

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board
Tuesday, August 17, 2010

I. Call to order

Supervisor Art Baer called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on **August 17, 2010**, 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, Peter Cipkowski, Christian Kersten, and Augie Sena; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, Planning Board Chair Hank Henward, Tax Collector Joe Hanselman, Town Attorney Nelson Alford, Resident Sheriff's Deputy Bill Dunsbaugh; and 14 members of the public.

III. Acceptance of the Minutes

Julie Kane, Town Clerk, submitted the minutes of the regular July Town Board meeting, the July 26, 2010, Emergency Town Board Meeting, the August 6, 2010, Special Town Board Meeting, and the August 12, 2010, Special Town Board Meeting. The minutes were accepted as presented.

IV. Committee Reports

- a) SEWER COMMITTEE: Mr. Sena reported that the DEC had conducted its annual review of the sewer system and had returned a favorable report. He added that the DEC is comfortable with the Town's ideas about expanding the system.
- b) PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Kersten reported that the Summer Youth Program had ended the previous Friday and had been a success with full enrollment. He also offered his thanks to George Koerner, a local citizen volunteer, who had repaired the pirate ship in the Hamlet Park. Mr. Kersten added that better lighting and increased patrols at night would help curb future vandalism.

Mr. Baer presented a proposal from a local electrician to install additional lighting with a timer in the park at a cost of \$898. On a motion by Mr. Kersten, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

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

the Board resolved to accept the proposal to install additional lighting in the Hamlet Park.

Mr. Kersten continued his report, stating that the Roe-Jan Park survey was still underway and would close on September 18, that movies in the Hamlet Park were scheduled for August 21 and September 18, and that the Fall

Festival would be held at the Roe-Jan Park on Saturday, October 2. 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 to contribute \$200 from the Celebrations account to the Fall Festival.

Mr. Kersten concluded by informing the Board that the annual Christmas Tree lighting was scheduled for Saturday, December 4th. On a motion by Mr. Cipkowski, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

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

the Board resolved to authorize up to \$200 to be spent for children's gifts.

- c) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Mr. Cipkowski reported that visits to the Town's web site continue to increase to 1,400 per month versus about 200 per month for the old site. He added that the Town's e-newsletter is now being sent to 223 addresses, that 58% of those actually open it, and that 30% follow a link in the newsletter for more information.
- d) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that road shimming had been finished and that sealing was starting. He continued, reporting that SEMO was completing its FEMA paperwork and that they will be paying \$112,000 out of the \$335,000 claimed by the Town. He added that he will be working to resolve the discrepancy. He concluded by reporting that CHIPS reimbursements would be processed on September 15th.
- e) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Mr. Sena reported that the department was reorganizing after the Town had rolled the zoning functions into the Building Department and that things seemed to be working well.

V. Other Business

- a) LIBRARY UPDATE: Mr. Baer reported that the Library had received its funding and that the closing on the purchase of the old building would be scheduled in the near future.
- b) COMMUNITY DAY: Mr. Briggs, Community Day chairman, reported that feedback indicated that this year's event had been the "best ever," with an estimated 1,200 in attendance. He added that the First Annual Hillsdale Fireworks had been a great success and had been paid for entirely by donations.
- c) TOWN FINANCES: Mr. Baer reported to the Board that sales and mortgage tax receipts and Planning and Building fees are all down and requested that all departments conserve spending. Mr. Briggs asked what the Town planned to do without the \$137,000 in CHIPS funds in 2011. Mr. Baer responded that

the Town would have to “hunker down” in order to avoid a double-digit tax increase.

- d) PHILMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT: Mr. Baer reported that the donation for fire services received from the Hawthorne Valley Association had been rebated by the Town to all district property owners. He added that he would try to negotiate a payment in lieu of taxes from Hawthorne Valley for next year.
- e) LEGAL REPRESENTATION: On a motion by Mr. Cipkowski, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

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

the Board resolved to retain the firm of Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux, LLP, to represent the Town in labor issues.

- f) EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Mr. Barbato, seconded by Mr. Kersten,

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

the Board moved into executive session at 8:40 pm to discuss pending litigation.

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

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

the Board moved back into open session at 8:55 pm.

- g) PUBLIC COMMENT: A member of the public asked the Board why the Board had passed a resolution in executive session on August 6th, 2010, casting a vote of no confidence in the Town’s highway superintendent and requesting his resignation.

Mr. Alford, Town attorney, replied that the action was taken to preserve and protect the interest of the Town.

In a general exchange, members of the public expressed their concerns about this action, particularly noting that the vote had been taken before formal charges had been filed by the Sheriff’s Department. The supervisor and the Town attorney reiterated that Board action had been taken only to protect the Town’s interests.

h) PAY BILLS: On a motion by Mr. Barbato, 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 #219 - #241	\$ 11,930.55
Highway Fund	Voucher #180 - #196	\$110,270.79
Parks Fund	Voucher #25 - #27	\$ 900.61
Building Fund	Voucher #3	\$ 5,000.00
Sewer District #1	Voucher #33 - #37	\$ 3,599.95

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 September, 2010, Regular Board Meeting.