

Regular Monthly Meeting, Hillsdale Town Board
Tuesday, January 19, 2010

I. Call to order

Supervisor Art Baer called to order the regular meeting of the **Hillsdale Town Board** at **7:30 pm** on **January 19, 2010**, in the **Hillsdale Town Hall**. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Attending

The following persons were present: Supervisor Baer, Board Members Carmen Barbato, Peter Cipkowski, Chris Kersten, and Augie Sena; Town Clerk Julie Kane, Tax Collector Joe Hanselman, Comprehensive Plan Review Committee Chairman Tom Carty; and 6 members of the public.

III. Acceptance of Minutes

Julie Kane, Town Clerk, submitted the minutes from the regular September Town Board meeting, the October 6 Special Budget meeting, the regular December Town Board meeting, and the January 4, 2010, Sidewalks public hearing. The minutes were approved with the following amendments:

- (1) **September 15, 2009 Regular Meeting, Section IV, c)**: change the sentence “Ms. Baldwin offered her thanks to Mr. Cipkowski, Robina Ward, Howard Van Lenten and Tom Carty and their family, Iona Lutey, Dick Alford, Bob Kessler as election custodian, the ballot clerks and the poll watchers for their contributions to the recent referendum” to read “Ms. Baldwin offered her thanks to Mr. Cipkowski, Robina Ward, Howard Van Lenten and Tom Carty and their family, Iona Lutey, Dick Alford, Bob Kessler as election custodian, the ballot clerks and the poll watchers for their contributions to the recent **Library acquisition** referendum.
- (2) **September 15, 2009, Regular Meeting, Section V, g)**: Add the sentence: “**The Board agreed to look into the matter.**”

IV. Committee Reports

- a) **SEWER COMMITTEE**: Mr. Sena reported that Patrick Nolan, the licensed waste water treatment plant operation had been on site and was working well with Town’s staff. He added that there had been some damage to the tops of the tanks by snow plows but that all damage had been corrected and that the tank tops are now marked.

Mr. Sena continued, saying that the sewer bills had gone out with some computational errors. Mr. Baer explained to the Board that the billing errors had been related to charges for electrical service for pumps in shared tanks and reviewed the actions taken to correct the errors.

- b) **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**: Mr. Kersten reported that 87 responses with \$8500 in gifts had been received to the holiday mailing from the

Roe-Jan Park committee. He added that the grant for the Greenhouse Agriculture project with Taconic Hills High School had not come through and that \$1200 to fund the project still needs to be raised. He also mentioned that potential Park volunteers were asked to contact Caroline Stewart.

Mr. Baer informed the Board that he had met with Tom Allworth, a representative of the NYS Department of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation, to discuss long-range plans for the Park and had learned that they were willing to assist the planning process by providing planning resources.

- c) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Mr. Cipkowski reported that Annual Report materials are due from department heads by the end of the month. He added that he had been working with the designer of the new Town web site and plans to have the new site up by the end of February.
- d) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Mr. Sena reported that the Building and Zoning Departments are keeping shorter hours in response to their reduced budgets. Mr. Baer requested that these new hours be posted.

V. Other Business

- a) LIBRARY UPDATE: Mr. Cipkowski informed the Board that the RFP for conversion of the Library Building had gone out and is being advertised on the Town web site and in the Town newsletter.
- b) SIDEWALK PLAN: Mr. Sena informed the Board that he had had a good discussion with representatives from the NYS Department of Transportation and that they are supportive of our sidewalk plans, although budget constraints do exist. He added that the Town Attorney will provide the Board with a resolution to include the sidewalk plan in the Comprehensive Plan.
- c) GREEN RIVER FIRE DISTRICT: Jay Choon and Richard Nesbitt from the Green River Fire District addressed the Board, informing them that the district would like to establish dry hydrants on the Green River bridges to provide an accessible year-round supply of water to fight fires. Mr. Nesbitt presented several alternative designs and estimated that the project would cost the Town approximately \$5000. Mr. Baer replied that, while the plan is a good one, there are not currently funds in the budget for this and that the costs would have to be borne by the residents of the Green River Fire District. He indicated that a hearing would be held to gauge resident support.
- d) ROE-JAN YOUNG AT HEARTERS: 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 resolved to authorize the Supervisor to sign a contract with the Roe-Jan Young at Hearters to provide services for the Town's senior citizens during 2010.

- e) HAMLET PLAN UPDATE: Tom Carty reported that the hamlet planners had met with the NYS Department of Transportation regarding the sidewalk plan, that

funding is available for sidewalks, but that the Town will have to contribute at least 5%. He added that plans for sidewalks, changes in intersections, and traffic calming initiatives could cost \$20,000,000, with sidewalks alone costing \$2,000,000. Mr. Carty also reported that the Hamlet Committee had met with Hudson Valley Rail Trail representatives to discuss future development of the Rail Trail in Hillsdale.

- f) SMALL CLAIMS LAWSUIT: Mr. Baer informed the Board that the Town had not been able to reach an agreement through mediation with a Town resident who is seeking a rebate of fees for a building permit that was never used. Mr. Baer recommended that the Town make an exception to policy and refund the fees because costs to defend in Small Claims Court would be more expensive. On a motion by Mr. Sena, seconded by Mr. Kersten,

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

the Board resolved to authorize the Supervisor to settle the matter out of court.

- g) BID OPENING, SAND AND GRAVEL: 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 Register-Star, and were received at the specified time and place:

BIDDER	Sand	Gravel
G & S Excavating, Inc.	\$13.50 / yd.	--
A. Colarusso & Son, Inc.	--	See Schedule
Troy Sand & Gravel	--	See Schedule

The bids were referred to Highway Supervisor Richard Briggs for review.

- h) PUBLIC COMMENT: Deborah Bowen addressed the Board, presenting her concerns about traffic at the intersection of State Routes 22 and 71 and her belief that the speed limit there is too high for safety. The Board agreed to look into the matter.

Town Tax Collector Joe Hanselman, Jr., requested that the Town purchase a higher quality shredder to be used by all departments. Mr. Baer asked him to get a quote and bring it to the Board for consideration.

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

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 #1 - #27	\$ 15,248.33
Highway Fund	Voucher #1 - #33	\$ 100,509.78
Park Fund	Voucher #1	\$ 63.68

Sewer District Voucher #1 - #3 \$ 412.71

VI. Adjournment

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

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

Supervisor Baer adjourned the meeting at **9:31 pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk, to be accepted by the Hillsdale Town Board at the February, 2010, Regular Board Meeting.