

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the Borough of Hillsdale held at 7:31 PM on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, in the Council Chamber, Borough of Hillsdale, Hillsdale, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Arnowitz, who also led the Salute to the Flag.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:

This is a meeting of the Hillsdale Borough Council on this 3rd day of March 2015. Notice of the time and place of this meeting has been provided to The Ridgewood News, Pascack Press, The Record and Community Life; a copy was posted on the bulletin board outside of this meeting room and provided to any interested parties.

Please notify the Municipal Clerk for any disability requirements necessary for attendance at Mayor and Council meetings. The fire exits are located through the double doors to your left. Please silence all cell phones and pagers.

ROLL CALL:

On a roll call those in attendance were Council Members DeGise, DeRosa, Looes, Meyerson, and Ruocco. Also in attendance were Mayor Arnowitz, Borough Attorney Madaio, and Borough Clerk Witkowski. Council President Pizzella was absent.

APPOINTMENTS/OATH OF OFFICE: *for March 10, 2015*

Hillsdale Fire Cadet, Ryan Ennis

Historic Preservation Committee – Sean Smith

Ms. Witkowski will send a letter to all the committee members to set up a meeting of the entire committee, with Mayor Arnowitz, Council President Pizzella, and one other Council Member to attend. Mayor Arnowitz wants to know what direction the committee wants to move toward, and whether the members still want to be on the committee. It is possible that some members will be dropped, and the members will be appointed. It seems that after conversations with the members, they all have different opinions about what this committee does.

RECOGNITION: *None*

PROCLAMATIONS:

National Poison Prevention Week 2015 (third week of March)

PRESENTATIONS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *for March 10, 2015*

Work Session Meeting February 3, 2015; regular meeting February 10, 2015; Closed Session February 3, 2015 and February 10, 2015.

PROFESSIONALS REPORTS:

(The following correspondence on file in Borough Clerks Office)

Borough Engineer – dated February 25, 2015

Greg Polyniak, Neglia Associates presented the Engineer's Report. The first item relates to the Hillsdale Library elevator. Ms. Witkowski informed Mr. Polyniak that the parts are on order, and Mr. Polyniak has requested that the Public Library and the Borough keep them informed about when the improvements will occur so that they can be inspected to protect the interests of the Borough. Mayor Arnowitz said he had not heard the results of the inspection, and asked what is wrong with the elevator. Mr. Polyniak explained that, as previously discussed, the shaft has been broken, and will be repaired in a three-step process, none of which have occurred yet. The first step will raise the elevator.

Regarding the Hillsdale landfill/Centennial Field, Mr. Polyniak stated that with respect to the methane sensors for the field house, his firm prepared a solicitation for the Borough Council last month. They issued a recommendation letter, which recommended the award of the installation of the methane sensors. The vendor's bid was below the bid threshold of \$36,000; if no QPA available, detailed construction drawings and specifications would be necessary to bid, which would create delays and additional costs due to the electrical design that would be necessary and the other documents required to bid the project. Therefore, if the Borough has access to a QPA, it would mean

a substantial cost savings as well as time savings. Council Member Ruocco stated that the Borough could do a Shared Services Agreement for a QPA, but right now, there is no QPA in Hillsdale, and there has not been one for at least a year. Council Member Meyerson asked if Mr. Benecke has a QPA, why he does not use it. Council Member Ruocco answered that Mr. Benecke has a QPA, but he did not feel that he could use it in Hillsdale, and Council Member Ruocco does not know why. Mayor Arnowitz said the bottom line is that a QPA is needed, so one must be found. Ms. Witkowski will reach out to other municipalities to find a QPA.

The final item relating to the landfill was about a meeting that occurred relating to landfill closure compliance on February 12, 2015, at Borough Hall with Ms. Witkowski and Mr. Russell present. At that meeting, 25 compliance items were discussed, which were also outlined in a list prepared by Mr. Polyniak's firm and submitted to the Borough. A number of items related to providing documents to the NJDEP and maintaining those documents at Borough Hall. Mr. Polyniak said it is his understanding that that has been completed. There are other items relating to the maintenance of the field and the maintenance of the side slope. Some or all of those items could be completed by the DPW, if it has the manpower to do that. If not, the Borough with potentially have to subcontract some of that work. The work would include a top dressing on the field to address the low points across the field if the Borough did not choose to re-grade the entire complex to address the global drainage issue to maintain the field. The other item would include maintenance of the slope so that it could be visually inspected to ensure that any vermin holes are filled in, and that any slope stabilization due to erosion that is visible could be addressed. There are some other minor maintenance items that include painting manholes and monitoring wells and labeling them. Mayor Arnowitz noted that with respect to the vegetation growing on the slope, the Borough was told when it was built to allow it to happen to stop erosion. Mr. Polyniak said he understood that and spoke to the previous Borough Engineer regarding that, but the NJDEP, their enforcement agency, and their permitting agency are adamant that it must now be cut back. It was also included in the landfill closure document submitted to the Borough. The trees do not have to be removed, but can be cut to the stumps with the roots left at that location. Mayor Arnowitz asked if the trees would have to be hauled away or left there, and Mr. Polyniak recommended that they be removed.

As far as the methane and groundwater testing is concerned, that will continue to occur. In addition, there are some requirements in the landfill closure documents with respect to maintenance and inspection reports that must be performed on a quarterly basis in accordance with the maintenance manuals that the Borough now has. Mr. Polyniak said his firm could prepare those reports, or in order to save money, and use the knowledge and staff available in the Borough, the Environmental Commission could take care of those reports.

One compliance issue that does need to be addressed is that an air pollution control permit was never filed for the landfill. Upon learning this, Mr. Polyniak's firm immediately solicited firms for proposals, which have now been acquired. A recommendation letter was issued to Hillsdale regarding the award of this matter to an environmental engineering firm to do some air quality monitoring to ensure that the landfill is in compliance with the closure documents.

The final item relates to two maintenance items. One is the field methane alarm system, which is in addition to the building methane alarm system, and the leachate manhole systems, which need to be functioning and inspected regularly. Photographs must be provided to illustrate that they are functioning correctly. There have been discussions between Mr. Polyniak and Mr. Franklin about the field methane alarm system and its functionality. When the weather improves, they intend to inspect the monitoring system, and if necessary, address any issues with it.

Council Member DeGise said the Fire Department has questioned the functionality of the field methane system over time, but the answer they were always given was that it never really worked. Mr. Polyniak responded that he was informed that it had not really worked for at least a decade, but there is no way of knowing at this time what the problem is. His firm will determine that and make sure it is functioning, because it is required in the closure documents.

Council Member Looes asked if there is any kind of timeframe in which all of these issues must be taken care of. Mr. Polyniak answered that with Ms. Witkowski's and Mr. Russell's help, they prepared a list of the 25 items and the dates when they are to be completed. They also discussed with the NJDEP the fact that the list is rather extensive, and additional time might be needed, which can be renegotiated. They are hoping that some of the items can be completed immediately, although it is understood that some of the items may take more time to rectify.

Council Member Meyerson noted that the Finance Committee asked Mr. Polyniak to give them a

proposed budget that can be included in the 2015 budget, although at this point, it is not known what the overall costs will be.

Council Member Looes asked if any re-inspections will be necessary once everything on the list has been taken care of. Mr. Polyniak responded that once the 25 items are addressed, there is still semi-annual groundwater testing that must be done, as well as quarterly methane testing, and quarterly maintenance and inspection reports that must be filed.

Council Member DeRosa asked about the timing on the alarm system on structure, and Mr. Polyniak answered that it would be dependent on when the Borough decides to award the project. The project would be completed 3-4 weeks after it is awarded. Council Member DeRosa asked if the air quality monitoring is expensive. Mr. Polyniak answered that with respect to the pollution control permit first phase is approximately \$5,000 (preparation of the permit document); the second phase, model illustrated based on the calculations of a potential methane issue (which is not foreseen) would cost approximately another \$8,000 for testing and additional permits that would be necessary. Mr. Polyniak's firm recommends the award for the entire \$13,000 to give some fluidity with respect to the engineer's ability to complete the documents, although his firm would monitor it to ensure that only the necessary funds are expended.

