

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board
Tuesday, March 17, 2009

I. Call to order

Supervisor Art Baer called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on **March 19, 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, Carmen Barbato, Peter Cipkowski, and Augie Sena; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, Town Attorney Dick Alford, Tax Collector Joe Hanselman, Comprehensive Plan Review Chairman Tom Carty; and 5 members of the public.

III. Committee Reports

- a) **SEWER COMMITTEE:** Mr. Sena reported that the sewer system is up and operational, that fees are being received, and that operator training has taken place. He mentioned that there has been one problem with the system recently: a stuck valve in a forced main near the Hillsdale Diner, which problem had been corrected. Mr. Baer stated that he had asked the project engineers for a job description for the sewer maintenance position and that the person in that position should keep a record of time spent on the sewer. Mr. Sena commented that the Town Board needs to set a policy for overtime vs. compensating time for this position. Mr. Baer added that he would like Mr. Barbato to be the Board's contact person for any problems with the sewer system.

Mr. Sena reported that two sewer subscribers had stated that the number of Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) assigned to them was inaccurate. He added that the Building Inspector will be the person to investigate these situations and will update the Sewer District with his findings so that appropriate changes can be made. The Building Department fee would be the same for this inspection as for a certificate of occupancy inspection.

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

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

the Board resolved to appoint the Building Inspector to conduct inspections on behalf of Hillsdale Sewer District #1 for the purpose of establishing or changing the number of Equivalent Dwelling Units in a given parcel, the fee for which would be equal to the fee charged for an inspection for granting a residential or commercial certificate of occupancy.

Mr. Sena reported that another bill will be received from Clark Engineering for additional sewer work which will include the official abandonment of the old tanks. Mr. Sena said that he will clarify the open issues with the engineer.

Regarding payment of sewer bills for the 1st Quarter, 2009, Mr. Baer stated that only \$4,000 to \$5,000 had been collected against \$16,000 billed. He added that he will be sending a second letter to those who haven't paid, restating that payment must be made.

Mr. Sena stated that the closing on the EFC loan had been scheduled by the end of the month, but that Rural Development would not be ready by then. Mr. Baer added that he had submitted an application under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for funds to convert these loans into a grant, although he thought the application had a low chance of success.

- b) **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Mr. Cipkowski reported that the safety issues at the farmhouse at the Roeliff-Jansen Park had been addressed. He added that a grant had been received from the Hudson River Valley Greenway for \$30,000 to redo the roof on the recreation shed. This grant will free up funds for other work at the Park, he added.

Mr. Cipkowski reported that he had advertised for a new Summer Youth Program director and that interviews would begin the week of March 23. He added that he is working with Ed Koons on the summer program until a new director is hired.

- c) **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that the clean up of damage from the 2008 ice storm is slow work, with six employees finishing only one half mile in three hours. He added that the spring cleanup of roads had begun.

Mr. Briggs inquired about funds available to replace equipment, adding that the one-ton truck was "getting really tired." Mr. Baer responded that there was \$25,000 in the budget for capital projects for the Highway Department and another \$50,000 for machinery in the equipment account.

Mr. Baer stated that he had met with a representative from AFLAC, which is offering an add-on policy for accidents and injuries. He recommended to Mr. Briggs that the Highway Department employees be given the opportunity to participate in the plan at their cost.

- d) **BUILDING DEPARTMENT:** Ms. Baldwin reported that, as the 1st quarter of 2009 ends, the Building Committee had reviewed the number of building permits issued and found that it had dropped significantly. The Committee will speak with the Building Inspector about reducing his hours for the 2nd quarter.

Mr. Cipkowski reported that he had been getting estimates of costs to bring the old Library building up to code for use as a new town hall and to stabilize it. He stated that the building is in very good shape and that not much work will be needed. Mr. Baer stated that the Committee needs to come up with ideas about the layout and add-ons to the building. Mr. Cipkowski

replied that the architect would like to interview people who would use the building to determine their needs. He added that the Town's appraisal of the building had been done.

- e) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ms. Baldwin reported that the 2008 Annual Report was almost complete and that the Newcomer's Brochure is being worked on.

IV. Other Business

- a) VETERANS' MEMORIAL: Joe Laporta, representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars, informed the Board that he had met with David Ruede and Matthew White, residents of Hillsdale, about the design of the proposed veterans' monument. Mr. Laporta and Paul Proper presented the resulting design and requested the Board's endorsement of the project.

HAMLET PLANNER: Tom Carty asked to Board for a resolution to authorize the Hamlet Subcommittee of the Comprehensive Plane Review committee to apply for a grant to fund retaining the services of a hamlet planner. On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

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

the Board resolved to authorize the Hamlet Subcommittee of the Comprehensive Plane Review committee to apply for a grant to fund retaining the services of a hamlet planner.

- b) Mr. Baer reported that because the Town achieved a 100% equalization rate in the 2008 assessment, the Town would receive \$5 per parcel and that because the Town participated in a joint assessment, it would receive another \$7 per parcel from the State.
- c) Mr. Baer informed the Board that Charter Communications' franchise to provide cable service to Hillsdale is due to be renewed and that a Public Hearing would be scheduled for 7:00 on Tuesday, April 21, to review their application.
- d) Mr. Baer reminded the Board that the Memorial Day Parade will be held in Hillsdale this year, on May 25th. He added that he would be asking Al Vorspan, a Hillsdale resident who had participated in the Normandy invasion and is an authority of Israeli relations to be the parade marshal and keynote speaker.
- e) On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

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

the Board resolved to reduce the EDUs at the former Aubergine Restaurant from 5 to 2 and at the Joseph Hanselman, Jr., home from 2 to 1.

- f) EXECUTIVE SESSION: 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 moved into executive session at 8:48 pm to discuss personnel and real estate matters.

On a motion by Mr. Barbato, seconded by Ms. Baldwin,

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

the Board moved out of executive session at 9:38 pm.

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

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

the Board returned to regular session at 9:38 pm.

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

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 #46 - #99	\$ 52,395.23
Capital Projects Fund	Voucher #75	\$ 266.00
Parks Fund	Vouchers #57 - #96	\$9,293.92
Sewer District Fund	Vouchers #71 & #89	\$ 332.49
Highway Fund	Voucher #44 - #52	\$ 52,503.64

V. Adjournment

On a motion of **Mr. Baer**, seconded by **Mr. Barbato**,

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

Supervisor Baer adjourned the meeting at **9:59 pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk