

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board  
Thursday, June 18, 2009

**I. Call to order**

**Supervisor Art Baer** called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:35 pm** on **June 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, Carmen Barbato, Peter Cipkowski, and Augie Sena; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Craig Norton; 5 members of the public; and 1 member of the press.

**III. Acceptance of Minutes**

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 accepted the minutes of the May public hearings and regular Board meeting with the correction of the name “Peter Weiss” to “Peter Wise.”

**IV. Committee Reports**

- a) **SEWER COMMITTEE:** Mr. Sena reported that Suffolk had returned to make corrections to the system and that \$20,000 of their fee has been retained but that they have been released from their bond. He continued, stating that the Rural Development paperwork has almost been completed, that closing will be scheduled soon, and that \$80,000 remains in the contingency fund. He added that a list of “dos and don’ts” will be sent to sewer customers with the next quarterly billing. Mr. Baer stated that Wastewater Technologies and the sewer engineer felt that someone in authority should be designated as having formal responsibility for the sewer system. Mr. Baer named Mr. Sena as that person, with Mr. Barbato serving as his backup.
- b) **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Mr. Cipkowski reported that the County’s inspection of the new Youth Program facilities that afternoon had gone well, that the Youth Program had registered 50 children, and that the program was now full. He added that the Youth Program had been awarded a \$1284 grant for nutritional and environmental programs by the Kids In Motion Minigrant program of the Columbia County Healthcare Consortium.  
  
Mr. Cipkowski explained that the playground at the Hamlet Park would be toddler-oriented and that the playground at the Roe-Jan Park would be designed for children 5 to 12 years of age. He added that the Hamlet Park is in need of a new swing support, which will cost \$880, and that the Committee would like to purchase three pieces of play equipment for the Roe-Jan Park

for \$12,880, the total being \$13,760 less \$5000 in donations received. All equipment would be installed by volunteers under professional supervision on July 1. On a motion by Mr. Cipkowski, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

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

the Board resolved to purchase playground equipment as described above, payment to be made from Subdivision Fees dedicated to Park Development.

Mr. Baer asked about the status of the water supply for the Youth Program. Mr. Cipkowski responded that the ultraviolet filter system was in place and had been approved by the County.

Mr. Cipkowski also reported that 200 trees had been planted along the stream in the Roe-Jan Park by volunteers, the trees having been provided by the "Trees for Tribs" initiative of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

- c) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that the department is still working on storm cleanup and equipment repairs. He stated that of the \$467,906.55 net costs for storm cleanup, \$409,418.23 will be refunded by FEMA and SEMO.
- d) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ms. Baldwin reported that a Town newsletter and calendar are now being distributed electronically with paper copies available in four local businesses. She added that the Committee had met with Peter Wise, web designer, to discuss information architecture and graphical design for the new Town web site.

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 approve a budget amendment moving \$2200 from the Contingency Fund to the Town Board account in the General Fund to provide funding for the new Town web site.

Mr. Baer asked about the status of interim signage to publicize local events. The Communications Committee will consider options and report at the July Board meeting.

Mr. Cipkowski presented a letter to the Board from the Boy Scouts inviting the Board to an open house at the Pill Hill Cemetery, recently cleaned as part of an Eagle Scout project, on July 1 at 6:30 pm.

- e) BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT: Ms. Baldwin stated that the Committee had been discussing ways of improving communication with members of the department and related boards. Mr. Sena added that he had discussed the purchase of a scanner with software to allow text searches of scanned documents with Glenn Smith, Building Inspector. The Town Clerk added that the existing copier was also a scanner and could be made available to everyone in the Town Hall with the addition of a network card which would

cost approximately \$1100. The matter was referred to the Communications Committee.

## V. Other Business

- a) PURCHASE OF THE LIBRARY BUILDING: Mr. Baer announced that a referendum on the decision to purchase the Library Building as a future Town Hall would be held on August 21, 2009, between the hours of 2:00 and 8:00 pm at the Fire House. The date of August 28, 2009, was set as an alternative should the Fire House not be available on the 21<sup>st</sup>. He added that all registered Hillsdale voters would be eligible to participate but that no absentee voting could be allowed.

Ms. Baldwin was asked to create a publicity plan to increase awareness of the Board's intentions in voting to purchase the Library.

- b) PHILMONT FIRE DISTRICT: Mr. Baer reported that the Mayor of Philmont had written to him again regarding the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) fees for fire fighters in the Philmont District and that he had informed the Mayor that Philmont will have to include these fees in their next budget request. He added that there should also be a contract between the Village of Philmont and the Town of Hillsdale for these fees.
- c) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE: Alexis Lalli, Chair of the Historic Preservation Subcommittee, reported that the Subcommittee is developing a map of a proposed historic district in Hillsdale and presented a report explaining the benefits to Town and property owners of such a district. She also announced that an Historic House Tour has been scheduled for August 22, 2009, proceeds from which will be used to fund the Historic District approval process.

Tom Carty, Comprehensive Plan Review Committee chairman, reported that the name of the Renewable Energy Committee had been changed to the Green Solutions Group and that the name of the Affordable Housing Subcommittee had been changed to the Hillsdale Housing Committee.

- d) ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Mr. Baer announced that two applications had been received in response to the advertisement for a clerk for the ZBA and that chairman Craig Norton was recommending that the Board appoint Ruth Dodds. On a motion by Mr. Cipkowski, seconded by Mr. Sena,

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

the Board resolved to appoint Ruth Dodds as clerk of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Baer requested that Mr. Norton write to a member of the ZBA who has not attended meetings requesting a letter of resignation and that the position be advertised when the letter has been sent.

- e) A moment of silence was observed to mark the passing of KATHRYN BRABENDER, former member of the Town Board.
- f) PAY BILLS: On a motion by Mr. Sena, 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 #167 - #202	\$ 14,409.77
Highway Fund	Voucher #121 - #146	\$ 35,480.18
Capital Projects Fund	Voucher #9	\$ 44,000.00
Roe-Jan Park Fund	Vouchers #25 - #31	\$ 9,429.94
Sewer District #1	Voucher #6	\$ 282.69

**VI. Adjournment**

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

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

**Supervisor Baer** adjourned the meeting at **9:45 pm**.

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