

Michael J. Volpe
Mayor



John Gallagher
Village Administrator

September 29, 2017

From the Desk of the Mayor -- Village of Pelham

With a busy start to the fall season, I have some important news to report, as follows:

After a vast search including the review of 200+ resumes and interview of 10 candidates, the Board of Trustees recently hired a new Village Administrator – John Gallagher. John, who had been the Village Attorney for 2 years, served as Acting Administrator for almost three months before his permanent hire. He brings a fresh set of eyes to our government and municipal governing in general. The Village also hired Joe Senerchia as our new Building Inspector and he has hit the ground running. Please congratulate John and Joe when you see them walking the streets, inspecting properties or when you come by Village Hall. They can be reached at 914.738.6270 or 914.738.2258, respectively.

On the financial front, the 2017-2018 budget has been submitted to the Office of the New York State Comptroller and the Village is **under** the tax cap for the 5th straight budget year. Thanks to my Board colleagues and Village Hall employees for their hard work in fashioning a very tight budget. We will now monitor and manage finances over the next few months to make certain that spending is in line with the budget and our shared desire to keep the Village affordable.

Over the past 12 months we accomplished the following significant items:

- Completed the Wolfs Lane park redevelopment thanks to State Senator Jeff Klein;
- Continued traffic remediation, set a 25 MPH speed limit in certain areas and added a crossing guard to address pedestrian safety concerns for those walking to and from school;
- Passed the Business District Floating Zone (BDFZ) supplemental legislation, which has resulted in developers showing interest in investing in the Village;
- Repaved more roads than had been done in the last 10 budget cycles;
- Received a \$100,000+ federal grant for a Fire Department Rescue Car through the efforts of Chief James DiNapoli and Lt. Robert Benkwitt;
- Completed disposition of the water system under an agreement with Suez Water;
- Entered into an aggregation energy saving arrangement to reduce resident billing for power while promoting environmentally sound energy consumption, and are currently implementing LED lighting for all street lights to save money and reduce electrical usage;
- Collaborated with Pelham Manor on police and fire training to address safety and responses to issues at the High School/Middle School complex;
- Continued and improved evening “Free Parking” locations for shopping and dining; and
- Finalized the installation of “Municipity” software to streamline building department interactions.

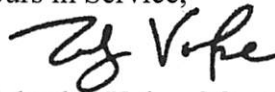
Together we have much more work to accomplish. We are:

- Exploring options with developers to improve our community further, including discussions surrounding the construction of a municipal center;
- Addressing traffic and safety concerns in our community, including around our schools;
- Revamping the Village Code to bring the Village into this century;
- Considering a Capital Plan to bring discipline to spending for items that can be amortized over time while interest rates are low;
- Continuing the daily “blocking and tackling” of maintaining and servicing the Village while addressing age old problems that have gone unaddressed;
- Working on remediating flooding issues throughout the Village, including by removing a blockage that has existed in a water main for years; and
- Normalizing labor relations by negotiating agreements with unions that represent Village employees where possible and financially prudent.

On this last issue, we have recently entered into agreements with 3 of the 4 municipal unions representing employees in the Village. We thank all of the union bargaining committees for their bargaining efforts over the past few months in trying to reach agreements. The Village is currently preparing for an interest arbitration with the union that represents police officers. The issues presented, among others, include whether active police officers should contribute to health care costs after their 4th year of employment to the date they retire. From the Village’s perspective, the rising costs of health care need to be shared by police officers, as they are shared by other Village employees, and as is customary in public and private workplaces. A third-party arbitrator will likely decide the fate of this issue, and we hope to have that case decided soon.

In sum, we are fairly busy. It is my honor and privilege to serve as Mayor of this wonderful community. If ever you have questions or would like to meet for coffee, please contact me at michael.volpe@pelhamgov.com or call Mr. Gallagher or email him at administrator@pelhamgov.com and ask him to schedule an appointment.

Yours in Service,



Michael J. Volpe, Mayor