

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board  
Tuesday, November 15, 2011

**I. Call to order**

**Supervisor Art Baer** called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on **November 15, 2011**, 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 Carmen Barbato, Peter Cipkowski, Augie Sena, and Jill Sims-Elster; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, Tax Collector Joe Hanselman, Town attorney Nelson Alford; and 5 members of the public.

**III. Acceptance of the Minutes**

Ms. Kane presented the minutes of the regular October Board meeting for acceptance. Ms. Sims-Elster noted that the reference to her meeting with a playground equipment vendor should be modified to state that members of the Hamlet Committee had met with the vendor. With this change, the minutes were accepted.

**IV. Committee Reports**

- a) **SEWER COMMITTEE:** Mr. Sena reported that the sewer connections for building with the new General Store and restaurant were complete and that the Sewer District was waiting for final approval from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Mr. Baer asked what would be done about a backup to the Sewer engineer with Dan Reed's resignation. Mr. Sena replied that he was engaged in discussions about the several part time positions currently open in the Town.

Regarding the new Town hall, Mr. Sena reported that work on the shed roof would have to be postponed until the spring as contractors are not currently available. He added that temporary patching with mortar will be done in the meantime.

- b) **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Ms. Sims-Elster reported that members of the Hamlet Committee had now met with two playground equipment vendors and that the Committee would be asking families with small children to comment on the vendors' plans. She added that the Hamlet Committee would also take on the annual tree lighting, scheduled for 5:00 on December 3, to make it into a Town event.

Ms. Sims-Elster thanked Mr. Briggs for cleaning up the storm-damaged tree in the Hamlet Park and concluded, saying that the new roof for the Harvest Barn at the Roe-Jan Park had been completed.

- c) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Mr. Cipkowski reported that the next e-newsletter would be distributed on November 25, and he presented a letter of appreciation to Megan Hanselman expressing the Board's appreciation for her work during her summer internship.

Mr. Cipkowski then presented the Board with sample images of a new Town seal. After receiving comments from members of the Board, he indicated that he would bring modified versions to the December meeting.

- d) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that his crew had been getting blacktop down before the early snowfall and that cleanup from the storms Irene and Lee had been completed. He added that he would be meeting with a FEMA representative about the Town's claims on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Baer informed the Board that he, Mr. Briggs, Mr. Barbato, and Steve Tiger, newly elected Board member, would be meeting about the new union contract.
- e) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Mr. Sena reported that Building Department fees continued slow but steady and should total about \$23,000 for the year.

## V. Other Business

- a) George Pitcher address the Board, explaining that he is interested in purchasing the former Roe-Jan school for use as temporary, transitional housing for the needy and elderly and asking for the Board's input. Mr. Baer noted that asbestos abatement could be a problem, and Mr. Pitcher replied that the asbestos present was encapsulated and that grants were available to assist in remediation. Mr. Baer asked which population would be served, and Mr. Pitcher said that he would be focusing on single females and families. He concluded, saying that he would keep the Board apprised of his progress.
- b) 2012 Budget: On a motion by Mr. Barbato, seconded by Mr. Sena,

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays,**

the Board moved to adopt the Preliminary Budget as presented.

Mr. Baer presented the Board with a request from the Community Rescue Squad to fund the Town's portion of their budget, including a 1.5% increase in expenses and an additional 3.5% to fund the purchase of a new ambulance, through a charge-back agreement with the County. On a motion by Mr. Baer, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

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

the Board authorized the Supervisor to sign the charge-back agreement.

Mr. Baer then presented the Board with a request from Mr. Hanselman to fund a \$200 fee from the BAS Company to host the Town's tax bills on-line. On a motion by Mr. Baer, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

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

the Board authorized the Supervisor to sign a charge-back agreement with the County for this fee.

- c) BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW: Mr. Baer informed the Board that Fred Laing's term on the BAR was expiring and requested the clerk to advertise the opening.
- d) UNPAID CLERK FEES: The clerk informed the Board that Robina Ward had not paid fees for records she received in April under the Freedom of Information Law despite repeated invoicing for the fees. Upon advice from Mr. Alford, Town attorney, the Board instructed the clerk to file a commercial claim against Ms. Ward in the City of Hudson Court.
- e) REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION: Mr. Alford informed the Board that, in order to establish a property tax exemption for improvements to historic properties in the Town, they would first have to define the extent of the Historic District and that they then would have to establish an oversight committee to review improvement proposals. Mr. Alford added that he would be including the definition of the Historic District in the changes he was preparing for the Zoning Law.
- f) PAY BILLS: On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

**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 #260 - #283	\$ 17,470.20
Highway Fund	Voucher #203 - #219	\$ 83,600.76
Parks & Rec. Fund	Voucher #40 - #48	\$ 16,796.98
Sewer District	Voucher #58 - #63	\$ 8,701.94

While the vouchers were being reviewed, Mr. Briggs stated that the Town supervisor was not authorized by law to approve expenditures from the Highway Fund. Mr. Baer responded that a chargeback had been made from the Highway Fund to the Sewer District Fund because certain services had been paid for that had not been provided or documented by the Highway Department.

**VI. Adjournment**

On a motion of **Mr. Sena**, seconded by **Ms. Sims-Elster**,

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

**Supervisor Baer** adjourned the meeting at **9:40 pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk