

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board
Tuesday, December 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 **December 16, 2008**, in the **Hillsdale Town Hall**. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Attending

The following persons were present: Supervisor Art Baer, Board Members Ann Baldwin, Carmen Barbato, and Peter Cipkowski; Town Clerk Julie Kane; Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs, CPRC Chair Tom Carty; Historic Preservation Subcommittee Chair Alexis Lalli; five members of the public, and a representative of the Independent newspaper..

III. Committee Reports

Due to the demands of the recent ice storm and the new business to be presented at this meeting, Mr. Baer dispensed with reports from the standing committees.

IV. Other Business

A. Report of Current Road Conditions

Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs presented a report of Town roads still only partially open or open “shoulder to shoulder” except where electrical wires are down following the recent severe ice storm:

West End Road
Texas Hill – one lane open
Taconic Creek Road – open but trees down
Harlemville Road – open but wires and pole down
Wolf Hill Road – open but trees still on wires
Additionally, two major washouts and several minor ones.

Mr. Baer reminded Mr. Briggs that his crews should not plow anywhere where the plows could come in contact with a downed wire, and he requested Mr. Briggs to look for places where debris could be disposed of without chipping and grinding.

Mr. Briggs responded that he does not have any place to pile the debris until it can be disposed of. He added that snow is predicted for the coming weekend and that the Highway budget has already been expended.

Mr. Baer replied that the County is looking for assistance from the federal government and that a request had been made by the governor to declare the region a federal disaster area.

B. Historic Preservation Study Update

Lex Lalli presented the Board with the completed Town Historic Preservation Survey. She stated that 80 buildings in the area around the hamlet of Hillsdale had been identified as of historic or architectural significance and that 42 of them had been surveyed by the consultants. The result is a packet of information including deeds, descriptions, etc. for each of the properties. Copies of the survey will be maintained at Town Hall and at the Roe-Jan Public Library.

She added that a public meeting will be held on Saturday, January 10th, at the Mt. Washington House to review the survey and to discuss next steps. She noted that there are financial advantages to the owners of a listed historical property.

C. Local Government Efficiency Grant

Mr. Briggs reported that the Taconic Hills School District and the Towns of Copake, Ancram, and Hillsdale are seeking a Local Government Efficiency Grant to purchase and share \$240,000 in equipment, *i.e.*, a bucket truck and turf conditioning equipment.

On a motion by Ms. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Baer,

Adopted by a vote of 4 ayes to 0 nays:

It was resolved to authorize the Highway Department to enter into a joint application for a Local Government Efficiency Grant with the Taconic Hills School District and the Towns of Copake and Ancram, for the purposes of purchasing a bucket truck, turf conditioning equipment, and other equipment that the group may deem necessary.

D. Budget Amendment

Mr. Baer introduced a budget amendment to the Board, stating that in the Highway Fund, the following accounts were over budget:

5110.1, because a part-time position budgeted for the Sewer District was still being paid by the Highway Department;

5110.4, because of the unexpected increase in fuel costs;

8760.4, because costs incurred as the result of the flooding in Spring, 2008, had not been reimbursed by the federal government as expected.

In the General Fund, unexpected expenses included the costs of an audit required because of the federal funding included in the sewer grants and the cost of a tent for which the Town was to be reimbursed by state funds which are no longer available due to the current fiscal crisis. Mr. Baer added that there would be another budget adjustment in January to cover the rest of 2008.

On a motion by Ms. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Barbato,

Adopted by a vote of 4 ayes to 0 nays:

It was resolved to adopt an amendment to the 2008 Town Budget as follows:

INSERT ADJUSTMENT HERE.

E. Audit Results

Mr. Baer reported to the Board that the grant for the sewer project from Small Cities had been expended and that their audit had found several areas where improvements in procedures were recommended. Most significantly, the Town was found not to have an established grievance procedure for issues related to alleged discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Mr. Baer presented a proposed procedure for processing such a grievance, and on a motion by Mr. Cipkowski, seconded by Ms. Baldwin,

Adopted by a vote of 4 ayes to 0 nays:

It was resolved to adopt the grievance procedure appended to these Minutes.

F. Public Comment

1. Tom Carty, Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, informed the Board that Joyce LaPenn from the Affordable housing Subcommittee would like to apply for a grant to cover the costs of professional consultation to help the Subcommittee assess the needs for affordable housing in the Town, to define the terms, and to prepare strategies to respond to the needs identified. Fees for this work will not exceed \$5,000. The Subcommittee had identified funding sources and would like the Board to endorse the Subcommittee's plans.

On a motion by Mr. Baer, seconded by Ms. Baldwin,

Adopted by a vote of 4 ayes to 0 nays:

It was resolved to authorize the Affordable Housing Subcommittee to apply to the Bank of Greene County for a grant to fund the study of affordable housing opportunities in the Town of Hillsdale.

2. Bud Atwood reminded the Board that when using a generator as an alternate source of electricity, to ensure that it is installed correctly so that it does not feed power back down the electrical lines and perhaps injure a repairman.

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Mr. Barbato, seconded by Ms. Baldwin,

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

the Board moved into executive session 8:23 pm to discuss personnel issues.

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

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

the Board returned to regular session at 8:53 pm.

H. PAY BILLS:

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

Adopted by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays

It was resolved to pay the Town's bills in the following amounts:

General Fund	Voucher #335 - #361	\$ 13,753.16
Highway Fund	Voucher #228 - #255	\$ 24,620.90

I. Adjournment

Supervisor Baer adjourned the meeting at **9:15 pm.**

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk