

**TOWN OF HILLSDALE**

**BOARD MEETING**

**September 14, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 remotely through a ZOOM Conference call at 7:00 pm with the following members

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Chris Kersten

Councilperson Jill Sims

Councilperson Tom Carty

Councilperson Steve Tiger

Councilperson Robina Ward

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kathi Doolan, Town Clerk; Elizabeth Sheer, Deputy Town Clerk;

Matt Cabral, Town Attorney; Meg Wormley, Toby Butterfield, Lisa Berman, Lauren Letellier, Patti Rohrlich, Beth Gordon, Phyllis Granat, Ann Darby, Barbara Olsen Pascal, Lynda Brenner, Joyce Lapenn and other members of the public.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Kersten.

**Minutes.** Discussion about the Minutes of the July 13, 2021 Town Board meeting regarding the Town newsletter of September 2020. Noted that Councilmember Robina Ward abstained from the vote. Councilmember Steve Tiger said that the Motion to accept the Attorney’s clarification of the September 2020 newsletter with an explanation why the clarification is being published included that the basis of the clarification was an email he sent September 14, 2020 (attached). This was not reflected in the minutes. The Town Clerk will make the changes.

**Resolution #73. Accept Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of July 13, 2021 changing the vote to include one abstention and adding clarification of the addition of the September 14, 2020 email from Steve Tiger to the Board.**

On a motion by Councilmember Steve Tiger and seconded by Councilmember Tom Carty to accept the Minutes of the Town Board meeting of July 13, 2021 with the above changes

**Adopted Vote**

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

**Resolved to accept the Minutes of the July 13, 2021 Town Board meeting with changes.**

**Resolution #74. Accept Minutes of the Town Board meeting of August 10,2021.**

On a motion by Councilmember Tom Carty and seconded by Councilmember Tiger to accept the Minutes of the August 10, 2021 Town Board meeting.

**Adopted Vote**

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

**Resolved to accept the Minutes of the August 10, 2021 Town Board meeting.**

**Supervisor’s Report** – Supervisor Kersten began by noting the passing of Bill Anglum, the former Supervisor of Hillsdale and John Dodds, Jr., former member of Zoning Board and Fire Department and the husband of former Town Clerk, Ruth Dodds, with a moment of silence.

* Covid – Increases across Columbia County. Governor Hochul has signed legislation extending virtual meetings through January, 2022.
* County News – Board of Supervisors approved $1 million Grant application to help fund a new Office for the Aging building to expand kitchen operations for home delivery of meals.

Report of unserved Internet households in the County. Survey showed Hillsdale at top of list with 260 unserved addresses.

* Tri-Town Roe Jan Housing Task force. Each town looking into land rental and condemned properties to understand inventory and existing opportunities
* Speed Limits. DOT looking into replacing missing sign approaching Church on Route 23. Two moveable speed limit signs have been ordered for the town.
* Whippoorwill Road/Route 22 Intersection. Meeting again with land owner.
* ARPA Funds. Some towns have declined funds. Hillsdale will receive an additional $375.76. Board continues to study best use of funds.
* Home page of website. Support our Projects. Link to HECDC to help fund town projects

Steve Tiger asked who are the members of the HECDC committee. The Supervisor replied Tom Carty, Jill Sims, Janis Smythe, Joe Browdy, Peter Cipkowski and himself.

Since three (3) are Board members, and issues relate to the town of Hillsdale, Steve asked if that required a Public meeting. The Town Attorney responded since they are conducting HECDC business, there is no issue at this time.

**Highway Superintendent** – Richard Briggs – Working with heavy rain events, culvert issues. Completing pavement, blacktopping, seal coat on roads. Installed drainage projects.

Garbage issue. Boats, tires, bricks, lumber, mattresses being dumped on roads. Labor and disposal costs.

Wood Furnace replacement. Discussion.

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**Motion. Wood Furnace replacement.**

On a motion by Councilmember Robina Ward and seconded by Councilmember Steve Tiger to authorize the Board the pursuit of the estimates required under the procurement policy to replace the wood furnace.

**Motion Vote**

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

**Motion Carried**.

**Fire District** – Joe Hanselman, Jr. Not in attendance

**Tax Collector** – Joe Hanselman, Jr. Not in attendance

**Public Comments –** Lauren Letellier asked if anything further had been done about the gun shooting activity on the property owned by the Hope for Heroes project. The Town Attorney said he looked into the zoning question. As a Not-for-Profit charitable organization, no special permit or site plan required. They are responsible for building code requirements. The shooting is an issue to be reported to the Sheriff. The Supervisor spoke with the Sheriff’s department and does not have a response as to what has occurred since then.

**Old Business/New Business**

**Sewer District –** The Sewer task force met August 30 with a presentation by WaterWorks, which provides financial modeling for Waste Water operations. Mike Scheller is completing an inventory review. DEC has had their annual inspection. Waiting results.

Pat Nolan is retiring. Looking to replace him with a part-time licensed operator.

**Town Board Reports**

**Human Resources** – Steve Tiger. Employee Handbook. Proposal

**Resolution** **#75. Accept proposal from Public Sector HR Consultants LLC**.

On a motion by Councilmember Tom Carty and seconded by Councilmember Robina Ward to accept the proposal from Public Sector HR Consultants LLC in the amount of $3200 for professional services.

**Adopted Vote**

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

**Resolved to accept proposal from Public Sector HR Consultants LLC**

**Infrastructure** – Robina Ward. With Timi Bates and the Supervisor, met with gutter and slate person to see what replacements are needed on the Town Hall while keeping the Historic nature of the building. Late next March, a remediation of Town Hall will be scheduled. The Town Air conditioner pump needs to be replaced and she is getting quotes.

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**Parks** – Jill Sims. Summer program successful. Now beginning Fall activities.

**Climate Smart** – Tom Carty. Next meeting September 28 at 1:00 pm. Climate Smart committee is about climate, global warming and town’s preparation for hazardous events that may occur. Clean Energy is about reducing energy footprint.

A resolution is being prepared for the next Board meeting that will accept the formation of the Climate Smart committee stating names of committee members.

**Economic Development** – August meeting postponed until September 8. Number of Instagram followers up. Working on Welcome to Hillsdale page. HECDC fund raising project. Hillsdale Workshop Alliance.

**Hamlet Committee** – Toby Butterfield. Planning details for Pumpkin Festival. Protocols for Covid. Currently planning a Scarecrow contest, Sheriff demonstrations, Jams in the Hamlet. Board agreed to proceed with Event as Toby has laid out. Toby said costs may be covered by HECDC. Robina allowed that $750.00 is put aside for each committee each year and that is still available.

**Safe at Home Committee** – Joyce Lapenn. Organizing a Senior Chore Services Day. If anyone knows a Senior who can use help, contact Natalie Kahan, 518-265-2113 or email hillsdalesafeathome@gmail.com.

**Broadband Committee –** Steve Tiger. Members Tod, Andy, Steve and Grant writer Victor Cornelius, and Supervisor Kersten had a conference call with Albany discussing possibilities for a Grant. Needs to Survey people in need.

**Public Comments**. None

**Old Business/New Business**

**Grants –** Chris Kersten. Little change since last report. In advocacy stage to interest Senators Jordan and Ashby to endorse proposals.

**ECode360 –** Tom Carty. Received a draft of changes made to the document. Tom will forward the document to the Town Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Building Inspector and Town Attorney to review. He will then turn that over and wait for final draft. Jill Sims asked about incorporating the changes in the Sewer District to bring it up to date. It will be part of the adoption of ECode 360. The attorney said the process of adopting a Local Law is possible but as part of the ECode adoption process will not be ready until the end of the year.

**LED Street Lighting –** Tom Carty. NYSERDA requested documents. Submitted. NYPA is installer and maintainer. Should have a completed contract in four weeks. No closing date yet.

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**Engineering Projects –** Chris Kersten. Survey of Town’s site on Whitehill Road. Received feasibility study on West End Road Bridge which has been sent to the Board. There are three options to consider. All three are in the range of $500,000 - $600,000. Need to determine next course to be ready for Grant submission.

**Events Management-** Chris Kersten**.** The Towncannot engage in fundraising. The Town will allocate funds for town-recognized events. The Attorney added that the Town does not have authority to fund-raise and solicit monetary gifts and the committees do not have that authority either. HECDC can raise money and make a donation to the Town. A donation can be made to the Town, accepted at a Town Board meeting, and noted in the Minutes. The attorney will create a policy based on fund-raising of events.

**Hillsdale Newsletter – Guidelines for Businesses –** Meg Wormley. Question regarding business announcements. The newsletter has been focused on town business, town committees, and events sponsored by the Town, not individual businesses. The attorney said that the Comptroller’s office takes the position that municipalities should not cover Town businesses in Town newsletters. Robina offered that businesses represent economic development and would like to discuss further. The attorney will revise guidelines.

**Resolution #76. Pay Bills, Abstract #9**

On a motion by Steve Tiger and seconded by Tom Carty to pay the bills as presented.

General $ 15,532.44

Highway 14,876.40

Parks 1,690.06

Sewer 2,113,86

Lighting 666.42

Capital 35,405.00

**Adopted Vote**:

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

**Resolved to pay the bills as** **presented**

**Adjourn Meeting**

On a motion by Steve Tiger and seconded by Tom Carty to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm.

**Motion Vote**:

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

**Motion Carried**

The next Town Board meeting will be Tuesday, October 12, 2021 via ZOOM at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Doolan

Town Clerk

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**Attachment**

**From:** "stiger" <[stiger@fairpoint.net](mailto:stiger@fairpoint.net)>  
**To:** "jillsims92" <[jillsims92@gmail.com](mailto:jillsims92@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** "vancarty" <[vancarty@gmail.com](mailto:vancarty@gmail.com)>, "Robina Ward Hillsdale TB" <[RobinaHillsdaleTB@fairpoint.net](mailto:RobinaHillsdaleTB@fairpoint.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2020 1:30:02 PM  
**Subject:** Changes to September Newsletter

Jill - At the September Board meeting we agreed to the following changes in the September Newsletter.  (A revised September Newsletter should go out with an explanation for the changes).

1.  Remove Paragraph 3.

2.  Paragraph 4 - Town Board members Steven Tiger and Tom Carty, nominated and voted for Robina Ward to be Interim Supervisor.

3.  Paragraph 5 - change "After Robina Ward was invalidated as Interim..."  to "The vote for Interim Supervisor was deemed invalid due to lack of a majority vote."

4.  Paragraph 5 - to be accurate - Steven Tiger nominated and Robina Ward seconded, Jill Sims to be appointed as Interim Supervisor.  Jill Sims refused the nomination, explaining she does not want to give up her Town Board seat, which she would need to do as part of the nomination process.

5.  Paragraph 5 - Board member Steven Tiger asked Jill Sims if she would change her abstaining vote and support Tom Carty and I and vote for Robina Ward as Interim Supervisor and therefore the Town of Hillsdale will have representation and voting rights at the County level.  Jill Sims said she would not change her vote.

Thanks

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