

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

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

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 VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE
PRESS AND PUBLIC.

CALL TO ORDER - Town Supervisor Peter DiPaola called the regular meeting to order
at 6:58 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 April 2, 2012 meeting after a few minor changes to be made.

Motion by: Councilman Bell
Seconded by: Councilwoman Szymanski

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Councilwoman Szymanski –

- 1) Empress ambulance service came and met with Supervisor DiPaola.
Councilwoman Szymanski stated that the average response time for Pelham
EMS call for the past two years was 5.7 minutes. Also, the number of
responses for Pelham for 911 calls from 2009-2011 were as follows: 2009 -
1586 responses, 2010 -1653 responses, 2011 – 1604 responses. Supervisor
DiPaola was very impressed on how well equip they are to handle

emergencies. They can gauge what procedures are necessary for the patient on site and transmit that information to the appropriate hospital so that when the patient arrives, the hospital staff is already prepared to handle the situation quickly. Empress is also attempting to lower the response time even further by moving closer to Pelham.

- 2) Supervisor DiPaola also asked the representative from Senator Klein's office about securing some money to purchase a new flycar to replace our aging model sometime in the future.
- 3) **Pelham Guidance report** - Councilwoman Szymanski discussed the Pelham Guidance strategic planning meeting. They had an independent facilitator help them plan on where they want to be in five years. They also laid out a list of priorities that included adding new board members due to a few recent resignations. Another priority going forward was the need for additional fundraising. The Pelham Guidance annual meeting is next Wednesday, May 16th. Supervisor DiPaola and Councilwoman Szymanski also met with the Pelham Guidance chairman of the board to discuss plans for their organization going forward. Supervisor DiPaola said the meeting went very well.

B. Councilman Bell – Recreation Commission Report

Councilman Bell attended the April 16, 2012 Rec board meeting.

- 1) The Rec commission honored the Pelham cubs for winning the 2012 recreation boys basketball championship for Westchester County.
- 2) The Rec commission also thanked the Pelham Town Board again for providing the review of the quarterly financials. The updates on the financials have proved to be very helpful. The Rec commission is also pleased with the situation of them trying to grow revenues. Through March 2012 revenues stood at \$73,049 and through April revenues were \$127,000, which was the same as 2011. However, they did note that they expect additional revenues in the next few weeks and they believe that they are well ahead of last year. They are trying to incentivize the community to sign up for the summer programs earlier by offering discounts and they will be imposing a late fee for late registrations. The numbers of participants for all of the spring programs was 123 students.
- 3) Senior van numbers for March - 54 pick ups, 51 returns.
- 4) The Rec commission also asked if they could work with Modell's Sporting Goods to offer discount cards to parents involved in rec programs in order to benefit the rec center. When parents buy items at Modell's, they receive 15%

off and a portion of that discount gets rebated back to Pelham Rec. Commission.

- 5) The next Recreation meeting will be May 14th. At the meeting they will be presenting the 2012 John Marshall award to the Pelham Community Rowing Association for their contributions to the community.

C. Councilman McLaughlin – Library Report

- 1) Councilman McLaughlin and Supervisor DiPaola met with the library board on April 17th to get a current business update from them. The library board discussed how things are changing rapidly with the library due to the digital age. The library board has discussed whether they need more space for books or if the space should be utilized for meeting. They also mentioned that their children's program continues to be well received. Supervisor DiPaola said that he has a lot of respect for the Pelham library board and that they do a good job. Councilman McLaughlin suggested to the library board that all of their contracts should be under the Town of Pelham contracts. The library board agreed with Councilman McLaughlin.
- 2) Councilman McLaughlin attended the library board meeting on May 2, 2012. The library board indicated that they gave the grant program to Supervisor DiPaola to be signed. The grant is for an additional approximately \$50,000 to help pay for repairs to the library roof. Supervisor DiPaola indicated that he began working in the grant immediately.

III. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- 1) Supervisor DiPaola has been having very productive meetings with many of the programs within the Town of Pelham in order to develop a better working relationship with each of them. Recent meetings included PACT, Pelham Guidance, Pelham Library and Empress.
- 2) **Constable's report** – Chief Town Constable Stewart Hanson reported that they had approximately 75 people through the metal detector this week and they also had 2 prisoners in court. One of the prisoners was the man that was arrested for the robberies around the train station. He also mentioned that the Glover field detail would be ending on or around May 23rd. Supervisor DiPaola asked that the constable's detail at the Pelham Children's Center parking lot be cut back to only a few days a week as it was not necessary to be there 5 days a week anymore.

- 3) Supervisor DiPaola also stated that Stanley James was relieved of his duties as of 1/4/09 and should therefore be removed from the roster of the active Pelham police constables.
- 4) Supervisor DiPaola then stated that we would like to commend the Village of Pelham Police for doing a great job in apprehending the person responsible for the robberies near the train station. Upon hearing the news, Supervisor DiPaola immediately sent a letter of commendation to the Pelham police chief and asked that it be shared with his men. The town and community are very appreciative for the police force and for all of their hard work.
- 5) **Dog Licenses** - Supervisor DiPaola has repeatedly asked the Village of Pelham how we are all going to handle the dog license issue and the Village of Pelham has repeatedly failed to respond. The local director of Agriculture and Markets has been pursuing the Town to act on this issue as soon as possible. Supervisor DiPaola has consulted with the New Rochelle Humane Society to find a solution. One way to pay for the services that the Town of Pelham must provide by law would be to charge the Village of Pelham residents in a separate line item on their tax bill. Since the town is not equip with the necessary resources to provide these services, the outcome of the town taking responsibility for these services would be a much higher cost to the Village of Pelham taxpayers.
- 6) A member of the public, John Cassone spoke and commended Councilman Bell and the PDC for their accurate tax projections that they made back in 2003. Mr. Cassone also asked about looking into consolidation within the two villages. Councilman Bell mentioned a law passed by New York State last year that allows the voters of the two villages to petition to put up a referendum on consolidation. Councilman McLaughlin also mentioned that New York Sate does provide grants in order to study potential saving from consolidation.
- 7) **Trotta Park** - Supervisor DiPaola stated that the Pelham Town Board approved the Trotta Park plans that the Village of Pelham submitted to us two months ago. Since the Town of Pelham Board approval, the Village of Pelham has decided that they want to change the plans. Supervisor DiPaola said that a decision needs to be made in the next few weeks whether to go forward with Trotta Park or to divert the funds to something else. Supervisor DiPaola lastly stated that if the Village of Pelham wants Town funds to complete this project, the Town of Pelham must be able to approve the new plans or this project will most likely not get done at all.
- 8) Supervisor DiPaola brought up a certiorari.

Councilman Bell moved to resolve the tax certiorari:

Supervisor DiPaola asked for the board member's opinion on this and everyone seemed to think that it would be ok.

11) Lastly, Supervisor DiPaola mentioned that Eliot Engel came to Pelham and spoke to the Democratic Party club. Supervisor DiPaola met with him in order to develop a working relationship with him now that he is Pelham's Congressional representative.

IV. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

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

Motion by: Councilwoman Szymanski

Seconded by: Councilman McLaughlin

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously and the legislative meeting ended at about 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Timothy Case
Town Clerk
Pelham, New York

