

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

I. Call to order

Supervisor Art Baer called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30pm** on **Tuesday, April 15, 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, Park Director Lauren Avenia, Acting Building Inspector Edward Ferratto, Tax Collector Joe Hanselman, Jr., Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs; and 5 members of the public.

III. Acceptance of minutes

Julie Kane, Town Clerk submitted the minutes from the February Town Board meeting. Regarding section *IV.a)*, *Sewer Committee report*, Mr. Sena noted the first sentence should be amended to read: "The Sewer Project continues to draw down the Small Cities grant.... On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

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

The minutes were accepted as corrected.

IV. Committee Reports

a) SEWER COMMITTEE: Mr. Sena reported that the Town has begun the paperwork for a new grant from USDA Rural Development in the amount of \$491,000. The grant will require a permissive referendum. The total project budget is now \$2,416,733.

Mr. Sena continued that Contractor #1 is back at work, that Contractor #2 should be back at work soon, and that Contractor #3 should be in by the summer, after the Town has finished the road to the site.

Mr. Sena informed the Board that two invoices for the sewer project would appear in the bills to be paid, and he asked the Board to approve them although funding sources were to be determined.

Mr. Sena reported that the Town engineer Doug Clark had filed a report with the Town Clerk in advance of a public hearing on the amended sewer budget which revises the method for calculating the costs for a typical two-person family.

Mr. Cipkowski inquired about the projected switch-over to the new sewer system, and Mr. Sena responded that it will be in the late fall.

Mr. Sena added that the Town is not going forward at this time with the new Small Cities grant as it is not currently needed.

Mr. Baer informed the Board that the Town would be audited by an outside auditing firm this year because of the amount of Federal and other funds being received for the Sewer Project.

- b) **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Mr. Cipkowski reported that Sue Delamater will work with the Town to clean up the Town Park for the season and that she will be responsible for all aspects of the Park, including the ball field and the landscaping. Responding to a question from Mr. Baer, Mr. Cipkowski stated the climbing ship has been repaired and is safe. He added that it should be painted.

Mr. Cipkowski introduced Lauren Avenia to discuss the Summer Youth Program. Ms. Avenia reported that the program will begin on July 1st, with no program on July 4th, and will run from 9am until 3pm each day. Registration will be held from 5 to 7pm on June 5, and 1 to 3pm on June 7 and 21. There will be advertisements in the Independent in May.

ROE JAN PARK: Mr. Cipkowski reported that there will be an Open House on June 28 with the State Parks Commissioner in attendance. He added that more volunteer days will be scheduled and that on May 19th, there will be a Nature Walk for preschoolers. The next meeting of the Park Committee will be on April 21.

Mr. Baer announced that on May 5th, a crew from the Columbia County Highway Department will demolish the milking parlor and that the metal inside will be sold to pay for the demolition. He added that the mobile home still needs asbestos remediation by the State before it can be razed. He also reported that a small 20 HP tractor will be purchased for the Park.

CLEAN-UP DAY: Mr. Cipkowski announced that Town Clean-Up Day had been set for May 3, and that flyers and advertisements would be used to publicize it. He reminded the Board that scrap metal can be dropped off at the Town Garage any time.

ALARM SYSTEM: Mr. Cipkowski reported that the security alarm had been installed at the Town Hall and that it would be activated on Friday, April 18.

- c) **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:** Ms. Baldwin reported that the 2007 Annual Report and the Quarterly Newsletter were complete and that copied of each are available in Town Hall. She added that the Welcome brochure is in process.

Ms. Baldwin stated that the Town web site is doing well and that the Annual Report and Local Laws pages were the most visited.

- d) **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that Spring work was underway, with 25% of the roads graded and most of the hard surface roads swept. He noted that the Highway budget was being expended faster than planned because of the increase in the cost of fuel.

Mr. Briggs stated that the new front-end loader should be delivered within the next month.

