



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE  
BOARD MEETING  
December 15, 2015**

This Town Board meeting, called to order at 7:01pm with the following members present:

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bill Demma Town Clerk, Peter Cipkowski, Robina Ward, Pat Baer, Meg Wormley, Michael Chesloff, Lou Bach (GPI), Chris Cornwall (GPI), Joe Hanselman, Jr. Tax Collector, Steve Smith, Barbara Smith, Jeff Paige, Lorna Littleway of the Columbia-Paper, Laura Griffin, Bud Atwood, Pat Atwood.

**Resolution #62: APPROVE MINUTES,**

On a motion by Councilman Tiger seconded by Councilman Sena to accept the November 17, 2015 minutes as presented.

**Adopted Vote ayes 5 nay 0**

**Resolved** to accept the minutes as presented for the Town of Hillsdale Board meeting held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015.

(Note: This meeting was the final meeting of Supervisor Baer and Councilman Sena's terms, marking their 156<sup>th</sup> regular Town Board meeting.)

**SEWER**

Councilman Sena reported that the new pump to prevent winter freeze up is now installed and working.

Pat Nolan received the Waste Water Specialist of the Year Award from the Waste Water Management NY Rural Water Association. This award is considered a big deal, and the Board expressed pride in Nolan's achievement.

**PARKS**

Councilperson Sims-Elster reported that the information, photographs, and forms for weddings in the Roe Jan Park are now on the Town website. Supervisor Baer requested that Copake do the same listing since weddings are RJP events.

Summer Youth Program information is already posted to the Town website for the summer 2016.

Sims-Elster also presented a heartfelt thank you to the Fire Company and the Ladies Auxiliary for a successful kids Christmas at the firehouse, including support from Taconic Valley Lawn and Garden. There were enough children to fill two wagons which were stocked full by Santa with the sole support of Taconic Lawn and Garden.

Regular Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board, December 15, 2015 (cont.)

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilman Tiger reported that there was a 56% open rate for 470 opens on the Town Newsletter, with the most interest going to Upstate.com which had included information on Hillsdale.

#### **HIGHWAY**

Councilman Barbato reported in Superintendent Briggs' absence. The crew has been cutting back brush and trees along the roads, and the Highway Department is ready for winter weather.

#### **BUILDINGS**

Councilman Sena reported that Victor Amendola continues his work on Town Hall as he gets time. In particular he has been sheet rocking the back stairwell with helpful advice and loaned equipment from Ray Carito. Jeff Garms had volunteered two days of his time as electrician to deal with problems faced by Amendola when electric boxes interfered with sheet rock. The Board expressed gratitude to the volunteers.

Sena reported further that the problem with the water flowing at the Sheriff's Sub-Station still existed, and was probably being caused by a celluloid ultra-violet filter that is overheating. The water flows properly when the celluloid is by-passed, and a water test was done to check the water without the ultra-violet filter. The water tested clean.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **SIDEWALKS**

Chris Cornwall and Lou Bach of GPI discussed the current status of the sidewalks project. Cornwall, Project Manager, reported that the '90% Plans' had gone out to DOT last week. He is expecting to get comments from DOT by mid-January, to reply by mid-February, and then to send the job out for bids in March.

Bach reported that the project extends from Whitehill Lane to Route 22, and that crosswalks along the way still needed to be planned. The engineers' estimate of costs is \$670,000, leaving some room in the budget for amenities such as benches & plantings. It is anticipated that plantings will consist of smaller shrubs that are hardy enough to deal with life at roadside. The sidewalk will be exposed aggregate with a 2' brick maintenance strip. Samples of brick patterns were passed around along with sample bench types. Since the Town has no standard for these items at this time, no limitation on choices based on standards exists. Maintenance will be the key to the choices made, and the deadline for decisions is mid-January. All amenities must be within the public right of way; currently benches are planned only for the monument area.

Peter Cipkowski, Supervisor-Elect, will see that the choices are made available to the public through the Town's websites and the January newsletter for comment.

Supervisor Baer explained that the Town had not been given the lighting grant. Given that, there is no current provision for lighting except that conduit (\$25,000) will be laid along with sidewalk paving for future lighting. GPI will install lighting bases so that the eventual lighting may be attached.

Regular Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board, December 15, 2015 (cont.)

Bach explained that he had met with Dot maintenance regarding drainage frames and infrastructure and walked the length of the project. DOT will replace all drainage frames and replace any of the infrastructure that collapses at no cost to the Town. Drainage will be the first element of the project handled.

GPI estimates that construction will be a four month project, with the intention to complete the project by the fall of 2016. They anticipate that construction will begin in April or May and last through Labor Day.

