

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF  
THE TOWN OF PELHAM HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 AT THE  
TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:20 P.M.**

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

**ABSENT:** CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE SUPERVISOR RUTHANN DESIMONE

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** TOWN CLERK TIMOTHY CASE

**OTHERS PRESENT:** DEPUTY TOWN CLERK JESSICA HYNES, TOWN COUNSEL THOMAS KLEINBERGER, VILLAGE OF PELHAM TRUSTEE SUSAN MUTTI AND A FEW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

**CALL TO ORDER** - Town Supervisor Peter DiPaola called the regular meeting to order at 7:20 pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** - Supervisor Peter DiPaola ask for a moment of silence for Al DeSimone who passed away early today. He was the father-in-law of Ruthann DeSimone.

**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 August 12, 2013.

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

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

## II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Councilman Bell – Recreation Department Report

- 1) Councilman Bell reported that there has not been a Recreation Commission meeting since our last Town Board meeting. There is a Rec. Commission meeting going on right now. The Town Board just left that meeting after the presentation of the Dr. John Marshall award. This year's award was give to Dennis and Julie Roche for their hard work with Pelham's Rec. soccer program.
- 2) Councilman Bell also reported that all issues regarding the construction of the turf field at Glover field have been resolved and the construction has re-commenced.

### B. Councilman O'Connor – Councilman O'Connor read into the record the Justice court reports.

- 1) For July 2013: **Judge John Gardner** - collections - \$28,240.50

**Judge John DeChiaro** - collections - \$30,008.50

- 2) **Receiver of Taxes Report** -

Councilman O'Connor read into the record the monthly statement of the Receiver of Taxes. For the month of August 2013 the taxes, assessments, penalties and money collected during the month were as follows: Town and County taxes for 2013 19,684.89; penalties and interest 5,557.45; liens 43,644.33; taxpayer agreement 581.13; misc. 50.00; pro-ratas 1,888.28. The total received for the month of August was \$71,406.08

Supervisor DiPaola asked about the outstanding liens number from the past few months and said that we should stay on top of the issue.

### C. Councilman McLaughlin – Library report

Councilman McLaughlin reported that the bids to fix the fence at the library came in at \$15,000. Instead of accepting the bid work, our Town Clerk of the Works, Ralph Magliulo accomplished the work for around \$2,600.

We did have to fix/widen the driveway entrance at the library at a cost of \$8,600. The sanitation trucks were driving over the lawn, causing damage to the driveway and lawn.

The Pelham Schools call Councilman McLaughlin and asked him how many parking spaces were available at the library for the school's use. Councilman McLaughlin responded that there are 5 teacher's spots and 5 visitor's spots allocated to the school.

Lastly, Councilman McLaughlin reported that there are 2 vacancies on the library's board that they are looking to fill.

### **III. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

#### **A. PELHAM GUIDANCE CENTER –**

Supervisor DiPaola announced that the Pelham Town Board has been reviewing the work of the Pelham Guidance Center (PGC) since Pelham lost the New York State funding for the center. The Board has come to the decision that it is not cost effective to continue to operate the PGC. Due to fiscal constraints, Supervisor DiPaola is putting in front of the board a resolution to close the PGC. The PGC costs the Town of Pelham taxpayers over \$250,000 per year and with the amount of service it provides, it does not make sense to continue to offer the service.

Councilman O'Connor added that the Pelham Town Board is following the recommendation of the PGC Board, which has already voted that the PGC should be discontinued. Councilman O'Connor continued that there was several reasons why the PGC was created that do not exist anymore. 1) We use to be reimbursed through state grants by NYS for the cost to run the PGC but that funding has been taken away. 2) Most services that the PGC offered are now covered by private insurance plans through new state mandates. With this insurance, the PGC's former constituents are choosing to go elsewhere for services.

Councilwoman Szymanski said that the Town Board is exploring several possibilities to help replace some of PGC's services. We are looking to set up a referral center in order to still provide the Pelham residents some types of services. Councilwoman Szymanski then added that the decision to close the PGC was not as easy one to make, but that both the PGC Board and the Pelham Town Board felt that it is the right decision to make at this time.

Supervisor DiPaola interjected that this decision was well thought out and that the Board feels it can provide alternatives for the community that are more cost effective and better geared to the needs of the community.

Supervisor DiPaola then asked for a resolution.

Town Counsel Tom Kleinberger stated that based of the recommendation of the Pelham Guidance Council Board, and considering the lack of funding from the State of New York, and due to the lack of use at the present facility, the Pelham Town Board is introducing a resolution to discontinue the Pelham Guidance Center as of October 1, 2013.

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	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Maggie Klein from the Pelham Weekly ask two questions relating to the PGC:

- 1) What will happen after 10/1/13?

Councilman O'Connor answered that we plan on having a transition plan in place by 10/1/13.

- 2) Is the staff at the PGC being taken care of?

Supervisor DiPaola responded that the staff is receiving a good severance package.

**B. Trotta Park**

Supervisor DiPaola announced that the bids for Trotta Park were opened last week. The job was bid out into two separate parts. Part one was for the park and part two was for the extra work to be done on the hill above the park. The bid that will be awarded tonight is for the park only.

There were 3 bidders in the process:

Landi Contracting	\$105,000
DeSimone Construction	\$95,000
Vernon Hills Contracting Corp.	\$78,000

Supervisor DiPaola and Village of Pelham Trustee Susan Mutti met with Vernon Hills in order to make certain that the \$78,000 bid was the total amount to complete the park. Vernon Hills assured Supervisor DiPaola that it was indeed an all-inclusive bid.

Supervisor DiPaola asked for a motion to award the contract for the work on Trotta Park to Vernon Hills Contracting Corporation.

Motion by: Councilman O'Connor  
Seconded by: Councilwoman Szymanski

Vote taken:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor DiPaola then thanked Village of Pelham Trustee Susan Mutti for all of her help with Trotta Park.

**IV. 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: Councilwoman Szymanski  
Seconded by: Councilman O'Connor

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

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting ended at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Case  
Town Clerk  
Pelham, New York