

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board
Tuesday, October 18, 2011

I. Call to order

Supervisor Art Baer called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on **October 18, 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 Carmen Barbato, Peter Cipkowski, Gillian Sims-Elster, and August Sena; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, Planning Board Chair Hank Henward, Tax Collector Joe Hanselman; and 15 members of the public, including 8 Boy Scouts working on their Citizenship merit badge.

III. Acceptance of the Minutes

The minutes of the regular September Board meeting were presented for acceptance. On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski, and adopted by unanimous vote, the minutes of the regular September Town Board meeting were accepted.

IV. Committee Reports

- a) SEWER COMMITTEE: Mr. Sena reported that a new customer consisting of a store, restaurant and several offices had been added to the system. He reminded the Board that there was a bill from Clark Engineering for their review of the work of the business owner's engineer, and he proposed a new policy for future occurrences. On a motion by Mr. Barbato, seconded by Mr. Sena,

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

the Board resolved that, when a review of a change to the sewer system usage is required by the DEC or other agency, this review will be done by the Town Engineer with the costs passed along to the property owner who initiated the change.

Mr. Sena also reported that he still has not received a quote from Clark Engineering for the costs to extend the system to new customers.

- b) PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Ms. Sims-Elster reported that she had met with a new equipment vendor for play equipment at the Hamlet Park and that a plan would be developed and equipment installed for spring, 2012. She added that there had been a good turnout for the Harvest Festival and that the roof replacement at the Roe-Jan Park should begin in the very near future.

- c) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Mr. Cipkowski reported that readership of the Town e-newsletter had increased 39% since May, with much of that increase in October. Mr. Baer asked Mr. Cipkowski to consider ways that the Board could solicit input from citizens about issues in the Town.

Mr. Cipkowski proposed to the Board that the Town Seal be “Freshened up” and suggested that he bring proposals to the next Board meeting. He also informed the Board that the Grand Opening of the new Town Hall had been a great success, assisted by a brass band from Ghent.

Town resident Jeff Paige asked the Board how more had been spent on the new Town Hall than had been approved in the referendum. Mr. Baer replied that things that were not part of the actual bid construction costs were paid from the dedicated Building Fund.

- d) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that his department was still repairing damage from Hurricane Irene and preparing for the fall and winter

Mr. Baer informed the Board that he and Mr. Barbato had been negotiating with the Teamsters Local 294 and had agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding for a three-year agreement providing for:

- Wages and benefits to be negotiated annually;
- An offer from the Town of a \$500 bonus to each member, to be paid by March 2012 in lieu of a wage increase;
- The ability for members to accrue an additional twenty (20) days of sick leave, from 40 to 60 days;
- An additional personal day each year, for a total of 3 days per year;
- The ability to earn up to 100 hours of compensatory time;
- An annual payment of \$1000 to any member who opts out of the Town’s health insurance program.

Mr. Baer explained that the economic benefits would take effect on January 1, 2012, with all other provisions effective immediately.

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

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

the Board resolved to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract approved by Teamsters Local 294 for the years 2012 – 2014.

V. Other Business

- a) NEW TOWN HALL: Mr. Sena stated that there were still some tasks to be completed, including improvements to the exterior walls, the shed roof and the heating and drainage systems. He estimated that costs would be about \$4500 and said that he would request bids for the work. Mr. Baer pointed out

that the meeting table in use had been found for a reasonable cost and that a larger top would be installed.

- b) 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 that

WHEREAS in January, 2010, the Hamlet of Hillsdale was designated a National Historic District by the National Park Service, which district includes 128 contributing buildings, five contributing sites, and two contributing objects and encompasses the historic core of the hamlet of Hillsdale; and

WHEREAS in New York State, owners of historic income-producing real property may qualify for an income tax credit for rehabilitating the property; and

WHEREAS in New York State, Real Property Tax Law allowed municipalities to exempt an historic property that is altered or rehabilitated in accordance with local historic preservation laws from taxation to the extent of any increase in value is attributable to the alteration or rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS such improvements may be declared exempt from special ad valorem levies as well as from general municipal taxes, but are liable for special assessments; therefore

The Town's attorney will be instructed to draft a Local Law exempting a contributing historic property in the Hillsdale Historic District that is altered or rehabilitated in accordance with local historic preservation laws from taxation to the extent of any increase in value attributable to the alteration or rehabilitation. And it further

RESOLVED that this local law will require such alterations or rehabilitations to be made in accordance with guidelines established by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, approved by the local preservation commission prior to commencement of such work, and begun after the effective date of this Local Law.

BUDGET 2012: Mr. Baer informed the Board that he had made no changes in the 2012 Preliminary Budget except the moving of \$1200 in the Highway budget from contractual to personnel appropriations to cover union contract concessions. 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 accept the amended Tentative Budget and the Preliminary Budget for 2012.

- c) SHERIFF'S SUBSTATION: Art announced that the Sheriff's Department would be moving into the old Town Hall Building by the end of October.

- d) HILLSDALE COPAKE FIRE COMPANY: Mr. Baer presented to the Board a letter received from the Hillsdale Copake Fire Commissioners requesting that the Town continue to offer certain benefits to the Fire Company in exchange for the services it offered to the Town. Mr. Baer added that the Board will need to get a legal opinion about the need for a Memo of Understanding. Mr. Sena stated that he thought the arrangement was workable, and Mr. Cipkowski and Ms. Sims-Elster expressed the opinion that the Town needed to have an agreement in place that would be reviewed annually.

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 authorize in concept the supervisor to sign an agreement with the Hillsdale Copake Fire Company about shared services.

- e) PHILMONT FIRE DISTRICT: Mr. Baer informed the Board that he had received the Philmont Fire District contract for 2012, that the amount being charged for fire protection was about \$3000 less than in 2011, but that the Hawthorne Valley Association might not make a contribution this year, thus raising costs to residents of that district. He added that further discussion with Hawthorne Valley was planned. On a motion by Mr. Barbato, seconded by Mr. Sena,

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

the Board resolved to authorize the supervisor to sign the 2012 contract with the Philmont Fire Protection District.

- f) Mr. Baer informed the Board that, in the absence of the Highway Superintendent and that Supervisor, the Town Clerk had met with an inspector from the Public Employee Safety and Health Bureau (PESH) of the NYS Department of Labor. The Clerk reported that the Town had been found in violation on 3 points:

- The Workplace Violence Policy was not posted in Town Hall;
- There was no formal Workplace Violence training program in place;
- The Town was not performing an annual review of incidents of workplace violence.

Ms. Kane continued, suggesting that she post the policy as contained in the Employee Handbook and that the annual review be made a part of the January Organizational Meeting. She added that she would compile training materials to be reviewed by all Town Employees.

- g) PAY BILLS: On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

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 #197 - #225	\$ 21,024.58
Highway Fund	Voucher #166 - #187	\$ 85,928.02
Parks Fund	Voucher #34 - #35	\$ 330.93
Building Fund	Voucher #40	\$ 10,985.73
Sewer District #1	Voucher #47 - #51	\$ 3,437.12

VI. Adjournment

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

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

Supervisor Baer adjourned the meeting at **9:42 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, 2011, Regular Board Meeting.