

SPECIAL MEETING HELD MAY 23, 2016

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Port Chester, New York, was held on Monday, May 23, 2016 at 12:00 noon. in the Village Hall Conference Room at 222 Grace Church Street, Port Chester, New York

Present in addition to Mayor Pilla were Trustees Bart Didden, Francis Ferrara, Daniel Brakewood, Gene Ceccarelli Luis Marino and Gregory Adams.

Also present were Deputy Village Clerk Vita Sileo, Village Attorney Anthony Cerreto, Human Resources Consultant Ed Brancati and Assistant to the Village Attorney David Kenny. Village Manager Christopher Steers arrived at 12:15 p.m.

On motion of TRUSTEE CECCARELLI, seconded by TRUSTEE BRAKEWOOD, the meeting was declared opened at 12:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

NOTES: None

ABSENT: None

PROPOSED MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of TRUSTEE DIDDEN, seconded by TRUSTEE CECCARELLI, the Board went into Executive Session with Counsel to discuss the Rye Brook Fire Services Agreement litigation and negotiation.

ROLL CALL

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE ATTORNEY TO SPEAK WITH THE DOJ REGARDING HOLD-OVER STATUS OF PARTICULAR RECENTLY ELECTION [SIC] TRUSTEES, THE END OF THE CONSENT DECREE, A POSSIBLE 3-TRUSTEE SPECIAL ELECTION SCENARIO, AND THEIR POSSIBLE SHORTENED TERMS.

On motion of TRUSTEE BRAKEWOOD, seconded by TRUSTEE ADAMS, the Resolution was discussed by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Port Chester, NY.

The DOJ has to be involved in this. Mayor Pilla commented that you need to sign an oath of office within 30 days of election. Because the three trustees are incumbents it is a temporary status. The public has a right to know the status of their Trustees.

Trustee Brakewood commented that if the trustees were reelected we would be in a one year term instead of a three year term. If we are holdovers we are at the mercy of four members of the Board. You do not have the rights of the other members of the Board if you don't have a term.

A motion was made by TRUSTEE DIDDEN, seconded by TRUSTEE CECCARELLI, that we amend the Resolution that the Mayor and the Attorney be accompanied by one Trustee other than the three who are the subject of the Resolution.

Trustee Adams felt this was a denial of his constitutional rights.

Mayor Pilla commented that Attorney Cerreto has never swayed from representing his clients in the Village of Port Chester. We need to understand the temporary status of the Trustee seats. He commented that he and Attorney Cerreto could be accompanied by Brian Sokoloff.

Trustee Marino commented that Mayor Pilla should do what needs to be done.

Trustee Ferrara commented he doesn't want an election in March.

Trustee Ceccarelli commented the Trustees were elected by the people and should not be overturned. We should have a balance at the meeting with the DOJ.

Trustee Brakewood commented he is not in favor of a March election. He is confident that Attorney Cerreto and Mayor Pilla will have an effective conversation.

Trustee Ceccarelli commented he would feel more comfortable if we had a Board member present just to listen.

ROLL CALL on the Amendment

AYES: Trustees Didden, Ferrara, Ceccarelli

NOES: Trustees Brakewood, Marino, Adams and Mayor Pilla

ABSENT: None

The Amendment to the Resolution did not pass.

A motion was made by TRUSTEE BRAKEWOOD, seconded by TRUSTEE ADAMS, to amend the Resolution to include Attorney of Record Brian Sokoloff in the discussions with the DOJ.

ROLL CALL on the Amendment to the Resolution to include Attorney of Record Brian Sokoloff in the discussions with the DOJ

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ROLL CALL on the Amended Resolution

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

NOES: Trustee Didden

ABSENT: None

DATED: May 23, 2016

ADD-ON RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO SIGN INTO LAW A RECENTLY-PASSED BILL THAT WOULD EXTEND THE TIME-FRAME FOR RECENTLY-ELECTED OFFICIALS TO SIGN AND FILE THEIR OATH OF OFFICE

On motion of TRUSTEE BRAKEWOOD, seconded by TRUSTEE ADAMS, the Resolution was discussed before the Board of Trustees of the Village of Port Chester, NY.

This is another avenue to resolve the Trustee issue.

ROLL CALL to add on to our next meeting

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

NOES: Trustee Didden

ABSENT: None

This will come back to the regular meeting on June 6th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of TRUSTEE DIDDEN, seconded by TRUSTEE CECCARELLI, the Board went into Executive Session with Village Manager Christopher Steers, Village Attorney Anthony Cerreto, Human Resources Consultant Ed Brancati and Legal Assistant David Kenny for

Consultation with Counsel and Staff to discuss the Rye Brook Fire Services Agreement litigation and negotiation.

ROLL CALL

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Trustee Marino left the meeting at 1:23 p.m. Trustee Adams left the meeting at 1:37 p.m. and Trustee Brakewood left the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Village Attorney Cerreto commented he had to prepare an Add-On Resolution on the Annual Municipal Report. This report must be submitted by June 1st. This Add-On will be presented at the next meeting on May 24th.

Trustee Ceccarelli commented on taking responsibility.

Trustee Didden commented that apologies should be made by the Trustees to the Village Manager's office and the Village Attorney.

Trustee Ferrara commented that some harassing statements have been made in public.

On motion of TRUSTEE FERRARA, seconded by TRUSTEE DIDDEN, the Board adjourned and went into Executive Session at 2:05.

AYES: Trustees Didden, Ferrara, Ceccarelli and Mayor Pilla

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustees Brakewood, Adams and Marino

Respectfully submitted,

Vita Sileo
Deputy Clerk