

Regular Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board, Tuesday, October 16, 2007

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, October 16, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall with the following members present

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Arthur Baer  
 Councilwoman Ann Baldwin  
 Councilman Carmen Barbato  
 Councilman August Sena  
 Councilman Peter Cipkowski

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ruth Dodds, Town Clerk; Attorney Dick Alford; Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs; Independent Reporter Richard Roth; Tax Collector Joe Hanselman; Bud Atwood, Marilyn Herrington, Bob Kessler, Christine Hasse, Martin Silvan, Gregory Daly, Ira Halfond, Gene Hallenback, Robina Ward, Leslie Gabriel, Julie Kane, and Alexia Lalli.

Resolution #95

**APPROVE MINUTES**

The regular meeting of September 18<sup>th</sup> was corrected as follows:

Page 64, Highway Department report - a "d" was added to replace

Page 64, Building Department - Councilman Sena also meet with the Department

Page 65, Reply to Citizen Complaints.....- Councilman Sena spoke to Mark Merino on the phone. Frank Pizza and Jim Rapoli came to Hillsdale.

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

**adopted - vote - ayes 5 nays 0**

Resolved to approve the minutes of special meetings held on September 20, 2007 and October 3, 2007, as presented. The minutes of the regular meeting on September 18, 2007 was approved as corrected above.

**PRESERVE NEW YORK GRANT PRESENTED**

Tania Werbizky and Erin Tobin, regional directors of technical and grant programs for the Preservation League of New York State, presented a \$7,500 grant to the town's Economic and Community Development Corporation. Councilman Peter Cipkowski, Chairman of Parks and Recreation and Alexia Lalli, Chairperson of the preservation committee and writer of the grant, received the check on behalf of the town.

The preservation committee will seek community involvement by bringing together local residents who believe their homes may have historical or architectural significance. A workshop will take place on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The community is invited to share local knowledge and records that already exist, so the preservation project can build from there.

**SEWER**

The sewer is underway. There are tanks and pipes in the ground; hit some ledge in the Park; doing test holes down by Herrington's; the drilling seems to be going right along; had a construction meeting; the payments are starting to flow; things seem to be moving forward. Contract #3 will be rebid—still investigating what can be done to bring the cost down. If any homeowner has a complaint, they should contact Kyle, engineer from Clark Engineering or Augie.

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## **PARK & RECREATION**

There is a Park Steering Committee meeting tomorrow at Caroline Stewart's at 7 p.m. On Saturday there is a walk about on the new park land. The community is invited to walk the land. There will be activities from noon to 4 p.m. Trails will be marked, there will be wagon rides, cider, etc. Rain date is Sunday.

The Committee is just starting to develop a charter. Officers are Deputy, Supervisor Baer; Assistant Deputy is Councilman Peter Cipkowski; Secretary is Judy Anderson. A financial officer has yet to be appointed. There are minutes that can be posted on the web site. Copake has two members on the Committee. The reason being that the contract is with Hillsdale and Copake did not want to participate financially. They had the opportunity to participate, but declined. So they have an advisory voice as opposed to a majority.

How is the money going to be raised? It depends on how it is developed. The great opportunity is that Hillsdale did not pay for the land and it did not come off of our tax rolls. We can do as little or as much as we want. The State has their ideas—equestrian trails, possibly snowmobile trails, continue the Rail Trail, but beyond that Hillsdale is permitted to develop any recreational activity it sees fit. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to develop a plan with the help of surveys and the residents of the town. There are many things on this land that people can recreate with that will not cost the town anything – fishing, nature and equestrian trails. A portion of it may become a park, but that is in the second or third stage depending on whether the money can be raised.

Leslie Gabriel asked what will happen to the park we have....let's not miss out on what is in our own backyard. We will not loose our comment to this park and part of the planning will include how we take care of our present park. Regardless of what we do down the road, this park is central to our hamlet and needs to be maintained.

The public will have a say in the public survey and informational meetings such as the Saturday walk about.

We do have access to the buildings. The house is currently rented month to month, the barns need refurbishing. There is a double wide trailer on the property that needs to be demolished and hopefully the State will do that. Revenues from the house rent and the rental on the 160 to 170 acres of agricultural land comes to Hillsdale.

Resolution #96

### **NYS Park & Recreation Cooperative Operation and Maintenance Agreement**

Attorney Dick Alford summarized the agreement with State Parks and Recreation for the new park.

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

**adopted - vote - ayes 5 nays 0**

Resolved to agree to the Cooperative Operation and Maintenance Agreement between the Town of Hillsdale and the People of the State of New York, acting by and through the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

And further Resolved to authorize Supervisor Baer to sign said agreement.

(Agreement attached)

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## **COMMUNICATIONS**

A newsletter will come out after the elections.

The committee is in the process of upgrading the web site. Anyone with ideas pictures, or suggestions email or contact Ann. Go to [hillsdaleny.com](http://hillsdaleny.com) and let Ann know what you think. There is talk about a calendar on the web site. You can add your events now. If you would like it more in depth, again contact Ann.

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

The Highway Department is finishing up the FEMA projects. There is about \$30,000 left to spend.

They are getting ready for winter.

## **Building Department**

Was discussed at length during the Budget Workshop preceding this meeting.

We need to pass a local law to authorize the Zoning Enforcement Officer to issue appearance tickets for zoning code violations. Without this local law, the ZEO has to file his information of complaint with the town court, who in turn issues a criminal summons, which is then served by a police officer. The Board approved the Town Attorney to write this local law. A Public Hearing will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup> preceding the regular meeting at 7:15 p.m.

## **Crosswalk**

The State has painted a cross walk on Route 23 from the Civil War Monument to B & G Wines.

The next one we are working for is on Anthony Street, a County Road.

There are three businesses in town where the sidewalk stops at the driveways. In this situation, cars have the right of way, not the pedestrian. To change this so the pedestrian has the right of way, hatch marks need to be painted on the driveways where the sidewalks stop. Letters will be sent to the businesses. The Town will be contacting the County or a private firm to paint the hatch marks.

## **County Office of the Aging Nutrition Program**

In reviewing their nutrition program, it was determined that not all the care necessary to preserve the temperature required by the State was being observed. In the case of Hillsdale, they are delivered at the Plaza across from the Roe Jan building. The County does not feel the meals are being supervised properly. If the volunteer driver does not arrive in a reasonable amount of time, the delivery van has to call the County and let them know. Hillsdale needs to find another location that will be willing to supervise the meals until the driver arrives. The County suggested the Town Hall. The Coordinator feels that the Town Hall is not a safe place for the drivers to meet the van. The Office of the Aging will be in contact with the Coordinator.

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Resolution #97

**APPOINTMENT - ZBA Clerk**

On motion of Councilwoman Baldwin, seconded by Councilman Sena; the following resolution was

**adopted - vote - ayes 5 nays 0**

Resolved to appoint Dean Atwood as Zoning Board of Appeals Clerk.

**Dog Control Officer**

Wes Powell wrote the Board a letter to express his interest in the position of Dog Control Officer for the Town of Hillsdale. It came with a strong letter of recommendation from Valerie Lang, Assistant Professor HVCC.

The Board will ask Mr. Powell to come in for an interview.

From the Public—

Martin Silvan - Have the numbers of outstanding building permits, etc reported for the Building Department changed or still the same? About the same

Leslie Gabriel - The bids for the sewer that came in too high, are they the ones that will be rebid? The bid that came in about \$400,000 too high is the completion of the plant and will be rebid. We are trying to determine where the extra costs came from. We hope to go out to bid again in the next two weeks.

Ira Halfond - There is a rumor the amount the sewer district will pay is going from \$45 per to \$75 per month. We are capped at the \$45 per month. We expect working with the engineers and extra funding will keep the cost at \$45. In order to change that figure we have to have a referendum.

Resolution #98

**PAY BILLS**

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

**adopted - vote - ayes 5 nays 0**

Resolved to pay the bills in the following amounts:

General Fund	Voucher #250 - #278	\$ 16,056.20
Highway Fund	Voucher #182 - #205	\$111,951.20

Another Budget Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ruth Dodds, RMC, Town Clerk