

TOWN OF HILLSDALE
REGULAR MEETING
March 18, 2014

Pledge to flag

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at the Town Hall at 7:00p.m. with the following members present

PRESENT: Supervisor Arthur Baer
Councilperson Jill Sims-Elster
Councilman August Sena
Councilman Steven Tiger
Councilman Carmen Barbato

OTHERS PRESENT: Ruth Dodds, Town Clerk;, Robina Ward, Jeff Paige, Joe Hanselman, Tax Collector, Peter Cipkowski, Julie Kane, and Lora Treffin, Frank Velez, Sally & Bob Blackman Judy & Bud Gardner and many others interested in the Catamont expansion plan.

Hank Henward introduced Harry Freeman, Project Developer for Berkshire Mountain Club. He gave an unofficial presentation on “the most dynamic expansion plan in Catamont’s 75 year history”. The 1st part of the project will have 66 residential units, a Spa, Restaurant, indoor-outdoor pool. It will be 4 to 5 stories with a walkout basement. The Second Building will have a secondary lodge and the look and feel of a four star hotel. Many people are interested in the condos. A new safe entrance into Catamont has been approved by the NY State DOT.

APPROVE MINUTES

On motion of Councilman August Sena, seconded by; Councilman Steve Tiger the following resolution was

Adopted - vote - ayes 5 nays 0

Resolved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 as presented.

SEWER – Councilman Sena reported that testing will be done on Thursday.

Pat Nolan is changing his day in Hillsdale from Monday to Saturday.

PARK AND RECREATION

Jill reported that the Farmer’s Market is in the process of applying for a Berkshire-Taconic grant. A letter of support from the Board would be helpful.

The committee is laying out a bus route for transportation to the Farmer’s Market.

There will be one more meeting before they are ready for the summer program.

Date for the annual luncheon is April 27th .

Hamlet Park

The wooden structure will be repaired.

The Building Use Form

Attorney Alford approved the Form providing the Town is listed as coinsured.

On motion of Councilperson Jill, seconded by Councilman Sena; the following motion was

Adopted – vote – ayes 5 nays 0

Resolved to adopt the Building Use Form as approved by Attorney Alford.

Regular Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board, March 18, 2014 (continued)

COMMUNICATIONS

The newsletter grows steadily. In March/April, 614 Newsletters were sent; had 380 opens and a 62.3% open through rate, and 175 clicks (43% click- through rate). The top clicks were Economic Development (33%), Hillsdale Dine Out (32%), and the Farmer's Market (13%).

The Town Emergency Management Plan

The forms need to be updated and letters sent out so there can be an up to date data base .

HIGHWAY

Councilman Barbato explained there has been a lot of Storms this winter. The equipment is breaking down. Supervisor Baer inquired because of all the storms has the Highway Department been able to keep within their budget? Councilman Barbato will find out. A resident has filed a complaint. Richard needs to respond to him in writing or with a phone call.

Discussion about need for new equipment.

BUILDINGS

Our Building Inspector Lee is doing fine.

The Town Hall restoration will be completed in two to four days when the weather is cooperating.

The Hillsdale Preservation Committee wants to have a celebration in June when the project is complete.

Columbia County

Congressman Gibson is working to get federal support for internet and Broadband in our area.

The County has finally agreed on the airport safety zone. The plan is to shorten the runway, stay away from Meadowgreens, and another neighbor, and move the runway back South.

Ramble bike ride

About the Ramble Bike Ride that we will undertake with Copake.....

The ride will be Sept 20th and it will benefit the Rail Trail. The ride will be in both Hillsdale and Copake (thus the need for the Hillsdale insurance) and the businesses in both towns will offer discounted food or drinks to the participants. With business help we will provide a nice tee shirt to all riders and we will be able to get some stuff to set up refreshment stands along the routes. We hope to have 25, 50 and 75 mile routes. The Biking Group is putting this together.

Regular Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board, February 18, 2014
(continued)

SIDEWALK GRANT – from February

Hillsdale was awarded a grant of \$754,975 for sidewalks and crosswalks in the hamlet. This grant has to be used within five years.

The State will inform us of the next steps going forward. Augie will work as clerk of the works and Joe Regina will be working with Augie.

Erin, from Clark Engineering, Augie, Joe, and Art will meet tomorrow. In the next week we will receive a letter saying we will get the money. Then in the following two weeks we will hear from the local DOT. The State will work with us each step of the way.

It was difficult and time consuming to write the grant.

We will be taking out a long term Bond Anticipation Note to pay our portion of the sidewalks.

The sidewalks will be on the north and south sides of Route 23. They will run from the Town Hall to the Aubergine (traffic light) on the north and the Sub Station to the Town Hall on the south.

Councilman Barbato questioned why we aren't doing anything in the village – Cold Water Street and /or Anthony Street. This money can only be used on State DOT roads. There is a line item in the Budget titled sidewalks--However no money has been budgeted in that account in five years.

Why are our sidewalks not maintained and our laws not enforced?

In 1992, the Board passed Local Law #2 – Care and Maintenance of sidewalks .

Sidewalks – March

We have been granted \$50,000 for our 20% match.

There will be 4 to 9 people working with DOT.

We pay then... get the money paid back.

See attached Resolution`

Economic Development

Business Alliance

The Business Alliance would like to make a directory at accost of \$250.

On motion of Councilman Barbato, seconded by Councilman Sena, the following Resolution was

Adopted – vote – ayes 5 nays 0

The Business Alliance is not a money maker, it is just a service.

Regular Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board, February 18, 2014
(continued)

PAY BILLS

On motion of Councilman Barbato, seconded by Councilwoman Jill Sims Elster,
the following resolution was

Adopted vote ayes 5 nays 0

Resolved to pay the bills in the following amounts:

General Fund	Voucher #46– 69	\$17,670.20
Highway Fund	Voucher #36 – 56	\$ 80,702.88
RJPark Fund	Voucher #RJP3-RJP4	\$ 88.54
Sewer Fund	Voucher #SS9-SS12	\$ 4,190.20
Street Lights	Voucher #SL3	\$ 1,024. 92

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Dodds, Town Clerk