

MEETING HELD APRIL 5, 2011

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Port Chester, New York, was held on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 7:30 P.M., in the Village Senior/Community Center, at 220 Grace Church Street, Port Chester, New York, with Mayor Dennis Pilla presiding.

Present in addition to Mayor Pilla, were Trustees Daniel Brakewood, Saverio Terenzi, Bart Didden, John Branca, Luis Marino and Joseph Kenner.

Also present were Village Clerk, Joan Mancuso; Village Manager, Christopher Russo; Village Attorney, Anthony Cerreto; Village Treasurer, Leonie Douglas; Assistant to the Village Manager, Elisa Sciarabba; Director of Code Enforcement, Christopher Steers and Village Engineering Consultant, Dolph Rotfeld.

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On motion of Trustee Marino, seconded by Trustee Kenner, the meeting was declared opened at 7:54 p.m.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Trustees Brakewood, Terenzi, Didden, Branca, Marino, Kenner and Mayor Pilla
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

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Mayor Pilla apologized for the delay of the start of the meeting but was waiting for Judge Jose Castaneda to arrive from court for his swearing in ceremony.

The Mayor introduced Kevin Patino, an 8th grader from the Port Chester Middle School who will lead in the pledge of allegiance and sing the national anthem.

Mayor Pilla thanked Mr. Patino and presented him with a certificate of good citizenship.

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The Clerk said that the first matter of business is the swearing in ceremony of Mayor Elect Dennis Pilla.

Village of Port Chester Acting Justice Jose Castaneda presided over the swearing in ceremony for Mayor Pilla.

The Mayor thanked everyone who worked on this campaign and who voted for him to serve another term as Mayor. He said that a lot of things have been done over the last four years as Mayor but there are also the following top priorities that he would be focusing on over the next two years. Mayor Pilla said that these priorities include the establishment of user fees for example garbage collections and other items; formulation of comprehensive planning model; establish a downtown business district; the next Trustee Election system to prepare for the next cycle with discussion with the Department of Justice and the Court to stagger the Trustee terms and early voting aspects and to replace the Village Charter with New York State Village Law. He noted that we are one of very few Villages in the State that is controlled by a Charter and would ask for a referendum for November on this subject.

Mayor Pilla said that he looks forward to working with the Board of Trustees for the next two years.

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The Clerk presented the first resolution for the reappointment of Jose Castaneda as Acting Village Justice.

Trustee Marino made a motion for discussion, Trustee Brakewood seconded the motion.

Mayor Pilla noted that Judge Castaneda was the 1st Hispanic Judge in Port Chester who has served four years and that he is also the 1st Judge from Columbia in the United States. He said that there is a large percentage of the Village population that is Hispanic and it is important to have a Spanish speaking judge on the bench.

Trustee Brakewood said that he agrees that a Spanish speaking judge is important. He asked that the three appointment resolutions for the judges be tabled so the Board can speak to, interview and discuss each candidate in executive session.

Trustee Brakewood made a motion to table all three resolutions regarding the appointment of the judges, Mayor Pilla seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL

- AYES: Trustees Brakewood and Mayor Pilla
- NOES: Trustees Terenzi, Didden, Branca, Marino and Kenner
- ABSENT: None

Trustee Terenzi said that the last appointment of the judges was not even voted on by the Board but were reappointments by the Mayor. He said that he knows all of the candidates are qualified, hard working, professional individuals but would not vote for Mr. Castaneda at this time. Trustee Terenzi said that he hopes there will be opportunity later on for him.

Trustee Didden spoke about changes in the Building Department and Code Enforcement and that there exist the greatest potential of bottlenecks in court on these matters. He said that he put forward the names of Peter Sisca and Matthew Troy as candidates for these appointments over a week ago so the Board had the opportunity to speak to these candidates. Trustee Didden said that he has asked for State approval for an additional judge seat so would like to table instead of voting on Judge Castaneda to leave open the opportunity for him in the future.

Trustee Marino asked Judge Castaneda how long his length of service has been as Acting Judge.

Judge Castaneda said four years.

Trustee Marino said that the Board is responsible for the judges and if we were not satisfied with the work they were doing then we needed to inform them.

Mayor Pilla thanked Judge Castaneda for his service and said that he is in favor of his reappointment.

Trustee Brakewood said that he would also vote for the reappointment.

Mayor Pilla asked if the Board would consider again tabling these resolutions on the judges.

Trustee Marino said that it appears that there is a majority of the Board that wants to go forward on these appointments so it would be a waste of time so would not bother tabling.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING VILLAGE JUSTICE

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

RESOLVED, that JOSE CASTANEDA, residing at 13 Soundview Avenue, Port Chester, New York, be and he hereby is reappointed ACTING VILLAGE JUSTICE of the Village of Port Chester, for a two year term, effective May 15, 2011, and to expire May 14, 2013, at an annual compensation heretofore adopted by the Board of Trustees, to be paid every two weeks.

ROLL CALL

- AYES: Trustees Brakewood, Marino and Mayor Pilla
- NOES: Trustees Terenzi, Didden, Branca and Kenner
- ABSENT: None

The Clerk presented the next resolution regarding the appointment of Leonie Douglas as Village Treasurer.

