

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board  
Tuesday, October 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 **October 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 Ann Baldwin, Carmen Barbato, Peter Cipkowski, and Augie Sena; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, Planning Board Chair Hank Henward, Roe-Jan Park Director Caroline Stewart; and 7 members of the public.

**III. Committee Reports**

- a) SEWER COMMITTEE: Mr. Sena reported that DEC had agreed that the Sewer District does not need a licensed operator but that the current operators need more training. He added that the district would find someone to come in temporarily, perhaps for six months, to train staff. He said that he had advertized for a replacement operator, but that he was now recommending that the position be kept within the Highway Department if a Class 4 operator would be brought in for training.
- b) PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Cipkowski reported that the Town Attorney is working with the insurance adjustor on the claim for damages to the Hamlet Park equipment.
- c) ROE JAN PARK: Ms. Stewart reported that on October 8, bids for the repair of the farmhouse roof had been opened. She reviewed the bids with the Board, and the Board requested that Ms. Stewart further review the bidders' qualifications before awarding the contract. 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 authorize the Supervisor to approve a contract to replace the roof of the farmhouse at the Roe-Jan Park and to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$21,800 from the Parks and Recreation Fund for this work.

- d) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ms. Baldwin reported that the Committee had met with the web designer who will be returning with a "wireframe" for approval. She added that the Committee had discussed having the Newcomers Package available at Town Hall for new residents.
- e) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that clean-up from the ice storm had been completed and that \$393,000 in charges had been sent to FEMA. Mr. Baer stated that some of the summer flood damage would be allocated to extended consequences of the ice

storm because the debris from the latter had not been completely removed at the time of the flood.

- f) Mr. Baer presented the Board with an extension of the existing contract from the County for the removal of ice and snow from County roads in the Hamlet. 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 approve the extension for an additional three year of the existing contract from Columbia County paying the Town Highway Department for the removal of ice and snow from County Roads within the Hamlet of Hillsdale.

BID OPENINGS: Bids were received from R. Albright, Craryville, Ronald Ernst, Chatham, and Mike Regina, Hillsdale, for the purchase of a one-ton truck from the Highway Department. (Bids attached.) 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 accept the bid from Mr. Albright to purchase the truck, as is, where is, for \$1,650.

- g) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Mr. Sena reported that he had met with the Building Inspector regarding his comments that the Town cannot make a profit from the fees of a department. The town attorney will review his comments.

Mr. Sena reported that Clark Engineering had prepared a site analysis of the library property and that Joe Iuviene, AIA, was helping the Town assess the building itself. Mr. Iuviene reported to the Board that he had been asked to evaluate the building's condition and to do a building code analysis. He had found that the building is generally sound and in good condition, adding that while the building has been well-maintained, the later additions are not code-compliant and will need to be replaced. He recommended following up with a Phase I environmental analysis to identify potential hazardous materials and having a slate roofer inspect the roof. Mr. Henward added that, after these actions, a space planning study and a rough estimate of costs should be prepared.

On a motion by **Mr. Cipkowski**, seconded by **Mr. Sena**,

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

the Board resolved to authorize expenditures from the Building Fund of \$2000 for a radon study and \$3100 for an asbestos study of the library building.

#### IV. Other Business

- a) WHIPPOORWILL ROAD: Mr. Baer presented a letter to the Board signed by eight Town residents expressing their concern about the safety of the intersection of Route 22 and Whippoorwill Road in Hillsdale. After some discussion, and 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 resolved that

WHEREAS, the intersection of Whippoorwill Road with New York State Route 22 in the Town of Hillsdale is a blind intersection for vehicles attempting to exit from Whippoorwill Road onto New York State 22; and

WHEREAS, over the years there have been numerous accidents and near accidents which have occurred at this intersection; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hillsdale is the owners of an irrevocable offer of cession which would permit the relocation of this intersection to the South of its existing location, which relocation would in turn increase the visibility for vehicles exiting from Whippoorwill Road onto New York State Route 22,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Hillsdale Town Board, by this Resolution dies hereby request, through the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board, that the New York State Department of Transportation take the following remedial steps with respect to the intersection of Whippoorwill Road with New York State Route 22:

1. Post a “dangerous intersection” sign north of the existing intersection to alert drivers traveling South on New York State Route 22 to the need to slow their vehicles as they approach the intersection;
2. Extend the existing 40 mile per hour speed limit on New York State Route 22 to a point located North of the intersection with Whippoorwill Road and South of the intersection of Hunt Road with New York State Route 22;
3. Relocate the intersection of Whippoorwill Road to the South of its existing location using the property rights held by the Town of Hillsdale under the irrevocable offer of cession to be annexed to this resolution.

VETERANS MEMORIAL: Mr. Baer reported that the members of the VFW would like the Town to move the “No Parking” sign to the west side of the new monument. On a motion by **Mr. Cipkowski**, seconded by **Mr. Sena**,

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

the Board resolved to request that the New York State Department of Transportation move the No Parking sign to the west side of the Veterans Monument.

- b) Mr. Baer reminded the Board that Craig Norton's appointment to the Board of Assessment Review had expired.
- c) 2010 BUDGET: Mr. Baer reviewed several changes to the preliminary 2010 budget with the Board. On a motion by **Ms. Baldwin**, seconded by **Mr. Barbato**,

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

the Board resolved to adopt the Preliminary Budget as amended as the final 2010 Budget.

- d) 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 #294 - #327	\$ 33,908.27
Highway Fund	Voucher #227 - #260	\$ 38,988.36
Roe-Jan Park	Voucher #45 - #48	\$ 948.00
Sewer District	Voucher #16 - #27	\$ 49,220.90

## **V. Adjournment**

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

**Adopted by 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 November, 2009, Regular Board Meeting.*