



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
REGULAR MEETING
June 16, 2015**

Pledge of Allegiance.

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at the Town Hall at 7:00pm 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, Joe Hanselman Tax Collector, Jeff Paige, Robina Ward, David Wurth, Tom Carty, Laura Griffin, Peter Cipkowski, Gretchen Stevens, Hank Henward, and Tod Wohlfarth of Rock Paper Scissors

Resolution #32: APPROVE MINUTES

Councilman Sena requested an amendment to the May 15 minutes as presented, correcting the word “tunnel” to “culvert” in the Rail Trail heading of the minutes in reference to pending road repair work on Route 22. On a motion by Councilman Sena seconded by Councilperson Sims-Elster the minutes were accepted as amended.

Adopted Vote ayes 5 nay 0

Resolved: to accept the minutes as amended for the Town of Hillsdale Board meeting held on Tuesday, May 21, 2015.

BUILDINGS

Councilman Sena recommended energy efficient upgrades for the Old Town Hall and the Town Garage as a part the Town’s overall efficiency plan as related to the State’s Efficiency Tax Rebate. The Town’s share of the costs for the highway garage is \$10,144 with a 6 to 7 year payback. Baer requested that the plan be presented to Superintendent Briggs for approval.

The cost for an energy savings upgrade to the Old Town Hall (sheriff’s Sub-Station) would be \$737 with a 2 year payback. As the Board was able to pursue this option at this meeting, Sena moved with a second from Councilman Tiger to adopt the energy efficiency plan for the Old Town Hall.

Resolution #33 Adopted Vote ayes 5 nay 0

Resolved: to proceed with the energy efficiency upgrade for the Old Town Hall for a cost of \$737.

Sena will speak with Victor Amendola to see if Town Hall outdoor lighting could simply be replaced with LED lighting that would create a narrower beam of light to better light the walks.

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(Continued)

PARKS

Councilperson Sims-Elster reported that the summer youth program currently had 57 registrants to fill the 60 spots allowed. (Note: all summer youth slots have now been filled) The Roe Jan Gala was held in the park successfully without interrupting the Farmers' Market. Jill gave a special thank you to Victor Amendola and Bill Furner for their work in getting the two events to work easily together. Just one wedding is booked for Roe Jan Park so far this year, and there are 8 wedding inquiries for 2016.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tiger reported 425 newsletter openings for a 60% open rate. Tiger and Peter Cipkowski reported that upon review of a 4 month period, clicks on the newsletter were sometimes counted as clicks on the Town website because of links.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Councilman Barbato reported that the weather had been interfering with blacktopping, and that just one bid had been received for the storm damaged highway garage repair. Scott Decker's bid has been sent to Bob Hopkins for insurance review.

Supervisor Baer invited the Board to attend a meeting with Steve Kerlin, a representative from our insurance carrier, on the topic of proactive safety for highway equipment to be held Friday, June 19 at 9AM.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: BRANDING

Tod Wohlfarth of Rock Paper Scissors did a work in progress Power Point presentation on the creation of a branding image for the Town. Tod reported that his firm was donating approximately \$30,000 of service to this project. The goal is to find a recognizable, consistent image to be used on Town signage, seal, place markers, marketing brochures, etc. The branding team had decided to go with a historic design; this particular presentation focused on the recreation of a typeface once used in *The Hillsdale Producer*, a long defunct local newspaper.

Wohlfarth reported that no estimated costs or budget had yet been prepared for branding as the right contractor had not yet been found for bidding.

OTHER BUSINESS

SIDEWALKS

Supervisor Baer reported that he had met with engineers from GPI, and that the project was moving forward on time. The DEC will begin the approval process with the preliminary plan, followed by approval from DOT. Because sidewalks will intrude on 8 or 9 properties by 2" to 6" over the State right of way, approval from the property owners (that consists of their signing a grading and paving release form) will have to be submitted with the preliminary plan. \$80,000 had been allotted for negotiating the right of way of which the Town is responsible for 20%, or \$16,000.

There will be a public information meeting held in late July or August that will display the plan and different finishing options to be placed on top of poured concrete such as brick or stamped concrete. Budget dollars available will partially determine the final choice. A map of the right of ways will also be available at the public meeting.

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(Sidewalks Continued)

Hank Henward reported that the Planning Board has pending site approvals that require access to Route 23, with one business wanting to open in September. Because the final plans for the sidewalks will affect site approvals, Henward requested that the Town avoid any delays that he fears will complicate site approvals.

The bidding process for the project will begin in the fall with the project completed in 2016.

The \$300,000 grant application for street lighting to be installed in coordination with the sidewalks project is due 7/31/15.

VILLAGE UTILITY LINES

Supervisor Baer researched the possibility of burying Village utility lines following inquiries from residents. Baer reported that the costs of burying the utility lines would work similar to the Sewer District rules, with the bottom line being that property owners along the stretch of road where the lines would be buried would be responsible for costs, i.e. should the Town receive a grant with a matching funds provision, property owners would share the cost of the matching funds. By law, burying utility lines is not considered a Town wide expense.

The high voltage cable may not be buried.

The cost of burying cables running to individual properties had not been researched.

AQUIFER OVERLAY

Gretchen Stevens recommended that the Town add an aquifer overlay map to the Master Plan. Hank Henward stated that the Planning Board had endorsed the aquifer map already in existence. The effect of adopting the aquifer map would be to complete and bring Section 5.1-5 of the zoning code into use. Stevens passed out copies of the map, and Henward stated that no changes in zoning laws would be necessary. Supervisor Baer inquired if there have been any situations to date that would have been affected by the addition of the aquifer map, but there were none that anyone remembered.

On a motion by Councilman Sena and a second by Councilman Tiger:

Resolution #34 Adopted Vote ayes 5 nay 0

Resolved: to accept the aquifer overlay map as a part of the Town's Master Plan.

Henward will now confirm with the Town lawyer that no other changes will be required to the Plan after the addition of the overlay map.

COUNTY

Supervisor Baer reported that the Columbia County Economic Corp, a vehicle for SBA and other business loans, is currently under review due to the State's concern about conflicts regarding certain loans. Baer is currently reviewing all CCEC loans over \$25,000 over the past 5 years, including a review of those who benefited and those who voted.

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ON THE PASSING OF OUR SILENT VOLUNTEER, BETTY GALLOP

Supervisor Baer requested that a condolence letter be sent to Betty Gallop's husband Roger acknowledging her years of quiet work with the food pantry, library, parks, and kids. Betty died from a lethal fall.

On a motion by Baer seconded by Councilman Sena:

Resolution #35 Adopted Vote ayes 5 nay 0

Resolved: to write a condolence letter to Betty's husband, Roger Gallop, and to plant a tree in the park with a brick identifier for Betty acknowledging a lifetime of service

RAIL TRAIL BRIDGE

Reading from a DOT information letter, Supervisor Baer reported that the bridge replacement over Route 22 would happen between April 1 and December 1 of 2017.

OPEN SESSION

LOCAL BUSINESS APP

Peter Cipkowski had been invited by Columbia County Tourism to review an app that will geographically adapt to inquiries made from a travelers' location. The app will consolidate information that exists on the County visitor information website for all surrounding towns on the assumption that visitors will be moving around the area. The app should be available in 2015.

2nd ANNUAL ROE JAN BIKE TOUR

Tom Carty presented a new disclaimer form to be signed by participants in the Roe Jan Bike Tour.

On a motion by Councilman Sena seconded by Councilperson Jill Sims-Elster

Resolution #36 Adopted Vote ayes 5 nay 0

Resolved: to require the revised disclaimer form (see attached) in the Roe Jan Bike Tour participant package.

HAMLET PARK WAR MEMORIAL

Jeff Paige reported that the crew who had placed flags on the war memorials missed the Hamlet Park memorial; Baer will investigate. As an incidental note, Peter Cipkowski brought a bit of history regarding the Hamlet Park; the entire park had been donated to the Town as a war memorial. Cipkowski suggested that future plans regarding the Hamlet Park may want to expand upon the initial purpose of the donation of the land, perhaps calling the park a memorial park.

8:20pm-BREAK TO APPROVE BILLS

PAY BILLS

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

Adopted vote ayes 5 nays 0

Resolved: to pay the bills in the following amounts:

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(Pay Bills Continued)

For April 16, 2015 meeting

General Fund	Voucher #206-249	\$11,943.45
Highway Fund	Voucher#127-150	\$41,634.76
Parks & Rec	Vouchers #41-56	\$ 792.19
Sewer Fund	Voucher#32-39	\$ 5,002.76
Street Lights	Voucher#	\$ -0-

(Note: NYSEG Street Lighting check was not cut.)

Meeting adjourned 8:40pm

+Respectfully submitted,

William Demma, Town Clerk