

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board  
Tuesday, March 18, 2008

**I. Call to order**

**Supervisor Art Baer** called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on **March 18, 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 Ann Baldwin, Carmen Barbato, Peter Cipkowski, and Augie Sena; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, Planning Board Chair Hank Henward, Tax Collector Joe Hanselman; and 14 members of the public.

**III. Committee Reports**

- a) **SEWER COMMITTEE:** Mr. Sena reported that the Sewer Committee has been correcting bids and accessing funds. Construction will resume within the next month, dependent on the weather.

Mr. Baer informed the Board that an opinion judgment had just been received setting the value of the Edelman land at \$170,000. The Committee would have further comment after reviewing the decision.

- b) **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Mr. Cipkowski reported that the Commemoration of the Know Trail on March 15 had been well attended by dignitaries and members of the public from both New York and Massachusetts. He added that he will be working with Alexa Lalli to see that students at Taconic Hills School are aware of the two Knox Trail markers in Columbia County.

Mr. Cipkowski informed the Board that Sue Delamater had offered to maintain the Town Park, including the playground, ball field and grass. He will compare her offer to the payments made in 2007 just to have the grass mowed.

Mr. Baer asked if anything needed to be done to maintain the basketball court. Mr. Barbato stated that it could be patched but that it should be resurfaced at an estimated cost of \$1,000. Mr. Cipkowski has asked Ms. Delamater to make a recommendation concerning the basketball court.

**ROE JAN PARK:** Mr. Cipkowski reported that the Park Committee would meet on Thursday, March 27. There will be a "Chain Saw Event" on Saturday morning, March 29, to remove dead trees; participants would be asked to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement. April 12 and 26 have been designated Volunteer Days, with Joe and Carol Hanselman to organize the work. The Park will open on May 31, and an informational flyer will be prepared and made available in Town Hall.

- c) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that sidewalks are deteriorating in the hamlet and that a 10 ft. by 15 ft. area of sidewalk on the west side of Anthony Street near the intersection with Cold Water Street has crumbled. The owner of the adjacent home has asked when it will be replaced.

Mr. Baer asked the status of the Highway Department budget, and Mr. Briggs replied that the Department is already expending summer funds.

Mr. Briggs reported that the loader was ordered three weeks previously.

Mr. Briggs also reported that the newly marked parking spaces in front of the new building behind the Civil Monument are blocking the diagonal through street. Mr. Briggs plans to talk to Julius Traina, owner of the new building to negotiate a solution. Discussion was tabled until the Board could examine maps of the area.

COMMUNITY DAY: Mr. Briggs, as co-chair of the Community Day Committee, reported that the group would meet on March 29 to discuss the possibility of a joint Community Day with Copake later in the year.

- d) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Mr. Sena reported that Peter Wurster has been retained on a temporary, part-time basis and has begun inspecting apartments in the Town. There are 15 or 16 parcels with about 45 units, and the inspections should be done by the end of May.

Regarding the reorganization of the Building Department, Mr. Baer stated that, just as the Assessor's office is now shared with Austerlitz, discussions were underway to do the same with the Building Department, something the State may subsidize. Ed Ferratto presented an alternative proposal, combining the Zoning Inspection and Building Inspection functions into one full-time position, to be filled by Mr. Ferratto. He distributed a schedule showing that one inspector, with an assistant would save the Town more than \$3,000 compared to the current budget.

- e) TOWN HALL SECURITY SYSTEM: Mr. Cipkowski stated that three proposals had been received:

A1 Security	\$1,500 installation	\$204 annually
CIA	\$1,400 installation	\$24 per month
Empire Security	\$1,426 installation	\$21.95 per month

Mr. Cipkowski recommended A1 Security, and offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

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

That it be resolved to enter into an agreement with A1 Security to purchase a security system, as proposed, for Town Hall.

**IV. Other Business**

a) Joe Laporta, representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Cadby-Schutts Post 7552, presented the concept of a memorial listing all Town veterans from World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Viet Nam War and the Iraq War. The VFW would like to approach the public to locate veterans and to raise funds but would like to know first if the Town is in favor of such a plan. The Town Board encouraged the VFW to go forward with its plans.

b) **BID OPENING, AGRICULTURAL LAND IN ROE JAN PARK:**

The following bids conform to the essential requirements of the competitive bidding statute, including solicitation of bids by public advertising in the official newspaper, the Independent, and were received at the specified time and place:

- Conventional farming:

<b>BIDDER</b>	<b>Parcel #1 (±79 ac.)</b>	<b>Parcel #2 (±38 ac.)</b>
Langonhurst Farms, LLC	\$31 / acre	\$31 / acre
Berkshire Valley Dairy, LLC	\$9,954	\$5,244
Lo-Nan Farms, LLC	\$6,000	

- Organic farming:

<b>BIDDER</b>	<b>Organic Parcel (±20 ac.)</b>
Markristo Farms	\$100 / acre

On a motion by Mr. Baer, seconded by Ms. Baldwin, it was resolved to accept the bid by Berkshire Valley Dairy, LLC, for the Parcels #1 and #2.

On a motion by Mr. Baer, seconded by Mr. Sena, it was resolved to accept the bid from Markristo Farms for the Organic Parcel.

The Town Attorney, Nelson Alford, will publish a notice of the awards within 10 days.

c) **DEMOLITION AT ROE JAN PARK**

Mr. Baer announced that the Town was waiting for an asbestos abatement permit and would then begin demolition of the milking parlor and the doublewide mobile home.

d) **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Tom Carty presented the results of the recent Committee meeting.

(1) The Natural Resources Committee has prepared Requests for Proposals for an aquifer study; one unsolicited bid had been received and is under review. The project has two phases, the creation of an atlas and then analysis of that data. About half of the anticipated cost of roughly \$7840 could be covered by a Hudson Valley Greenways grant. Mr. Baer suggested that the Committee search for other grant opportunities.

- (2) The Scenic Overlay Committee is working on coordinating its efforts with those of surrounding towns.
- (3) The Hamlet Committee has submitted a Request for Proposals for a hamlet planner to the Town Board for input. Discussion of strategy ensued. Mr. Carty announced that April 5 was Hamlet Clean-up Day and that additionally, funds would be raised for the hamlet's flower buckets; an additional fund-raising effort would take place on April 12.
- e) COMMITTEE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY: Mr. Carty announced the formation of the new Committee on Renewable Energy, an Ad Hoc committee of the Town Board. Current members are Tom Carty, Bob Kessler, Paul Solovay, and Pat Baer.
- f) PUBLIC COMMENT: The Board responded to questions from the public regarding communication with citizens, the current real property revaluation, and preferential tax rates for seniors.
- g) EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Mr. Baer, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

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

the Board moved into executive session to discuss Planning Board appointments and litigation.

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

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

the Board moved out of executive session.

- h) PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENTS: On a motion by Ms. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Baer,

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

It was RESOLVED to appoint Mark Barbato to the Planning Board.

- i) On a motion by Ms. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

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

It was RESOLVED to appoint Pat Baer to the Planning Board.

**V. Adjournment**

On a motion of **Mr. Cipkowski**, 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