Trustee Kenner made a motion for discussion, Trustee Didden seconded the motion.

Mayor Pilla and the entire Board spoke highly of Ms. Douglas and the work she has been doing as Treasurer since coming on board as a consultant and servicing as Treasurer since the end of 2008.

APPOINTMENT OF VILLAGE TREASURER

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

RESOLVED, that LEONIE DOUGLAS be and she hereby is appointed TREASURER for the Village of Port Chester, New York, said appointment to be effective immediately and to expire on April 1, 2013, at an annual compensation heretofore adopted by the Board of Trustees, payable every two weeks.

ROLL CALL

- AYES: Trustees Brakewood, Terenzi, Didden, Branca, Marino, Kenner and Mayor Pilla
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: None

The Clerk presented the next resolution to appoint Peter Sisca as Village Justice.

Trustee Marino made a motion for discussion, Trustee Branca seconded the motion.

Mayor Pilla spoke about the good work that the current Village Justice Joseph Vita has been providing for the last four years.

Trustees Didden and Branca spoke on behalf of candidate Peter Sisca noting that he had previously served as the Village Justice.

Trustee Brakewood said that he wished the Board had followed a different process regarding this appointments and that he supports the recommendation for three judges.

APPOINTMENT OF VILLAGE JUSTICE

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

RESOLVED, that PETER SISCA, residing at 461 Westchester Avenue, Port Chester, New York, be and he hereby is appointed VILLAGE JUSTICE of the Village of Port Chester, for a two year term, effective May 15, 2011, and to expire May 14, 2013, at an annual compensation heretofore adopted by the Board of Trustees, to be paid every two weeks.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Trustees Brakewood, Terenzi, Didden, Branca, Marino and Kenner
NOES: Mayor Pilla
ABSENT: None

The Clerk presented the next resolution regarding the appointment of Matthew Troy III as Acting Village Justice.

Trustee Terenzi made a motion for discussion, Trustee Didden seconded the motion.

Trustee Terenzi spoke about the qualifications of Mr. Troy.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING VILLAGE JUSTICE

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

RESOLVED, that MATTHEW J. TROY, III, residing at 88 Hawley Avenue, Port Chester, New York, be and he hereby is appointed ACTING VILLAGE JUSTICE of the Village of Port Chester, for a two year term, effective May 15, 2011, and to expire May 14, 2013, at an annual compensation heretofore adopted by the Board of Trustees, to be paid every two weeks.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Trustees Brakewood, Terenzi, Didden, Branca, Marino and Kenner
NOES: Mayor Pilla
ABSENT: None

The Clerk presented a resolution for the appointment of Christopher Steers as Assistant Village Manager.

Trustee Didden made a motion for discussion, Trustee Branca seconded the motion.

Mayor Pilla said that Mr. Steers has been doing an excellent job as the Director of Code Enforcement and now has taken on additional role with the Building Department. He said that this proposal to appoint Mr. Steers as Assistant Village Manager will be a great benefit to the Village.

Trustee Didden said that he supports this appointment noting that no salary is listed on the resolution so wants to discuss the salary during the budget process so would make a motion to table.

Trustee Kenner said that he also supports Mr. Steers' appointment but it was his understand that this would be done during the budget process as Trustee Didden had indicated so he would second his motion to table.

Trustee Branca asked to speak before the Board considers this motion. He said that he does not support tabling the appointment and that the salary can be finalized at a later date.

Trustee Terenzi also questioned the salary noting that he does not see in the proposed budget.

There was a brief discussion between the Board and the Village Manager regarding the additional salary for this appointment. Mr. Russo said that the total compensation would be \$141,000.00.

Trustee Terenzi said due to accusations that were made against him regarding unsubstantiated conversations with Mr. Steers he would be recuing himself from this matter.

The Mayor spoke about the work Mr. Steers he has done as Director of Code Enforcement and that this appointment is valuable to the Village to retain qualified employees. He suggested that the resolution be amendment with an effective date and the salary amount.

Trustee Brakewood noted that the Village did not hire Mr. Steers right away when he first interviewed with the Village for the position of Director of Code Enforcement that we waited until he took the required test. He said that we got a very qualified person and that he is very supportive of this appointment. Trustee Brakewood said that he agrees with Trustee Branca not to delay as long as he understands that the salary is effective with the new budget.

Trustee Brakewood made a motion to amend the resolution that the final resolve, include effective date of June 1, 2011 and annual compensation would be \$141,000.00, Trustee Marino seconded the amendment.

ROLL CALL

- AYES: Trustees Brakewood, Didden, Branca, Marino, Kenner and Mayor Pilla
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: Trustee Terenzi
- ABSENT: None

Trustee Didden noted that this agreement was provided to the Board last night so wants to table so Board could have an executive session to review the changes of the agreement.

There was a brief discussion with the Village Manager regarding the provisions of the agreement.

Trustee Branca said that we have a meeting scheduled tomorrow and would only agree to table if to that date.

