

**SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**HELD MAY 10, 2016**

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Port Chester, New York, was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Conference Room at 222 Grace Church Street, Port Chester, New York, with Mayor Dennis Pilla presiding.

Present in addition to Mayor Pilla were Trustees Bart Didden, Francis Ferrara, Eugene Ceccarelli and Gregory Adams.

Also present were: Village Clerk, David Thomas Village Manager Christopher Steers, Attorney Anthony Cerreto, Assistant to the Village Attorney David Kenny, Village Treasurer Leonie Douglas, Fire Chief Edward Quinn.

On motion by TRUSTEE DIDDEN, seconded by TRUSTEE FERRARA, the special meeting was declared opened at 8:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Trustees Didden, Ferrara, Ceccarelli, Adams and Mayor Pilla

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustees Brakewood and Marino

On motion of TRUSTEE CECCARELLI, seconded by TRUSTEE DIDDEN, the Board went into Executive Session for

1. *Consultation with the Special Counsel and the Village Attorney to discuss fire operations* . (with Village Attorney Cerreto, Assistant to the Attorney David Kenny, Village Manager Steers, Fire Chief Quin, Special Counsel Terry O'Neil).
- 2, *To Add On an interview a particular candidate for a contract position to guide the fire operations*

On motion of TRUSTEE FERRARA, seconded by TRUSTEE CECCARELLI, the motion to Add On in Executive Session an interview for a person for a position for a contract position to guide the fire operations was approved.

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Trustees Didden, Ferrara, Brakewood, Ceccarelli, and Mayor Pilla

NOES: Trustee Adams

ABSENT: Trustees Brakewood and Marino

With a No vote the Add On was excluded from Executive Session.

On motion of TRUSTEE FERRARA, seconded by TRUSTEE DIDDEN, the Board went into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Trustees Didden, Ferrara, Brakewood, Ceccarelli, Adams and Mayor Pilla

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Marino

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Barry McGoey, President of the Yonkers Fire Fighters, commented that he believed the Executive Session was in violation of the Open Meetings Law. I hope there are minutes of what transpired. Actions taken by this Board have been given little or no public notice. You will be under scrutiny going forward.

Mr. Sean DiNegrìs of the New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association commented. The first few firefighters into a building are the professional staff, and time can save a life.

Mr. Mark Denease of the New York State Professional Fire Fighters commented the actions of the Board are putting the residents of Port Chester in peril. You need experts.

Mr. John Costalano, a professional fire fighter commented that he works with a volunteer force. You should have had 50 volunteers at the Cottage Street fire – not 10 or 11. His career and volunteer departments support each other.

Mr. Joseph McCue, a professional fire fighter for 32 years, commented. Fighting a fire is a team effort, not just a volunteer effort. You should reconsider your bad decision.

Mr. John Giordano, one of the terminated eight Port Chester professional fire fighters, commented he supports his brothers and the community. How are the residents of the Village supposed to feel when they have a Board and constituents that they are relying on to be so irresponsible?

Mr. Adam Bush of the Uniformed Firefighters Association of New York commented that he wants to know when his fire insurance is going to go up and who is going to pay for the Rye Brook lawsuit. Is that going to be paid out of contingency?

Mr. Lakewood(?), a former Port Chester firefighter and a lifelong resident, now a Greenburgh firefighter, commented that it is disgraceful to have made this decision.

Ms. Cathy Vertile commented there was a study done in 2014. How many of the present members of the Board were Trustees in 2014? Did you evaluate the contract with Rye Brook? You have done a disservice to your taxpayers.

The wife of a 20-year paid firefighter commented it takes the volunteers time to get to the fire department to get the rig out. Your paid men are your first line of defense. You have many buildings with illegal people living in them.

Mr. Joyce of the Yonkers Fire Department commented that Port Chester has a lot of old buildings. You have to be aggressive because time is your enemy at a fire. It is hard to stop a fire that has been going for ten to fifteen minutes; the time it may take for a volunteer to get to a fire.

Mr. John Flynn of the Yonkers Firefighters commented 60% of the residents of Westchester County are protected by professional firefighters. Port Chester is number 2 in Westchester in population density.

Mayor Pilla thanked everyone for coming and for their comments.

### **ADD ON RESOLUTION**

#### ACCEPTANCE OF JOSEPH GALASSO AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF MELLOR HOSE COMPANY NO. 1

On motion of TRUSTEE DIDDEN, seconded by TRUSTEE CECCARELLI, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Port Chester, New York:

WHEREAS, as of the May 2016, meeting of Mellor Hose Company No. 1, the company held an election for a new active member; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Galasso was elected to be a new active member. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the election of Joseph Galasso to Mellor Hose Company No. 1

Approved as to Form:

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Anthony M. Cerreto, Village Attorney

ROLL CALL

AYES: Trustees Didden, Ferrara, Brakewood, Ceccarelli, Adams and Mayor Pilla

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Marino

DATE: May 10, 2016

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Trustee Adams commented he was looking in the *Westmore News* and there was an article that Mr. Didden voted to override the tax cap. Mr. Didden replied that he did not make the motion. The *Westmore News* got it wrong and he (Gregory Adams) just wanted to get it on record that he was the only one who voted to override the tax cap.

Trustee Brakewood thanked the residents and others who came out tonight and voicing their comments.

On motion of TRUSTEE DIDDEN, seconded by TRUSTEE FERRARA, the special meeting was adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Trustees Didden, Ferrara, Brakewood, Ceccarelli, Adams and Mayor Pilla

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Marino

DATE: May 10, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

David Thomas  
Village Clerk