



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 21, 2015**

Pledge of Allegiance.

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2015 at the Town Hall at 7:00pm with the following members present

**PRESENT:** Supervisor            Arthur Baer  
                  Councilperson        Jill Sims-Elster  
                  Councilman            August Sena

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bill Demma, Town Clerk, Richard Briggs Highway Superintendent, Joe Hanselman Tax Collector, Jeff Paige, Robina Ward, Robert Briggs, Jamie Robinson, Gary Dodds, Howard Roberts, Rene Calahan, Daryl Waite, Bud Atwood

**APPROVE MINUTES**

On a motion of Supervisor Baer, seconded by Councilman Sena; the following resolution was

**Adopted Vote ayes 3 nay 0**

Resolved to accept the February 17, 2015 minutes for the organizational meeting as submitted.

**BOARD PRESENTATION REQUEST BY MIKE DEGANO, TEAMSTERS LOCAL 294**

At the request of Mike Degano, Business Agent for Local 294, a letter emailed to Supervisor Baer was read aloud at the March 17, 2015 meeting. Contents:

Email dated 3/17/15 to Art Baer

“I am writing to inform you that it has been brought to my attention one of the members of the Town of Hillsdale negotiating committee has not fulfilled his legal obligation of supporting the Tentative Agreement between the Town of Hillsdale Highway department and Teamsters Local 294. During negotiations Highway Superintendent Ricard Briggs had agreed to enthusiastically support the Agreement that both parties reached on 3/9/15 after about six months of many rounds of laborious negotiations, as did all members of both negotiating committees. Quite to the contrary Richard Briggs has been unsupportive and obstructive towards the Tentative Agreement and has deliberately undermined the Collective bargaining process by creating division amongst the bargaining unit. Teamsters Local 294 is prepared to take all necessary legal action against the Town of Hillsdale to the fullest extent. These are extremely serious potential charges and should be viewed as such. The **ONLY REASON** I am informing you of this ahead of time is due to the positive labor relationship Local 294 feels has been built with the Town of Hillsdale through negotiations with yourself, Steven and Carmen on behalf of the working class we represent. Please take this as official notice to the Town of Hillsdale, requesting you respond in five (5) business days your official position as that will dictate the next step in the Legal process. Michael Degano, Business Agent, Teamsters Local 294”

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Richard Briggs stated that he was dumbfounded by the accusation in Degano's email.

During public comments, Bobby Briggs stated that 5 out of 6 of the union members have problems with the agreement. The union members had wanted to discuss the contract at the meeting, but it was decided that the issues were between the union and the members and not appropriate for a Town Board meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At this time, the Board went into Executive Session. The Town Clerk neglected to record the time, and there is no video recording for this point in the meeting.

On a motion by Councilperson Jill Sims-Elster with a second by Councilman Sena, The motion to end the Executive Session was adopted at 7:45pm.

Votes                      Ayes    3                      Nays 0

### **BUILDING, SEWER, COMMUNICATIONS, PARKS REPORTS**

Reports regarding buildings, sewer, communications, and parks were not presented due to other issues of significance at this March 17, 2015 meeting and to the absence of two Board members.

### **LOCAL 294 UNION AGREEMENT SIGNING**

The next topic of discussion was the approval and ratification of the labor agreement between Teamster Local 294 and the Town of Hillsdale negotiated by a state mediator, the bargaining unit of the Teamsters, and the bargaining unit of the Town of Hillsdale.

### **RESOLUTION to sign Local 294 Agreement:**

On a motion by Councilman Sena and a second by Councilperson Sims-Elster, the following resolution was ADOPTED.    **Votes Ayes 3            Nays 0**

**Resolved:** The Town Board will accept and sign the Local 294 Agreement as negotiated

The Local 294 Agreement was then signed to go to the Teamsters for signature.

### **CAC**

Supervisor Baer reported an 'unfortunate' resignation from the Conservation Committee of a founding senior member, and that Gretchen Stevens had requested that the Town run a public notice to advertise for Bud Atwood's replacement. Bud will be moving on to being a professional grandfather. Gretchen's request was approved.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Iona Lutey will present a resolution for the Board to sign at the April 21, 2015 meeting. Cooperstown had signed onto Iona's resolution, and Art stated that there is some movement within local communities to support Ms. Lutey's local level initiative as a part of what is a global and national issue.

