MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 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: RUTHANN DESIMONE – CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE SUPERVISOR

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

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Town Supervisor Daniel McLaughlin asked the Board to review and approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 11, 2025.

Legislative meeting minutes:

Motion by: Councilwoman Burke
Seconded by: Deputy Town Supervisor Szymanski

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

Motion passed unanimously

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) DEPUTY TOWN SUPERVISOR SZYMANSKI

a. EMS stats for August 2025: 83 calls

Pelham – 35
Pelham Manor – 40

- Average response time for the ambulance and flycar was 6 minutes.
- The onsite time (the time that the flycar is there until the ambulance comes) was 16.5 minutes.
- Transportation time average was 14 minutes 5 seconds.
- Turnaround time (the EMS cannot be released to come back until there is a report from the hospital) was an average of 29 minutes and 6 seconds.

b. Certificate of Need update: Deputy Supervisor Szymanski thanked Mark Baumblatt for completing the CON application. We have received over 40 letters of support. If approved, we will not have to go through this process again. We are on track to attend the Westchester Regional EMS Council public hearing for final approval in November.

Mr. Baumblatt emphasized that the ambulance will do their best to take patients to the hospital of their choice (including White Plains).

c. The employee handbook is nearing completion and Deputy Supervisor Szymanski is going to hold an in-service to go over the changes with the staff. Discussion around the evaluation process.

Motion to approve the Employee Handbook with possible minor adjustments:

Motion by: Deputy Town Supervisor Szymanski
Seconded by: Councilwoman Burke

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

Motion passed unanimously

2) COUNCILWOMAN MCLOUGHLIN- RECREATION/SENIORS

a. The 9/11 remembrance ceremony will take place on Thursday, September 11th at 8:30am in front of the 9/11 memorial on Harmon Place.

b. There is a new Recreation website which includes an App. Registration is going smoothly for the Fall programs.

c. Summer concert series continues until September 15th.

d. The Seniors had 24 medical van trips. Other programs included: Civics luncheon, birthday celebration, Pelicones ice cream, a visit from State Senator Fernandez, arts and crafts, exercise and yoga, bingo, cards and a trip to Glen Island, which was a Westchester County sponsored dance party.

e. Councilwoman McLaughlin asked for an update on changing our website to ".gov" and Supervisor McLoughlin responded that it would take place within the next 30 days. Councilwoman Curtin added that she is working with Town Web to update and enhance our website and will check in regarding ".gov" status.

3) COUNCILWOMAN BURKE – LEGAL

a. The prisoner transport van caught fire and is now completely unusable. We now can only transport two prisoners at a time. Discussion around a short term and long term solution to this urgent situation.

b. The Village of Pelham has implemented a new software system for parking tickets and the court clerks are catching errors which is impacting the reconciliation of accounts and the certification of end of month reporting. They are working with the Village Administrator to improve this situation.

c. NYSERDA update: there is now a draft of the transit mobility study which is ready to be distributed. The grant application is due September 25th which we will put in for and then discuss during the budget process.

d. Monthly Tax Receiver's Statement – August 2025

Town/County 2025	$26,881.11
Town/County 2024	$0
School Taxes	$0
School Collection Fee	$0
Duplicate Payments	$3,824.49
Duplicate Refunds	$0
Penalties and Interest (Town)	$1,810.31
Penalties and Interest (School)	$0
Penalties and Interest (Liens)	$2,427.30
Liens	$80,910.04
Taxpayers Agreement	$4,215.32
Misc.	$120.00
Pro-Ratas	$1,547.97
Total	**$121,736.54**

4) COUNCILWOMAN CURTIN – LIBRARY

a. September is national library card sign up month. Pelham library is celebrating by forgiving late fees during the month of September. Kindergarten library card signup day will be held on Saturday, September 13 from 10am – 2pm. Pre-registration is encouraged.

b. The library is participating with Sharing Shelf for a diaper drive to provide diapers for non-profits countywide. This will take place now through September 23rd. Diapers of all sizes (including adult diapers) can be dropped at the Carol Place entrance.

c. The following library programs will be held by Pelham High School students:

- Saturday, September 20 – STEM story time and craft for children 5 and up.
- Fridays from 3:30-4:30 in September - Albanian language and culture for kids ages 6-13.

d. Ongoing library programs include: Adult Book Club, Digitizing Wednesdays, Fiber Fridays, ESL, drop in Mahjong on Tuesdays (12:30pm-3pm), Tai Chi on the lawn and children's story time on the lawn. More information is available on the library website.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

1. **Motion to pursue purchasing the property next to the post office from Westchester County for $50,000.**

   Motion by: Supervisor McLaughlin
   Seconded by: Councilwoman Curtin

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

   Motion passed unanimously

2. **Ambulance update:** Travellers Insurance took over five weeks to come back with a verdict on the ambulance. Initially, they were going to repair it, but are now declaring it a total loss. They are giving the Town $197,000 to replace it. We are in the process of retrieving all of the equipment from the totaled ambulance. To replace it now will be $235,000. We need to sign a contract to buy the new ambulance by Wednesday.

Motion to purchase a new ambulance:

Motion by: Councilwoman McLoughlin
Seconded by: Deputy Town Supervisor Szymanski

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

Motion passed unanimously

3. The RFP for the elevator in Town Hall is going out to three contractors this week.

NO OLD/NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

- State Senator Nathalia Fernandez gave an update:
  - Passed school meals for all legislation
  - Cell phone ban is in effect
  - The state has put an additional 500 million in the budget for clean water upgrades and 1 million in for climate funding including zero emissions.
  - Every two months the state puts out a newsletter showing what grant money is available and when to apply for funds.
  - State Senate passed a Veterans Property Tax Exemption Bill, but are waiting for approval from the Assembly.
  - Deemed EMS an essential service in order to ensure reliable funding for EMS services in NY State
  - Increased tax credit for volunteer firefighters and EMS workers
  - Paid off 9 million dollar unemployment debt, so small businesses should see a lower state tax
  - Working on securing funding for an ambulance garage
  - Supervisor McLaughlin asked about funds for a new prisoner transport van and AC for the lower level of the Town House. State Senator Fernandez will look into both of these.

Motion to adjourn the Legislative meeting at 8:00 PM and move to Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Motion by: Deputy Town 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

Respectfully Submitted,
Antoinette Clemente, Town Clerk
Molly Girolamo, Deputy Town Clerk