

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

I. Call to order

Supervisor Art Baer called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on **August 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 Ann Baldwin, Carmen Barbato, Peter Cipkowski, and Augie Sena; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, Roe-Jan Park chairman Caroline Stewart, 6 Boy Scouts with their leaders, a representative of The Independent, and 7 members of the public.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The June and July, 2008, minutes were presented. Mr. Sena noted that in Section III A of the July minutes, the phrase “one for a resident who does not want a tank installed” should be corrected to read “two for owners who do not want tanks installed. On a motion by Mr. Cipkowski, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

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

the minutes were accepted as amended.

IV. Local Law #5 Establishing a Conservation Advisory Council in the Town of Hillsdale

Mr. Baer announced that a Public Hearing on the proposed law had been held with no comment from the public and that, because the law will have no environmental impact, a negative SEQR declaration was made. On a motion by Ms. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

Adopted by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays,

Local Law # 5 for the year 2008 was adopted.

V. Committee Reports

a) SEWER COMMITTEE: Mr. Sena reported that the Small Cities Grant had been spent down, that the audit according to HUD guidelines had been completed, and that the Town was awaiting the final audit report. He added that a clean report on this audit will allow the Town to apply to Small Cities for funding for other projects.

Mr. Sena explained that the loan money will have to be fully expended before the grant money can be used. He also reported that there are still two owners in the Sewer District who have not allowed the Town to install tanks. After the

project is officially closed, they will have to pay for installation. Mr. Baer asked Mr. Sena to have an official letter sent to the owners in question, explaining this.

- b) PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Cipkowski reported that the Your Program had ended with a nature walk in the Roe-Jan Park. He had informally polled the campers' parents and learned that, in general, they thought that moving the Youth Program to Roe-Jan Park was a good idea. There will be several things that have to be done to make such a move possible.

ROE JAN PARK: Ms. Stewart reviewed a schedule of upcoming events at Roe-Jan Park. Mr. Baer asked if the rules for the Park had been posted on the Town web site and directed Ms. Stewart to give a copy of the rules to Ms. Baldwin for posting.

- c) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, reported that the culvert pipe has been installed on Wolf Hill Road and he hopes to have one lane open on Wednesday, August 19. He added that Rodman and Pumpkin Hill Roads are open and that he is waiting to learn if the State will qualify this flood event under FEMA guidelines. Mr. Baer requested that Mr. Briggs call the Department of Environmental Health about the fish that died because of the flood.

Mr. Briggs also reported that the new loader had arrived and was in use.

- d) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Mr. Sena and Ms. Baldwin reported that the Building Department was running smoothly. They added that they had been in discussion with Glenn Smith about adopting the BAS software that is currently used by Austerlitz and that Mr. Smith was to create a business plan with options for this project.

Mr. Baer led a discussion of the possibility of acquiring a used county car, to be shared with the Town of Austerlitz, for the Building Inspector's use.

- e) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ms. Baldwin reported that interest had been expressed by members of the public in having the Assessor's rolls available on the web site. Mr. Baer remarked that the County had received a grant from the state to study having a County-wide assessing process. He noted that there would be a significant cost savings to the towns but that they would see a reduction in home rule.

Ms. Baldwin reported that there has been interest in having the Town Quarterly Newsletter distributed more widely. She suggested that the Board budget for this in 2009 but said that she would increase the print run for 2008 to 400 copies.

- f) COMMUNITY DAY: The Town Board expressed its thanks to Richard Briggs for a great job in organizing the Community Day events. Mr. Briggs thanked the Board and reported that having the celebration at the Roe-Jan school was popular with attendees and that the "big question" was why Hillsdale didn't have fireworks.

VI. Other Business

- a) Mr. Baer noted that the Hillsdale Methodist Church would be celebrating its 200th anniversary on September 14, 2008, and that all were invited to attend.
- b) Mr. Baer raised the question of providing a mileage reimbursement to volunteer firemen responding to calls in the Town of Hillsdale. After some discussion, it was decided to explore the idea during the next budget cycle.
- c) Boy Scout Christopher Colino approached the Board for permission to clean the cemetery of Pill Hill Road as his Eagle Scout project. The Board extended its support and named Richard Briggs as the contact person.
- d) PUBLIC COMMENT: Caroline Stewart expressed her concern that more citizens would not be able to pay their heating bills this winter and wondered if there should be a volunteer effort in the Town to assist with this potential problem. Mr. Baer responded that the County has a task force working on a contingency plan for this problem.
- e) EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Mr. Barbato, seconded by Ms. Baldwin,

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

the Board moved into executive session at 8:48 pm to discuss pending litigation.
On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Cipkowski,

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

the Board moved out of executive session at 9:00 pm.

- f) PAY BILLS: On a motion by Ms. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

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 #199 - #234	\$ 21,772.08
Highway Fund	Voucher #154 - #172	\$26,779.17
Capital Projects	Voucher #218 - #219	\$13,173.10

VII. 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 **9:35 pm**.