Mayor Arnowitz asked what caused the NJDEP to step in and make these inspections. Mr. Polyniak explained that they are conducting a State-wide monitoring of all landfills, and are visiting every landfill within the state of New Jersey. Mayor Arnowitz stated that he notified Ms. Witkowski of a phone call he received from the previous Borough Engineer, who told Mayor Arnowitz that there were allegations of misdeeds or things not done properly by his firm. The former Borough Engineer requested, and Mayor Arnowitz is now requesting, that he and Mayor Arnowitz be included in any future meetings regarding Centennial Field and its past operation. Mr. Polyniak reassured Mayor Arnowitz that there were no disparaging remarks about Mr. Statile at the meeting. All that was presented at the meeting with the documents requested by Mr. Polyniak's firm, the required documents, and what was available at that time.

Council Member Ruocco stated that the 2015 budget is now being prepared, and the DPW has made available its proposed budget. However, there is no reliable figure available for the road improvement program. Based on best practices, Council Member Ruocco said it would seem that what is required is an estimate of the lineage of the municipal streets, calculating the average lifespan of those streets, dividing the number of feet by the average life to get an approximation of the annual road improvement program that a town would ideally need to budget for on a regular basis, which would usually be 4%-5% of the roads. Mayor Arnowitz noted that the best practice in the past was whatever the Borough could afford and could pave. As previously stated, Mayor Arnowitz noted that he recommends bonding all of these items to include five years on the road program. Council Member Ruocco pointed out that this involves two separate issues: one of them is the need for a town to implement a program that would maintain the infrastructure existing in the town, which is a fiscally sound approach to maintaining roads; and the price changes from year to year based on the cost of the repairs and the oil. Council Member Ruocco thinks there should be a starting point for 2015 to develop how many feet need to be paved, which should be included in the budget. Mayor Arnowitz asked how much such report would cost, and Council Member Ruocco answered that it would cost very little. Mr. Polyniak noted that his firm would use a program such as Google Earth to get the roadway information, and they could assign, based on a linear foot of roadway, what the cost would be. After that, based on 5% of the roadways being paved, they could develop a price for that program. Mayor Arnowitz asked if the Borough incurs any liability if such a plan were developed and not maintained. Mr. Madaio answered that he does not believe there is any liability attached to that. Council Member Meyerson noted that he does not think it could be done this year, because the budget is very tight this year. Council Member Ruocco believes it is time for the Borough to develop a program to maintain its streets at an adequate level. Mayor Arnowitz disagrees, because he believes that Hillsdale's streets are in better shape than those in surrounding towns. This past year was a big problem due to the lost revenue. Council Member Meyerson noted that the Borough spent \$350,000 on the roads last year, and \$200,000 the year before that. He reminded Mayor Arnowitz of his suggestion that this work be put on a bond issue because the interest rates are very low. Council Member Ruocco pointed out that the Borough could arbitrage on the rates, and the plan could be advanced. The League of Municipalities suggested that every town should have some type of program based on scientific evidence for road maintenance. It could be included in the budget every year. Mayor Arnowitz asked if anyone objected to getting this report. Mr. Polyniak stated that his firm could prepare the report very quickly, and they already have a lot of the information available. Council Member Meyerson agreed that with the confluence of low interest rates and low oil prices, it would be prudent to take advantage of it at this time. Mayor Arnowitz agreed that now is the time to

do it.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Ambulance Corps –

Construction Department –

DPW – Donald Russell, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, presented the report for the month of February. Mr. Russell reported that the equipment has been holding up so far, with minor repairs. The last two storms were easier to deal with because they occurred at night, and the plowing could be done overnight. Temperatures warmed up the next day after the storms, which also helped.

Regarding the current status of the salt supply, Mr. Russell received an email from the County that there is no salt in the State. He will still currently has half of the shed filled, and will be using it sparingly. So far, more than 1,000 tons of salt has been used this year.

The potholes will be addressed in the spring. Mr. Russell warned that the roads will be a mess. There are at least seven or eight catch basins and sewer caps that need to be fixed, as well as the potholes, which must be repaired.

Council Member Ruocco asked if the state gave any indication as to when the salt would be available. Mr. Russell said the only information he received was that there is no salt available. Council Member Meyerson pointed out that another storm is expected this week, and he wondered if there was enough salt for that storm, which Mr. Russell confirmed, adding that he received 50 tons of salt several days ago, which will help. Salting will be done on main roads, hills, and any other emergency coverage that needs to be done. Mr. Russell noted that many of the storms have occurred on the weekends, and noted that the past seven weekends have brought storms, meaning that most of the plowing had to be done at night. Mayor Arnowitz reminded him to make sure that someone is keeping track of the overtime hours and the salt expenses so that it can be incorporated into the budget, which has not yet been adopted. Ms. Witkowski commented that she compared the expenses for this year to those of last year, and so far, the DPW expenses are lower than they were at the same time last year.

Fire Department – January 2015

Board of Health – March 2, 2015

Hillsdale Public Library –

Police Department – Chief Francaviglia presented the report. Several warned arrests were made in the past month, as well as several domestic violence assault arrests. They were made by Officers Camporeale, Buesser, and Considine. There were 325 motor vehicle stops last month; 108 traffic summonses were issued. The DARE program has started at George White School and St. John's Academy, which will be completed by Lieutenant Smith, Detective Sergeant Hampton, Detective Dietrich, and Officer Sayers. Representatives from the Police Department attended the Senior Luncheon last month. The 12-hour shift continues to run smoothly, and the Police Department is showing a savings when compared to the same period from last year.

Recreation/Stonybrook –

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Status of Sports Association Agreements

Council Member DeRosa reported that the Borough Attorney has made the revisions requested by the Recreation Commission. There are two points that Council Member DeRosa wants to cover with them on Thursday, which he will discuss next week.

2. Chief Financial Officer

Council Member Ruocco noted that 14 resumes were received for this position. Ms. Witkowski weeded them, and five people were interviewed. A candidate has been found by consensus of the Finance Committee and Ms. Witkowski, and Council Member Ruocco wants to discuss it further in Closed Session this evening, after which time perhaps action could be taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION:

1. Outdoor Dining, Zoning Official

Mayor Arnowitz noted that everyone received an email from Tracy Jeffery, Zoning Official. After the

discussion about the “canopy” at Big Daddy’s, Ms. Jeffery asked about the opinions of the Council Members regarding outdoor dining at the two locations where it currently occurs: Starbucks and Ronnie’s Bagels. Mayor Arnowitz noted that any dining establishment can apply for a permit. He thinks that anyone who puts tables on the sidewalk should adhere to the width parameters to include solid surfaces. Those square pavers that are around the trees are not passable, which was the complaint previously discussed. Mayor Arnowitz noted that, especially at Ronnie’s Bagels, when the chairs are put out, they are put in the correct places. However, due to people constantly sitting down and getting up from the chairs, the chairs tend to “creep”. Furthermore, some of the people sitting in those chairs are very rude to handicapped people who need to pass. In the past, Mayor Arnowitz asked if a line could be painted on the sidewalk for the benefit of wheelchair-bound pedestrians. The merchant at the location at that time protested, and the Council Members at that time did not agree with it, either. Mayor Arnowitz has made his concerns known to Ms. Jeffery over the years, and he asked how the Council Members feel about this matter.

It was noted for the record that Council President Pizzella arrived at the meeting at 8:04 PM.

Council Member Meyerson believes that outdoor dining should be encouraged, because it adds to the ambience of the town, particularly during the spring and summer. The merchants like it, and the people seem to like it. Therefore, Council Member Meyerson believes the least amount of restrictions necessary without interfering with the rights of others should be placed on such activities. Ms. Jeffery should use common sense, and Council Member Meyerson believes she is capable of doing that. These things should be taken care of through the permitting process. The rest of the Council Members agreed. Mayor Arnowitz asked Ms. Witkowski to relay that message to Ms. Jeffery.

BUDGET:

1. Recommendation from Neglia Engineering Associates, Centennial Field – Building Methane Sensors
2. Tax Refund Payment, CoreLogic, 284 Hillsdale Avenue
3. Approve Recycling Professional Tonnage Grant Assistance Program
4. Approve Municipal Alliance Grant for Fiscal Year 2016
5. Budget Update

Mayor Arnowitz noted that this will be discussed next week. Council Member Ruocco stated that in terms of a timeframe, the CFO suggested that the budget be introduced at a special session to be scheduled during the week of March 23, prior to the State Regulatory deadline of April 7. It could be discussed during the April Borough Council meetings, and would be adopted by May 5, which is the State deadline. Therefore, Council Member Ruocco asked if the Council Members could choose a date to schedule a special session to present the budget. Council Member Meyerson does not believe that the Finance Committee is close to being ready for that. Mayor Arnowitz and Council Member Meyerson pointed out that there is no revenue, and no other information at this time. Council Member Ruocco noted that they are scheduled to meet with Mr. Benecke tomorrow, and he mentioned to Mr. Benecke that he would be discussing the budget tonight, which Mr. Benecke felt was a good idea. Mr. Benecke expects the Finance Committee to be ready by March 23 to present the budget. Mayor Arnowitz suggested waiting until next week to set the date, and Council Member Meyerson pointed out that he would not be in attendance next week. Furthermore, Council Member Meyerson stated that he would be very surprised if the Finance Committee is ready to present a budget by March 23, given the current status of the process. Once the committee members see how everything fits together, they need time to review and assess all of the numbers. Introducing the budget is not the same as having a budget hearing, and Council Member Meyerson would like to know what Mr. Benecke meant. Council Member Ruocco said he would clarify that with Mr. Benecke tomorrow, but his interpretation of what Mr. Benecke meant is that the Council Members would use the March 23 meeting to have a Council session to discuss the budget, and Mr. Benecke suggested having further discussions on April 7 and 14. The budget must be adopted on May 5. Mayor Arnowitz asked which date would be used for public questions on the budget. Council Member Ruocco responded that if he understood Mr. Benecke correctly, that would be on April 14. Council Member Meyerson stressed the importance of understanding Mr. Benecke’s intent, because introducing the budget is not the same thing as a budget presentation. Council Member Ruocco commented that Mr. Benecke stressed the need to discuss the budget internally among the Council Members before it is introduced, which Council Member Meyerson pointed out is also not introducing the budget, but simply internal discussion. Council Member Ruocco stated that he would clarify with Mr. Benecke. Council Member Meyerson pointed out that if substantial changes are necessary, there must be time built-in to

allow for that. Council President Pizzella suggested that Council Member Ruocco should discuss a draft schedule with Mr. Benecke and email the other Council Members, or report again next week. The other Council Members agreed to this. Ms. Witkowski will check on the availability of the room for the meeting.

6. Lien on 54 Riverside Drive for Snow Removal by DPW
7. Approve Interlocal with Paramus for PSAP Service
8. Approval Lawn Maintenance Services Years 2014-2015

POLICY:

1. Letter from Holy Trinity Church regarding Handicapped Parking Spaces

Mayor Arnowitz stated that he spoke to Chief Francaviglia about this. Because of the school parking loop that was installed, Sergeant McLaughlin, the Traffic Officer, does not recommend putting a handicapped space on Trinity. He suggested that the handicapped space be put in front of Trinity Church on Hillsdale Avenue. Mayor Arnowitz hopes that it will only be a matter of painting, and indenting will not be needed. Council Member Looes pointed out that Chief Francaviglia is getting more information about this. Mayor Arnowitz would like to have this done in the spring, and if a resolution would be needed. Ms. Witkowski responded that any parking changes must be done by ordinance.

2. Employee Handbook

Ms. Witkowski stated that she spoke with the labor attorney, who could not be in this meeting. During the discussion this morning, the labor attorney stated that the handbook and contracts go hand-in-hand. The contracts are for union employees, and the handbook is for non-contractual employees. They go together, because what is not covered in the contract is covered by the handbook for those who are not covered by the contract. When further progress is made in the negotiations, the labor attorney and Ms. Witkowski will work on the handbook. She pointed out that at this time, there are many inconsistencies between the handbook and the contracts, which must be clarified. The labor attorney was planning to attend this meeting, but the weather prevented him from doing so. He will be at the meeting next week for discussion.

Council Member DeGise left the meeting at 8:20 PM for a Fire Department call. He stated that Mayor Arnowitz had asked about the Bergen County Board of Agriculture meeting, and Council Member DeGise offered to bring back literature from the next meeting. In addition, Council Member DeGise was asking about ordinances regarding the removal of snow from fire hydrants, per instructions from the State Assembly. Mayor Arnowitz suggested that a copy of it a bill should be obtained in order to draft one for Hillsdale, which can be introduced.

3. Polling Location Update

Ms. Witkowski stated that she reached out to the Fire Chief about the possibility of having polling locations outside the schools. His email response was included in the packet for this meeting; it includes his concerns. The Chief raises some valid issues, especially concerning parking and the trucks. Ms. Witkowski is not sure what the Council Members want to do. Any location must be certified by the County Board of Elections. Council Member Ruocco agreed that some of the points were valid ones. Apparently, this issue was raised by some residents who are concerned about moving polling places outside of the schools due to the attacks that have been occurring with more frequency in schools. The feeling seems to be that it would be better to have fewer strangers in a school. If the firehouse is not used, the available option is to consolidate all of the polling locations into one school, which would be George White. That creates other issues, including more traffic congestion in that area. Council Member Looes asked if this is something that should be brought to the schools. She noted that schools are closed for presidential elections, and Election Day is usually in the same week as the teachers' convention break. Council Member Meyerson said he is a very different opinion, because there is never been an incident in any of the Hillsdale schools on Election Day. Although he realizes that there have been atrocities in schools, none of them has ever occurred on Election Day. Council Member Meyerson noted that only approximately 30% of Hillsdale voters will turn out for the upcoming election, because no major offices are up for election. During presidential elections, the percentage of voters rises as high as 75% in Hillsdale. Council Member Meyerson does not want to do anything that will discourage people from voting, which he believes is a sacred responsibility of every citizen who is eligible to vote. Changing polling places is something that should be seriously debated, particularly when he is not sure that the evidence indicates a school security problem on election days. Council Member Meyerson thinks it is necessary to get more information about that. Council Member Ruocco agreed, and added that there might be some cost savings to a certain extent. He also thinks that any concerns about the safety of

children in school should be addressed, and if there is no other viable polling place, that is how it will have to be. Mayor Arnowitz noted that the letters from concerned citizens do not mention parking issues, but seem to be concerned with the number of strangers allowed in the schools. The previous Superintendent, Anthony DeNorchia, had discussed this issue with a previous Borough Council. It was decided that a police officer would be present in each school during elections. Mayor Arnowitz believes the point made by Council Member Ruocco is a valid one, and Mayor Arnowitz agrees that anything that would affect the security of schoolchildren is a cause for concern. The safety of the schoolchildren must come first, which could mean changing the polling places, or exploring the possibility of helping the schools to improve security measures. Mayor Arnowitz does not believe a firehouse is the proper venue for a polling place, because it operates on a 24-hour basis. This is a matter for the schools to decide, and Mayor Arnowitz suggested that Council Member DeRosa and Council President Pizzella be discussed with the Superintendent. There are a limited number of places available for elections, due to parking problems. Council Member DeRosa agreed that the firehouse is not an option, and there is a problem with parking at George White School. He will discuss it with the Superintendent and report to the Council Members. Mayor Arnowitz suggested that this be removed from the agenda until Council Member DeRosa is ready to make a further report.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Resolution Recognizing Law Enforcement Officers

Mayor Arnowitz asked if this concerns specific officers, and how is it relevant to item number six. Ms. Witkowski stated that it is simply a matter of recognizing law enforcement officers and what they do, and a gesture of appreciation. Mayor Arnowitz asked if she could provide more information next week. Council Member DeRosa asked what the source of the resolution was, and Ms. Witkowski explained that she gets copies of resolutions from other towns. Council President Pizzella stated that he believes it was a State-wide initiative asking municipalities to acknowledge and support their police departments. Council Member Meyerson said he agreed, but he would like confirmation. After looking at the sample resolution, Mayor Arnowitz and Mr. Madaio express their concerns about the language, and Ms. Witkowski said it would be canceled.

2. Raffle License for Wheels and Gains, Hillsdale Volunteer Fire Department, May 4-9, 2015

3. Raffle License for off Premises Merchandise Raffle, American Legion Post 162, July 11, 2015

4. Accept Resignation Letter Dated February 23, 2015, Durene Ayer, CFO

5. Request for Use of Veterans Park for Green Fair, Sunday, April 26, 2015

Council President Pizzella asked Ms. Witkowski if the vendors could provide a Certificate of Insurance in which Hillsdale is named as an additional insured, and hold harmless agreements.

~~6. Support Law Enforcement Officers~~

7. Bergen County Board of Agriculture – Meeting Deer Population

Council Member DeGise mentioned this earlier, regarding the deer population in Hillsdale. Council Member DeGise stated that hunting is being recommended (bow and arrow only), and Mayor Arnowitz is adamantly opposed to any hunting in Hillsdale. Council Member DeGise will be bringing more information on this.

8. Senior Van Update

Council Member Ruocco stated that the van is operating, and there are drivers. Ms. Witkowski mentioned that grant applications are available from New Jersey Transit at the end of March.

ORDINANCES: (for agenda March 10, 2015)

Adoption:

15-08: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE CERTAIN POSITIONS

15-09: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT ORDINANCE 09-01, CHAPTER 138, "FEES," AND CHAPTER 71, SWIMMING POOL COMMISSION

Introduction:

15-10: CALENDAR YEAR 2015 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET

APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

Council Member Ruocco noted that in the baseline budget prepared by Mr. Benecke, he mentioned that this needs to be done. It is something that must be done every year, and is done by every municipality.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments from the public at this time, Mayor Arnowitz closed the meeting to the public.

COUNCIL COMMENTARIES:

Council Member Ruocco expressed his condolences to the family of Sarah Jeune. He did not know her very well, but she passed away suddenly, and Memorial services will be held at St. Andrew's Church in Harrington Park tomorrow. St. John's Academy is holding their annual St. Patrick's Day dinner/dance on Saturday, March 7, at 6:00 PM in their parish center. Corned beef and cabbage will be served, with beer and wine. The next senior lunch will be on Wednesday, March 18 at 11:30 AM, at St. John's Parish Center. The menu is corned beef and cabbage. The 50+ Club will be attending the Pascack Hills High School production of "Guys and Dolls" on Wednesday, March 4, at 4:00 PM. Councilmember Ruocco also commended the Police Department for reducing their overtime on a year-to-date basis of \$7,000 this year compared to \$24,000 last year. Also, after discussion with Mr. Russell, there was an issue with the drainage at 19 Hopkins Street, which is a DPW budget issue. The current budget includes an increase in the catch basin for costs of that is much less than that projected by Mr. Polyniak.

Council President Pizzella expresses condolences to the family of Sarah Jeune, who was a very lovely person. A presentation was made at the Bergen County Open Space committee regarding the Tandy/Allen property. Council President Pizzella is awaiting the decision on that.

Council Member Looes also sent her condolences to the family of Sarah Jeune. She also congratulated Eagle Scouts Zachary Blair, Brian Lee, and Christopher Conti. Council Member Looes and Mayor Arnowitz attended their ceremony on February 21. Chris Conti's Eagle project benefits all Hillsdale residents, because he worked with the Fire Department to create a program that digitally identifies all of the fire hydrants in Hillsdale, and can be accessed via smart phone or tablet, and will assist the Fire Department in locating the nearest hydrant(s) to any call to which they are responding. Council Member Looes also pointed out that there is an Italian club visiting Hillsdale, as part of an exchange program at Pascack Valley High School. Students from Hillsdale and River Vale will be going to Italy in April.

Council Member DeRosa expressed his condolences to the family of Sarah Jeune. He mentioned that there were two openings in the Hillsdale Board of Education. Shane Svorac was voted into one of the spots, and one position is still open. Candidates are currently being interviewed, and it is possible that an appointment could be made very soon. Council Member DeRosa commended the DPW for doing a great job, even when considering the fact that they are very young and inexperienced. The recent weather issues have them a lot of experience. In addition, Council Member DeRosa mentioned that there was discussion about a possible Facebook page for the Borough. The Borough Attorney gave him a lot of information, including other municipalities which have Facebook pages. The JIF will also be posting some guidelines for municipal Facebook pages.

