

**PRELIMINARYMINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM HELD ON JUNE 4, 2012AT
THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:00P.M.**

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

RECORDING SECRETARY: TOWN CLERKTIMOTHY CASE.

OTHERS PRESENT: TOWN COUNSEL THOMAS KLEINBERGER, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK JESSICA HYNES, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO SUPERVISOR RUTHANN DE SIMONE, TAX RECEIVER JOHN NESI, TAX ASSESSOR MICHELE CASANDRA AND SEVERAL 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. Deputy Supervisor O'Connor – Monthly Tax Statements

Deputy Supervisor O'Connor read into the record the monthly statement of the Receiver of Taxes. For the month of April 2012 the taxes, assessments, penalties and money collected during the month were as follows: State, County and Town taxes for 2012 - 10,368,329.89; State, County and Town taxes for 2011 – 5,509.50; school taxes 63,254.54; credit card fee 1,062.29; duplicate payments-Town 5,807.20; penalties and interest 7,663.25; liens -0-; taxpayer agreement 2,319.85; misc. 184.00; pro-ratas 2,320.18. The total received for the month of April was \$10,456,450.70.

For May 2012 the taxes, assessments, penalties and money collected during the month were as follows: State, County and Town taxes for 2012 - 4,210,992.65; school taxes 28,921.54; collection fee 165.15; credit card fee 119.24; duplicate payments-Town (5,807.20); penalties and interest 14,615.21; liens 45,395.35; taxpayer agreement 2,319.85; misc. 486.00; pro-ratas 4,914.52. The total received for the month of May was \$4,302,122.31.

II. Supervisor DiPaola moved to make a correction of a certiorari from the May 7, 2012 meeting. The corrections are for assessment year 2004. The corrected Current AV should read 5,269,800, corrected net reduction is 304,800 and the corrected tax refund is \$233.84.

RESOLVED, that the tax certiorari relating to:

PS Prop XVIII, Inc. property (166.42-1-2) located at 925 Spring Street, Pelham, NY be corrected and accepted by the town's special council.

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

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

III. Tax penalty payments to be forgiven

1) Receiver of Taxes John Nesi explained that three separate taxpayers dropped off tax payments on April 24, 2012 and their checks were never found. All three taxpayers have stellar records of paying taxes on time and Mr. Nesi recommended that the penalties for all three be waived.

Motion to waive the penalties of the three taxpayers.

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

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Pelham Children's Center and to help establish what we are going to do as far as the space is concerned in the future.

Supervisor DiPaola then asked for comments from the public.

Elaine Chang, 16 Irving Place, Pelham. Current President of the Pelham Children's Center. Mrs. Chang highlighted the reasons that they want a new 5-year lease:

1. The Townhouse has been—and continues to be—the ideal location

- The Townhouse is THE key to PCC's success since its offer parents and employees easy access to public transportation, parking and the Fifth Ave. shopping area.
- The Townhouse allows convenient and safe access to a playground. A childcare facility must provide outdoor physical activity for child development and licensing requirements.
- The Townhouse, in the center of the Town of Pelham, makes it convenient to residents of Pelham and Pelham Manor.
- The Townhouse has been the only location of PCC during its 42-year existence and its identity within the Pelham community is firmly established at its current location.

2. Being forced to move in less than 5 years would almost certainly force the PCC out of business

- There are no turnkey facilities where the Center can move and simply start paying rent.
- Moving the Center would require a multi-year fundraising effort and perhaps two or more years to complete costly renovations to bring facilities up to code—**IF** an appropriate space can be found. This could run in the millions of dollars.
- A short-term lease will make recruiting difficult; families will seek alternatives to ensure continuity of service for their children. Falling enrollment would doom the center.

3. Closing the PCC would be a loss for the Town of Pelham and Westchester County

- PCC has served the early child care needs of Pelham families for 42 years and currently serves 26 Pelham families.
- PCC runs after-school programs at two different Pelham elementary schools, serving an additional 50 children.
- If the PCC were forced to close it would eliminate 26 jobs.
- PCC is a highly regarded institution in the county. Westchester Community College, a well-respected childhood education program, utilizes the Center for its teacher practicum program.
- If the PCC were forced to close it would not be able to offer internships to other local college students who are studying early childhood education.

- Since its inception as a project of the Junior League of Pelham, PCC has been a model for the exceptional volunteerism that has made Pelham a unique community. It is closely identified with the best traditions of Pelham and receives continuing support from hundreds of Pelham families, including, over the past year, 165 Pelham families that donated to the Center, some more than once, and 60 Pelham-based businesses that provided either monetary donations or auction items to our fundraising efforts.
- PCC fulfills a unique mission of providing full-day childcare and early childhood education to all kinds of families. Financial assistance is provided for families that qualify (each year, approximately 25 percent of students receive some kind of support, including many from Pelham).

4. PCC is a good tenant and a good neighbor

- The PCC has continuously upgraded the space it uses. We are currently speaking with different contractors about re-painting the interior of the Center. During this past 5-year lease term, the PCC has invested approximately \$10k into the Center. We have added two air conditioners for 6k, replaced the compressor on the refrigerator for \$500, updated the suppression system for the kitchen range hood for \$1,200, and replaced a large fire extinguisher in the kitchen for \$275. We just upgraded the playground through a grant from JLP for \$1,500 and this amount doesn't even include 10K we put in back in 2000 for the renovation of the playground.
- The original renovations to the Playground cost close to \$80K, which was public grant money obtained by the PCC for the benefit of the Town.
- The PCC has repeatedly communicated its willingness to pay reasonable rent increases.
- The Center supports Pelham merchants, spending approximately \$84,000 a year with local suppliers.

