



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
REGULAR MEETING
May 19, 2015**

Pledge of Allegiance.

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at the Town Hall at 7:04pm with the following members present

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Demma Town Clerk, Richard Briggs Highway Superintendent, Joe Hanselman Tax Collector, Jeff Paige, Robina Ward, Bud Atwood, and Pat Atwood

Resolution #31: APPROVE MINUTES

Following recommended and accepted changes from Councilperson Sims-Elster to the April 21, 2015 minutes to clarify details on funding sources for park projects, on a motion by Councilperson Sims-Elster seconded by Councilman Sena, the following resolution was

Adopted Vote ayes 5 nay 0

Resolved to accept the minutes with suggested changes for the Town of Hillsdale Board meeting held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

BUILDINGS

Building Fees

Councilman Sena reported that revenues had nearly doubled in the first half of May totaling \$3,600 for the year to date.

Town Hall Repairs

Sena further reported that Victor Amendola had repaired the water damaged paint and plaster in the Court Clerk's office. The estimating process from the Highway Department for replacing the blacktop walkway to Town Hall is underway. That department will remove the current blacktop.

Sidewalks:

The surveys have been completed and the project is now in the design stage. The design is expected within the next 30 days.

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SEWER

Councilman Sena reported that the only way to expand the Sewer District is to expand the existing district, passing the costs onto users. Also, a solution needs to be found for pipe freezing that occurred in one location over this past severe winter; repairs may involve the addition of a tank.

In open session, Sena added to April's meeting discussion that numbers were needed from Clark Engineering regarding expansion of the Sewer District, and that at least seven additional clients were needed for cost effective expansion. Without that, there could not be an expansion of the district while still maintaining the Town's freedom from liability for non-payment for services rendered. For additional conversation on the complicated topic of sewer district expansion, please review the Part 2 video of this Board meeting <https://vimeo.com/128545900> .)

PARKS

Councilperson Sims-Elster reported on the following:

Hamlet Park:

The new play equipment was installed in the Hamlet Park. Due to installation problems caused by excess water on the ground, there are additional expenses associated with the installation including grass seeding. A full accounting is not yet available, but it is expected that sufficient funds will be available; funds from the sale of scrap metal have not been used. As was noted at the April 21, 2015, meeting, money raised at Flowers to Power in 2013 and 2014 will pay for the playground upgrade without cost to taxpayers. The funds raised from the 2015 event will pay for repair and resurfacing of the basketball court and to bring it up to regulation size.

Patti Rohrlich and Tim Stookesberry were given special acknowledgement for their success with the Flowers to Power fund raisers over the years, and they were given credit for what should prove to be the most successful event yet in 2015; a small number of outstanding payments on the auctioned items were holding up the final accounting.

Strong regret was expressed that Patti and Tim would be retiring from the Flowers to Power event after 2015.

Consideration is being given to installing a coin operated electric box for the basketball court for power use.

The Hamlet Committee is looking for a volunteer to paint the park fence, and the Highway Department will move the bleachers to allow for weed pruning. The cost of wood chips and weed block may come from the scrap metal funds, \$300 to \$375, if it's available.

A large branch from a neighbor's tree overhangs the Hamlet Park behind the backstop and must be removed. After speaking with the neighbor who owns the tree and finding the property's border marker, the branch will be removed. A second volunteer with a dump pickup truck with accessibility for loading from a bobcat is being sought for debris removal.

Roe Jan Park:

Flowers to the Park funds for Roe Jan will pay for the garden boxes for the Children's Summer Program. Planting is planned for May 30 so that a harvest will be done during the Youth Program.

Summer Youth Program:

The Summer Youth Program will employ the same staff as in 2014. A few spots are still available for the Youth Program.

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Farmers' Market:
Opens May 23rd.

Lease Payment Due:
The lease payment for the Berkshire Dairy is due May 20. Councilperson Sims-Elster will follow up.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tiger reported newsletter statistics for the period June 2014 through partial May 2015. (See attached schedule for detail.) In overview, 628 newsletters sent in June 2014, with 88 clicks on 374 opens. Interest in the newsletter has steadily increased through April 2015 to 706 letters sent, with 162 clicks on 407 opens. 710 letters were sent in May 2015. The number of clicks is apparently determined by interest in specific content in the newsletter.

HILLSDALE ARTS WALK

For 2015, The Hillsdale Business Alliance will spearhead production of the Arts Walk under the direction of Trudy Crimi of Trudy's Beauty Shop. It will be held the day following Labor Day.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Garage Damage:

Councilman Barbato reported that he had received no bids for the repair of the Town Garage that resulted from a severe storm. Art requested that the ad for bids to be run again, possibly for a full week, and suggested that the listing be placed in the Town newsletter.

On a question regarding possible insurance reimbursement, Superintendent Briggs stated that he needed a bid on the building repair before he could submit a claim to the insurer.

Road Signs:

Briggs reported again this month that road signs continue to be stolen in more locales than previous years. Stolen signs include stop signs, creating an obvious traffic hazard. Briggs suspects that the signs are being stolen for the value of the scrap metal. Also, the 'Welcome to Hillsdale' sign at Mitchell Street was damaged during the winter, but that it may be repairable.

New Truck Lease:

Supervisor Baer reported the need for a special resolution to be created at this Board meeting to authorize the lease for the new truck. A standard resolution prepared by 1st Niagara Bank, lessor, was offered for approval.

Resolution #30: Approve 1st Niagara's Equipment Lease Resolution, Dump/Plow Truck

On a motion by Councilman Barbato seconded by Councilman Tiger, the proposed resolution #30 was

Adopted Vote ayes 5 nay 0

Resolved to accept the standard equipment lease resolution for the truck, International Model 7600 SFA 6X4 2010 Dump/Plow Truck, as presented by 1st Niagara Bank (see full resolution attached).

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(Note: the resolution and other lease documents were completed at the lawyer's office Friday, May 22, 2015. with the first month's payment released the following week after delivery of the truck. The truck had been returned briefly for minor repairs.)

After bidding out the lease, the Town awarded the lease to 1st Niagara Bank for a 5 year term with a 2.3% interest rate. The Town went with the 5 year term to avoid the need for a referendum on the purchase.

OTHER BUSINESS

EFFICIENCY TAX REBATE:

Supervisor Baer reported that \$1.5 million dollars is available from the State in tax rebates toward cost savings efficiencies for towns. Any changes made for cost effectiveness prior to 2012 will not count for the new efficiency plans that should save 1% of costs for 2017 through 2019; Hillsdale's plan is to be submitted as a part of the overall County efficiency plan due May 1, 2015 to take advantage of health plan savings. Joe Hanselman reported that the firehouse was having a difficult time coming up with new savings numbers because so much had already been accomplished for its \$248,000 budget, and the fact that the Town owns its own equipment but does not own the firehouse itself. Supervisor Briggs is hoping to garnish more Highway savings from new equipment to be purchased in the next year.

Resolution #29: Authorize the Town of Hillsdale to Participate in the Local Government Efficiency Plan

On a motion by Councilman Sena seconded by Councilperson Sims-Elster, the proposed resolution #29 was

Adopted Vote ayes 5 nay 0

Resolved: to authorize the Town to participate in the Local Government Efficiency Plan.

CLEAN UP DAY

Although Superintendent Briggs reported slower than usual activity, Sims-Elster reported that the deposit made was normal and that the money raised is enough to cover the cost of Town flags. As a part of this conversation, Briggs reported that there would be less steel scrap metal because many more road signs are being stolen. Selling stolen metal seems to have become a business.

BROADBAND

Supervisor Baer reported that the County continues to research necessary infrastructure to expand broadband in our area. Alternatives will be presented, but that we will have to rely on the County and State to help out. Jeff Paige requested that the new venture be affordable to as many people as possible. It is anticipated that a new broadband infrastructure will be less expensive than DSL service but that the pricing to customers would have to be market based.

ROUTE 22 TRAFFIC INTERRUPTIONS

Sena reported that the State may install culverts this year near the entrance to Roe Jan Park on Route 22. The repair will cause one of traffic on Route 22 to close at times.

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OPEN SESSION

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) and COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS IN GENERAL:

Councilman Sena raised the issue of a rejection of one of his recommendations for CAC membership due to what he believed to be overly restrictive qualification requirements for CAC. Bud Atwood who had resigned from CAC to be a professional grandfather expressed concern that the qualifications recently used for membership on this committee were too restrictive, preventing diversity of background and interests. He further suggested that plan reviews by a nine member Planning Board plus a few members of CAC may be too intimidating. A conversation ensued during which Baer reported that a sunset provision was set up in CAC such that the Committee could not go out on its own to make rules. Robina Ward suggested that there are specific requirements for CAC committees that had to be observed. Sena expressed concern that good people would be turned away from volunteer positions. Sena further requested that the Board establish a procedure for setting qualification criteria for all committees, since recommendations for qualification requirements needed to be approved by the Board before they were instituted.

Concern was expressed that the Planning Board may be relying too heavily on CAC, and that its Chair, Hank Henward, should be invited in for discussion.

8:15pm-BREAK TO APPROVE BILLS

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 April 20, 2015 meeting

General Fund	Voucher #162-205	\$13,369.84
Highway Fund	Voucher#102-122	\$47,217.86
Parks & Rec	Vouchers #21-40	\$ 2,848.55
Sewer Fund	Voucher#2-31	\$ 3,642.41
Street Lights	Voucher#6	\$ 439.30

Meeting adjourned 8:37pm

+Respectfully submitted,

William Demma, Town Clerk