Regular Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board, Tuesday, September 18, 2007

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, September 18, 2007, at the Town Hall at 7:33 p.m. with the following members present

PRESENT: Supervisor Arthur Baer
Councilwoman Ann Baldwin
Councilman August Sena
Councilman Peter Cipkowski

ABSENT: Councilman Carmen Barbato

OTHERS PRESENT: Ruth Dodds, Town Clerk; Attorney Dick Alford; Richard Roth, Independent reporter; Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent; Hank Henward, Planning Board Chairman; Bob Kessler, Tom Carty, Martin Silvan, Christine Hasse, Paul Solovay, Robina Ward, Tom Powers, Ira Halfond and John Farrell.

Resolution #91

APPROVE MINUTES

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

adopted - vote - ayes 4 nays 0

Resolved that the minutes of the regular meeting held on Tuesday, August 21, 2007, be approved as presented.

SEWER

The official ground breaking for the sewer will be held on September 20th at 10:00 a.m., followed by a pre-construction meeting at 11:00 a.m. and the bid opening for contracts #3 and #4 at 1:00 p.m.

We are waiting to hear from the second Small Cities grant proposal. At this time it does not look too promising. The major reason being we have not spent enough of the first grant.

PARK & RECREATION

The committee has been awarded the Preserve New York 2007 grant from the State for $7,500 and also a Berkshire grant in the amount of $1,500 to do a survey of historic houses.

The new Park Steering Committee had their first meeting. Jim Sponable, who will be staying with the project, gave a presentation. Lauren Avenia suggested that the youth have input as to what they would like in the new park and Art suggested input from seniors as well.

COMMUNICATIONS

The committee is sleeping at the moment.

We keep adding to the web site. One problem confronting the committee at the moment is keeping the site current. Is there a way to get the minutes approved quicker? September had 900 hits on the site. A newsletter will be done this fall.

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HIGHWAY REPORT

FEMA money is being received.
The paving is done on Ox Bow and signs replaced.
The Highway Department has sealed Dawson Road, Harlemville Road, Mansfield Road, Anthony Street and Fern Hill.
The FEMA mitigation funds will be used on Harlemville Road and Apple Tree Lane.
The Sheriff has interviewed several people concerning the missing road signs. Nothing has been done to date.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Councilwoman Baldwin, Councilman Sena and Secretary of the Planning Board, Robina Ward, met with John and Ed. John said in light of all the new laws, the zoning enforcement has now all been given to Ed. Ann, Augie and Robina met twice with John and Ed to develop a form for the stage one permit in the scenic overlay district. The form is near completion.
For budget information, they would like to purchase software for the building department that will tie them with several related departments.

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Tom Carty has taken Patti Rohrlich's place as chairman of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. There have been no summer meetings, but they will meet before the next Board meeting.
David Ruede is now chairman of the Hamlet Committee, replacing Ilona Luty. David is very interested in searching for grants for a town planner.
Deborah Bowen took Mr. Carty's place as chairperson of the Scenic Overlay Committee.
Ellen Levy is chairperson of Affordable Housing, Caroline Stewart chairperson of the Agricultural Committee, Natural Resources is chaired by Gretchen Stevens who is searching for funding for an aquifer study, and Lex Lalli is working on the Heritage Committee.
The committee strongly encourages the Town to find the money for a public participation consultant.

Resolution #92

Memorandum of Understanding - Assessment Improvement Program

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

adopted - vote - ayes 4 nays 0

Be It Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Hillsdale authorizes the Town's participation in the 2008 Reassessment and Reassessment Aid Program administered by New York State Office of Real Property Services. This program is designed to ensure assessment equity and maintenance of 100% equalization rate. Continued compliance with this guideline will result in continuation of awards from the New York State Office of Real Property Services.

Shared Municipal Services - grant writer
The Supervisor has been approached by Copake asking if Hillsdale would be interested in joining Ancram and Copake in hiring a full time grant writer. The estimated cost per town is estimated at $30,000. There was discussion.
On October 4th in Albany there is a workshop on shared municipal services.

Resignation - ZBA Secretary
Juanita O'Rourke has resigned as ZBA Secretary.
The vacancy will be put on the web site and an ad put in the Independent.

Reply to citizen complaints concerning hamlet speed and signs
Councilman Sena called State DOT stating the complaints the Board has received about State signs and speed in the hamlet. Mark Merino said he had posted the signs in compliance with State standards and he would not change the speed limits. His suggestion was to request more enforcement of the posted speed limits. Frank Pizza and Jim Rapoli responded by coming to Hillsdale. They walked the hamlet with Ann and Augie discussing sidewalks and crosswalks.
Grants will be available in September of 2008 for sidewalks. It was agreed that the sidewalks should wait until the sewer is completed.

Resolution #93
Budget Amendment #2 for 2007 Budget
On motion of Councilman Sena, seconded by Councilwoman Baldwin, the following resolution was

adopted - vote - ayes 4 nays 0

Resolved that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to make the following budget amendments to the 2007 budget:

		Increase	Decrease
General Fund			
Youth Programs	7310.1	$ 3,415.00	
Unemployment Insurance	9050.8	192.00	
Contingent	1990.4		$ 192.00
Youth Programs	7310.4		3,415.00
		$ 3,607.00	$ 3,607.00
Highway Fund			
Emergency Management	8760.1	$ 54,113.00	
Emergency Management	8760.4	348,875.00	
S/A SEMA	3960		$ 57,570.00
F/A FEMA	4960		345,418.00
		$402,988.00	$402,988.00

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Logging Law - Local Law #9

Attorney Alford has been working with the Planning Board on the second piece of legislation coming out of the Comprehensive Plan Review which has to do with logging. We now have a draft of the law that will require logging permits. It refers to the State logging guidelines.

Section 7. Definitions under land clearing should read 3 acres instead of one-half acre in size.

Before this becomes law it has to be approved by the State Forest Land Management and a public hearing has to be held.

Resolution #94

PAY BILLS

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

adopted - vote - ayes 4 nays 0

Resolved to pay to pay the bills in the following amounts:

General Fund	Voucher #222 - #249	$23,448.34
Highway Fund	Voucher #165 - #181	$83,084.76

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____ Ruth Dodds, RMC, Town Clerk