Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester held remotely and at the Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York on April 21, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Colavita announced that he had developed COVID 19 symptoms nine days ago, had tested positive to the virus and is recovering and working from home. The Supervisor reported he is looking forward to a complete recovery. The Meeting was Called to Order and the following Meeting Notice was noted:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to notices and health advisories issued by Federal, State and Local officials related to the COVID-19 virus, the Town of Eastchester Town Board will meet on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 8:00 pm via videoconferencing and telephone conferencing, as permitted by the NYS Open Meetings Law. As permitted under the Governor of the State of New York’s Emergency Order Number 202.1, due to public health and safety concerns, the public will not be permitted to attend the Town Board meeting in person at any of the remote locations where the Town Board members will be situated, or in any other location. The public will have an opportunity to see and hear the meeting live via our cable channel (Fios channel 40 or Cablevision channel 19).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Town Board’s agenda is available online in advance of meetings www.eastchester.org. The agenda will also provide further information relating to how to view and access the meeting.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that comments for the public comment session must be made in writing to Town Clerk, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, NY 10709 or emailed no later than 4pm of the day of the meeting to townclerk@eastchester.org

Pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order 202.15, the Public Hearing scheduled for the April 21, 2020 Town Board meeting will be withdrawn and said proposed Local Law will be re-introduced in June of 2020.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Supervisor Anthony Colavita (remote)
          Councilman Joseph Dooley
          Councilwoman Theresa Nicholson
          Councilman Luigi Marcoccia

Present: Town Clerk Linda Laird (remote)
          Town Attorney Louis Reda (remote)
          Comptroller Dawn Donovan (remote)

Obituary of Town Councilman Glenn Daniel Bellitto
Bronxville - Glenn Daniel Bellitto, Eastchester Town Councilman, died on April 2, 2020, from COVID-19.

Glenn, 62, was a 30-year Bronxville resident who was defined by his love for his family, his commitment to the Village of Bronxville and the entirety of Eastchester, and his life-long devotion to community service. Glenn was Vice President of Finance at Acacia Network Housing, a non-profit based in the Bronx, and one of the largest providers of transitional housing for the New York City Department of Homeless Services. He truly valued the work and relationships he formed there as part of the larger Acacia Network.

Glenn was born and raised in Yonkers. In 1990, he and his wife moved to Bronxville, the day after they married. Their years together were blessed with two children who Glenn loved beyond all telling. He enjoyed exploring the world with his wife and kids, instilling an appreciation of discovery and adventure in them. He always created a warm and inviting space for family and friends. By hosting the extended family at Christmas and during summers out in Quogue, he helped to create some of the most beautiful memories the family holds.
Glenn's interest in politics ignited when he was 10, fueled by the debates around current events that he would have with his father at the dinner table. At 12 years old, he could be found distributing election leaflets at train stations. At 18, he was elected Vice President of the Westchester County Young Republicans Club. In his 20's, he became a Republican District Leader and President of the 11th Ward Republican Club. At the age of 32, he ran for U.S. Congress as the Republican candidate for New York's 16th District.

Prior to being Eastchester Town Councilman, he was Deputy Mayor of Bronxville (his young son Gage being especially proud of his dad for this.) Glenn was also a Bronxville Trustee and liaison to the Bronxville Police Department. His admiration and appreciation of the police force was a constant throughout his career. Glenn was thrilled to become a member of the Eastchester Town Council in 2011. His role as Councilman, which gave him the platform from which to dive into public service even more deeply, was his passion until the day he died.

Glenn's love of public service began as a young child when he organized Muscular Dystrophy Association fundraisers in his driveway on Huron Road. Glenn drew immense pleasure from being able to be a part of so many different community causes. His involvement with the senior citizen community, his alignment with the interests of condo and co-op residents and his founding role in the Bronxville Green Committee all brought him tremendous satisfaction. Glenn also took great joy from his membership in the Eastchester Italian American Citizen's Club, Tuckahoe-Eastchester Lion's Club, Knights of Columbus, Order of the Sons of Italy and the Eastchester Irish American Social Club (a nod to his wife.)

Glenn always valued education, attending Archbishop Stepinac High School where he made his mark as the editor-in-chief of the iconic 1976 Bicentennial yearbook and as a National Merit Scholar. He graduated from Harvard College in 1980 with a B.A. in Government and received his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1984. Glenn met the love of his life, Kyle, at the Harvard Club in Manhattan and proposed to her in Harvard Yard. He carried forward his love for the school by his volunteer work interviewing interested high school seniors, something he did for over 30 years. For those about town who may have noticed the HARVARD license plate on a succession of family cars, that was Glenn.

