**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND LEGISLATIVE MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

**Motion by**: Deputy Supervisor Szymanski
**Seconded by**: Councilwoman Curtin

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

**Motion passed unanimously**

1. **Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter.**

   **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

   **Motion passed unanimously**

2. **Motion to reopen the Public Hearing**

   **Motion by**: Councilwoman Curtin
   **Seconded by**: Councilwoman Burke

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

   **Motion passed unanimously**

3. **Motion to pass the 2024 budget:**

   **Motion by**: Deputy Supervisor Szymanski
   **Seconded by**: Councilwoman Curtin

   - Councilwoman Burke advocated for including funds for the Circuit car pilot program in the budget. She feels it would really benefit numerous residents (seniors, commuters, single car families).

Councilwoman McLoughlin asked if we could find more support from the Villages and local businesses.

Councilwoman Curtin thinks it's a good idea but also is looking for more buy in and support and maybe grant money.

It was determined that the Circuit program will not be part of the 2024 budget, but will continue to be explored.

- Supervisor McLaughlin asked for approval of the 2024 budget

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

**Motion passed unanimously**

**4. Motion to close the Public Hearing**

**Motion by**: Councilwoman McLoughlin
**Seconded by**: Councilwoman Burke

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

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Public Comment:**

- **Ed Doty –** asked if there is money in the budget for the upgrades to the Town House. It was explained that there is money in the balance sheet and that plans have been submitted to the State Senator's office for approval and that the goal

is to have the work completed in 2024. Mr. Doty also asked about the plans for Town Hall when the Police Department moves to the new building. Deputy Supervisor Szymanski explained that the priority for the building is the staff. Supervisor McLaughlin added that the new building will be ADA accessible. Mr. Doty also expressed interest in expanded use of the Senior van.

**Motion to open the Legislative Meeting:**

**Motion by**: Deputy Supervisor Szymanski
**Seconded by**: Councilwoman Curtin

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

**Motion passed unanimously**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Town Supervisor Daniel McLaughlin asked the Board to review and approve the minutes from the meeting held on November 6, 2023.

**Legislative meeting minutes:**

**Motion by**: Councilwoman McLoughlin
**Seconded by**: Councilwoman Curtin

**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. STATISTICS REPORT**
**Month of November 2023**
Village of Pelham - 40
Pelham Manor- 38
HRP- 3
I95 – 1

Average response time for the ambulance units that back up the flycar was 9 minutes and 43 seconds.

For the flycar: 41% of calls were answered in 6 minutes and under. 90% were answered in 8 minutes and under.

Deputy Supervisor Szymanski stated that our new agreement with EVAC is trailblazing and is being looked at by the entire State as a story of success and that the Board should be very proud.

### 2) COUNCILWOMAN MCLOUGHLIN- RECREATION/SENIORS

a. Seniors had 25 roundtrip medical trips in the van. There was a luncheon sponsored by Amy Paulin, a Thanksgiving lunch sponsored by the Civics and a visit from Hutch elementary school children. There will also be a Holiday luncheon in December.
b. November 25th was a big day in Pelham with a Civics ½ marathon/10K, Chamber Winter Wonderland and Town Tree Lighting.
c. Rec basketball starts next week. There are multiple teams in each school participating.
d. There will be a Holiday party for children with special needs on December 6th at 5pm. RSVP in the Rec department.
e. Trusts and Estates attorney to speak about planning for the future of children with special needs on January 20. This is a program sponsored by Rec and SEPTA.
f. Bizzy Girls program to start Jan. 6th and Mud Week Camp registration is currently open.

## 2) COUNCILWOMAN BURKE – LEGAL

**a.** The Court just completed a jury trial and expects to have more in the coming months.

**b.** Courts will be closed for the last two weeks of December for the staff to catch up on work and take PTO.

**c.** Concerns have been raised over the last few months regarding the Glover field entrance and safety protocols. The Town has Constables covering the area for added safety, but it is technically Mount Vernon property. There was a meeting where Supervisor McLaughlin, Councilwoman Burke and School officials observed the area and agreed there is an ongoing concern. Supervisor McLaughlin has reached out to the offices of County Executive Latimer, Senator Fernandez and Assemblywoman Paulin for assistance. Supervisor McLaughlin also believes that the Department of Transportation needs to be involved.

**b. Justice Report –**

**October 2023**

Justice Kagan - $16,356.00

Justice Gardner - $35,113.00

**c. Monthly Tax Receiver's Statement – November 2023**

| | |
|---|---|
| Town/County 2023 | $6,663.53 |
| Town/County 2022 | $0 |
| School Taxes | $407,995.09 |
| School Collection Fee | $3,427.16 |
| Duplicate Payments | $0 |
| Duplicate Refunds | $0 |
| Penalties and Interest | $8,328.87 |
| Liens | $0 |
| Taxpayers Agreement | $2,329.00 |
| Misc. | $100.00 |
| Pro-Ratas | $9,864.49 |
| **Total** | **$438,708.14** |

**4) COUNCILWOMAN CURTIN – LIBRARY**

**a.** As of December 5, 2023 email addresses at the library are changing from @wlsmail.org to @pelhamlibrary.org. Emails sent to the old addresses will be forwarded to the new email address for 45 days. After that the emails will bounce back to the sender.

b. Upcoming programs at the library are listed on the website and include: **Ayurvedic Approaches-** a series of health lectures from Dr. Somesh N. Kaushik. The December session will cover gratitude. Practiced in India for more than 5,000 years, Ayurveda is a comprehensive system of medicine. It emphasizes a preventive and holistic approach. Registration is on the library website.

**c.** There is now access to Consumer Reports online through the library website.

**d.** Councilwoman Curtin recently read at the library story time and had a great time. Story time has been a very popular library program and is held outside – call the library for cancellation information if the temperature dips below 40 degrees.

## SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

a. Supervisor McLaughlin congratulated Councilwomen Burke and Curtin for their reelection as Town Board members.

b. We are on track for the ambulance to start on Jan. 1, we are still working on an insurance detail which should be worked out shortly.

## NEW BUSINESS

**a.** Councilwoman Curtin brought up the Town House usage policy and whether we should charge a fee for use when there is a cost to the Town for staffing. Supervisor McLaughlin emphasized that fundraising is not permitted in the Town House. The use of the space and policy was discussed and it was determined to keep the current policy.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

- Joe Solimine (179 Secor Lane) – Gave historical information on the ambulance and commended the Board for their work on the initiative.

- Katie Keenan (Elderwood Ave.) – Asked when the ambulance contract will actually be signed. The Board assured her that it would be up and running by Jan.1.
- Ed Doty – Inquired about political use of the Town House. Councilwoman Burke responded that after researching she did not find anything to legally prohibit political use. However, our policy prohibits use of the Town House for political fundraisers, advocacy or partisan campaign events.
- Johana from Senator Fernandez' office let the Board know that any requests for support in the new year should be submitted between January and March – the earlier the better. She also informed the Board that they would be receiving an invitation for a year end recap that will happen via Zoom.

**Motion to adjourn the Legislative meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations at 7:57 PM**

**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,
Antoinette Clemente, Town Clerk
Molly Girolamo, Deputy Town Clerk