Trustee Didden made a motion to table the amended resolution for the appointment of Christopher Steers as Assistant Village Manager to April 6, 2011, Trustee Kenner seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL

- AYES: Trustees Didden, Branca, Marino, Kenner
- NOES: Trustee Brakewood and Mayor Pilla
- ABSTAIN: Trustee Terenzi
- ABSENT: None

The Clerk presented the final resolution appointment of Joseph Kenner as the President of the Board of Trustees (Deputy Mayor).

Trustee Didden made a motion for discussion, Trustee Marino seconded the motion.

Trustee Brakewood thanked the Mayor for appointing him as Deputy Mayor and it was pleasure serving in that capacity on a few occasions.

Trustees Terenzi, Didden and Branca spoke about Trustee Kenner's qualifications and as the 3rd longest member on the Board is a good choice for this appointment.

Mayor Pilla recognized and thanked Trustee Brakewood for being the past Deputy Mayor.

APPOINTMENT OF
DEPUTY MAYOR

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

RESOLVED, that TRUSTEE JOSEPH KENNER, be and he hereby is designated as President of the Board of Trustees with the power to act as Mayor of the Village of Port Chester, New York, in case of the Absence or sickness of the Mayor, in which event, he shall have all the powers, rights and privileges, and be subject to all the duties of the Mayor of the Village until recovery or return of said Mayor who shall have been absent or sick.

ROLL CALL

- AYES: Trustees Brakewood, Terenzi, Didden, Branca, Marino, Kenner and Mayor Pilla
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: None

Mayor Pilla asked if anyone from the audience would like to speak at this time. He recognized Bea Conetta.

Mrs. Conetta spoke about the process that the Board had this evening regarding the consideration of Mr. Castaneda for reappointment as Acting Judge. She said that she thought it was terrible that Mr. Castaneda was here and had to endure this. Mrs. Conetta said that she does support the proposal for State approval for an additional judge for the Village Court. She said that she does not understand why the Board had to hold off for

one day the appointment of Mr. Steers to Assistant Village Manager stating that she believes he is doing a great job with the Code Enforcement. Mrs. Conetta congratulated Ms. Douglas for her appointment as Village Treasurer. She said that the Board needs to put politics aside and work for the good of Port Chester.

The Mayor recognized Goldie Solomon.

Ms. Solomon said that we need somebody in the court who speaks Spanish.

Trustee Didden told Ms. Solomon that the court has a Spanish interpreter.

Ms. Solomon spoke about properties that are off of the tax rolls including group homes and other laws that effect us. She said that we are all Americans even if we are from South, Central or North America.

Mayor Pilla recognized Richard Abel.

Ms. Abel congratulated Ms. Douglas and the new judges. He said that what happen to Judge Castaneda is politics and that it must be hard to retain employees because of this type of environment. Mr. Abel said that if you want to be transparent then do it right away and list the salaries in all the resolutions.

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The Mayor asked if any of the Trustees had any comments at this time.

Trustee Brakewood congratulated the Mayor and said that he agrees with his vision for the next two years. He also congratulated Trustee Kenner being appointed Deputy Mayor stating that it was a privilege serving in this capacity for the last two years.

Trustee Terenzi said that he would like to make a clarification regarding the Acting Judge appointment. He said that Mr. Troy has court experience and that when Judge Castaneda was first appointed he had no experience. Trustee Terenzi congratulated Mayor Pilla on this re-election.

Trustee Didden also congratulated the Mayor and that together with the Board they will make an impact over the next two years. He also congratulated Trustee Kenner on his appointment as Deputy Mayor.

Trustee Branca congratulated the Mayor saying that he will do a great job in these two years. He said that when the Mayor is right he will support him but when he does not agree with his ideas will state so and fight for what he believes in. Trustee Branca also congratulated Trustee Kenner on his appointment as Deputy Mayor.

Trustee Marino congratulated Mayor Pilla and Trustee Kenner. He said that he is here to work for the Village and requested that the next meeting include the rest of the appointments.

Mayor Pilla suggested an executive session to discuss the remaining appointments. There was a brief discussion regarding tomorrow's agenda items.

Trustee Kenner also congratulated the Mayor and agrees with some of his priorities regarding mandate relief, State changes to the pension system, the outsourcing of services, that the Master Plan is so urgency needed along with the establishment of a downtown business district. He also spoke about the judge appointments and he voted to appoint Mr. Sisca and Mr. Troy because they are like minded in their approach to the system. Trustee Kenner said that it upsets him that race is brought into these topics because it is not about race or anything else along those lines but about the qualifications

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of the individuals and that they have the same like minded goals as the Board. He thanked the Board for appointing him Deputy Mayor.

Mayor Pilla said that he looks forward with working with the Board noting that most of the times we are like minded on the majority of subjects and items. He said that he will work hard for the Village of Port Chester for the next two years as Mayor.

On motion of Trustee Didden, seconded by Trustee Kenner, the meeting was declared closed at 9:25 p.m.

ROLL CALL

- AYES: Trustees Brakewood, Terenzi, Didden, Branca, Marino, Kenner and Mayor Pilla
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: None

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Mancuso
Village Clerk