MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 COMMENCING AT 5:30 PM

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

RECORDING SECRETARY: DEPUTY TOWN CLERK MOLLY GIROLAMO

OTHERS PRESENT: TOM KLEINBERGER – TOWN ATTORNEY, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE TOWN SUPERVISOR-RUTHANN DESIMONE AND A FEW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

CALL TO ORDER- Town Supervisor Daniel McLaughlin opened the meeting at 5:30 PM.

1) Supervisor McLaughlin explained that the special meeting was called to clarify to the Board the details of a recent EMS event that occurred on May 18th on Clay Ave. He preceded to read the following details provided by Empress noting that there was not a call made to the police department, the individual's son physically went to the Pelham Manor Police Department who then notified EMS:

EMS notified: 1032 pm
38M1 acknowledges the call: 1032 pm
Empress Dispatch notified at: 1033 pm; Empress communications supervisor tells 60 control please go mutual aid. (At this time there were not available Empress units, or they were 30 minutes away which would not be appropriate to send)
38M1 arrives on scene: 1034 pm
60 Control tones out Mount Vernon who was unavailable, New Rochelle who is unavailable, and tones out Larchmont Volunteer Ambulance.
Larchmont Volunteer Ambulance (66A1) accepts call and responding at 1042 pm.
Larchmont Volunteer Ambulance (66A1) arrives on scene at 1051 pm.
Larchmont Volunteer Ambulance (66A1) starts transporting with 38M1's paramedic on board: 1113 pm.
Both units arrive at Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital at 1120 pm.

From the time of EMS notification to the mutual aid ambulance was on scene was **19 Minutes**.

Empress supervisor spoke to the 38M1 paramedic who states that patient was stable at the time. The paramedic and Police Sgt kept contacting 60 control for an update of the mutual aid ambulance.

There was no delay in the paramedic arriving on scene and the Larchmont ambulance arrived on the scene 19 minutes after the phone call.

Unfortunately, the patient did not make it and died in the ambulance from a heart attack.

2) Deputy Supervisor Szymanski clarified that when Empress answered the call there was a five minute delay getting back to 60 Control to say that there was not an ambulance available which added to the total.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jonathan Kaspar – expressed that Pelham should have the best, most elaborate medical services available and thanked the Board for their work. Board members explained that we have an RFP out and have been working on this for some time and are trying to be as creative as possible to do what is best for the Town. Deputy Supervisor Szymanski explained that by law we cannot alter the budget mid-year and any additional expenditures would have to be included in the budget for 2024. In the interim the Town is trying to create a system that gives us the coverage that we need. We only had two responses to our RFP and there is a national shortage of EMS workers. Supervisor McLaughlin pointed out that the annual cost of a dedicated ambulance would be between 1.5 and 1.7 million in addition to the flycar.

- Steven Shekane – Reiterated the sentiment that the Town should have a dedicated ambulance and asked for clarification of how the insurance works. (the Board responded that it would be a 50/50 split with the Town and the EMS company). Mr. Shekane went on to say that the community doesn't blink an eye when the school budget increases and yet this is a life and death situation. Supervisor McLaughlin responded that the Board is considering putting this to proposition so the community can vote on the tax increase. Deputy Supervisor Szymanski added that a survey to the community is also being considered.

- Carla Caccavale – spoke about an incident at a modified football involving her son where he was on the field for 45 minutes (flycar arrived in 8 minutes and ambulance 26 minutes). She expressed that we are talking about life and death and that as a community we should be leading the charge to find a solution and suggested a private community fundraise (similar to the current effort for a new fitness center at the high school). She also added that she received twelve bills from Empress for a charge that was paid by insurance which makes her question Empress's back end process.

- Lori Lemberg (an internist at Jacobi) - spoke in support of having a dedicated ambulance. She added that if someone has a stroke of cardiac arrest out of hospital it a less than 10% survival rate and care before the hospital is essential.

- Jonathan Kasper – asked if using the Fire Department to respond has been considered. The Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor responded that FD in the Village of Pelham does respond and the PD responds in Pelham Manor.

- Supervisor McLaughlin brought up the point that even if we do have a dedicated ambulance with participation in mutual aid there is no guarantee that is will always be available. Last year in Westchester County there were 7800 mutual aid calls. Discussion around mutual aid participation. There is also the issue of where to house the ambulance (it should be garaged and accommodations for the crew are necessary) – different ideas are being discussed. Deputy Supervisor Szymanski wrapped up by saying that the Board is using every contact they have to secure additional funding to help defray costs and is sincerely dedicated to this - it is a number one priority. There are limited options and we are working hard to find both a temporary and a permanent solution.

Motion to adjourn the meeting and move to Executive Session to discuss a legal matter at 6:01PM.

Motion by: Deputy Supervisor Szymanski
Seconded by: Councilwoman Burke

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