Mr. Briggs also reported that the Town of Egremont had inquired about the status of Millard Road and that the Egremont Planning Board would like us to abandon it. He stated that in his tenure with the Highway Department, he had not known the road to be maintained. Mr. Baer informed the Board that he was designating it an abandoned roadway.

COMMUNITY DAY: In his capacity as Chairman of the Community Day Committee, Mr. Briggs reported the event would be held on August 16 and that the Committee is seeking volunteers to help with certain aspects of the festivities. He added that grant applications had been sent out seeking help with the funding. He also reported that on September 20, the Town would hold a joint Harvest Festival with the Town of Copake.

Mr. Briggs brought to the Board's attention that Mr. Traina is required to provide handicapped access to his new building beside the Hillsdale House in order to receive a certificate of occupancy. The roadway in front of the building is owned by the County and that it cannot be blocked. Mr. Briggs will discuss the option of accessible parking behind the building with Mr. Traina.

- e) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Mr. Sena expressed the Board's appreciation to Ed Ferratto for working through the backlog of work left in the Building Department after Mr. Florio's departure.

He reported that the apartments in the Town were being inspected and that so far, no major violations had been found.

Mr. Sena stated that there are still some problems with missing files in the Building Department, but that the decision has been taken to approve any of these applications if it seems that they had been approved by Mr. Florio. He added that Mr. Ferratto had asked that Ruth Dodds be hired to work on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Building Department so that she could act as a screener for incoming calls and visits.

Mr. Baer asked the Building Committee to make a recommendation within two weeks regarding the direction for the Building Department, i.e., whether to pursue sharing staff with Austerlitz or to combine code enforcement and zoning enforcement into a single position. General discussion ensued.

V. Other Business

- a) INCOME LEVELS for SENIOR CITIZENS & DISABLED RESIDENTS: Mr. Baer announced that the County has increased the 2008 income levels for real property tax exemptions for senior citizens and disabled residents. He recommended that the Town match the County's guidelines and presented two draft Local Laws. Public Hearings on these proposed laws will be held on May 21 before the Town Board meeting.

- b) Mr. Baer reported that the Hudson Valley Greenway grants have now been expended.
- c) Mr. Baer informed the Board that new voting machines with paper ballots and handicapped access will begin to arrive in the County in May and that training in their use will be scheduled during the summer months. The new machines will have to be stored properly and be plugged in year round.
- d) Town Clerk Julie Kane indicated her intention to appoint Robina Ward as Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics. She indicated that the NYS Department of Health requires the Town to appoint a Registrar and that the Registrar is required to appoint a Deputy. Discussion ensued.
- e) Mr. Sena indicated a desire to have anyone examining public records in Town Hall put their request in writing. Ms. Kane responded that public records of the Town could be examined at any time under her supervision without a written request. Mr. Baer asked which records Ms. Kane was referring to, and Ms. Kane replied that the meant Minute Books, contracts, etc. maintained by the Clerk.
- f) Mr. Cipkowski informed the Board that he had received a proposal to fund a grants researcher to be shared by Ancram, Copake, and Hillsdale and to be funded by a contribution of \$4000 from each Town, which would be paid \$1000 in Year 1, \$1000 in Year 2, and \$2000 in Year 3.
- g) On a motion by Mr. Cipkowski, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

Adopted by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays

The Board moved into executive session at 8:48 pm to discuss confidential personnel and appointment-related issues.

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

Adopted by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays

The Board moved out of executive session at approximately 10:15 pm

- h) PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT: On a motion by Mr. Cipkowski, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

Adopted by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays

It was resolved to appoint Deborah Bowen to the Planning Board.

- i) PAY BILLS: On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Ms. Baldwin,

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 #76 - #97	\$ 22,757.86
Highway Fund	Voucher #61 - #79	\$51,236.18

VI. Adjournment

On a motion by 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 **approximately 10:45pm.**

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk