

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board  
Tuesday, February 19, 2008

**I. Call to order**

**Supervisor Art Baer** called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:39 pm** on **February 19, 2008**, in the **Hillsdale Town Hall**. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Attending**

The following persons were present: Supervisor Baer, Board Members Carmen Barbato, Peter Cipkowski, and Augie Sena; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, Planning Board Chair Hank Henward, Zoning Enforcement Officer Ed Ferratto, Resident Deputy William Dunsbaugh; and members of the public Kelly Fox, Robina Ward, Tom Carty, Leslie Gabriel, and Bob Kessler.

**III. Acceptance of minutes**

Julie Kane, Town Clerk submitted the minutes from the January meetings and Public Hearings. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**IV. Committee Reports**

- a) **SEWER COMMITTEE:** Mr. Sena reported that the Sewer Project has begun to draw down the Small Cities grant, although one contractor has not submitted the proper paperwork so that he can be paid. He added that Candace Bahlmer has said that the Town will need to hold two public hearings in order to apply for another Small Cities grant. These were scheduled for March 13 at 7:00 pm and March 18 at 7:15 pm.

Mr. Sena continued that USDA Rural Development has proposed an additional grant to the Town for \$431,000. On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays,**

it was resolved that

Whereas the budget for the Hillsdale Sewer System has been increased, and whereas the USDA Rural Development has increased its grant to the Hillsdale Sewer District with no additional conditions or restrictions, the Town of Hillsdale is authorized to accept the additional funding of \$431,000.

Mr. Baer stated that the engineers had reviewed the bids for sewer contracts #3 for the wastewater treatment system and #4 for the electrical component and that the contracts could now be awarded. On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays,**

it was resolved that whereas the Town board has duly advertised for bids for contract No. 3 for the Hillsdale Sewer District No. 1 project, and whereas at a special meeting of the Town Board held on November 29, 2007, at the Hillsdale Town Hall at 1:00 pm, the sealed bids for Contract No. 3 were received and opened, and whereas the low bid for Contract No. 3 is the bid received from Arold Construction Company in the amount of \$559,370, Contract No. 3 for the Hillsdale Sewer District No. 1 construction project be awarded to Arold Construction Co., Inc., 51 Powder Mill Bridge Road, Kingston, NY 12401, in the amount of \$599,370; and it is further resolved that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Arold Construction Co., Inc., for Contract No. 3 of the sewer district construction project in the amount of \$599,370 upon their posting of a certified check in the amount of 5% of the bid price with the Town, the submission of all other required documentation in accordance with the specifications for Contract No. 3, the completion of the legal and reference review for the Arold Construction, and approval of the same by USDA Rural Development.

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

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays,**

it was resolved that

Whereas the Town board has duly advertised for bids for contract No. 4 for the Hillsdale Sewer District No. 1 project, and WHEREAS at a special meeting of the Town Board held on September 20, 2007, at the Hillsdale Town Hall at 1:00 pm, the sealed bids for Contract No. 4 were received and opened, and WHEREAS the low bid for Contract No. 4 is the bid received from Brunswick Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$83,200, Contract No. 3 for the Hillsdale Sewer District No. 1 construction project be awarded to Brunswick Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$83,200; and it is further RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Brunswick Electric, Inc., for Contract No. 4 of the sewer district construction project in the amount of \$83,200 upon their posting of a certified check in the amount of 5% of the bid price with the Town, the submission of all other required documentation in accordance with the specifications for Contract No. 4, the completion of the legal and reference review for Brunswick Electric, and approval of the same by USDA Rural Development.

Mr. Baer stated that there were two (2) open issues regarding the Sewer Project:

- (1) The program management fees to Housing Resources were still to be resolved; Housing Resources was asking for a total of \$60,000 in fees and

can take up to 18% of the contract; the Town will negotiate with them regarding the fees. They have been paid \$10,000 to date.

(2) Judgment is expected any day on the outstanding valuation of the Edelman property.

- b) **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Mr. Cipkowski showed the Board a copy of the Roeliff Jansen Park newsletter that will be posted on the Town web site and updated monthly.

He stated that the request for bids for the agricultural use of the Park land will be posted in The Independent and that bids will be opened in March.

Mr. Baer stated that the Park Committee would need to notify the current farmers that, in the near future, all animal husbandry and associated fencing will have to be removed from the property.

Mr. Baer added that the Town's insurance carrier will send a risk management expert to walk the Park to assess potential dangers to the public; this will take place after planned demolition but before the Park opening.

Mr. Cipkowski informed the Board of the conservation effort taking place for the Knox Trail.

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

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays,**

it was resolved that the Town of Hillsdale will permit and support the planned Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area sponsored event to be held on Saturday March 15, 2008, at the site of the Knox Trail marker No.30 on Route 71 near the New York Massachusetts border to celebrate the unveiling of the restored marker on the historic Henry Knox Cannon Trail.

Mr. Cipkowski also reported that the first phase of the survey of buildings in the Hamlet had identified 79 structures of historical or architectural significance. He added that the Preservation Committee will meet on February 23 to determine next steps.

- c) **TOWN HALL SECURITY SYSTEM:** Mr. Cipkowski reported that he had received two proposals for adding a security system to the Town Hall: A1 Security for \$1,350 and \$204 per month, and CIAS for \$1,400 and \$288 per month. After discussion, it was decided that Mr. Cipkowski, with Richard Briggs' help, would contact Empire Security, the company that currently provides similar services at the Town Garage. The decision was tabled until the March Board meeting.
- d) **GRANTS RESEARCHER:** Mr. Cipkowski made the Board aware that he had held discussions with the Copake Grants Office about the possibility of collaborating with Copake and Ancram to retain a grants researcher who would be paid from any grants awarded with this person's assistance. Discussions are to continue.

- e) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that winter expenses had been higher than average, with fuel costs up and all the contracted salt already used. The Highway Department is currently buying salt on the open market and is paying 10¢ a ton more.

Mr. Briggs continued, stating that, because of the recent heavy rains, a beaver dam had broken on the Hansen farm on Wolf Road, sending a 10 foot surge of water through the adjacent low areas and flooding two roads. The Highway Dept., following FEMA guidelines, were able to reopen the roads quickly.

Mr. Baer stated that all the Highway Departments in the County had been asked to send in documentation of damages suffered because of the heavy rains so that the County could apply for a State on Emergency to be declared.

- f) FRONT-END LOADER: Bids for the Highway Department's new loader were opened. One bid, from Miller Caterpillar of Batavia, NY, was received: \$124,984 with delivery in 90 days or less. Mr. Briggs is reviewing their specifications.

- g) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Mr. Sena reported that John Florio, Building Inspector, is no longer with the Town and that Ed Ferratto and Peter Goldman would be assuming his responsibilities for the present time. Theresa Kisslebrack and Ruth Dodds have been working through the backlog in Mr. Florio's office and had located approximately \$9,000 in undeposited checks written to the Building Department.

Mr. Sena added that the monthly reports of Department activity were now being submitted. He recommended that Peter Wurster be brought in on an hourly basis until the backlog is cleared and until safety inspections of apartments can be completed. Mr. Baer stated that he wanted to know what still could be expected in terms of undeposited funds. He added that the Town will be sending a letter to Mr. Florio asking him to return missing documents and the memory stick provided by the Town.

Mr. Sena recommended that Ms. Dodds be retained to handle the telephone calls to the Zoning and Building Departments so that the inspectors can spend more time in the field. Mr. Baer asked that the Building Committee submit a plan for going forward at the next Town Board meeting.

## **V. Other Business**

- h) The Planning Board will be having a meeting on March 9, 2008, to discuss applicants for the two open seats and will make recommendations to the Town Board at the regular March Town Board Meeting.
- i) Tom Carty, Chairman of the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, reported that the CPRC Steering Committee had met and had received status reports from each of its sub-committees. In brief:
  - (1) The Scenic Overlay Committee will decide the extent of the overlay within the Town boundaries;

- (2) The Hamlet Committee is finalizing its Request for Proposals for a hamlet planner and is, at the same time, researching grants to pay for the planner;
  - (3) The Affordable Housing Committee is developing a definition for both low and medium income housing and is researching appropriate locations for same;
  - (4) The Natural Resources Committee is applying for a \$10,000 - \$15,000 grant to fund an aquifer preliminary study;
  - (5) The Preservation Committee is beginning the second phase of its preservation study, having identified that the Library, Aubergine, and the Methodist Church are eligible for designation as historic landmarks.
- j) On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski ,

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays,**

it was RESOLVED that that First Niagara Commercial Bank, Lockport, New York, is designated an authorized depository of this corporation; and

it was further RESOLVED that all drafts, checks, or other instruments or orders for the payment of money drawn against the account or accounts of this corporation with said depository shall be signed by the Town Clerk, Julie Kane.

- k) On a motion by Mr. Baer, seconded by Mr. Barbato ,

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays,**

It was RESOLVED that

WHEREAS the Hillsdale Town Board has been advised that it is the intention of New York State Department of Correctional Services to close the Hudson Correctional Facility, located in the City of Hudson, Columbia County, New York; and

WHEREAS the Hudson Correctional Facility and its employees provide valuable community support, labor, and services both to the City of Hudson and to the County of Columbia; and

WHEREAS the closing of the facility, the resultant loss of local jobs, and the loss of local business support and patronage is anticipated by the Board to have a serious effect on the economy of the City of Hudson, the County of Columbia, and ultimately on the Town of Hillsdale; and

WHEREAS it is the opinion of the Town Board that such a closure and the related impacts should be more thoroughly analyzed prior to taking any action with such potentially large detrimental community effects; and

WHEREAS the City of Hudson Common Council by motion of January 15, 2008, decided to issue a letter to the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Correctional Services in efforts to detail the detrimental impacts of the closure and to have said agency reconsider its position in the closure of the facility;

the Town Board of Hillsdale recognized the importance of the Hudson Correctional Facility to local jobs, businesses, and the overall community, finding that a closure of the facility would have detrimental impacts upon the local community and economy; and be it further

RESOLVED that based upon the foregoing, the Hillsdale Town Board does hereby support the Common Council of Hudson in its opposition to the proposed closure; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Hillsdale Town Board does hereby request that the Governor and Commissioner of the NYS Department of Correctional Services rescind the decision based on the financial and community impacts of said proposed closure of the Hudson Correctional Facility on the resident of the City of Hudson and County of Columbia; and be it further

RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the New York State Commissioner of Correctional Services, Governor Eliot Spitzer, Senator Stephen M. Saland, Senator Michael F. Nozzolio, Assemblyman Jeffrion L. Aubrey, Assemblyman Tim Gordon, Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro, and Assemblyman Pete Lopez, as well as the Common Council of the City of Hudson.

- l) Leslie Gabriel asked about the safety of the bridges in Columbia County. Mr. Baer responded that the 142 bridges in the county are inspected by New York State and their safety is reported to the County. He added that the County has borrowed \$1,000,000 through bond issues to improve the safety of the bridges.
- m) On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Barbato ,

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays,**

It was RESOLVED to purchase a front-end loader, as specified in the RFB, from Milton Caterpillar for \$124,984.

- n) On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Barbato ,

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays,**

It was RESOLVED that Peter Wurster would be hired for a period of one month at \$18 per hour to perform safety inspections on apartments in the Town.

**VI. Adjournment**

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

**Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays:**

**Supervisor Baer** adjourned the meeting at **9:30 pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk