

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board
Tuesday, January 20, 2009

I. Call to order

Supervisor Art Baer called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on **January 20, 2009**, in the **Hillsdale Town Hall**. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Attending

The following persons were present: Supervisor Baer, Board Members Carmen Barbato, and Peter Cipkowski; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, Animal Control Officer Dan Reed, Tax Collector Joe Hanselman; 3 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

III. Committee Reports

- a) **SEWER COMMITTEE:** Bud Atwood, speaking for Mr. Sena, reported that two bills had been paid and that the Committee was reviewing the application of the Rural Development Grant funds with Erin Moore. Mr. Baer added that Arold Construction and Brunswick & Clark had been paid based on funds being paid to the Town from Rural Development and that he was waiting for their final release. He requested the Committee to schedule the closing on the Rural Development and the 0% interest loans.

Mr. Baer stated that operational training should be scheduled within the next fortnight for Mr. Barbato, Mr. Briggs, and Joe Hamm.

On a motion by Mr. Barbato, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

Adopted by a vote of a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays,

the Board resolved to declare the Hamlet Sewer Project substantially complete.

- b) **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Mr. Cipkowski reported that he had attended the Historic Preservation Subcommittee meeting at the Mt. Washington House where the results of the Hillsdale Hamlet Historic Resource Survey were presented. He informed the Board that the Subcommittee plans to follow up with additional public discussion of the creation of an Historic District in the hamlet.

ROE JAN PARK: Mr. Cipkowski reported that he and Caroline Stewart had met with Ed Koons, who is strongly in favor of migrating the Summer Youth Program to the Roe-Jan Park. He added that the Park Committee would apply for a grant from Environmental Conservation for trees to be planted along the banks of the Roe-Jan stream.

[Caroline Stewart and Gillian Elster come in.]

Mr. Cipkowski presented the Park's budget for the year 2009. Ms. Kane commented that she has copies of the statutes that allow the Park and Recreation funds collected by the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals to be used for development of the Park. Jeff Paige, a member of the public, commented that he appreciates the clarification on the use of these funds and questioned whether they could be used for parkland outside the Town boundaries. Ms. Stewart commented that her reading of the statute allows the funds to be used for any park expense, not just park infrastructure.

Mr. Baer responded that the funds are to be used for the benefit of the citizens of Hillsdale and that, although the Roe-Jan Park is just outside the Town limits, it is in fact a Town park, developed for and used by Hillsdale citizens. Mr. Barbato added that the funds could be used for the Hamlet Park as well as for the Roe-Jan Park. Mr. Baer concluded that the Roe-Jan Park takes in more in one year through rents than the Planning Board collects in fees in three years and requested that the Park budget be revised to include the projected \$13,000 from Planning Board fees.

c) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE:

- (1) Mr. Baer reported that the Affordable Housing subcommittee had submitted a grant application to the Bank of Greene County.
- (2) Tom Carty reported that the Natural Resources subcommittee's aquifer study was underway and would begin with a survey of Town residents.
- (3) Mr. Carty continued that the Renewable Energy subcommittee is working with the high school on processing used cooking oil into fuel for the Highway Department. Mr. Baer remarked that Richard Briggs would have to be sure that the fuel is up to standards for use in Town vehicles.
- (4) Mr. Carty added that the Hamlet subcommittee had submitted a grant application to the Rheinstrom Foundation for funds for the hamlet planner and had raised \$5000 through a mail campaign for the same project.

d) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that FEMA would cover 75% of the cost of damages from the ice storm. Mr. Baer interjected that the state may cover an additional 12½%. Mr. Briggs continued that there was a total of just under \$100,000 in damages, excluding water damage.

Mr. Briggs reported that the Highway Department had been having problems with snow removal in the hamlet again. He stated that he would like to prohibit parking on the south side of Cold Water Street for 48 hours after a storm. He said, "As it stands, I can't get a pickup truck through the street." Mr. Baer responded that the Board would address an appropriate revision to Local Laws at the next Board meeting.

IV. Other Business

- a) Mr., Baer reported that two town-related member items were still pending in the NYS legislature, one for a tent and the other for the sign for the Roe-Jan Park. He said that he was pursuing the issue but had not yet had a response from the State.
- b) Mr. Baer presented an amendment to the Town's 2008 budget to close out that fiscal year. The amendment included a \$40,000 transfer from reserves to the Highway fund to cover additional storm damage costs and a \$11,000 transfer from reserves to the General Fund for additional garage heating expense and for the legal settlement with the court clerk. On a motion by Mr. Cipkowski, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

Adopted by a vote of a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays,

the Board approved the budget amendment.

- c) Ms. Kane reported that she would be working with Dan Reed, Animal Control Officer, to schedule a Town-wide Dog Enumeration or Census. This would start in the hamlet with a door-to-door count. Citizens harboring an unlicensed dog would be required to license the dog and to pay a \$5.00 fee for each unlicensed animal.
- d) Ms. Kane requested that licensing fees be raised to assist in covering the costs of the fine work that the Town Animal Control Officer was doing. On a motion by Mr. Barbato, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

Adopted by a vote of a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays,

the Board increased the fees for licensing dogs in the down of Hillsdale by \$2.50, effective immediately.

- e) Mr. Baer reported that Jan Keefner had sent out the first bills for sewer fees and that she was receiving the payments.
- f) PAY BILLS: On a motion by Mr. Barbato, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

Adopted by a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays

It was resolved to pay the Town's bills in the following amounts:

General Fund (2008)	Voucher #363 - #378	\$ 6,521.21
Highway Fund (2008)	Voucher #256 - #265	\$ 10,715.47
Capital Projects (2008)	Voucher #367	\$ 351.50
Roe-Jan Park Fund (2008)	Voucher #362	\$ 79.52
General Fund (2009)	Voucher #1 - #16	\$ 14,552.70
Highway Fund (2009)	Voucher #1 - #21	\$ 81,403.73

V. Adjournment

On a motion of **Mr. Cipkowski**, seconded by **Mr. Barbato**,

Adopted by a vote of a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays:

Supervisor Baer adjourned the meeting at **9:10 pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk