

TOWN OF HILLSDALE
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 21, 2013

Pledge to flag

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at the Town Hall at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present

PRESENT: Supervisor Arthur Baer
Councilperson Jill Sims-Elster
Councilman August Sena
Councilman Peter Cipkowski
Councilman Steven Tiger

OTHERS PRESENT: Ruth Dodds, Town Clerk; Robina Ward; Tom Carty; Howard VanLenten; Jeff Paige; Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent; Richard's Attorney, Ken Dow; Theresa Mayhew and Evin Hogan from Cooperative Extension; Register Star Reporter Joe Gentile.

APPROVE MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Jill Sims-Elster, seconded by Councilperson Peter Cipkowski; the following resolution was

Adopted - vote - ayes 5 nays 0

Resolved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on Tuesday, April 16, 2013, as presented.

SEWER

Pat and Victor are doing general maintenance.

There has been no feedback to date from the Westchester County people that visited us on May 10th. They are looking to replicate our system.

Tom Carty is looking into a grant to enlarge our district. So far nothing has been done to release money and don't know when that might happen.

PARK AND RECREATION

The Summer Program is filling up fast. So far 51 children are enrolled. There is room for 60. 100% of the employees from last year are returning.

The Roe Jan Park is putting up a fence around the fitness center.

The luncheon was very successful. \$495 was raised for the Beautification Committee from the sale of flowers on Mother's Day.

The Park is considering a permanent out house.

COMMUNICATIONS

551 people are signed up for the Newsletter. The web site had 60% open rate and 50% click rate.

The next newsletter will be announced tomorrow.

Clean up day will be Saturday, May 4th.

The Ancram Historical group got a tour of the Hillsdale Historic Hamlet. Others from Ancram meet with Art and Augie to discuss the Sewer.

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HIGHWAY

Supervisor Baer asked for the Highway Report.
Richard didn't bring it... said he had no report on the roads.
Richard's Attorney, Ken Dow, started speaking on budget and financial concerns.
The Supervisor felt the Town Attorney should be present to discuss legal issues.
Why did Mr. Dow not contact our attorney. (see attachment)

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

There is a new sign at the top of the stairs to direct people.
Councilman Sena is looking for a low bid for a short sidewalk from the community park to the black top.
We need a curb at the top of the walkway to stop the wash out when it rains.
There will be a railing installed on the lower steps in the front.
Betty Gallup requested something be done with the lights in the Hamlet Park as the light shines in her windows. Discussion covered screening the lights, adjusting the lights, and smaller lights lower down. Perhaps an electrician is needed.
Met with the State on sidewalks project etc. The County has received grant money from the State to distribute to towns for this purpose. The dead line is August 16th.
They were impressed we had moved ahead on everything we said four years ago. The State recommends an engineer to make a plan. Hillsdale did that when the PPS development was done.
How quickly would we be reimbursed... do we need to explore other sources of funding.
Grant writer Victor Cornelius has been contacted. He would charge \$3,000. He has worked in Dutchess County, but hasn't worked much in Columbia County.
Does the Board want to pursue the grant? Does the Board want a grant writer? It is not likely we would get help from the County.

On motion of Councilman Tiger, seconded by Councilman Sena, the following resolution was **Adopted vote ayes 5 nays 0**
Resolved to move forward to pursue a grant.

On motion of Councilman Cipkowski, seconded by Councilman Tiger, the following resolution was **Adopted vote ayes 5 nays 0**
Resolved to authorize the Supervisor to go forward with a grant writer, not to exceed \$3,000

Hudson Estuary Watershed Resiliency Project

Theresa Mayhew gave a presentation on a new program Cornell Cooperative Extension, in partnership with NYS Water Resources Institute and with support from the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program, is conducting an educational initiative with a focus on flood resiliency and climate change.

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Audit Update

The audit is coming together. At the July meeting will be the final presentation to the Board.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilman Steve Tiger, reported the Brochures will be out and on the web site June 1st. The second meeting of the Economic Development group was held. They discussed businesses to develop over the next 3 years. The town needs goods and services. The population of the town is ageing...will address demographics.

County Update

There will be a vote on a resolution to approve expenditure for an architect to design a new Pine Haven estimated at \$30 to \$32 million.

Public Comment

Robina Ward had questions on the rental of the substation that were answered.

Executive Session

On motion of Councilman Sena, seconded by Councilman Peter Cipkowski, the following resolution was

Adopted vote ayes 5 nays 0

Resolved that this Board move into executive session to discuss litigation matters.

Time: 8:11 pm

Close Executive Session

On motion of Councilman Sena, seconded by Councilperson Jill Sims-Elster, the following resolution was

Adopted vote ayes 5 nays 0

Resolved that this Board move out of executive session and return to the regular meeting.

Time 8:41 pm

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PAY BILLS

On motion of Councilman Cipkowski, seconded by Councilman Sena; the following resolution was

Adopted vote ayes 5 nays 0

Resolved to pay the bills in the following amounts:

General Fund	Voucher #87- 111	\$13,452.57
Highway Fund	Voucher #77 - 107	\$38,644.64
RJPark Fund	Voucher #RJP8 - RJP10	\$1,389.59
Sewer Fund	Voucher #SS26 - SS33	\$2,668.71
Street Lights	Voucher #SL5	\$ 528.66

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Dodds, Town Clerk