

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board
Tuesday, January 15, 2008

I. Call to order

Supervisor Art Baer called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on **January 15, 2008** in the **Hillsdale Town Hall**. The meeting began with a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Attending

The following persons were present: Supervisor Baer, Board Members Carmen Barbato, Ann Baldwin, Peter Cipkowski, and Augie Sena; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Town Attorney Nelson Alford, Planning Board Chair Hank Henward, Tax Collector Joe Hanselman Jr., Deputy Tax Collector Carol Hanselman, Bud Atwood, Robina Ward, reporter for the Independent Richard Roth, and other members of the public.

III. Committee Reports

- a) *Sewer Committee*: Mr. Sena reported that there is currently very little construction activity due to the weather. He added that he and Mr. Baer will meet with the Office of Small Cities to discuss the reasons the Town did not get the last grant it applied for and to reapply. The last grant request was denied because the Town had not yet spent the last funds received.
- b) *Parks & Recreation Committee*: Mr. Cipkowski reported that the Roe-Jan Park Committee had met and had set May 31 as the target date for reopening the park. To be ready for that date, the following tasks are planned:
 - Add an information kiosk;
 - Define a parking area;
 - Define and mark nature trails;
 - Issue Requests for Proposals to farmers, to be awarded by Board in March, specifically: for low crops on the east side of Highway 22, for a three year period; and for corn or low crops on the west side, for a period of five years; the current organic farming area would be retained;
 - Include two active representatives from Copake;
 - Remove the milking parlor and old double-wide mobile home.

Mr. Cipkowski stated that Ira Halfond had offered his legal expertise and that he would like to Mr. Halfond on the Steering Committee. He added that Patti Rohrlich and Meg Wormley had offered to help with public relations.

Regarding the milking parlor and the double-wide, Mr. Baer commented that the State will give its approval to have them removed. The work can be put out to bids, or the Hillsdale Highway Department could be used to knock them

down and take away the debris. Mr. Barbato added that the Highway Department would need an excavator and that the County Highway Department could do the work. Mr. Baer responded that the Park Planning funds would have to be used to do the work unless the Town did it themselves.

Mr. Cipkowski stated that the next Park Committee meeting would be held Tuesday, January 29th.

Mr. Cipkowski stated that swing seats in the Town Park would be replaced and that the ball field would be mowed on a timely basis.

Mr. Cipkowski presented a preliminary Calendar of Events for 2008 which was reviewed by the Board.

Mr. Cipkowski raised the question of using the house at Roe-Jan Park for the Summer Youth Program rather than the lower level of the Town Hall and added that the idea would be discussed at the January 29th Park Committee meeting.

- c) *Highway Committee*: Mr. Barbato and Mr. Atwood reported that the Highway Department staff had been working to smooth the dirt roads during the recent thaw so that they would refreeze without the ruts. Mr. Atwood added that the citizens on Two Town Road had been concerned about the ruts there.

Mr. Baer said that the County was writing a specification for a Cat or John Deere front-end loader and suggested that the Town talk to them to compare prices.

- d) *Building Committee*: Mr. Sena presented a graph from the Building Department Secretary of activity in the last quarter of 2007 showing:

- 21 permits issued for revenues of \$11,485;
- 6 searches for revenues of \$245;
- 8 CO/CI/CC for revenues of \$200.

Mr. Baer stated that the Board needed a base line of open projects as of 12/31/2007, and Mr. Sena said he would give the Board's reporting form to the secretary. Ms. Baldwin added that they had not received a response from John Florio, Building Inspector, to their letter sent after the December Board meeting.

Ms. Baldwin reported that the Tax Assessor says that there are 60 new landowners in the Town, that 25 or so are new to the Town, and that 5 are now residents of Hillsdale.

- e) *Communications Committee*: Ms. Baldwin reported that the Committee is working on a redesign of the Town web site, the 2008 Annual Report, and the Informational Brochure. She added that Sabina Curti will do the photography for the cover of the Annual Report, as well as the photos inside and that the deadline for departmental reports is February 1.

Mr. Baer said that the not-for-profit organization is not an arm of the Town, although its activities benefit the Town's citizens, and for that reason he is reluctant to have it included in the Town's Annual Report. He added that at its next Board meeting, the group will be discussing adding the Roe-Jan Park as a registered DBA so that donations to the Park could be solicited.

IV. Other business

a) Local Law #1

- On a motion of Mr. Sena, seconded by Ms. Baldwin, a motion to accept the negative findings of the State Environmental Quality Review was

Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

- On a motion of Mr. Cipkowski, seconded by Mr. Sena, Local Law #1 was

Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

b) Local Law #2

- On a motion of Mr. Sena, seconded by Ms. Baldwin, a motion to accept the negative findings of the State Environmental Quality Review was

Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

- On a motion of Mr. Cipkowski, seconded by Mr. Sena, Local Law #2 was

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

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

Adopted by a vote of a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

to set fees under Local Law #2 by resolution from time to time.

- On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski, the following Resolution #10 was

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

Resolved to set a \$100 fee for the granting of a Logging Permit under Local Law #2.

- On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Ms. Baldwin, the following Resolution #11 was

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

Resolved to set a \$25 fee for the renewing of a Logging Permit under Local Law #2.

c) Amendment to the 2007 Budget

On a motion by Ms. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski, the following Resolution #12 was

Adopted by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays:

Resolved to make an amendment (attached) to the 2007 Budget to move unused appropriations to certain accounts.

- d) Mr. Baer presented the 2007 year-end financial statements (Attachment #2) to the Board, stating that the Town had underspent its General Fund appropriations by approximately \$22,750 and has been able to add about \$75,000 to the fund balance over the past year.
- e) Mr. Baer brought to the Board's attention that, at the Organizational Meeting, they had neglected to appoint an unpaid deputy tax collector. On a motion by **Mr. Cipkowski**, seconded by **Mr. Barbato**,

Adopted by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays:

Carol Hanselman was appointed Deputy Tax Collector for 2008.

f) General discussion was held concerning:

- two vacancies on the Planning Board and an upcoming vacancy on the Zoning Board;
- The possibility of adding a Comprehensive Plan committee to study alternative energy options for the town;
- Adding a programmable thermostat to the 2nd floor of Town Hall;
- The recent break-in at Town Hall and the need for an alarm system;
- The feasibility of moving Town Hall to the current library building when the new library is built.

- g) Robina Ward presented the Fiskars "Project Green Thumb" grant program and asked the Board for permission to apply for a \$1500 beautification grant under that program. On a motion by **Mr. Cipkowski**, seconded by **Mr. Sena**,

Adopted by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays:

The Board approved the Hamlet Committee's request to apply for a Fiskars beautification grant.

V. Adjournment

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

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

Supervisor Baer adjourned the meeting at **8:50 pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk