Regular Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board, Tuesday, July 17, 2007

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, July 17, 2007, at the Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present

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

ABSENT: Councilman Peter Cipkowski

OTHERS PRESENT: Ruth Dodds, Town Clerk; Attorney Dick Alford; Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent; Richard Roth, Independent Reporter; Rachael Ohm, Register Star Reporter; Joe Hanselman, Tax Collector; Kathy Grenon, Sandra Whitman, Gregory Daly, Jay Choon, Robina Ward, Martin Silvan, John Farrell, Jim Sponable, Director of Real Property Bureau for NYS Office of Parks and Recreation, Kay Brabender, Helen Hall, Bud Atwood, Pat Baer, Ira Halfond, Ms. Hanson and daughter.

Resolution #70

APPROVE MINUTES

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

adopted - vote - ayes 4 nays 0

Resolved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 19, 2007 as presented.

NEW PARK

Supervisor Baer declared he had a significant announcement.....

On behalf of the Town of Hillsdale and the Town Board, I am very proud and pleased to announce an upcoming agreement between the Town of Hillsdale and the State of New York. Whereby the State will purchase nearly 300 acres of land along Hillsdale's southern boundary with Copake, known as the Roberts' farm, formerly part of Odyssey Farm, and turn that property over to the Town for development as a community park. This is a landmark event in Hillsdale's history which will allow us over time, to provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities for all ages and interests and make it one of the premier parks in the State. While under the management of Hillsdale, the park will be open to all, regardless of residency. To help us in the development of this resource, the State has also indicated that funding may be available to obtain a professional park design engineer. This will be a major long term initiative and investment for the Town. We will be establishing a park commission with a diverse group of residents to oversee this effort. This has been a long term effort for the Board to find a park for the Town.

The Supervisor thanked not only the Town Board , but especially the efforts of a person by the name of Judy Anderson, formally of the Land Conservancy, who could not be here this evening, but who has been very instrumental and supportive of the need of the Town to find a location for a wonderful park.

Jim Sponable, Director of Real Property Bureau for the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation was introduced.....This property has great opportunities. The rail trail goes through it, the Roe Jan is a wonderful trout stream. A farmer is using the land now and

he will finish out the year, then we will talk with him about future use. The State heard through Judy Anderson that Hillsdale was in need of land for a park. The State is looking for shared resources as in the local municipalities, the county, the State and Federal governments all working together. The State had the money, talked with the owner and expect to close on the property in two to three weeks. It is a long road, a lot to do. The State has some money for initial planning. Looking to the community for ideas. What does the community want? We are looking for a different kind of park...not just the ususal. There are wonderful environmental parts of the property....wetlands, etc. There could be a nature center, horse trails, snowmobile trails and ballfields.
The property is actually in Copake. Supervisor Baer met yesterday with Copake Supervisor Valentino and his attorney and they were very supportive. As we get into the planning stages we will need all residents and want to include Copake's Boards, but it is Hillsdale's project. In five or ten years we could have one of the finest parks in the state. Another round of thanks to Judy Anderson and Carol Ash, Commissioner of State Parks and Recreation.

SEWER
One contract is complete and the other is waiting on paper work from Rural Development.
Some residents in the district still have not completed the required paper work for Housing Resources. We need this in order to get Rural Development approval.
Time is running out on our grants. We need to get going before September.
Contracts 3 and 4 are before DEC for review. Hope to bid them the end of August.

COMMUNICATIONS
All current minutes are on the website. In July the website had 972 hits.

HIGHWAY
We have signed off on FEMA money amounting to $192,000.
Permission has been granted to cut banks back on Ox Bow Road.
1,800' of Harlemville Road is paved.
The clinic in Town would appreciate the Town's business. They need our support.
The Highway Department contracts with the county for lab work etc. The physicals are done through the Fire Company.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
The committee met again with all three employees in the Building Department. They are trying to get a handle on why the department is so back logged. Demands increase with all the new codes and laws that are being passed. Computer program was discussed. Two were in favor of the software, one not so excited. The Deputy Inspector, Peter Goldman, is willing to try the paper work the clerk was doing in addition to what he is currently handling. He will work a additional eight (8) hours per week.

The committee is stressing to John that the money he receives is fee for service/review of the process, not approval. Also the Town has passed a resolution that checks must be deposited in thirty days; State Law allows sixty days. The Supervisor has recently received $17,000.

Comprehensive Plan
A local law regulating logging is in progress. Attorney Alford consulted with Bruce Williamson, DEC. He has several local laws he feels provides protection, but are not unduly burdensome.

Seniors Request Use of Town Hall
About sixteen senior citizens would like to use the Town Hall on Mondays,
2 p.m. - 4p.m., to play bridge.
Discussed – because of space it would be better if they met after 4 p.m. when the Town Hall is closed. Supervisor Baer will notify.

Community Day will be held on August 18th at the Roe Jan School from noon to 7 p.m.

LOCAL LAW #7 - Administration and Enforcement of the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code for the town of Hillsdale

Resolution #71
Short EAF
The Board completed the short form EAF.
On motion of Councilman Sena, seconded by Councilwoman Baldwin; the following resolution was
adopted - vote - ayes 4 nays 0
Resolved that the enactment of Local Law #7 of the year 2007 will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts – a negative declaration.

Resolution #72
Adopt
On motion of Councilwoman Baldwin, seconded by Councilman Barbato; the following resolution was
adopted - vote - ayes 4 nays 0
Resolved that Local Law #7 of the year 2007, providing for the administration and enforcement of the New York State uniform fire prevention and building code for the Town of Hillsdale, be adopted.

LOCAL LAW #8 - Prohibiting Parking on Anthony Street at the Intersection of New York State Route 23 in the Town of Hillsdale

Resolution #73
EAF
The Board completed the short form EAF.
On motion of Councilman Sena, seconded by Councilwoman Baldwin; the following resolution was

adopted - vote - ayes 4 nays 0

Resolved that the enactment of Local Law #8 of the year 2007 will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts – a negative declaration.

Resolution #74
Adopt
On motion of Councilman Sena, seconded by Councilwoman Baldwin; the following resolution was

adopted - vote - ayes 4 nays 0

Resolved that Local Law #8 of the year 2007, prohibiting parking on Anthony Street at the intersection of New York State Route 23 in the Town of Hillsdale, be adopted.

Resolution #75
EXECUTIVE SESSION
On motion of Councilman Sena, seconded by Councilwoman Baldwin; the following resolution was

adopted - vote - ayes 4 nays 0

Resolved that this Board move into executive session to discuss contract negotiations. Time 8:10 p.m.

Resolution #76
CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION
On motion of Councilman Sena, seconded by Councilman Barbato; the following resolution was

adopted - vote - ayes 4 nays 0

Resolved that executive session be closed and this Board move back into the regular meeting. Time 8:47 p.m.

Resolution #77
PAY BILLS
On motion of Councilman Sena, seconded by Councilman Barbato; the following resolution was

adopted - vote - ayes 4 nays 0

Resolved to pay the bills in the following amounts:

General Fund	Voucher #162 - #190	$24,564.14
Highway Fund	Voucher #123 - #145	$93,045.12

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____ Ruth Dodds, RMC, Town Clerk