MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM

PRESENT: TOWN SUPERVISOR DANIEL MCLAUGHLIN, DEPUTY TOWN SUPERVISOR RAE SZYMANSKI, COUNCILWOMAN KRISTEN BURKE, COUNCILWOMAN MAURA CURTIN, COUNCILWOMAN KARA MCLOUGHLIN

RECORDING SECRETARY: TOWN CLERK ANTOINETTE CLEMENTE, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK MOLLY GIROLAMO

OTHERS PRESENT: TOM KLEINBERGER – TOWN ATTORNEY, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE TOWN SUPERVISOR-RUTHANN DESIMONE, AUGUSTA TURNER – LIBRARY DIRECTOR

CALL TO ORDER- Town Supervisor Daniel McLaughlin opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. **Swearing in of new library trustee – Nadira Boodhoo**

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Town Supervisor Daniel McLaughlin asked the Board to review and approve the minutes from the legislative meeting held on April 10, 2023.

Legislative meeting minutes:

Motion by: Councilwoman Burke
Seconded by: Deputy Supervisor Szymanski

Vote Taken:
Supervisor McLaughlin- Aye
Deputy Town Supervisor Szymanski- Aye
Councilwoman Burke- Aye
Councilwoman Curtin- Aye
Councilwoman McLoughlin - Aye

Motion passed unanimously

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) DEPUTY TOWN SUPERVISOR SZYMANSKI

a. FLY CAR REPORT
Month of April 2023
Village of Pelham - 40
Pelham Manor- 34
HRP- 3
I95 – 3

Average time for the transport unit arrival was 9 minutes and 57 seconds. 57% of the fly car calls were answered in under 6 minutes.

b. Empress is sending an ambulance to participate in the Huguenot Nursery School fair on May 20 free of charge.

c. Supervisor McLaughlin and Deputy Supervisor Szymanski have a follow up meeting with Eastchester EMS on May 18.

2) COUNCILWOMAN MCLOUGHLIN- RECREATION/SENIORS

a. Spring Rec activities have started. Soccer started on April 15 with over 300 pre-K to 2nd graders. Spring after school activities have all begun.

b. Spring tennis and pickleball have started. Permits (which are needed from April through November to use the courts) are available for Julianne's playground on the Recreation website. The cost for a permit is $100 for the summer and court sign-ups are online. New programming includes beginner pickleball lessons on Saturday mornings and Men's tennis lessons on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

c. On Friday, April 28th there was a 4th and 5th grade basketball night at the Hutch gym which was a huge success with maxed out registration.

d. Summer Day Camp is full. Big Tots and Tiny Tots have limited spots open. Camp Midfulness for SEPTA students still has spots open.

e. The Senior van did 32 round trips for medical appointments. The Red Cross is coming to give a fire safety presentation to the Seniors on May 26th at 1pm.

d. The Westchester County Passport Van will be in front of Town Hall on May 10th from 10am-1pm. More information on the Town website or call the county at (914)995-3082.

e. Pelham Together held its spring Advisory Board meeting and discussed many things including a new mental health assistance program which acts as a "stop gap" until therapy is secured. Interns assisting with the program are psychology and social work students from Iona, Fordham, Mercy and Hunter. They will also be holding their annual Summerfest on June 3rd at Chester Park from 3pm – 8pm.

3) COUNCILWOMAN BURKE – LEGAL

a. No departmental reports because the end of the month fell on a Sunday.

b. New court clerk is scheduled to start on Monday, May 8th.

c. Courts will be closed on Thursday May 4th for clerk training.

4) COUNCILWOMAN CURTIN – LIBRARY

a. A Defensive Driving course will be offered at the library on Saturday, May 14th from 10am-4pm. The course can help with insurance savings and point reduction. More information on the library website.

b. English as a second language classes are being held at library on Mondays in May through June 5. The program is taught by Pelham residents and is intended for low intermediate to advanced students. More information on the library website.

c. Estate planning for aging adults and demystifying Medicare programs are also being offered. More information on the library website.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor McLaughlin stated the following correction to the quarterly Town Update from April:

"Pelham Manor PD and FD feature highly trained first responders. All Pelham Manor PD and FD members are AED, BLS and CPR certified- those are emergency certifications."

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Gene Iannuzzi - stated that while some of the individuals in the Fire Department and Police Department of Pelham Manor are EMTs, it is accurate that neither agency is listed on the state of New York's website as a basic life support first response agency, which means they cannot guarantee staffing of first response units or equipment according to NYS standards and do not participate in submitting documentation through the system on calls they respond to. The efforts of the departments are laudable, however, they are not a NYS certified PLS agency. It is not an issue with individuals, it is non participation in an organized system. It needs to be known that there is another step that needs to be taken. Appreciates the work being done to improve the system.

- Mark Cardwell – Pelham Manor resident and EMT expressed frustration with the minimal certifications in Pelham Manor, but also frustrated with the Town's pace on securing emergency services and feels like there is misinformation circulating as to the flycar operating as an "emergency room on wheels" and that even though the flycar can be of help it should not be substituted for an ambulance. He used an example of a stroke victim needing immediate assistance the flycar paramedic cannot e of much help- they patient needs to get to a stroke center. He appreciates the hard work and fiscal responsibility of the Board but is frustrated that this has been going on for a year and we are the only town in the county without a dedicated ambulance. He also expressed frustration with the inaccurate monthly stats that are provided to the town by Empress. He wrapped up by suggesting the Villages contribute to the cost of EMS as they have bigger budgets.

- Supervisor McLaughlin responded by saying that "we have an ambulance service contract". He went on to say that our budget is about 4.5 million dollars on average, a house pays around $430/million in annual Town taxes. In order for the Town to purchase and staff a dedicated ambulance and the flycar, we would have to raise taxes from $430/million to $750/million per year. When this was presented to various focus groups, it was not received favorably. Supervisor McLaughlin also brought up the issue of mutual aid indicating that even if there is a dedicated ambulance it could be pulled away on a mutual aid call and not available and that if you don't participate in mutual aid you also don't receive it. We also do not currently have the reserves to purchase an ambulance outright. With regard to the Villages contributing – the tax money is still coming from the residents. Supervisor McLaughlin also checked with Westchester County who bought four ambulances to see if they would consider keeping one in Pelham. They cannot, but took note of our situation and have been very responsive on various calls in Pelham.

- Deputy Supervisor Szymanski responded that there are people in the fire department that are reviewing all county 60 data and that an RFP and an emergency services committee were created and only two people responded. The cost of a dedicated ambulance is the issue – millions of dollars – and the board has a fiduciary responsibility to the citizens of the town to take everything into consideration before making a decision. She also assured that representatives of both villages were involved in the RFP process.

- Supervisor Szymanski wrapped up by noting our current situation:

    - We are keeping the flycar staffed 24/7with a paramedic who can intubate, administer IV's and stabilize patients until the transport arrives.

- Ed Doty expressed the importance of residents engagement and participation.

Motion to adjourn the Legislative meeting at 7:39PM and move to Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Motion by: Councilwoman Burke
Seconded by: Deputy Supervisor Szymanski

Vote Taken:
Supervisor McLaughlin- Aye
Deputy Town Supervisor Szymanski- Aye
Councilwoman Burke- Aye
Councilwoman Curtin- Aye
Councilwoman McLoughlin - Aye

Respectfully Submitted,
Molly Girolamo, Deputy Town Clerk