

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board
Tuesday, November 17, 2009

I. Call to order

Supervisor Art Baer called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on November 17, 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; Molly Salisbury of the Register-Star and 2 members of the public.

III. Acceptance of minutes

Julie Kane, Town Clerk, submitted the minutes from the second budget workshop, the October 20th public hearing, and the regular October Town Board meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. Committee Reports

- a) **SEWER COMMITTEE:** Mr. Sena reported that the final closing on the 0% bond was scheduled for December 17th. He added that interviews were underway in the search for a licensed engineer to be in place by January 1, to provide temporary service and staff training. He continued, stating that contracts were in place with WTI, retroactive to June 1, 2009, and that all sewer users in arrears had been notified that their outstanding balances would be added to their property tax bills by the County.
- b) **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Regarding the farmhouse roof replacement at the Roe Jan Park, Ms. Stewart reported that she had checked the references of the lowest bidder and had awarded the contract to him but that he had been unable to fulfill it. She continued that Scott Decker, the second lowest bidder at \$21,600 had been contacted and would be able to start work at the beginning of December. A contract for the work will be signed by the Supervisor.

Mr. Cipkowski reported that the Town had not received a response from the insurance company regarding the damage to the playground equipment in the Hamlet Park.
- c) **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that blacktopping was finished and that the highway crew was now working on leaves and sand. He added that he will continue to work with Dick Alford to purchase the chipper which is currently being rented.

Mr. Briggs also reported that the person who had tendered the winning bid for the surplus truck had purchased another vehicle when he had not been notified of the results of the bid opening in a timely manner and that the notice of sale would be republished.

Mr. Briggs added that the boulders in front of the newly dedicated war memorial were causing cars to park partially in the roadway. It was decided that Court security would ask people not to park there on Court night.

Mr. Henward informed the Board that the Planning Board had formally approved the proposed plan for sidewalks in the Hillsdale Hamlet.

- d) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Mr. Sena reported that Building Department staff is not happy with their 20% reduction in hours, and he added that Glenn Smith would be reminded to purchase the scanning printer approved by the Board.
- e) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ms. Baldwin reported that the Communications Committee had received the wireframe design for the new web site from Peter Wise and would be working with him to refine the design.

V. Other Business

- a) LIBRARY ACQUISITION: It was reported that Mr. Alford is working on a purchase contract with an appropriate contingency clause and that the environmental assessment is underway, to be completed within two weeks. The due diligence process was expected to be complete within 40 days. Mr. Baer emphasized that the Town would need to know when the Library will vacate the building.
- b) ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Mr. Baer stated that Craig Norton, chair of the ZBA, had told him that the ZBA had recommended Howard Van Lenten to fill their vacant board seat. 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 appoint Howard Van Lenten to fill an unexpired term on the Hillsdale Zoning Board of Appeals, which appointment will expire December 31, 2011.

- c) ETHICS POLICY: Mr. Baer presented the Board with a copy of the County Ethics Policy and recommended that the Town adopt the policy and defer ethics issues to the County Ethics Board. On a motion by **Ms. Baldwin**, seconded by **Mr. Barbato**,

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

the Board resolved to adopt the Columbia County Ethics Policy as the Town's policy and to defer ethics issues to the County Ethics Board for resolution.

- d) WAR MEMORIAL: Mr. Baer informed the Board that the dedication of the redesigned and expanded War Memorial had been a moving and impressive event, attended by officials and veterans from around the region.
- e) PHILMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT: Mr. Baer reported that Philmont has proposed an assessment of \$48,800, or \$0.6367 per \$1000 of assessed property value and would drop the prior LOSAP assessments. He recommended that the Board accept the offer under protest for one year and added that he would approach the State Attorney General's office about the possibility of arbitration. 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 contract offered by the Philmont Fire Protection District for 2010 and to explore possibilities for future negotiations.

- f) COLUMBIA-GREENE HUMANE SOCIETY CONTRACT: Mr. Baer presented the Board with the 2010 contract for the sheltering of dogs from the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA, explaining that the terms remained to same as in the current 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 execute the 2010 contract with Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA for the sheltering of dogs.

- g) 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 #328 - #352	\$ 9,170.58
Highway Fund	Voucher #261 - #283	\$ 74,712.52
Sewer Project	Voucher #16	\$ 10,416.40
Roe Jan Park	Voucher #51	\$ 42.56
Sewer District	Voucher #28 - #33	\$ 7,971.72

VI. Adjournment

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

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

Supervisor Baer adjourned the meeting at **9:20 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 December, 2009, Regular Board Meeting.