During public comment, Jeff Paige suggested thinking global, acting local.

### **SIDEWALK & LIGHTING PROJECT**

The surveyors will soon begin their work in preparation for the beginning of the new sidewalk and lighting installation. (Side note not from the meeting): the surveyors did begin work in April)

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**TOWN CLERK HOURS**

Robina Ward wanted to know the Town Clerk hours. Demma explained that they were Monday & Wednesday 9:30am to 4:30pm, and that personal issues had interrupted his normal hours recently. (Side note not from meeting: Our Deputy Town Clerk, Vivian DeGeorges, is available on Tuesday's and Friday's from 9:30 to 1:30. She can handle Town Clerk responsibilities as well.)

**HIGHWAY**

The Inter-Municipal Cooperation Agreement by and between the County of Columbia and multiple Villages and the City of Hudson was presented for signature. By way of explaining this agreement, here is one paragraph from the agreement: "Each party herein is authorized to provide services and assistance to another party to this agreement when requested by a party hereto. Such assistance, however may only be provided to the extent that such assistance does not interfere or materially diminish the level of services provided by the assisting party to its' own residents or deemed inappropriate, by the Superintendent of Highways of the assisting party." The remainder of the agreement is available on this site.

Highway Superintend Briggs explained that the Board must create a resolution to sign the Inter-Municipal agreement for Hillsdale, and then sign the master agreement. The resolution and signed agreement was to then be delivered to the County. Art agreed to drop off the documents and to sign the master Cooperation Agreement.

**Highway Equipment Reserve Fund**

Highway Superintendent Briggs expressed a strong desire to move his excess cash into the Equipment Reserve Account now. Supervisor Baer expressed his discomfort with moving the cash into the Reserve account (#5130.2) now because it would not leave money available for unexpected contingencies, and that the accounting firm had warned him about a low current highway general cash balance. Briggs stated that similar discussions on the Equipment Reserve Fund had been occurring over the years, and that placing money in the reserve account last year had allowed the highway department to purchase a decent used truck that he said had been badly needed. Baer requested a month's delay on the decision so that he could consult with the accounts and weigh the options for funding new equipment. The current balance in the Equipment Reserve account is \$37,000.

**RESOLUTION: Inter-Municipal Agreement March 17, 2015**

On a motion by Councilman Sena with a second by Councilwoman Sims-Elster, this resolution passed unanimously **Votes           Ayes   3           Nays       0**

**Resolved:** The Town Board of Hillsdale hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to enter into the Inter-Municipal Agreement by and between the 18 towns and villages and the City of Hudson and the County of Columbia for a period of five years; either party may terminate such agreement with a 30 day notice.

**ENERGY AUDIT**

Earlier in the meeting, Briggs had questioned the number of electrical operating hours used by the Highway Department as they were reported in the energy audit performed by Enerpath for NYSEG. All agreed that the 78 operating hours per week was an overstatement. The Town is waiting for revised numbers from Enerpath.

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**CLEAN UP DAY**

May 9, 2015, 9 to 12. Last year's cost was \$1,200.

Bud Atwood encouraged having Clean UP Day because it pulls the Town together. Briggs will check with Elaine in Barbato's office for information.

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

Robina Ward asked about the Easter Egg Hunt. The how and where for the Easter Hunt will be determined by the mud and snow because of the early March date for Easter and lingering snow.

**SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM**

\$745 had been received along with a lot of interest from the public. Forms and information are available in Town Hall and on the Town website. <http://hillsdaleny.com/parks-and-recreation/summer-youth-program/>

**PAY BILLS**

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

**Adopted vote ayes 5 nays 0**

Resolved to pay the bills in the following amounts:

For the year 2015

General Fund	Voucher #60-107	\$14,248.73
Highway Fund	Voucher#42-71	\$47,034.44
Sewer Fund	Voucher#10-11	\$ 1,090.00
Street Lights	Voucher#4	\$ 622.65

Meeting adjourned 8:45pm

+Respectfully submitted,

William Demma, Town Clerk