He was passionate about passing on his love of education to his children. His daughter, Dale, is now a Dartmouth College alum and practicing attorney. His son, Gage, was a sophomore at Columbia University, which is where he died of an opioid overdose two years ago. Glenn was forever changed by that tragedy. It was then that he channeled his sorrow by becoming a spokesperson with respect to opioid addiction and its impact on families.

Glenn is survived by his wife, Kyle Anne Moran, his daughter, Dale Anne Bellitto, his mother Dolores (Patrone) Bellitto, brother Douglas Bellitto, sister Robin Stettnisch (Bill), nephews Kevin, Ryan and Matthew, and many cousins and aunts. He is pre-deceased by his son Gage, and his father Salvatore Joseph Bellitto.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Glenn may be made to the Center on Addiction (in tribute to Glenn D. Bellitto in memo line) at 485 Lexington Ave., New York, NY, 10017.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. A private family service was held at the Bronxville Cemetery, where Glenn was laid to rest.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING – WITHDRAWN AND SAID PROPOSED LOCAL LAW WILL BE REINTRODUCED IN JUNE:

A) PUBLIC HEARING OF A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW PROVIDING FOR THE REPEALING AND REPLACEMENT TO LOCAL LAW NO. 6 – 2009, A LOCAL LAW KNOWN AS ESCROW ACCOUNTS FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION FEES OF THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER

V. APPOINTMENTS

A) APPOINTMENT – GENERAL FOREMAN – PARKS AND RECREATION

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Colavita to approve a RESOLUTION approving the probationary appointment of Franco Battista to the position of General Foreman. He will replace Patrick Annetta who has retired.
Franco has been employed by the Town since January 1, 2000 as a Laborer. In January, 2015 he was promoted to Assistant General Foreman. The appointment will be effective April 24, 2020 at a salary of $93,190 (Group L, Step 5). He will serve a probation period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks.

Funds are available in the 2020 budget.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

**B) APPOINTMENT – GENERAL REPAIRER – PARKS AND RECREATION**

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a RESOLUTION approving the probationary appointment of Matthew Joseph, of Tuckahoe, NY to the position of General Repairer.

Matt has been employed by the Town since March, 2008. In January, 2015 he was promoted to Skilled Laborer.

The appointment will be effective April 24, 2020 at a salary of $67,581 (Group I, Step 3). He will serve a probation period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks.

Funds are available in the 2020 budget.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

**C) APPOINTMENT – GARAGE FOREMAN MECHANIC – POLICE & HIGHWAY**

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Colavita to approve a RESOLUTION approving the probationary appointment of Robert Caruso to the position of Garage Foreman.

Robert has been employed by the Town since April 10, 2000. The appointment will be effective April 24, 2020 at a salary of $90,613 (Group K, Step 5). He will serve probation of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks.

Funds are available in the 2020 budget.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcocci to approve the Minutes of the March 17, 2020 Town Board Meeting as prepared by Town Clerk Linda Laird.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

**VII. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**A) POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

The Board reviewed and approved for filing the following reports for March 2020 of Parking Summons, Citation Activity Report, Patrol Activity Report, Statement of Accounts and the Traffic Accident Report.

**B) LAW DEPARTMENT REPORT**

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUPERVISOR TO ENTER INTO AN INSURANCE RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH ALLIANT INSURANCE SERVICES, INC. FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 30, 2020 TO APRIL 30, 2021**

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approved a RESOLUTION authorizing the Supervisor to enter into an insurance renewal with Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. for a total premium of $397,431 for the policy period April 30, 2020 to April 30, 2021.
On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

C) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT for March 2020 was received for filing.

D) RECEIVER OF TAXES REPORT for March 2020 was received for filing.

E) TOWN CLERK’S REPORT for February 2020 was received for filing.

Town Clerk Linda Laird reported the Town Clerk’s Office, since March 19th, had successfully worked remotely, with time spent in the office being limited to times when Town Hall was closed.

