

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM HELD ON MARCH 3, 2014 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** SUPERVISOR PETER DIPAOLA, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR DANIEL MCLAUGHLIN, COUNCILMAN BLAKE BELL, COUCILMAN TIMOTHY CASE, AND COUNCILWOMAN RAE SZYMANSKI.

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** TOWN CLERK COLLEEN WALSH.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** TOWN COUNSEL THOMAS KLEINBERGER, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK JESSICA HYNES, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO SUPERVISOR RUTHANN DE SIMONE 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 legislative meeting held on February 10, 2014.

Motion by: Councilman McLaughlin

Seconded by: Councilman Case.

Vote taken:

Supervisor DiPaola                      Aye

Councilman Bell                              Aye

Councilman McLaughlin                      Aye

Councilman Case                              Aye

Councilwoman Szymanski                      Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

## II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Councilwoman Rae Szymanski – Flycar

There are no ambulance numbers yet, but she expects to have those numbers and statistics soon.

### B. Councilman Dan McLaughlin – Library

There will be a Library Board meeting this Wednesday. There was a question as to whether the Library has their own agreement with the Law Firm, which represents the Town. Supervisor DiPaola explained that the entire Town is covered under one agreement.

As the School Liaison, Councilman McLaughlin attended the Budget Meeting. He reports that over the last three years the school has used 7 million in reserve funds that were allocated in previous years budgets which were subsequently not required. The Board of Education has done a great job. The teachers have agreed to a new contract with no increases with a 1% bonus that will not be added to their salary. The Board of Ed has stayed under the budget cap.

Rosemary Matthews has done a tremendous job in bringing back students from the BOCES system. (\$69,000 tuition and \$27,000 transportation to have students attend BOCES.) There are only 3 students going outside of our system at this time, which is a savings of \$600-700,000.

Currently the budget is \$69,000,000, of which \$58,000,000 is derived from taxes.

Of note, the kindergarten registration numbers are very light at this time. There are three kindergarten sections being dropped for the next school year.

### C. Councilman Timothy Case – Recreation Department

There is a proposed gate for Glover Field. It would be electric and to be closed each night and opened every morning. The Police radios will be able to open and close the gate. The Recreation Department may ask the Town to split the cost; currently the proposed cost is \$14,000.

**D. Councilman Blake Bell****February 2014 Taxes:**

Town/County Taxes 2013	6034.62
School Taxes	4,887,483.84
School Collection Fee	26,419.75
Credit Card Fee (Town & School)	335.66
Duplicate Payments (Town or School) (82.34)	
Penalties and Interest	40,080.14
Liens	29,409.09
Taxpayers Agreement	157.47
Misc.	460.00
Pro-Ratas	3141.61
Total	4,993,439.84

**Town Justice Report**

Justice John Gardner: \$37,881.00 for 2/20/14

Justice John Dechiaro: \$20,954.00 for 2/20/14

There has been a good response to the historical posts on the Town's Facebook page. There was some discussion about displaying and organizing the historical items that are currently stored in the Townhouse.

**E. Town Supervisor Peter DiPaola**

**IV. New Business and Old Business**

**Tax Penalty Payments**

- a. Lot #163-68-2-53 There was a tampered mailbox with stolen checks involved. The recommendation was to forgive the Tax penalty for the second half school tax to be forgiven. The Town Council agrees with this recommendation.

Motion by: Councilman Bell.

Seconded by: Councilman McLaughlin.

Vote taken:

Supervisor DiPaola	Aye
Councilman Bell	Aye
Councilman McLaughlin	Aye
Councilman Case	Aye
Councilwoman Szymanski	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Lot #159.69-1-11 The homeowner forgot to make a timely payment. The Receiver of Taxes recommends that no action be taken on removing the penalty. The Town Council concurs with this recommendation.

Motion by: Councilwoman Szymanski

Seconded by: Councilman McLaughlin.

Vote taken:

Supervisor DiPaola	Aye
Councilman Bell	Aye
Councilman McLaughlin	Aye
Councilman Case	Aye
Councilwoman Szymanski	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Lot #163.76-1-58 The homeowner asked for leniency to forgive a late payment due to a snow storm. The Receive of Taxes recommends that no action be taken on removing the penalty. The Town Council has agreed with this recommendation.

Motion by: Councilman Bell.

Seconded by: Councilman Case.

Vote taken:

Supervisor DiPaola	Aye
Councilman Bell	Aye
Councilman McLaughlin	Aye
Councilman Case	Aye
Councilwoman Szymanski	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Lot #163.60-1-46 The homeowner placed his check in the mailroom of his employment on 1/31/14, but the check did not leave that mailroom for several days. The Receiver of Taxes recommends that no action be taken on removing the penalty. The Town Council agrees with this recommendation.

Motion by: Councilman McLaughlin.

Seconded by: Councilman Case.

Vote taken:

Supervisor DiPaola	Aye
Councilman Bell	Aye
Councilman McLaughlin	Aye
Councilman Case	Aye
Councilwoman Szymanski	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

**Supervisor's Report:**

- a. Lamb and Barnosky, LLP, the Town's legal representation, has sent their new fee schedule. There was discussion indicating that the new fees are fair to handle the Town's labor situations and other issues that arise. Supervisor DiPaola recommends that we continue to retain this firm.

Motion by: Councilman Bell.

Seconded by: Councilman Case.

Vote taken:

Supervisor DiPaola	Aye
Councilman Bell	Aye
Councilman McLaughlin	Aye
Councilman Case	Aye
Councilwoman Szymanski	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. The Town Gazebo collapsed under the weight of the snow and ice. Within three days, the debris was removed. Within four days, we sent engineer's foundation drawings for proposals for a replacement Town Gazebo. There is a \$25,000 insurance deductible, but the structure may be rebuilt through a combination of grants and fundraising efforts from local organizations. The Rotary has already indicated to the Supervisor that they would help to raise funds if necessary.
- c. There was also roof damage on Town Hall. The scaffolding will remain in place until the police antenna can be secured following the roof repair.

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

Motion by: Councilman McLaughlin

Seconded by: Councilman Case

Vote taken:

Supervisor DiPaola	Aye
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Councilman Bell	Aye
Councilman McLaughlin	Aye
Councilman Case	Aye
Councilwoman Szymanski	Aye

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting ended at 7:27pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Colleen Walsh

Town Clerk

Pelham, New York