) Lastly, Richie Bell is retiring from his duties driving the senior bus.

**V. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**

The Supervisor asked for a motion to enter into executive session.

Motion by: Councilman O'Connor

Seconded by: Councilman McLaughlin

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously and the legislative meeting ended at about 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Timothy Case  
Town Clerk  
Pelham, New York