Town Clerk Office Report – Remote Activities March 19 – March 31, 2020
1. Town Clerk Fees Totaling $13,831.50 Processed
   Permit fees and fees collected in the issuance of Marriage Licenses and Death Certificates were processed and submitted to the Comptroller’s Office for deposit.
2. Remote Access to Voicemails established and monitored twice daily
   Karen has retrieved and responded to voicemail messages. In addition, the three of us have responded to calls made to our cell phones and in response to email messages.
3. All emails to each of our email accounts, as well as the generic Town Clerk email, have been responded to within hours of receipt.
4. FOIL - Generic response submitted and approved by the Town Attorney. 5 requests that have been received have been responded to via email.
5. Death Certificates - 3 death certificates were filed during this period, 2 electronically and 1 via paper. All have been processed.
6. Since 3/13, 4 “emergency” Marriage Licenses have been issued and 5 ceremonies performed.
7. The Town Clerk page of the website has been updated with timely information pertaining to changes in Election Days (Village elections, presidential primary and school bond vote), Garth Road Clean-up, updated information from NYSDEC re: Fishing licenses.
8. All mail (delivered and dropped off) has been processed either before 8:30 or after 4:30. All permits and requests have been processed and mailed, including Resident Parking Permits prior to the 3/31 expiration date, vital record requests, dog licenses, etc…
9. Handicap Permits- We will continue to mail the renewal application; however, in addition we will mail a valid six month Temporary Permit for use during this time when people can’t get out to a doctor.
10. Preparing mailing for the Sidewalk and Street project bids.
11. Garth Road Permit Parking ordered – we have begun preparing for the renewal and issuance of 2300 permits that will take place in June by remotely working with our supplier to approve and order permits for delivery in May.
12. No invoices were received since mid-March; however, we have established a workflow to have invoices reviewed, submitted and approved for payment.
13. Minutes of the 3-17-2020 Town Board Meeting have been completed/proofed and will be submitted for approval at the 4/21 meeting.
14. Processed NYS claim vouchers for marriage, dog and hunting/fishing.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

A) MEMORANDUM FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION RE: 2020 MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTH EAST CONSORTIUM

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Nicholson to approve a Resolution authorizing Supervisor Colavita to sign the Agreement with South East Consortium and the Town of Eastchester for 2020. The contract between the Town of Eastchester and the South East Consortium (SEC) authorizes payment of $28,586.00 for services provided to the disabled in Eastchester, Bronxville and Tuckahoe. Supervisor Colavita noted that the fee has been the same for the last 11 years and has been included and approved in the 2020 Recreation Department Budget.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.
B) MEMORANDUM FROM SENIOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RE: CONTRACT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR NUTRITION SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY 2020

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcoccia to approve a RESOLUTION approving the III-C1, III-C2 and Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) contract. The periods covered are January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 for the III-C programs, and October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 for NSIP. This contract between the Town of Eastchester and Westchester County Senior Programs and Services provides: funding for the Congregate Meals program at the Lake Isle Senior Center and Garth Road Center, and for the Home Delivered Meals program for frail, homebound residents.

Total aggregate amount to be paid to the Town of Eastchester is $100,575 and the total aggregate amount for the contractor match is $24,906 for the III-C programs.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

C) MEMORANDUM FROM SENIOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RE: CONTRACT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcoccia to approve a Resolution authorizing Supervisor Colavita to sign the Agreement with Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services for Title III-B Transportation Services, including Schedules A, B, C and D for the period from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

This contract between the Town of Eastchester and Westchester County Senior Programs and Services provides an amount not to exceed $7,247. This funding will support two of our daily transportation services for older residents: trips to and from the Senior Nutrition Center at Lake Isle and trips to and from medical appointments. The Town of Eastchester will contribute $5,036 in matching funds to the Program. The funding is awarded by the New York State Office for the Aging under Title III-B of the Older Americans Act.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

LATE FLYING ITEM:

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Nicholson to approve a change to the date of the May Town Board Meetings to one meeting only for the month, with that meeting being scheduled for May 19, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

(Councilman Marcoccia’s tribute to Councilman Bellitto will be inserted in the permanent copy of the Minutes)

In closing Councilman Marcoccia reported Golf will once again be permitted so the Lake Isle course will re-open for play starting tomorrow, Wednesday, April 22nd at 10am, with all 18 holes and with regular tees and greens.

Since staffing is not permitted at this time, there will be no pro shop services available. This includes no power or hand carts and no restrooms. There will be no access to water coolers, ball washers and bunker rakes. Security personnel are considered an essential service by this Order, and therefore will be on the premises to ensure that golfers maintain all necessary safety measures (including six feet social distancing).

Further, we want to remind you to put health and safety first for both you and others. We should take this virus seriously and we will be strictly enforcing guidelines. Please follow these safety precautions:

• Read all signs posted
• If you are not feeling well or if you have been in contact with someone who is sick please stay home
• Follow social distancing guidelines - stay six feet away from others at all times and no hanging around the clubhouse or in any one particular area
• Do not touch flag sticks
• Course is closed on Mondays
Please be sensitive of others, we are all in this together. Please take care of your golf course; replace divots and fix ball marks.

Only Lake Isle Golf Members from 2019 and those who signed up in 2020 will be permitted to play. Guests, visitors and spectators are not permitted on the golf course or the practice facilities.

Our membership office is temporarily closed until further notice due to the NYS mandate. But you can register online for your 2020 membership at www.lakeislecountryclub.com. In addition, Councilman Marcoccia announced the Early Bird Discounts deadline of April 30th has been extended through June 1st.

Councilman Dooley said he “can never do justice in honoring my friend Glenn Bellitto but I wanted to say a few words tonight…. I still find this all unbelievable. After his passing I read things like:

• Eastchester mourns an extraordinary individual
• Popular Town Board Member passes
• He dedicated his life to community service
• A devoted Family man

It’s all so true but it only scratches the surface.

To me Glenn was more than a fellow Board Member he was a friend. I will miss him dearly.

I made a list of the things that I will miss about him but will spare you. There are just too many. One however is the Easter egg hunt: Our cancelled Easter egg hunt scheduled for April 4th hit me hard when I received the invite alert. It was his favorite event.

Being on the Town Board meant so much to him – we will all miss him.

He loved the clubs and organizations that he was affiliated with. He had a deep respect for all elected officials regardless of party. He enjoyed working with the various Town Employees as well as all the community volunteers.

He was very passionate about the villages of Bronxville and Tuckahoe and the Town of Eastchester.

It was nothing short of a pleasure to serve with Glenn over the past several years – it will not be the same without him.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wonderful wife Kyle and daughter Dale as well as the rest of his family.

Councilwoman Nicholson gave a “shout-out” to Eastchester eighth grader Paul Coschignano on his latest invention. Paul designed and 3D printed ear guards for face masks from his own home, producing and donating them to local front-line workers and even for hospitals in other states. His design provides relief and comfort for those who wear face masks regularly on long work shifts. Over long periods of use, the elastic bands on a face mask can create small ulcers and sometimes bleeding behind users’ ears. They were only one size and not adjustable. Coschignano designed his own ear guard that goes behind a user’s neck and features multiple notches that allow an individual to find the best fit. Instead of stretching the elastic bands behind a user’s ear, the wearer would hold the ear guard in place and hook the bands into whichever setting was comfortable.

In closing, Councilwoman Nicholson extended condolences to Kyle and Dale Bellitto and promised that Glenn will forever be in her prayers.

Supervisor Colavita announced the Town tax bills have been sent out to taxpayers. Recently, both New York State and the County of Westchester have enacted significant changes related to the payment of your tax bill which is due by April 30, 2020.

On April 20, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order No. 202.22, which allows a local municipality to waive penalties for late payment of County, Fire and Town taxes up to July 15, 2020, provided a taxpayer can meet a test.
of coronavirus related economic hardship, which criteria has been provided by the Westchester County Executive. The Town of Eastchester is participating in this tax payment deferment and late fee penalty reduction.

To be eligible for that hardship certification, an individual taxpayer must:
- Pay their taxes directly, not through a bank or mortgage escrow account; and
- Be enrolled in the Star Program and be fully qualified for Star benefits; and
- Complete a single-page certification form attesting to their status of hardship. Taxpayers must certify in writing under penalty of perjury that they meet the specific criteria for the exemption requested. The certification form is available on the Town of Eastchester’s website.

Additional criteria have been set forth by the County Executive related to hardship certification for business organizations and individual taxpayers who own rental properties. The criteria for business organizations and individual rental property owners, and a complete copy of the Westchester County Executive Criteria for Determination of Taxpayer Economic Hardship is available on the Town of Eastchester’s website.

Further, on April 17, 2020, pursuant to the request of the Supervisors of Westchester County, the County Board of Legislators approved legislation reducing the penalties for the late payment of the taxes due by April 30, 2020. If you cannot certify a financial hardship, you may pay your taxes at the reduced penalty rate of one-half percent (0.50%) if paid in May of 2020. If paid after May 31, 2020 until July 15th, 2020, the penalty will then be one percent (1.0%). The penalty for payment received after July 15, 2020 until July 31, 2020, for everyone including hardship certified taxpayers, is now five percent (5.0%). The penalty for payment received from August 1, 2020 until September 30, 2020 is now seven percent (7.0%).

This tax penalty schedule only applies to the 2020 County, Fire and Town taxes due 4/30/2020. Pursuant to the County Executive’s directives, no refunds will be allowed for previously paid taxes.

If upon examination and verification of the hardship taxpayer certification form, it is determined that you do not qualify or have made false statements, then the penalty schedule will be applied to your payment. All decisions of the Town Receiver of Taxes are final and not appealable.

Please e-mail the taxpayer certification to rcacciola@eastchester.org or mail it to the Tax Receiver, Rocco Cacciola, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, NY 10709. You can email, mail or drop off the taxpayer certification form prior to making payment or at the time of payment. Be advised that if you are utilizing the hardship deferment, your tax payment can only be made by regular mail or in person at the tax office.

In closing, Supervisor Colavita expressed his deepest sympathy to the family of Glenn Bellitto, stating he was stunned and shocked to hear the heartbreaking news that Councilman Bellitto succumbed to Covid19.

There being no further business, the Town Board paused for a moment of silence for Councilman Glenn Bellitto. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Linda Laird
Town Clerk