Council Member Meyerson mentioned that prior to this meeting, there was a seminar from the JIF about a number of different items. One of the items of particular interest to Council Member Meyerson was a report on accidental deaths and injuries. A surprising fact is that the number one cause of injury death for senior citizens is slips and falls. Approximately 1/3 of all seniors 65 and over slip and fall, and given the recent weather problems in Hillsdale, Council Member Meyerson urged everyone to be careful.

Mayor Arnowitz agreed that the information regarding slip and falls was very interesting. The JIF also stated that in a few months, they will have volunteers available to speak to senior citizen groups, and Mayor Arnowitz asked if one of the speakers could come to Hillsdale. Mayor Arnowitz said that he worked very closely with Sarah Jeune because she handled all the weddings that he did, and every time there is a wedding, there is a voluntary contribution to the Food Pantry. Ms. Jeune was very diligent about those contributions, and ensuring that Hillsdale received the funds for the Food Pantry. Her death was very shocking. Mayor Arnowitz also expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by Council Member Looes with the Italian club. Mayor Arnowitz also thanked the Fire Department, and Council Member DeGise, who brought one of the aerial trucks out and took two of the High School employees up in the bucket. He also thanked Chief Domville for attending the demonstration. Mayor Arnowitz pointed out that due to their attendance at the JIF meeting earlier tonight, the Borough received \$250 insurance premium reduction for each elected official in attendance from Hillsdale.

Ms. Witkowski mentioned the Gassib property, and that the EJIF is expected to do a phase 1

environmental study on the property. Someone did go out to look at the property, and said that at first glance, he could see nothing. A report is forthcoming. A sign ordinance will be acted upon on March 10. Finally, Ms. Witkowski asked if the Council Members were interested in holding another Youth in Government meeting, to which the Council Members agreed. Council Member Meyerson stated that the problem with them voting should be taking care of in advance. Ms. Witkowski noted that Mr. Madaio would have to do a resolution in advance to authorize them to vote.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION: @8:54 PM

R15065 To provide for a meeting not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 – Personnel CFO/Building/Board of Health; Grievances; Negotiations Update.

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 provides that an Executive Session not open to the public may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale to discuss in a session not open to the public certain matters relating to the item or items authorized by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) and designated below:

(1) Matters required by law to be confidential.

(2) Matters where the release of information would impair the right to receive funds.

(3) Matters involving individual privacy.

(4) Matters relating to collective bargaining agreements-*dpw/upseu/crossing guards*

(5) Matters relating to the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property or the investment of public funds.

(6) Matters relating to public safety and property.

(7) Matters relating to litigation, negotiations and the attorney-client privilege-*personnel cfo/board of health/building/dpw/grievance DPW*

(8) Matters relating to the employment relationship

(9) Matters relating to the potential imposition of a penalty.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Hillsdale assembled in public session this date that an Executive Session closed to the public be and the same is hereby authorized for discussion of matters relating to the specified items designated above. It is anticipated that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Borough Council that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

Motion by Council Member Looes, Second by Council Member Meyerson.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council Members DeRosa, Looes, Meyerson, Ruocco, and Council President Pizzella

Absent: Council Member DeGise

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING: @9:52 PM

Motion to reconvene regular session was made by Council Member Looes, Second by Council President Pizzella.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council Members DeRosa, Looes, Meyerson, Ruocco, and Council President Pizzella

Absent: Council Member DeGise

Borough Attorney Madaio said let the record reflect all members of the governing body

present for commencement of the executive session and are present for the recommencement of the open session as well as the Borough Clerk/Borough Administrator and the Borough Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT: @9:53 PM

Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Meyerson, second by Council Member DeRosa.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council Members DeRosa, Looes, Meyerson, Ruocco, and Council President Pizzella
Absent: Council Member DeGise

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL BE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015 – BEGINNING AT 7:30 P.M.**

Susan Witkowski, Municipal Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED
APRIL 14, 2015

Susan Witkowski, Municipal Clerk