

**TOWN OF HILLSDALE  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
August 20, 2013**

Pledge to flag

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2013, at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ruth Dodds, Town Clerk; Robina Ward, Jeff Paige, Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs and his Attorney Ken Dow, Joyce LaPenn, Meg Wormley, and Janis Smythe representing the Library, Bob and Sally Blackman, Steven and Barbara Smith, Register Star Reporter Joe Gentile

**APPROVE MINUTES**

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

**Adopted - vote - ayes 5 nays 0**

Resolved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on Tuesday, July 16, 2013, and the Special Meeting held on Thursday, July 25, 2013.

**SEWER**

Last year there was some surplus in the sewer account. We have to pay back what DEC imposed on us. (We did get DEC certification)

Because of this there is a need to increase the sewer fees. The Board discussed sending out a letter to homeowners in the district explaining the need to increase sewer fees by \$5 per EDU. The sewer is running at 13,000 gallons per day. That is 40-50% or at half capacity.

On resolution was

**Adopted - vote - ayes 5 nays 0**

Resolved to approve the increase in sewer costs by \$5 per EDU from \$45 to \$50 per month.

**PARK AND RECREATION**

The Summer Park program is over and was very successful.

Held a second concert in the Park of music and dancing. To make it affordable for all adults were \$10 and under 15 was free They will continue as it went well. The comments were positive from those attending (about 100). Next time will shoot for bigger numbers.

Regular Town Board Meeting, Tuesday, August 20, 2013 (continued)

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Peter will be sending out the September and October newsletter August 31<sup>st</sup> - September 1<sup>st</sup>. Peter would like a write up about the Summer program for the newsletter.

August newsletter had 334 opens. The open rate is 60%, the click rate 44%, The top three clicks tied with the Arts Festival, Diners around Town and the Wallace Bruce marker. There were also 12 forwards.

## **HIGHWAY**

Councilman Steve is finding his position as chairman of the Highway Committee very frustrating. Sometimes he is the messenger, sometimes the liaison. Steve proposes that Carmen, Richard, and Art come to a meeting at a neutral place. He is asking everyone to give him two dates, two times and five things on an agenda. We can talk face to face – no e-mails, etc. Let's see if we can get somewhere.

### **Highway Report**

Two employees left – one moved, the other got another job. Richard advertised the positions. A diesel mechanic was hired at \$17.60 because that is what his predecessor was paid. The Supervisor lowered it to \$16.60 because there is no rate for a mechanic and the Highway Department has to comply with the Union. A position cannot be filled without a resolution by the Board. The ball is in the Union's court – have to go through Quackenbush-he needs to come forward. Let's continue this discussion with the Union. Richard has financial problems with the budget:

CHIPS money hasn't been adjusted

Hospitalization is \$2300 over budget - Questions the number of employees.

Some of the payroll needs adjustments.

The Supervisor questions the Garage budget (93% is used)

There are 2 or 3 large heating bills. Why when we have a woodstove.

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

The Building Department is ahead of their budget.

## **LIBRARY 414 PROSITION: Joyce Lapenn**

See attached – Roeliff Jansen Community Library seeks more taxpayer support.

## **TOWN HALL RESTORATION**

So far \$23,000 has been raised for the roof project and a second mailing has gone out. The project has gone out to bid. So far there has been six inquires.

If we can't raise the money will we Bond it?

Historic Preservation Committee is working with us.

Worksheets for the 2014 budget have gone out.

Regular Town Board Meeting, Tuesday, August 20, 2013 (continued)

### **County Update**

Pine Haven still has some issues as to how to move forward.  
The Ghent Supervisor Larry Andrews past away.

### **Transportation Enhancement Project Grant**

The proposal for DOT grant to replace sidewalks has been submitted.  
This will be a million dollar project if we get the grant.  
It will be mid-October before it is awarded. The main goal is to enhance public safety. So far we have invested \$4,000 in preparation expenses for grant writer and engineer.

### **Art Festival**

The organizers of the Art Festival are asking if they can hang flags?, Display art in the Town Hall for an exhibit sale?  
Most of it will be in the Hamlet Park.  
We need to contact our attorney to answer these questions.

### **2013 Budget Amendments**

#### *Budget Amendment #1 of 2013*

##### Sewer District Fund

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

**Adopted vote ayes 5 nays 0**

Town Board Resolved to authorize the Supervisor to make the attached budget amendments in the 2013 Budget.

#### *Budget Amendment #2 of 2013*

##### General Fund

On motion of Councilman Steven Tiger, seconded by Councilman August Sena; The following Resolution was

**Adopted vote ayes 5 nays 0**

Town board Resolved to authorize the Supervisor to make the attached budget amendments in the 2013 Budget.

**Public Comment**

Steven Smith, Craryville Road

Mr. Smith would like a speed limit of 40 miles per hour on Craryville Road.

As Craryville Road is only partially in Hillsdale, Mr. Smith will also have to contact Copake. This is actually in process along with several other roads.

Attorney Ken Dow

Hiring Highway employees does not need authorization.

Laws differ from state, county, and town.

Mr. Dow should send this to our attorney.

Robert Blackman, Hillsdale Neighbors

The Town management structure is counterproductive. Tonight was an example – come to the meeting with two councilors to meet with the Board. In terms of management, elected Highway Superintendents are not workable. The Board should discuss correcting the in balance with an appointed Highway Superintendent.

The Town should spend money supporting the library. It is important.

**Executive Session**

On motion of Councilman August 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 more litigation

Time: 8:44 pm

**Close Executive Session**

On motion of Councilman Steven Tiger, seconded by Councilman Peter Cipkowski, 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 9:50 pm

**PAY BILLS**

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

**Adopted vote ayes 5 nays 0**

Resolved to pay the bills in the following amounts:

General Fund	Voucher #167– 197	\$43,468.38
Highway Fund	Voucher #144 – 166	\$38,844.26
RJPark Fund	Voucher #24 - 27	\$ 1,002.89
Sewer Fund	Voucher #49 – 52	\$ 1,472.22
Street Lights	Voucher #8	\$ 541.44

Regular Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board, Tuesday, August 20, 2013 (continued)

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Dodds, Town Clerk