

**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
REGULAR MEETING
August 19, 2014**

Pledge to flag

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Ruth Dodds, Town Clerk;, Robina Ward, Jeff Paige, Laura Griffin, Carol and Joe Hanselman, Register Star Reporter Adam Clayton, Bud Atwood and a resident.

APPROVE MINUTES

Resolution #32

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

Adopted - Vote - ayes 4 nays 0

Resolved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 after changing the minutes vote from 5 to 4 ayes.

SEWER

In Councilman Sena's absence, Supervisor Baer reported that 5 to 8 people are interested in connecting to the sewer district. We are awaiting costs from an engineer for add-on for the district. When this is completed there will then be a meeting of the people. We have the capacity in the Sewer plant.

PARK AND RECREATION

Resolution #33

Jill stated the equipment purchase for the Hamlet Park has been finalized. \$30,900 was raised during two luncheons. Just the approval is needed to go ahead with the project.

On motion of Supervisor Baer, seconded by Councilman Steve Tiger, the following resolution was

Adopted Vote ayes 4 nays 0

Resolved that the Hamlet Park go ahead with the purchase of new equipment.

The summer program was a success. Art volunteered all members of the Board would do children's book reading next summer. The children from the Claverack Park came to visit. The kids loved it.

The Roe Jan Park has had five weddings so far this year. More and more would like to have weddings at the park. People are hearing about the park by our web site, network, word of mouth, or attended an event at the park. Jill suggested they look at a paid position for a wedding coordinator.

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Economic Development Committee is hoping to increase tourism by the weddings etc. The hope is to give \$200 back to the bride and groom to entice them to spend money at our businesses.

COMMUNICATIONS

June newsletter was sent out to 636 subscribers via email.

The open rate was 60% - 370 opens. The industry average is 23.9%.

Click through rate is 40% - 152 clicks.

The most popular links: Historic House Tour 33%, Independent's Day Shop Hop 25%, Register Star article about snow ice debate 24%,

Register Star article about Biz Dep Survey 18%.

The July newsletter had a 60% open rate (383 opens) (our average is 62%, industry average is 24%) Click through rate is 31% - 120 clicks (our average is 41%, industry average is 13% ---- 41% clicked on Historic House Tour, 29% clicked on Historic back ground of Joe Zelli, the cabaret impresario buried in an abandoned cemetery on Texas Hill Road, 13% clicked on Hawthorne Valley website.

Steve reported that the meetings are finally on the website.

As for the newsletter – what additional things would interest people....suggestion..

A regular monthly report from Sheriff Bartlett, police blotter, etc.

HIGHWAY

Councilman Barbato reported that the Highway Department has purchased a 2007 truck. It is in good shape – a good purchase.

They busy are tarring the roads.

The Union contract, State pension, and Health insurance need to be discussed and decided so the Board can prepare the 2015 Budget.

County---

The County is still working on Pine Haven....employee benefits are a huge issue.

Public Comment

Robina Ward – State Comptroller's Office is auditing selected town operations. How long will this take? Auditors are still working. Hopefully they will be done in the next month.

Laura Griffin – heard there is a celebrations fund. Is there money in it and could the Business Alliance use it. She is looking for \$400. Jill checked the balance in that account. For the Christmas event about \$200 or more is needed. The tree was discussed. Jill agreed for \$200 to help sponsor the pumpkin fest.

The Farmers Market is doing very well – 720 people attended ; 50lb of produce was given to the food pantry.

Ken Dow – suggested the Board keep Town Law #32 in mind when working on the 2015 budget.

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Raise second notice fee for late taxes

Resolution #32

Joe Hanselman, tax collector, requested the Board raise the second notice fee from \$1 to \$2.

On motion of Councilman Tiger, seconded by Councilman Barbato; the following resolution was **Adopted vote ayes 4 nays 0**

Resolved that the second notice fee on property taxes be raised from \$1 to \$2.

Board of Assessment Review appointment

Resolution #33

Only one letter of interest was received.

On motion of Supervisor Baer, seconded by Councilman Tiger; the following resolution was **Adopted vote ayes 4 nays 0**

Resolved that William Sullivan be appointed to the new position on the Board of Assessment Review.

BUILDING

The Supervisor met with the Historic Preservation Committee.

Discussed refurbishing the front of the building. Will shoot for a mid-October deadline.

Sidewalks

Received a letter from DOT stating we can go ahead and retain a certified engineering firm. There will be a meeting with DOT. By the end of this year will have an engineering firm.

PAY BILLS

Resolution #34

On motion of Supervisor Baer and seconded by Councilperson Jill

Resolved to pay the bills in the following amounts:

General Fund	Voucher #166- 190	\$10,791.12
Highway Fund	Voucher #139 - 163	\$68,501.23
RJPark Fund	Voucher #RJP26-RJP32	\$ 1316.23
Sewer Fund	Voucher #SS31-SS35	\$ 1590.12
Street Lights	Voucher #SL8	\$ 436.60

Meeting adjourned at 8:12PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Dodds, Town Clerk