

DRAFT

**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
BOARD MEETING
February 14, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

PRESENT: Supervisor Peter Cipkowski
Councilperson Carmen Barbatp
Councilperson Steven Tiger
Councilperson Robina Ward

ABSENT: Councilperson Jill Sims=Elster

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathi Doolan, Town Clerk; Joe Hanselman, Jr., Tax Collector; Steve Smith, Tom Carty, Joe Browdy, Jeff Paige and Lorna Littleway, Columbia Paper.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Supervisor Peter Cipkowski.

Approve Minutes

Two amendments: per Supervisor Cipkowski, the name of the Broadband County Committee is "Connect Columbia"; and from Councilperson Steve Tiger the word "Department" on page 3. "request a list of the roads maintained by the Hillsdale Highway *Department*

On motion of Councilperson Steve Tiger, seconded by Robina Ward, the following resolution was

Adopted Vote - Ayes- 4 Nays – 0 Absent - 1

Resolved to approve the minutes of the Town Board meeting held on January 17, 2017.

Announcements/Correspondence:

Supervisor Cipkowski announced that nominations are open for the Columbia County Senior Citizen of the Year. Information was just received. The deadline for nominations is February 17. Forms are available downstairs in the Town Hall.

A letter from the Tobacco-Free Action of Columbia and Greene Counties was received by the Supervisor asking to consider making the town lands tobacco-free. 90% of the towns have adopted a policy for their parks and recreation areas. They are asking to make Hillsdale town lands tobacco-free to help them reach their 100% goal. Since the town does not have an existing policy, Supervisor Cipkowski will prepare a resolution to be presented at the next Board meeting.

The Columbia County Traffic Safety Board would like Hillsdale to be represented at their meetings. They work to support towns that are looking at passing resolutions for speed reductions. Hillsdale has not been represented for some time. The Traffic Safety Board would like a citizen representative from the town of Hillsdale. They meet six times a year with the next meeting March 23.

Supervisor Cipkowski reported that the town is still waiting for the DOT to issue the work permit for the Sidewalk project in order to have a pre-construction meeting. Since our project is "shovel-ready", GPI has assured Cipkowski this may happen as soon as the beginning of March.

No Public Comments

Richard Briggs, the Highway Superintendent not in attendance due to the weather.

Joe Hanselman had no announcements for the Fire Dept.

The Town Clerk announced she is attending an Emergency Preparedness Training session in Fishkill on February 15 presented by the Army National Guard. Town Clerks are responsible for aiding the town's citizens in case of emergency. Steve Tiger will look up the "Emergency Plan" the town has in place for review.

Committee Reports

Planning Board: Supervisor Cipkowski reported that the site plan was approved for Old Tone Music Festival to be held at Cool Whisper Farm where it was last year. They do have to go before the Zoning Board. They hope to expand and accommodate 1500 guests. The level of the campground will be expanded.

Human Resources: Steve Tiger announced he is working on updating the Employee Handbook.

Comprehensive Planning Committee: There is no longer a Comprehensive Planning Committee Chair. Supervisor Cipkowski will coordinate the meetings. The committee is comprised of Tom Carty, Bart Zeigler, Lex Lalli, and Ellen Levy.

Climate Smart. Tom Carty reported that the committee is relatively new and has met twice. They are following the path developed by the NYSRTA division of the State. In

that pathway are seven projects to work on. NYSERTA calls it “Clean Energy Communities”.

Each project has a leader and a helper:

LED Streetlights – converting some not all

Defining Energy Use in the buildings of the town and publicizing on the website

Solarize – encourage use of solar by residents

Unified solar permit

Energy Code Enforcement Training for the Building Inspector and two other elected officials

Community Choice Aggregation – looking where our sources of energy for the town come from and determine affordable changes

Discussion regarding Grant moneys available if the town passes a resolution to participate in the State’s unified solar photovoltaic permitting process.

Whereas, New York State has developed a unified solar photovoltaic permitting process designed to streamline municipal permitting which will reduce cost for solar projects and support the growth of clean energy jobs across the state, and

Whereas, the town of Hillsdale is desirous of participating in the unified permitting process, thereby increasing the Town’s eligibility for various incentives and grants through New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Hillsdale adopts the New York State Unified Solar Permit as attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the town of Hillsdale authorized the Town Grant Administrator to complete the grant application through the Streamlined Permitting Program to allow for the town to receive a grant award up to \$2,500 from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority for the adoption of the United Solar Permit Application; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately and a copy of this resolution, with Exhibit 1, shall be provided to the Building and Zoning Enforcement Department.

Questions: Steve Smith asked if this were strictly residential at this time. Both Supervisor Cipkowski and Tom Carty agreed that this relates to residential only.

Resolution: On a motion by Councilperson Carmen Barbato and seconded by Councilperson Steve Tiger to accept the Town of Hillsdale adopting the New York State Unified Solar Permit:

Adopted Vote – Ayes 4 Nays – 0 Absent – 1

Resolution: On a motion by Councilperson Carmen Barbato and seconded by Councilperson Steve Tiger to authorize the Town Grant Administrator to complete the Grant application through the Streamlined Permitting Program to allow for the town to receive a grant award up to \$2,500 from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority for the adoption of the United Solar Permit Application:

Adopted Vote – Ayes 4 Nays – 0 Absent – 1

Resolution: On a motion by Councilperson Carmen Barbato and seconded by Councilperson Steve Tiger to make the resolution for the unified solar permitting process take effect immediately and provide a copy to the Building and Zoning Enforcement Departments:

Adopted Vote – Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 Absent – 1

Broadband: Tod Wohlfarth gave a report on the Committee’s recent survey and work to identify the gaps in service on official maps. Results of their work show the town is unserved and the maps are incorrect and the town is underserved. Continual efforts are being made to improve service through meetings with the State Broadband Service Office and elected officials. Wohlfarth recommended asking Charter Communications and Fairpoint to meet with the town moving forward.

Hamlet Committee: moving forward with the Flea Market Saturday May 27 to be held in the Hamlet Park

Historic Hillsdale: Meeting in the Town Hall Sunday March 12 from 9:00 – 12 noon to revisit their mission and talk about projects in the future.

Housing Committee: Joe Browdy reported on the need for community support for affordable housing. The committee received a grant from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation to fund a new survey which will go to every resident. Residents will be asked their opinions on housing affordability, economic development and town center vitality. Following the results of the survey, focus groups will be held at the Mount Washington House.

Local Law #1: A Public Hearing will be held at 6:45 on March 21 for this Solar law and voted on during the Town Board meeting which begins at 7:00 pm.

Whipporwill Road: Supervisor Cipkowski has asked the town attorney to draft a petition for residents on Whipporwill Road requesting the DOT modify the access to State Route 22. Drivers entering and exiting the road have their view obstructed by a house at the intersection

Pay Bills

On a motion by Councilperson Ward and seconded by Councilperson Barbato to pay the bills as presented:

	<u>Vouchers #</u>	
General Fund	12 – 53	\$18,001.46
Highway Fund	1 - 21	54,400.53
Sewer Fund	1 – 6	2,605.56
Lighting Fund	1	674.37
Parks	1 – 2	115.52

Motion Vote Ayes- 4 Nays- 0 Absent - 1

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Doolan
Town Clerk