

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board  
Tuesday, September 15, 2009

**I. Call to order**

**Supervisor Art Baer** called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on **September 15, 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 Ann Baldwin, Carmen Barbato, Peter Cipkowski, and Augie Sena; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, Planning Board Chair Hank Henward, Tax Collector Joe Hanselman; CPRC Chairman Tom Carty; and 8 members of the public.

**III. Minutes**

Julie Kane, Town Clerk, submitted the minutes from the regular August Town Board meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**IV. Committee Reports**

a) **SEWER COMMITTEE:** Mr. Sena reported that the Town had closed on two loans and had made the first payment on the Rural Development long-term loan. He added that the closure of the old tanks had begun in the past week. Mr. Baer stated that the Town attorney had drafted a letter to sewer users explaining sewer bills unpaid by a certain date would be added to their 2010 property tax bills.

b) **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Mr. Cipkowski reported that he had received an estimate from Parkitects of \$7,000 for damage to equipment in the hamlet park and that the cost of replacing the equipment to code would be significantly more.

**ROE JAN PARK:** Mr. Cipkowski reported that the Summer Youth Program was on budget with some invoices still to come. He added that the Request for Proposals for work on the farmhouse roof had been issued.

c) **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:** Ms. Baldwin offered her thanks to Mr. Cipkowski, Robina Ward, Howard Van Lenten and Tom Carty and their family, Iona Lutey, Dick Alford, Bob Kessler as election custodian, the ballot clerks and the poll watchers for their contributions to the recent referendum. Mr. Baer added his thanks to Ms. Baldwin for managing the referendum process.

Ms. Baldwin reported that the Communications Committee would meet in the near future to review proposed designs for the new web site.

- d) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that all clean-up from the winter ice storm had been completed except for one mile on Texas Hill Road and that the department is still working with the tree crew.

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

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays,**

the Board voted that

**WHEREAS** the Taconic Hills Central School District (the School District) and the Towns of Copake, Ancram and Hillsdale are seeking to reduce overall operational costs by jointly purchasing and sharing essential facilities maintenance equipment; and

**WHEREAS** the New York State Department of State Local Government Efficiency grant program for 2009-2010 presents an opportunity to receive fiscal assistance for implementing programs that reduce overall governmental costs by sharing services and resources; and

**WHEREAS** the School District and the surrounding towns have a history of inter-municipal cooperation specifically focused on public works and other municipal improvement projects and services that led to the formation of the Taconic Hills Municipal Facilities Maintenance Collaborative in 2009; and

**WHEREAS** the Taconic Hills Municipal Facilities Maintenance Collaborative will jointly purchase and operate a new aerial lift Bucket Truck (High Bucket); and

**WHEREAS** the Taconic Hills Central School District as the Lead Applicant, and the three co-applicants, the Towns of Copake, Ancram and Hillsdale, will each commit \$5,760 as the required 10% local share; and

**WHEREAS** the municipal co-applicants of Copake, Ancram and Hillsdale have agreed to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the School District in which the shared services are listed in detail pending approval of this grant application;

Now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Hillsdale authorizes the Taconic Hills Central School District to apply as the Lead Applicant to expand the activities of the Taconic Hills Municipal Facilities Maintenance Collaborative under the New York State Local Government Efficiency grant program for 2009-2010, with the Towns for Copake, Ancram and Hillsdale serving as co-applicants; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that Superintendent of Schools, Mark Sposato, be designated the Lead Contact Person (and his designee), to submit said application and to execute all financial and/or administrative processes relating to the grant program.

Mr. Baer informed the Board that, regarding the heavy rains in August, Columbia County had not been included in the President's FEMA disaster declaration and that the County was presently engaged in an appeal of this decision.

- e) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Ms. Baldwin reported that she had met with Glenn Smith about the Building Department being over budget and that the discrepancy seems to be due to an error which will be addressed by the accountant.

On a motion by Ms. Baldwin , seconded by Mr. Sena,

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays,**

the Board resolved to approve the application for a grant to study the feasibility of combining of the Hillsdale and Austerlitz building departments.

#### **V. Other Business**

- a) REFUNDING BOND RESOLUTION: Mr. Baer presented the Board with a copy of a Refunding Bond resolution, explaining that by refunding the earlier bond, the Town would realize a savings on debt service. On a motion by Mr. Sena , seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays,**

the Board resolved to authorize the issuance of refunding bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$919,500 to be sold to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation.

- b) LIBRARY PURCHASE: Mr. Henward informed the Board that he had received proposals to inspect the Library building as a part of the due diligence process prior to purchase. On a motion by Mr. Cipkowski, seconded by Ms. Baldwin,

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays,**

the Board resolved to accept the proposal from Joe Iuviene, AIA, to provide a feasibility study evaluating the library building and reporting on its suitability for use as a new Town Hall for the fixed fee of \$5,000.

- c) HAMLET COMMITTEE: Chairman of the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee Tom Carty presented a report of the subcommittee activity to the Board. Regarding the proposed contract with a hamlet planner, he reported that the Town attorney is working with Project for Public Spaces to ensure that each of the contracted phases has concrete deliverables. On a motion by Mr. Sena , seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays,**

the Board resolved to authorize the Supervisor to sign a revised contract with Project for Public Spaces to provide hamlet planning services, said services to be capped at \$42,000.

- d) 2010 BUDGET: Mr. Baer reported that the budget worksheets had gone out to department heads with a cover letter asking for a freeze in budgets for equipment and contractual expense accounts and for no more than a 3% increase in salaries. He continued that the worksheets are due back on September 25 and that a budget workshop would be scheduled after that date.
- e) PHILMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT: Mr. Baer informed the Board that he had not made any progress in his discussion with the Town of Philmont regarding assessments for fire protection and LOSAP fees for Hillsdale residents within that fire protection district. He stated that a public hearing on the issue would be held on October 20, 2009, at 6:30 and that the owners of the 176 properties in the district would be notified of the hearing by letter.
- f) PLANNING BOARD SECRETARY: On a motion by Mr. Barbato, seconded by Ms. Baldwin,

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays,**

the Board resolved to appoint Vivian deGeorges to the position of Planning Board secretary as recommended by the chairman of the Planning Board.

- g) PUBLIC COMMENT: Sheila Wolven addressed the Board, raising a complaint about a man taking photographs of her, her daughter, and her grandchildren without their permission. Ms. Wolven stated that she had discussed the issue with the State Police but wanted to request assistance from the Town as well.
- h) COMMUNITY DAY: Chairman Richard Briggs reported that there had been 500 fewer attendees this year although there were as many vendors as in 2008. A general discussion of alternatives and future plans ensued.
- i) PAY BILLS: On a motion by Ms. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Sena,

**Adopted by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays**

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

General Fund	Voucher #264 - #292	\$ 17,600.11
Highway Fund	Voucher #203 - #226	\$ 107,221.37
Park Fund	Voucher #39 - #44	\$ 637.72
Sewer District	Voucher #13 - #15	\$ 2,777.33

**VI. Adjournment**

On a motion of **Ms. Baldwin**, seconded by **Mr. Barbato**,

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays:**

**Supervisor Baer** adjourned the meeting at **9:50 pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk

*Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk, to be accepted by the Hillsdale Town Board at the January, 2010, Regular Board Meeting.*