Baer explained that there will be a public meeting to discuss how the work will be done to maintain access to businesses and other properties along the project route, and will include such rules as no work on the project on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

#### APPOINTMENTS PLANNING BOARD

The following resolution reappoints Bud Gardner and Richard Freiman to the Planning Board:

#### **Resolution #63: REAPPOINT TWO PERSONS TO THE PLANNING BOARD,**

On a motion by Councilperson Sims-Elster seconded by Councilman Tiger

**Adopted Vote ayes 5 nay 0**

**Resolved** to reappoint Bud Gardner and Richard Freiman to the Planning Board.

#### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In light of the resignation of Howard Van Lenten and upon recommendation by the Zoning Board:

#### **Resolution #64: APPOINT BARBARA BARRENTES TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS,**

On a motion by Councilman Sena seconded by Councilman Barbato

**Adopted Vote ayes 5 nay 0**

**Resolved** to appoint Barbara Barrentes to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

#### PETER CIPLOWSKI'S THANK YOU TO SUPERVISOR BAER AND COUNCILMAN SENA

As this December 15 meeting is the last of 156 regular Board meetings for Supervisor Baer and Councilman Sena, Cipkowski expressed the appreciation of a grateful Town. He reminded those in attendance of the enormous contributions and improvements in the Town made by the Board under the auspices of Supervisor Baer, and the similarly long serving tenure of Councilman Sena during which time we saw unbelievable progress:

(See transcript of Cipkowski's remarks attached)

At this time Cipkowski presented both Baer and Sena with token gifts of appreciation.

Regular Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board, December 15, 2015 (cont.)

**SUPERVISOR BAER FAREWELL ADDRESS**

With feelings of deep gratitude, Supervisor Baer stated that he had been very fortunate in his life and career, but few jobs had been as challenging, frustrating, and rewarding as being Hillsdale's Supervisor for 12 years, having received middle of the night calls regarding everything from dead raccoons on a lawn to a fatal accident. Stating his appreciation, Baer thanked the residents of Hillsdale for all the support they had provided, as well as the current and previous Town Board members. Baer thanked his wife Pat for enduring trying elections and the late night calls, and he expressed his strong gratitude to Councilman Sena with whom he had spent all 12 years of his terms as Supervisor. He closed with good wishes for the incoming Board and the future of the Town.

**COUNCILMAN SENA FAREWELL ADDRESS**

Councilman Sena thanked all Town residents who had stepped up to support his and the Board's needs, and expressed pride in the accomplishments in the Town during his tenure. Sena stated that it had all been worthwhile.

**PAY BILLS**

**Resolution #65:** On motion of Councilman Sena and a second by Councilperson Sims-Elster,

**Adopted    Vote ayes 5    nays 0**

**Resolved** to pay the bills in the following amounts:

For the December 15, 2015 meeting

General Fund	Vouchers #480-537	\$ 18,493.74
Highway Fund	Vouchers #263-283	\$ 44,160.24
Parks & Rec	Vouchers #107	\$ 175.00
Sewer Fund	Vouchers #78-80	\$ 1,812.43
Street Lights	Voucher #13	\$ 629.78

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted

William Demma, Town Clerk

## PETER CIPKOWSKI'S THANK YOU TO SUPERVISOR BAER AND COUNCILMAN SENA

As this December 15 meeting is the last of 156 regular Board meetings for Supervisor Baer and Councilman Sena, Supervisor-Elect Cipkowski expressed the appreciation of a grateful Town. He reminded those in attendance of the enormous contributions and improvements in the Town made by the Board under the leadership of Supervisor Baer, and the similarly long serving tenure of Councilman Sena. Some of their accomplishments include:

- The implementation of the Sewer District which showed personal and political courage. Baer and Sena stuck their necks out, paid a heavy political price, managed complex financing and stood up for what they knew was best for the town and its progress. They demonstrated effective, productive public service and created an infrastructure that supports our economic growth.

- As for the Roe Jan Park, Supervisor Baer's pro-active work at the county and state level resulted in 300 acres of a public land that is now managed by the Town, is still open and in farming, and has become an important meeting place for the entire Roe Jan community. Plus the Park is self-funded, generates its own revenue and drives interest to the community.

- The ongoing leadership provided by Baer and Sena to the Comprehensive Plan demonstrated commitment, vision, and ignited a groundswell of citizen activism channeled through comprehensive planning committees that developed and implemented the Plan. This work also resulted in the development and adoption of the PPS plan, a blueprint for the hamlet's future.

- Restoring this building (Town Hall) and turning it into a 21st century Town Hall meant that the Town would not suffer an empty, dark building and that could become the centerpiece for a new historic district. They also transitioned the old town hall into the Sheriff's Sub-Station that increases a positive police presence in our community.

- The ridgeline regulations were another example of leadership by Baer and Sena the value of common sense, pragmatic legislation.

Public service can be thankless and doesn't come with many obvious rewards. So I think we need to thank them now for their service.