

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board
Tuesday, September 16, 2008

I. Call to order

Supervisor Art Baer called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on **September 16, 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, Ed Brabender standing in for Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, Animal Control Officer Dan Reed, Tax Collector Joe Hanselman; Town Attorney Nelson Alford; and 5 members of the public.

III. Committee Reports

- a) **SEWER COMMITTEE:** Mr. Sena reported that the Sewer Project is in the final stages; lines have been laid crossing the highways in two places, and the project should be complete in early October. At that time, there will be a “test run” and the system will be pressurized. A highway employee will be assigned to maintain the sewer system as a licensed operator is not required.

Town Attorney Mr. Alford stated that he had made one last effort to contact the two owners still not attached to the system. Mr. Sena commented that when the system is activated and declared closed or completed, those property owners in the Sewer District who are not attached can request to be added in but will have to pay for the installation.

Mr. Baer requested that Mr. Sena coordinate with the Town accountant Mark Fitzgerald to set up a billing system for the sewer and to check the Local Law to see if billing will be in advance or in arrears. Mr. Baer added that Jan Keefner may be recruited to help with mailing the bills.

Mr. Sena reported that the Small Cities grant has been expended and that the project will now be using the Rural Development grant funds.

SUPPLEMENTAL BOND RESOLUTION: Mr. Baer introduced the proposed supplemental Bond Resolution authorizing bond financing up to the total of project costs. On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Ms. Baldwin,

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

the Board resolved to amend certain terms of the Bond Resolution dated October 27, 2005, increasing the maximum cost of the project and the maximum amount of serial bonds that may be issued to finance the project to \$2,416,733.

- b) **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Mr. Cipkowski reported that behavioral problems similar to those reported in the Hillsdale Summer Youth

Program had been seen in several other summer programs, and that the State Parks and Recreation agency was planning workshops to help local staff to deal with them.

ROE JAN PARK: Mr. Cipkowski reported added that the Roe-Jan Park Steering Committee was working on a feasibility study for migrating the Summer Youth Program to the Roe-Jan Park in 2009. The Steering Committee would be discussing the topic at its meeting on September 22 at the Copake Park Pavilion.

- c) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Mr. Brabender, speaking for Mr. Briggs reported that the Highway Department was short one 10-wheel truck and that they won't be able to substitute smaller trucks for the 10-wheeler during the winter season. He stated that a used truck for sale had been identified, and he requested the Board to consider purchasing it.

Mr. Baer responded that the depreciated value of the truck that had been destroyed in the recent accident was only \$7200 and that a new replacement will cost approximately \$75000. He requested the Highway Committee to look at the proposed used truck as well as any other options for equipment allocation and to make a recommendation to the Board in October. He added that the department was already over budget by about \$25000.

- d) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Mr. Sena and Ms. Baldwin reported that things were going smoothly and suggested that, with building activity down, the Board should reconsider the department's hours.
- e) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ms. Baldwin reported that the next newsletter would be available at the end of September. She added that all other communications areas were doing well.
- f) TOWN CLERK: Ms. Kane summarized the activity in the clerk's office through the end of August.
- g) ANIMAL CONTROL: Mr. Reed reported that a citizen had requested that he issue a citation for a violation of the leash law and noted that the animal control officer does not have authority to issue an appearance ticket. Mr. Baer suggested that he write a letter to the citizen stating that because the offending party had moved out of the Town, the Town has no authority in the matter.

Mr. Reed also recommended that the Town establish a fee for the return of stray dogs to the owner.

IV. Other Business

- a) Mr. Baer reported that a certificate of appreciation had been sent to Christopher Colino for his work in cleaning up the cemetery on Pill Hill Road.
- b) HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN: Mr. Baer reported that to remain eligible for FEMA reimbursement in the case of a natural emergency, the Town is required to adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan. The County has created such a plan, and Mr. Baer recommended that the Board enact a resolution adopting that plan as its own. 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 resolved:

UPON recommendation of the Columbia County Public Safety Committee at a special meeting held on the 10th day of September, 2008;

WHEREAS the President signed the Disaster mitigation Act of 2000 into effect on October 30, 2001 to improve the planning and set standards for mitigation throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS the Act requires an approved pre-disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) in order to be eligible for mitigation project funding; and

WHEREAS the development of this plan fulfills other Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) planning requirements making the Town eligible for further mitigation funding; and

WHEREAS the policies and mitigation measures designated by the HMP are intended to cost effectively reduce the impacts from hazards identified as the most prevalent in Columbia County; and

WHEREAS by implementing this plan, the Town of Hillsdale seeks to reduce the loss of life, injury, property damage, economic impact, direct cost and community impact resulting from disaster;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the Hillsdale Town Board hereby adopts the Multi-Jurisdictional HMP as a means that will guide cost effective mitigation of hazards threatening damage to property and loss of life; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Hillsdale Town Board hereby authorizes the submission of this plan to FEMA for final consideration and approval.

RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO), the Regional Emergency Management Office (REMO), the Emergency Management Office, the Department of State, the County Clerk, the Columbia County Attorney, the Columbia County Treasurer, and the Columbia County Board of Supervisors.

- c) Mr. Baer reported that the County will be proposing a Local Law providing tax exemptions for Cold War veterans (those having served from September 2, 1945, to December 29, 1991), and he recommended that the Town follow suit. A Public Hearing on the proposed law will be held on October 21, 2008, at 7:20 pm in the Town Hall.
- d) Mr. Baer also reported that the Town had received an Equity Award for equity in property assessment after the recent Town-wide property revaluation.
- e) Mr. Baer informed the Board that the Roeliff Jansen Library would hold a groundbreaking ceremony for its new building on Route 22 at 1:45 pm on Monday, September 22. He added that the library board was asking the Town for a \$7500 contribution in addition to its budgeted \$24000 for 2008.

- f) 2009 BUDGETS: Mr. Baer reminded the Board that 2009 budget requests were due to be returned to him by October 10, and he recommended that salary increases be not more than 3%, given other anticipated expenses and projected lower revenues.
- g) Mr. Sena reported that he had met with representative of the State Department of Transportation regarding the possibility of a grant from them to improve the Route 23 corridor, including sidewalks. He stated that funds may be available for the Town within the next three years.
- h) PUBLIC COMMENT: Dr. Allen Nahman requested that the Board consider its plans for snow removal on Anthony Street during the coming winter and requested specifically that snow not be piled in his parking lot at the upper end of Cold Water Street.
- i) EXECUTIVE SESSION: 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 into executive session at 8:50 pm to discuss pending litigation and specific personnel issues.

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

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

the Board moved out of executive session at 9:35 pm.

- j) PAY BILLS: On a motion by Mr. Barbato, 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:

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|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | Voucher #235 - #271 | \$ 23,162.85 |
| Highway Fund | Voucher #172 - #188 | \$105,023.55 |

V. Adjournment

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

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

Supervisor Baer adjourned the meeting at **9:55 pm.**

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk