

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board
Tuesday, August 18, 2009

I. Call to order

Supervisor Art Baer called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on **August 18, 2009**, in the **Hillsdale Town Hall**. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Attending

The following persons were present: Supervisor Baer, Board Members Ann Baldwin, Peter Cipkowski, and Augie Sena; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, Planning Board Chair Hank Henward, Town attorney Nelson Alford, and 9 members of the public.

III. Committee Reports

- a) **SEWER COMMITTEE**: Mr. Sena reported that the sewer plant had been inspected by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and that issues raised had been resolved by our engineer. He added that the closing of the long-term financing will have to be extended until paperwork from NYS DEC has been received.

On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays,

the Board resolved to authorize the Supervisor to make the annual principal payment of \$4500 on the short-term bridge loan for the sewer system.

Mr. Sena further reported that a new user wants to connect to the sewer system and that he will inform the person that the Town's engineer will provide specifications at the user's expense. He informed the Board that a number of accounts are still in arrears and that, at year end, unpaid balances will be added to users' property tax bills. He also reported that credit will be given to a customer who empties their own old septic tank, saving the Town that expense.

- b) **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**: Mr. Cipkowski reported the County had conducted a surprise inspection of the Summer Youth Program and that the program had received an exceptionally positive review. He added that the end-of-program survey had been returned by 13 families and that the results will be used to help with planning next year's program.

Mr. Cipkowski also reported that damage to play equipment in the Hamlet Park had been incurred through the actions of a drunk driver and that Parkitects will provide an estimate of the damages, assumed to be about \$15,000.

ROE JAN PARK: Jill Sims-Elster presented an interim financial statement for the Roe-Jan Park (attached). Mr. Baer reminded the Board of the decision to put the farm rents into the Park and Recreation account to be used for park operating expense and to rely on donations for capital expenditures.

Caroline Stewart informed the Board that the farmhouse roof is in need of replacement in the near future due to the recent heavy rains and stated that the Park Steering Committee would like the Town to advance the funds for the repairs, which would be repaid from future farm rents.

- c) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that he will file for an extension for the cleanup from the ice storm and that the rain damage in Harlemville is being reviewed by FEMA and SEMO. He added that all roads were now open with some culvert pipes still to be installed. He also reported that the new one-ton truck had been received.
- d) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Ms. Baldwin reported that she and Mr. Sena had reviewed the Building Department's budget and that misallocations had been corrected. Mr. Baer reported that Glenn Smith would be putting together a proposal for a combined building and zoning department for Austerlitz, Hillsdale, Copake and Canaan. He added that a state grant is available to cover expenses for the first three years and that the grant application is due October 15, 2009.
- e) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ms. Baldwin reported that the web designer would be back at work on Town's project by the end of August. She also reported that a postcard mailing in support of the library purchase had gone out and that the new informational signs had been received and were ready to be used.

IV. Other Business

- a) WAR MEMORIAL: Joe Laporta provided a progress report on the war memorial to the Board. He also informed the Board that the dedication would take place on Sunday, November 8, 2009, with a reception to follow at the firehouse.
- b) COMMUNITY DAY: Richard Briggs, Community Day chairman, reported that "it wasn't a bad day."
- c) AUDIT: Mr. Baer presented the Board with a copy of the audit of the Town Court, Town Clerk and Tax Collector accounts (attached).
- d) LIBRARY PURCHASE REFERENDUM: Mr. Cipkowski reported on next steps prior to closing, should the purchase be approved at the August 28 referendum, specifically an engineers mechanical and structural report, a verification of code compliance, and a needs assessment for the use of the building.

- e) CABLE TELEVISION CONTRACT: On a motion by Mr. Cipkowski, seconded by Ms. Baldwin,

Adopted by a vote of a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays,

the Board resolved that

WHEREAS the Hillsdale Town Board had received public comment regarding the extension of the Town's contract with Charter Communications, Inc., for cable television service in the Town of Hillsdale; and

WHEREAS the Hillsdale Town Board resolved in April, 2009, to extend the contract between the Town and Charter Communications for an additional five years; and

WHEREAS Charter Communications has offered the Town of Hillsdale a contract for an extension of service for a period of ten years;

Supervisor Art Baer is authorized to extend for an additional ten years the contract between Charter Communications, Inc., and the Town of Hillsdale for cable television service in the Town of Hillsdale, this period of time to supersede the five year extension authorized in April, 2009.

- f) PUBLIC COMMENT:

Francisco Camacho informed the Board that a large wood chipper is sitting on the private part of Stone Hill Road and asked the Board to determine if it was being used appropriately.

Bob Kessler, the Town's representative on the Columbia County Environmental Management Council, reported that the Council had approved a list of six specific environmentally sound actions to be recommended to towns and to the county.

- g) PAY BILLS: On a motion by Ms. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

Adopted by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays

It was resolved to pay the Town's bills in the following amounts:

General Fund	Voucher #211 - #263	\$ 14,735.31
Highway Fund	Voucher #182 - #202	\$ 85,483.48
Roe- Jan Park Fund	Voucher #36 - #38	\$ 962.29
Sewer District	Voucher #9 - #12	\$ 7,510.14

V. Adjournment

On a motion of **Mr. Sena** seconded by **Ms. Baldwin**,

Adopted by a vote of a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays:

Supervisor Baer adjourned the meeting at **10:00 pm.**

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk, to be accepted by the Hillsdale Town Board at the September, 2009, Regular Board Meeting.