For 42 years, the Pelham Children's Center has been a model for high-quality and affordable early childhood education in lower Westchester. Early childhood education benefits our children, their families and the broader community -- from improved academic outcomes in the immediate and long term, to meaningful cost savings to schools and local governments as those children grow. At PCC, we believe first and foremost that a high-quality early childhood education is both an investment in our children's future and an investment in the future of our community.

And therefore, once again, we ask the Town to allow us to stay at the Townhouse, where we have called home for over 4 decades and let us concentrate on doing what we do best. Let me repeat, any other decision threatens the existence of the PCC. Thank you again.

Syd Thayer, 540 Stellar Avenue, Pelham. Incoming President of the Pelham Children's Center.

Mr. Thayer discussed the reasons that he believes the Children's Center is important including affordability and lack of other options within Pelham. He also mentioned the difficulty of finding a new space due to zoning restrictions on where a day care facility must be located.

Mr. Thayer also mentioned that the Children's Center is willing to pay higher rent if necessary in order to remain in the space.

Tony O'Malley, 477 Manor Lane, Pelham. Incoming Treasurer of the Pelham Children's Center.

Mr. O'Malley discussed his concerns that a short-term lease could hurt the Center's ability to receive funding.

Roger McDaniel, 221 Highbrook Avenue, Pelham.

Mr. McDaniel urged the board to look at the economics of losing the Children's Center's vs. paying for space elsewhere for the town's use.

Lori Woliner, Bronx, NY. Executive director of the Pelham's Children Center.

Mrs. Woliner discussed how the Center provides education as well as day care services. She also stressed that there is nothing that replicates the services they provide anywhere near Pelham.

Councilman O'Connor brought up the point that the Town Board is not just focused on the Pelham Children's Center space but is looking at all current spaces within the Town in order to optimize the use of our limited space.

Supervisor DiPaola also stated that the Town Board is not trying to dissolve the Pelham Children's Center. Supervisor DiPaola and the Board support the Pelham Children's Center and would not do anything to cause the PCC to cease to exist.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Councilman McLaughlin talked about the importance of Pelham. He mentioned that several elected officials chose to attend Pelham's Memorial Day parade. These officials included US Senator Chuck Schumer, US Congressman Eliot Engel, NY State Senator Jeff Klein, NY State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin and Westchester County Legislator Jim Maisano.

B. Supervisor DiPaola congratulated the 4 Marshall Award winners including Councilman Bill O'Connor. Councilman O'Connor thanked the Pelham Recreation Department for the award and discussed the successes of the Pelham Community Rowing Association.

C. Councilman McLaughlin – Library Report

There has been no library meeting since the last Town Board meeting. Councilman McLaughlin mentioned that there is a new candidate for the library board and that he had

sent around the candidate's resume to the Town board. All Town board members agreed that there were no issues with the candidate.

D. Councilwoman Szymanski – Flycar Report

- 1) April 2012 - 64 total EMS calls for the Town of Pelham with 37 in the Village of Pelham and 23 in Pelham Manor. Included in these numbers were 9 calls on the Hutchinson River Parkway. We also received 4 requests for mutual aid from New Rochelle and 1 request for mutual aid from Eastchester.
- 2) May 2012 - 68 total EMS calls for the Town of Pelham with 34 in the Village of Pelham and 27 in Pelham Manor. Included in these numbers were 4 calls on the Hutchinson River Parkway and 1 call on I-95. We also received 7 requests for mutual aid from New Rochelle. The total calls YTD for 2012 is 293.

VII. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- 1) **Trotta Park** –A meeting was held at the proposed Trotta Park site to discuss design changes. Meeting attendees included Supervisor DiPaola, Councilman McLaughlin, Village of Pelham Mayor Ed Hotchkiss, Deputy Mayor Geoff Lewis and Trustee Laura Morris. The meeting produced mutually agreed upon changes and the final proposal is now in front of the architect.
- 2) **Dog Licenses** – Supervisor DiPaola has still received no response from the Village of Pelham regarding this issue.
- 3) Supervisor DiPaola asked to please support the Relay for Life and the Symmetry sunset sprints.
- 4) Supervisor DiPaola then mentioned that Pelham is in need a new senior van. Town Rec Supervisor Fred Fiorito has found a 2010 van that is in good condition and comes with a warranty. Also, the van cost comes below the budgeted amount.

Supervisor DiPaola asked for a motion to approve the purchase of the van.

Motion by: Councilman McLaughlin

Seconded by: Councilman Bell

Vote taken:

Supervisor DiPaola

Aye

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

5) Approval of the minutes – Supervisor DiPaola asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2012 meeting.

Motion by: Councilwoman Szymanski
Seconded by: Councilman McLaughlin

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

6) Councilman Bell read a resolution into the record.

Resolve that The Town Board of the Town of Pelham support legislation proposed by New York State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin providing that the clergy residence owned by the Pelham Jewish Center located at 804 Wolfs Lane is to be added, retroactively, to the Town tax rolls beginning with the 2011 assessment year.

Vote taken:

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

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

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

Motion by: Councilwoman Szymanski

Seconded by: Councilman O'Connor

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 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Timothy Case
Town Clerk
Pelham, New York