

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board  
Tuesday, May 19, 2009

**I. Call to order**

**Supervisor Art Baer** called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on **May 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, Tax Collector, Joe Hanselman; Chairman of the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, Tom Carty; Chairman of the Zoning Appeals Board, Craig Norton; and 6 members of the public.

**III. Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes for the April Board Meeting were approved with the following change: in Section VI.a), change the text from "...the Board resolved to authorize the purchase of an F450 4x4 dual wheel pickup truck with all-season body, plow and lights for \$65,364.40 from Zwack, Inc." to "the Board resolved to authorize the purchase of a cab and chassis for a Ford 450 pickup truck cab and chassis for \$25,719.90 from Van Bortel Ford in Victor NY."

**IV. Committee Reports**

- a) **SEWER COMMITTEE:** Mr. Sena reported that only small issues remain to be resolved before the Town can sign off on the Sewer project and submit a final Form E to Rural Development. He added that the Sewer Committee is currently receiving bids for retiring the old septic tanks that were replaced by the new system.

Mr. Sena also reported that Waste Water Technologies, Inc., had submitted several proposals for maintenance agreements. He stated that because there are funds in the sewer budget to have outside management of the plant for the first year of operation, he was recommending that the Town retain Waste Water Technologies for that purpose and then for monitoring only after Year One. On a motion by Ms. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski

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

the Board resolved to accept Proposal One from Waste Water Technologies, Inc., for one year for \$12,000 to be paid from Hillsdale Sewer District #1.

- b) **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Mr. Cipkowski reported that the Summer Youth Program had received eighteen (18) applications for four staff positions and that offers would be extended to the successful candidates

by the end of the week. He added that the Program had registered 18 campers so far for 50 openings.

ROE JAN PARK: Mr. Cipkowski reported that a fenced and shaded dog run is being developed for the Park. Mr. Baer informed the Board that later in the week, the NY State Parks Commissioner, Carol Ash, and her staff will be meeting with Town officials and members of the Roe-Jan Park Board to check on progress in the Park and to discuss long-range development and funding.

- c) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that the Highway Department is 50% done with clean-up from last winter's ice storm. He added that FEMA has been billed a total of approximately \$340,000 so far and that some projects are still on-going. He also informed the Board that, in the recent windstorm, a tree had fallen on a tractor used for mowing and that therefore mowing was behind schedule.

Mr. Briggs also reported that there had been recent vandalism at the Harlemville Cemetery and that the Boy Scouts had mowed the cemetery on Pill Hill.

The Town Clerk presented the Board with one sealed bid for the purchase of an all season truck body with associated equipment for the pickup truck approved for purchase in April, 2009. 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 resolved to accept the bid in the amount of \$39,975.00 from Zwack, Inc., of Stephentown, NY, for the truck body and associated equipment.

- d) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ms. Baldwin reported that the Communications Committee had decided that the Town's web site should be updated and had interviewed three candidates for the redesign. The Committee had selected Peter Weiss of Square Candy Design and recommends that the Board fund the project. Mr. Baer directed the Clerk to request that the accountant prepare a budget amendment to move the necessary funds from the reserve account.

Iona Lutey presented the Board with a summary of her experience preparing a town calendar of events to be emailed to residents using the web service provider Constant Contact. On a motion by Ms. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

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

the Board resolved to enter into a six-month contract with Constant Contact for the purpose of distributing a digital calendar of events and Town newsletter, the amount for which is not to exceed \$135.

## V. Other Business

- a) Mr. Baer announced that the Memorial Day Parade for Hillsdale, Copake, and Ancram would be held in Hillsdale this year, beginning in the Hamlet at 11:00 am and progressing to the Fire House. He added that Al Vorspan, veteran and Hillsdale resident, as well as senior vice-president emeritus of the Union for Reform Judaism and founding director of the Commission on Social Action, would be the marshal of the parade and speaker at the following commemoration.
- b) Mr. Baer informed the Board that a proposal had been made to power wash the exterior of the Town Hall. 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 to have the exterior of the Town Hall power washed for the sum of \$500.

- c) Mr. Sena presented the Board with a report from Glenn Smith, Building Inspector, that the property on parcel number 145.4-1-17 was increasing from one (1) equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) to two (2) EDUs. 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 increase the EDUs to two for parcel 145.4-1-17 and to adjust the billing for sewer fees accordingly as on July 1, 2009.

- d) Dick Alford, Town Attorney, reminded the Board that the Town had requested a free cable drop to a building in Roe-Jan Park as part of the negotiations around renewing Charter Communications' cable franchise in the Town. He reported that Charter representatives had determined that the cost would be excessive and had offered to share the cost of installing the drop up to the amount of \$1000. The Board requested that Mr. Alford discuss the matter further with a Charter representative.
- e) EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Ms. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Sena,

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

the Board moved into executive session at 8:43 pm to discuss issues related to specific employees.

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 moved out of executive session at 9:28 pm.

- f) On the advice Mr. Norton, chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Ms. Baldwin offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Sena,

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

to remove the current clerk of the ZBA, effective immediately, and to advertise for a replacement.

- g) Mr. Baer informed the Board that the Mayor of Philmont had written to him requesting that the Town pay \$19,400 into the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) that Philmont offers its volunteer fire company which serves part of the Town of Hillsdale. Mr. Baer stated that he would be responding to this request and would report the results to the Board.
- h) Mr. Baer stated that he and Ms. Baldwin would be meeting with the Town Clerk to review the recent audit report of the Clerk's accounts.
- i) 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	Vouchers #128 - #166	\$ 34,632.59
Highway Fund	Vouchers #100 - #120	\$52,645.29
Roe-Jan Park	Vouchers #14 - #24	\$12,324.49
Sewer District	Vouchers #4 - #5	\$136.00
Capital Project	Vouchers #5 - #8	\$107,618.53

## **VI. Adjournment**

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

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

**Supervisor Baer** adjourned the meeting at **9:50 pm.**

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk