



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

Pledge of Allegiance.

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, July 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
Councilman Carmen Barbato
Councilman Steve Tiger

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Demma Town Clerk, Joe Hanselman Tax Collector, Richard Briggs Highway Superintendent, Carole Hanselman, Suzanne Werner, Peter Cipkowski, Jeff Paige, Robina Ward, Laura Griffin, Gretchen Stevens, Ruth Default.

Resolution #36: APPROVE MINUTES

Councilperson Sims-Elster requested an amendment to the June 16, 2015, minutes as presented, correcting the number of registrants in the Summer Youth Program to 57 registered against a full complement of 60. On a motion by Councilman Sena seconded by Councilman Barbato

Adopted Vote ayes 5 nay 0

Resolved: to accept the minutes as amended for the Town of Hillsdale Board meeting held on Tuesday, June 16, 2015.

BUILDINGS

Councilman Sena reported that Victor Amendola was continuing the completion of construction on the new Town Hall. On energy upgrades, the Town did opt to upgrade the electrical system at the old Town Hall (Sheriff's Sub-Station), but for the Town Garage, the numbers continued to be unclear; this upgrade may be accepted in August. Amendola had power washed the Sheriff's Sub-Station after purchasing a new power washer and had repaired the hatch at Town Hall.

PARKS

Councilperson Sims-Elster reported that the summer youth program registration was at full capacity, and that the kids had made two farm visits where they got to experience the birth of a calf on one of the farms. The July wedding in Roe Joe Park went well, and another wedding in the park is scheduled for October. Sims-Elster is waiting for estimates on repairs to the basketball court; work is expected to be completed by late August/early September.

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HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Much of the Highway conversation focused on the repair and replacement of the storm damaged garage; Scott Decker's estimate for repair was \$21,900, and insurance reimbursement from this amount would be roughly \$8,000. The cost of replacing I-beams had not been included in Decker's bid. Superintendent Briggs suggested that something more permanent be constructed since no slab was needed, and that that would help hold costs down; the area is currently paved with blacktop. Briggs would like a lean-to structure with two doors attached to the garage for salt storage and other items. Briggs and Barbato are currently working on an estimate that will be emailed to Board members when available.

Briggs further reported that the Highway Department had been paving roads and replacing trees and signs. Some road signs that had been replaced had already been stolen again.

Briggs then presented a proposed amended agreement for the expenditure of highway moneys 2015. The broad numbers are \$176,800 for general repairs, and \$202,887 (amended from \$137,376) for permanent improvements. (see attached for details)

Resolution #37: On an motion by Councilman Barbato seconded by Councilman Tiger,
Adopted Yeas 5 Nays 0

Resolved: to accept the Amended Agreement for Expenditure of Highway Moneys 2015 as presented (see attached)

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tiger reported 422 newsletters sent with a 46% open rate; most interest was in the library gala held in Roe Jan Park. At the meeting on Town branding presented by Tod Wohlfarth of Rock Paper Scissors, there was a general expression of support for the work that had been prepared. It was stressed that the Town Board needed to support the branding project financially and from a public relations view. A contest is being planned to involve the public for a tag line or colors for the Town.

OTHER BUSINESS

SIDEWALKS

Supervisor Baer reported that it was necessary to schedule a public meeting on the sidewalks project to be held August 4, 2015 at 6PM in Town Hall. Baer requested that the public be informed through the Towns newsletter and website, in addition to the posted public notice.

CHUCK WELDON'S, HILLSDALE FINE WINE & SPIRITS, LIQUOR LICENSE

A great deal of concern was expressed over the delay in Chuck Weldon's receipt of a liquor license for his new liquor store. Being himself a good citizen and longtime business owner in Hillsdale, there seems to be no reason for the delay in issuing a license for a store that would replace a closed Hillsdale business. Baer requested that we seek community support for Weldon, and proposed that the Town Board write a letter of support to the liquor authorities.

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Resolution #38: On motion by Councilman Sena, seconded by Councilman Barbato,

Adopted Yeas 5 Nays 0

Resolved: To write a letter from the Town Board to the NYS liquor authorities in support of Chuck Weldon and Hillsdale Fine Wine and Spirits urging them to hasten the license approval. (see letter attached)

HILLSDALE ARTS WALK

The Hillsdale Arts Walk will be held on Saturday, September 12, between 9:30 and 4:00. Anthony Street will be closed during that time between Route 23 and Cold Water Street.

TAX CAP ON INCREASES

Supervisor Baer reported that the Town had received notice from the State Comptroller that the property tax increase cap will drop below 1% for 2016. Baer stated that the cap will make for a difficult year, and that all departments need to continue searching for cost efficiencies. Councilperson Sims-Elster stated that the Town needed to compile sufficient medical data on Town staff such that the Town could apply for membership with the self-insurance program of the County.

COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The State has requested a 5 year audit of the Committee's loan procedures. 3 or 4 people who had been asked to step down did so. The County informed the Committee that it would receive no funding until it reorganized. Supervisor Baer stated that the progress made with the CCDC was a fine example of what could be accomplished when officials and the public worked together.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Councilperson Sims-Elster was looking to expand upon the multi-town and county cooperation agreement created to affect additional cost efficiencies. The particular topic that holds the most promise is joining the County's self-insurance plan for medical coverage, but Hillsdale has not been able to participate due to its lack of information on the historical past for medical claims.

CAC APPOINTMENT

Suzanne Werner was recommended by Gretchen Stevens as an appointment to CAC. After some discussion, it was determined that CAC recommends should not come before the Town Board until the Planning Board had given prior approval. However,

Resolution #39: On motion of Councilman Sena with a second by Councilman Tiger, the following resolution was

Adopted vote ayes 5 nays 0

Resolved: To appoint Suzanne Werner to CAC pending approval by Hank Henward.

SEWER

Councilman Sena reported that there was not enough interest from the community to expand the sewer district.

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FARMERS' MARKET

Laura Griffin reported that Didi Barrett had gone to the July 18, 2015 Farmers' Market to announce NY State's new farmers' market month. While she was there, Didi presented the news to Timmy Bates and Caroline Stewart (not present that Saturday) that an annual young farmers award had been established in their names to encourage youth in agriculture and to thank Timmy and Caroline for their years of hard work at Roe Jan Park.

PAY BILLS

Resolution #40: On motion of Councilman Barbato, seconded by Councilman Tiger, 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 #253-291	\$ 12,727.23
Highway Fund	Voucher#151-176	\$129,462.04
Parks & Rec	Vouchers #57-76	\$ 1,784.17
Sewer Fund	Voucher#40-48	\$ 32,986.75
Street Lights	Voucher#8	\$ 478.81

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm

+Respectfully submitted,

William Demma, Town Clerk